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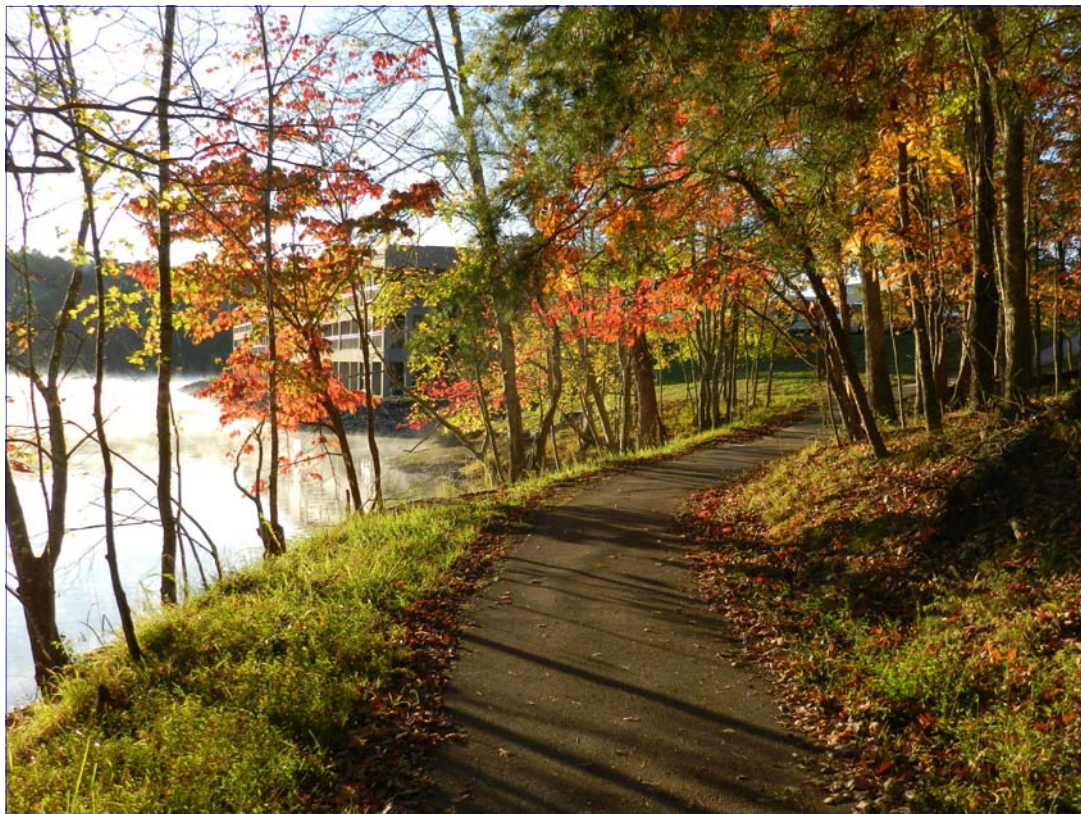
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*Photo by Jim Clem-
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Newsletter of the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association



APSURA hits the road

Aleeta Christian

A warm greeting to friends, colleagues, APSURA members! The Board and I hope that you are staying warm as the cold weather sets in, and that we get to see and hear from you soon. Let's keep in touch!

APSURA is engaged in some interesting activities this fall. As our first foray into the larger realm of retiree groups in higher education, Hester Crews and I in late October attended the 10th annual international conference of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and early this month we and other board members participated in the meeting of the Tennessee Higher Education Retirees Association (THERA) at Fall Creek Falls.

The AROHE conference provided opportunities for exchange among retirees and organizations from California to Toronto, from Florida to Vancouver. Attendees represented newly formed groups such as APSURA as well as some groups with over 35 years' experience. Hester and I brought back many ideas and materials from AROHE, which we were delighted to share with the THERA group last week. We will also be sharing some of these with APSURANS in the coming months.

The AROHE focus, "Innovations for the next decade: A triangle of adventures in North Carolina," was especially meaningful to Hester and me because it was planned and implemented by grass-roots associations at the University of North Carolina, North Carolina Central University and North Carolina State University. In a pre-conference workshop for new organizations, Dr. Janette Brown, AROHE's executive director, reviewed data from over 140 institutions from every state and four Canadian provinces. Interesting results

Continued on page 2

*AROHE Executive Director
Janette Brown (left)
and AROHE president
Bobbie Lubker (center)
with Aleeta and Hester*

Gallery:

*THERA
group from
APSU, ETSU,
UM, and
UTK*

*Rotary
president
Mike Biggs
presenting
Bike Ride
check to Al
Irby and
Aleeta*

*Bike-riding
family*

*Kemmerlys
and scenery
at FCF*

concerned retiree privileges not currently available to APSURANS, including free or reduced athletic and arts tickets, individual office space for academic work, free notary service, emeriti centers, and residential retirement communities.

Keynote addresses and workshops covered a broad spectrum. Most interestingly, Nortin Hadler, M.D., professor of microbiology and immunology and author of numerous books on medicine and health, spoke on "Rethinking aging: Growing old and living well in an overtreated society." To our surprise, he encourages patients to be front and center in working with their doctors. He used the metaphor of the patient as the captain of the boat, the doctor as the navigator. He stressed that we live in an over-medicated society.

The program included tours of local campuses and visits to two excellent museums to view the art of Charles White at North Carolina Central and to marvel at a Rodin collection at the North Carolina Museum of Art at Raleigh.

Attending these conferences gave Hester and me and the board new professional contacts willing to share their ideas and successes in retiree organizations. We carried away many insights, lots of good data and general information that can impact APSURA in a most positive way. We believe that our association is on the cusp of great happenings involving both new and older retirees. Please join us in these experiences!



Fall events still pending

Saturday, Nov. 17. Lunch at the Blackhorse at noon and the Roxy play The Giver at 2 p.m. Call Meredith Gildrie at 931-648-4317 or email her at gildrier@att.net by Nov. 14 for tickets at \$20 each.

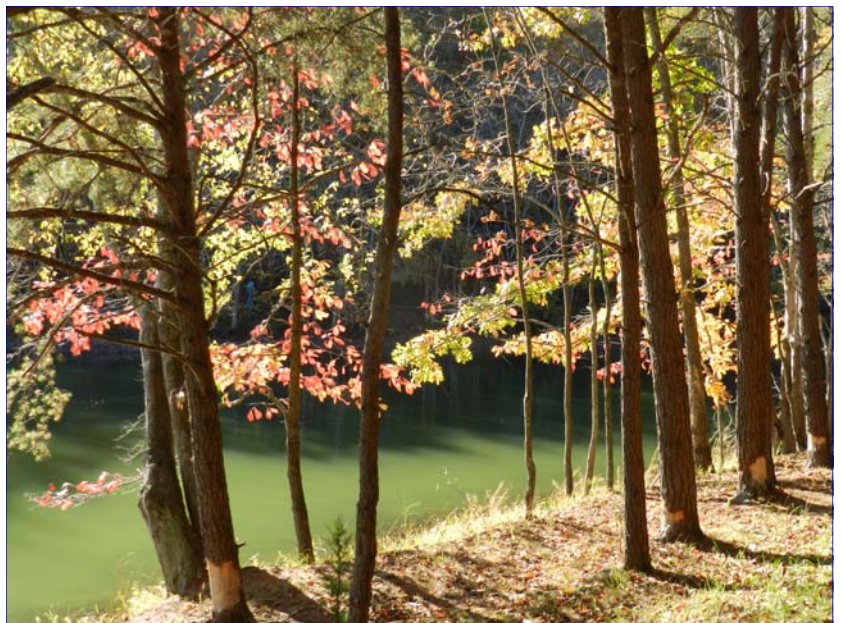
Saturday, Dec. 1. The Choral Holiday Dinner and Concert gala at 7 p.m. in the MUC (\$50). For an RSVP card, email Korre Foster at fosterk@apsu.edu. State on the card that you would like to be seated with APSURA.

Sunday, Dec 2. The Gateway Chamber Orchestra presents Winter Baroque Classics at Madison St. Methodist Church at 3 p.m. (\$10).

Nov. 23-Dec. 22. The Roxy will present Dickens' A Christmas Carol as adapted by John McDonald in 14 performances. For information see www.roxyregionaltheatre.com.

Wednesday, Dec. 12. President Hall's open house for retirees is scheduled for 2 p.m. in Archwood. You should be receiving a formal invitation shortly.

APSURA had a good turnout to help with the Sunrise Rotary Century Bike Ride on Aug. 1, for which the Rotary club once again donated \$1000 to our scholarship fund. We also had 20 participants in our September excursion to Nashville for dinner and the Nashville Symphony concert with the sensational pianist Olga Kern in the Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 3.



My love for theatre

My interest in theatre-going was sparked by two junior high school trips to Cleveland, Ohio, Shakespeare productions. I can still see the “dagger before me” and Banquo’s seven kingly descendants projected on the stage. That ruffian Petrucchio still bullies Katherine on their way to Padua in my mind’s eye. My husband Dick was hooked in college by Richard Burton’s *Hamlet*. He was intrigued by how much one can imagine when the scenery contains only planks of wood.

Upon coming to Clarksville, the Austin Peay theatre program provided a venue for our interest, but we didn’t get to indulge this inclination often until the Roxy Community Theatre opened in Clarksville in 1983. We attended its first production, *Mac and Mable*. We’ve attended most of the productions ever since. Even with our interest in theatre, that faithfulness is probably because our daughter Evelyn joined the ranks of children who grew up under the tutelage of John MacDonald and Tom Thayer. She weathered their learning curve (after all, they were just young sprouts themselves thirty years ago), and she flourished.

To keep her connected to her biological family, Dick joined the ranks of other amateurs treading the boards, and he even had a part in an APSU play. I was the meal provider and schedule maintainer, only occasionally taking on a bit part. Can you pick us out in the old photos that accompany this article?

Of course, Evelyn has moved on to marriage, motherhood, and gainful employment. She returns for an occasional role, but with the Roxy’s transformation to a professional regional theatre Dick and I are no longer needed on stage. I keep my hand in, making or mending the occasional costume, and we still see most productions. We rarely see better productions than the ones we see at the Roxy. Perhaps you will join us for our next trip to the Roxy, for the play *The Giver* this Nov. 17.

Meredith Gildrie

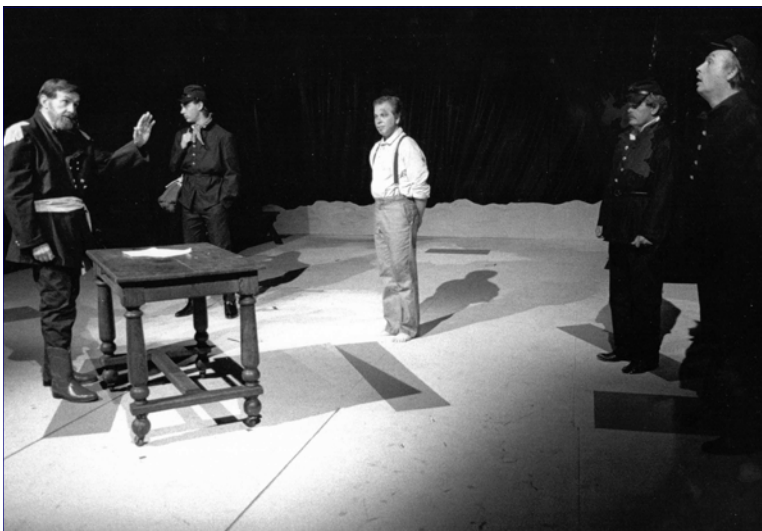
Photos:
*Roxy plays
with Meredith and Dick
Gildrie*

How to Succeed in Business

The Noble Heart

Our Town

Zorba the Greek (p. 5)



From the bookshelf

Walter Mosley, *All I Did Was Shoot My Man* (NY: Penquin, 2012)

Review by Richard P. Gildrie

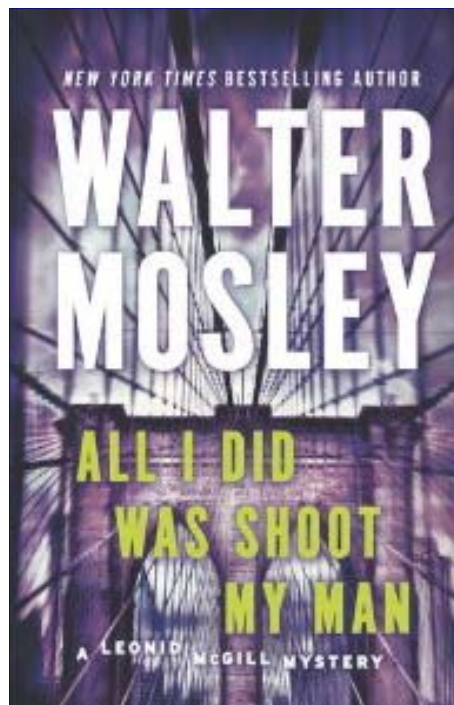
Walter Mosely, a New York Times bestselling author, has been winning literary prizes since his first book, *Devil in a Blue Dress* (1990). This recent crime novel shows no diminution of talent.

The detective in the earlier works, Easy Rawlins, was a black war veteran in Los Angeles during the late 1940s. The tone is vintage “hardboiled,” Dashiell Hammett with a racial twist. Both the plots and social commentary are suitably intricate and realistic.

Recent books, including this one, are set in contemporary New York. The detective, Leonid McGill, is also a black PI. But his background as a boxer and reformed thug with underworld connections resembles more Robert Parker’s Spenser than Hammett’s loners. The detective’s complex family life and ambivalent sense of guilt, however, provoke social and psychological insights far beyond both Parker and Hammett.

Where Easy Rawlins’ quest for truth was shaped and obstructed by pervasive racial conflict, Leonid McGill operates in a tense multi-ethnic, “post-racial” world with few barriers other than those of class. Persistent evil and the ambiguous pursuit of justice transcend all social and cultural disguises. As McGill ruminates on an ironically multi-racial racist, “Racism is a luxury in a world where resources are scarce, where economic competition is an armed sport, in a world where even the atmosphere is plotting against you. In an arena like that racism is more a halftime entertainment, a favorite sitcom when the day is done.”

The “grit” of the hardboiled tradition, or Original Sin if you will, is, for Mosley, a transcendental principle, embedded in humanity itself and requires no particular social or cultural origin. Nathaniel Hawthorne would be pleased.



Sharon Mabry, *The Performing Life: A Singer's Guide to Survival* (Toronto: Scarecrow, 2012)

Review by Jim Clemmer

Sharon Mabry is known near and far as a wonderful singer and as an ardent champion of new music. In hundreds of recitals and workshops both locally and across the nation, and especially in her renowned Dimensions series that brought 60 composers and 56 premier performances to APSU from 1981 to 2009, Mabry has established a remarkable record of accomplishment and leadership. She has appeared at over 40 universities and premiered works by more than 30 contemporary composers, and as a revered teacher and mentor she has ushered scores of students into successful careers as musicians.

Perhaps less well known is that for decades Mabry has pursued a parallel and complementary scholarly career as a commentator and writer about the vocal scene. For 25 years she wrote a regular column on new music for the prestigious *Journal of Singing*, and in 2002 she brought together much of her wide-ranging experience and knowledge in the comprehensive *Exploring Twentieth-Century Vocal Music*.

Mabry's current book reveals new and sometimes surprising dimensions of her life and work. On its face, the book is targeted to a new generation of singers who can benefit greatly from this account of her experience in achieving success in a demanding field. And there is indeed a lot of good advice here on everything from obtaining the proper training, to developing healthful dietary and mental habits, to tips for dressing appropriately and adapting to the rigors of frequent travel. Every aspiring musician of any stripe should read this book.

But this work goes far beyond the typical how-to guide to become a very entertaining memoir of many joys and difficulties Mabry has encountered along the way. It is this personal story that will keep most readers turning the pages. The key word in the title is "Survival." The reader comes to learn that for Mabry chaos was always lurking just around the corner, and that often only a determined and conscious effort to order and fortify her life forestalled disaster. She says, however, that "no matter how

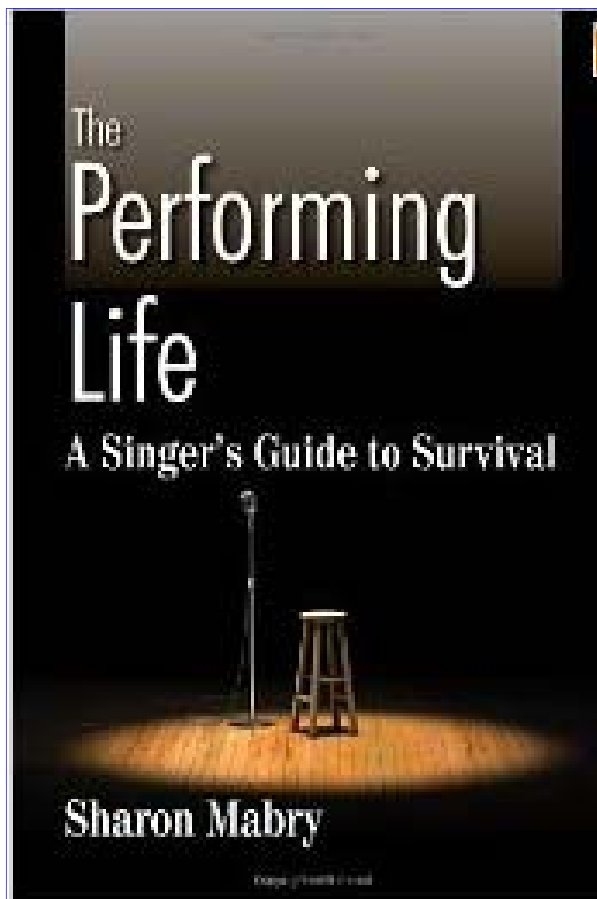
carefully one plans, chaos can take over without notice."

At base this kind of allegory is of course as old as Genesis. The uniqueness of Mabry's story lies in the many colorful anecdotes and diary entries that document her narrative.

Whether facing the prospect of having to sing without benefit of food and sleep, or after her own beloved peek-a-poo Guido almost bit her lips off, or unexpectedly having to crawl through a tube across a stage with an electronic pickup strapped to her throat, her emphasis throughout is on being ready to carry on with the show, whatever it takes. A frequent companion in her stories is Patsy Wade, who is

sometimes her accompanist but just as often her indispensable accomplice in fending off catastrophe.

Mabry says that her allies on the road to success have been an abiding determination to remain positive at all costs and the maintaining of a sense of irony and humor through the zaniest of circumstances. She has kept herself on track with the keeping of a detailed diary, and especially with the making and following of many, many lists. She says her gravestone probably will read, "Sharon Mabry, The Planner." I think, on the contrary, that it might well read, "Sharon Mabry, Preeminent Lover of Music and Life."





Our contingent to the Tennessee Higher Education Retirees Association meeting at Fall Creek Falls State Park, Nov. 5-6. Front: Hester Crews, Nancy Irby, Christa Beckner. Rear: Al Irby, Ann Harris, Aleeta Christian, Phil Kemmerly, Kathryn Kemmerly, Jim Clemmer, Floyd Christian.

Officers

*Aleeta Christian, President
Hester Crews, Vice-President
Al Irby, Treasurer
Christa Beckner, Secretary*

Directors

*Ann Harris
Meredith Gildrie
Mitch Robinson
Phil Kemmerly
Al Bekus (ex officio)*

Publicity Director

*Jim Clemmer
clemmerj@apsu.edu*

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On the Web

www.apsu.edu/retirees-association

See our website for current and past issues of our Newsletter and NewsNotes, and late-breaking information on upcoming events, schedule changes, retirement benefits, and background information on the Retirees Association.

Publication Information

The APSURA Newsletter is published quarterly by the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association. A supplement to the Newsletter, the APSURA NewsNotes, is published monthly to update APSURA members on time-sensitive coming activities and events, both those in which APSURA is participating officially and others recommended by APSURA members. Both the Newsletter and Newsnotes are available at www.apsu.edu/retirees-association.

We invite APSU retirees to send us specific information about coming activities and events you believe will be of interest to APSU retirees. Please send to Christa Beckner at ayyez5m@yahoo.com, to Hester Crews at crewsh@charter.net, to Jim Clemmer at clemmerj@apsu.edu, or to APSURA at the physical address below, and include exact dates, times, locations, deadlines, costs, etc. We also welcome the submission of original articles for possible publication in the Newsletter, especially descriptions of your accomplishments, travels, discoveries, and other experiences as APSU retirees.

Submissions are limited to 500 words and a maximum of three high-resolution photographs. Send texts as regular email (no tabs) or Word attachments to Jim Clemmer at clemmerj@apsu.edu with photographs sent individually as separate jpg files. Or you may submit typed manuscripts and good-quality photo prints to APSU Retirees Association, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044.



APSU Retirees Association
Box 4426
Clarksville, TN 37044

APSURA New Members Registration Form

☐ Retired faculty or staff

☐ Associate member

Check both of the above boxes if your spouse or partner is joining as an associate member as well.

Dr.____ Mr.____ Ms____ Mrs.____ Other preferred title_____

Name of member: _____
Last First Middle

Name of spouse/partner: _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____
Number and Street (Apartment Number)

City State Zip Code

Telephones: _____ E-mail addresses: _____

Former department: _____ Years of service _____ Year you retired _____

Activities in which you would like the APSURA to be involved (check all that apply): ☐ Group travel; ☐ Athletic events; ☐ Cultural events; ☐ Social events; ☐ Scholarship activities; ☐ Seminars; ☐ Community work; ☐ Other _____

Annual Dues for Austin Peay State University Retirees Association are:

Regular (APSU Retiree) Membership ☐ \$25.00 Please send to APSURA, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044

Associate Membership ☐ \$25.00

Additional donation for Scholarship Fund _____ Lifetime Membership ☐ \$500