

THE CHERRY PIT

From Ties to Teaching to Book Reviews



Dick Sakurai

You may have wondered why Dick displays colorful neckties on the wall outside of his apartment. These ties were custom made for him by his wife Sandy when he was teaching in various small colleges. They singled him out from the other teachers.

Dick was born 94 years ago in Portland, Oregon. The first 15 years of his life he grew up with five siblings, two brothers and three sisters, on a farm in Troutdale, Oregon. His father started out as a farmer and later on became a gardener. The children went to Corbett, Oregon schools. In 1942, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, his family was interned in concentration camps with other people of Japanese ancestry on the west coast. First, they were at the Expo Center in north Portland; then they were sent to a more permanent camp in Minidoka, Idaho.

After graduating from high school and turning 18, Dick was released from the camp to start college. However, he soon discovered that he had contracted tuberculosis in the camps. He spent most of 1945 wandering around the country doing odd jobs. When World War II ended in late 1945, Dick's family members were released from the camp and each was given \$25 and a train ticket to Portland where they returned to start anew.

For the next eight years Dick seesawed from starting college again, dropping out, going to a TB sanitarium (two different stays for one year each), home recovery, to back taking classes. Finally, he was able to pass enough classes to graduate with a BA degree in Physics.

He then took a position at Burroughs Corporation Research and Development Center in Pennsylvania where he did research on computers. Although he enjoyed research, his goal was to teach college students, so after five years he left Burroughs and went back to school to earn a Masters Degree in Physics. He then left graduate school and began applying for teaching jobs at colleges.

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The first school at which he taught was the Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio. During his third year there, the college hired a new assistant dean of students named Sandy Still who had graduated from there a few years earlier. They were immediately attracted to each other and were married at the end of the first semester in December, 1964. Through the years they had two sons, Saren and Korien.

During the next 30 years Dick taught at several small colleges in the Midwest and a private coed high school on the east coast. They lived in Ohio, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky and Maryland.

Sometimes Sandy worked at the same schools as Dick, but often she had jobs elsewhere. She was a career counselor, a homemaker, and returned to graduate school in the 1980's to become a licensed personal counselor. She worked at a Domestic Violence Center until retiring in 2000.

Then Sandy and Dick decided to move to Oregon where Dick was born and raised. It was a "coming home" for Dick. They bought a house in Troutdale, and Sandy took classes in art and poetry. She successfully built a second career as a poet in the Portland area. In 2014 Sandy was having health problems, so they sold their house and moved to CherryWood. Sandy's health rapidly declined and she passed away in 2016. Dick stayed on at CherryWood. He likes to read and has consistently contributed book reviews to the Cherry Pit. He also grows tomatoes on his patio. Dick has always held far left political views ever since he voted for the first time in 1948 for Henry Wallace.

Dick's two sons, a daughter-in-law and a grandson live in California. Of the six children in Dick's original family, most have become professionals: one psychiatrist, two college professors, one research librarian and one language specialist who was required by the company for which she works to learn Japanese. In spite of their internment as a threat to the US, Dick and his family have proven what good citizens they really are.

Janet Sciolaro, Wynridge



Sandy's poem:

I have chosen
to spend my later years
among poets
They are a tender lot
Turning out their pockets
to reveal
the lint of their lives

Watching them read
one looks down the throat
of an iris to see
the tender depths
a bee sees

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The Vanishing Half

by Brit Bennett

The story of twins who grew up in a small town in Louisiana consisting of all black people, each of whom are actually with completely white skin, but choose to remain considered as “black” people. At age 16, they run away together to start a new life in New Orleans. After a while, one of them decides to apply for a job at a white company, posing as a white herself. Successful at her new job, her immediate boss takes an interest in her and begins a relationship with her. When he gets a new job in a new city, he asks her to go with him, so she leaves her twin sister and leaves New Orleans. For many years, there is no communication between the twin sisters. The departing twin follows her boss from one city to the next, marrying him, and they end up in California. There is a daughter born to them – white. The remaining twin after a few years, marries a truly black man and have a daughter born to them – black. After many incidents of domestic violence, that twin returns to her original home with her daughter and rejoins her mother.

For years, decades, the mother and the remaining twin sister have no idea where the departing twin sister is. Meanwhile, the two daughters of the twins are growing up and have a full life of their own. The “black” daughter also ends up in California.

The original mother, the remaining twin, the departing twin, the daughter of each of the twins.... how each of their stories eventually interact makes for an interesting novel.

Dick Sakurai, Gardens



News from the Library

Our library is widely used and never more so than during this past year. We have a wide selection of books from autobiographies to fiction to westerns. We even have books on nature and political issues. There is something for everyone.

All books are donated. Because of our very limited space, books published before 2015 cannot be used. Please take those books to the shelf near Chaplain Mick’s office; he will take them to PACS for distribution to others.

Ann Warner, Chair, Library Committee 503-256-2300

From your Dining Services Committee....

We have asked and we have received! Menu changes are being made each month now, so when you go to the restaurant and order something you have been able to get in the past, it might not be available. For example, there are now only two choices of a side salad but the others might be listed as an entrée and you can order the lighter fare. These changes will be done on the breakfast as well as the other two menus. Residents have asked for more variety and the staff is doing their best to provide different choices. We are working on ways we can communicate these changes ahead of time so we ask for your patience.

To encourage more residents to come down to the restaurant, we are expanding the seating arrangements to include more four (4) person tables. This will allow residents the opportunity to sit with their friends. And you might see the singles table again! We still have to follow the guidelines and restrictions but want to make a favorable dining experience. The six (6) foot social distancing is still very strict and we cannot have residents moving chairs to other tables or moving tables together to accommodate special requests. By the time you receive this, the mandatory and specific reservations will have been removed. There may be times the restaurant may be filled to capacity and you will have to wait to be seated, but that is no different than it was before Covid. If you are seated at a table for four, please advise your wait staff or the person checking you in that it would be OK for someone else to sit with you.

Comment cards are available and we encourage everyone to fill them out so the staff can see and hear what the residents like and dislike. Please be specific in why you rated your meal in a specific section, i.e., if poor, express why it was poor. A report is compiled from the comment cards to assist the staff on improvements that could be made. Of course, we are very encouraged when an excellent is received!

**Backpacks.....**

Where, oh where, are the backpacks? Good news! We are in the final stages of organizing the numbers so we can place the order. Even greater news is that they are going to honor the 25% discount even though we did not meet their quota of 125. We do not have a delivery date yet, but guessing it will be in August. Thanks to all who placed an order.

Preparedness Committee

From the desk of Mike Sands, acting President:

July has seen some significant improvements here at CherryWood. The dining room no longer requires reservations, so you can now make a last minute decision to eat downstairs. And you may have noticed that there are more 4 seated tables, so you can eat with friends.

And finally the swimming pool is open, albeit with limited hours. It has taken almost six months for the repairs to be completed, but the opening is most welcomed by residents. Be aware that only two people can use a locker room at one time.

And speaking of pool, the CherryWood Pool Group is looking for more players. For many years before the pandemic the pool group met Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12:30 to 3:30 at the pool table in Greens, second floor. The previous players have been reduced by deaths and relocations. Any resident interested in joining the group should call George Palmer at 503-954-3064.

Another group looking for new players is the CherryWood Poker Players. This is a low-key, social game that meets in the Board Room on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 1:30 to 4:00. For more information call Mike Sands at 503-719-4748 or email to 1419ms@gmail.com.

**Upcoming events...**

August: Election of officer's process begins

September: Nominating committee is appointed. A list of nominees will be presented to the residents.

September 22: Employee Appreciation Fundraiser (EAF)
Fun-r-rama in the parking lot.

October: Slate of nominees is announced at the Town Hall, opens nominations from the floor and closes the nomination process.

November: The Council President conducts the election of officers.
A list is submitted to John and Elizabeth for approval.

December: The retiring Committee Chair Persons and the retiring Officers are recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation.
The newly elected officers will be installed.

Resident Council

THE *OTHER* OTHER SIDE:

Just when I thought I knew my way around healthcare, I was surprised to find myself in Rehab, which is like Middle Earth after a mishap.

After I took a serious and painful fall, I found myself at Good Sam hospital with a broken hip. They whisked me into surgery and I was greeted by a physician who is one of Portland's finest sports and bone specialists. Turns out that Good Sam has the specialty of being there for professional and non-professional athletes. Clearly I fit into the second category. Four hours later, I awoke in the post-op section of Good Sam.

Then the real "fun" began. A slender booklet was handed to me so that I would know day by day what to expect from my hospital stay. Good Sam has a remarkable system of introducing the care team to their patients. Every five patients are given their team of one nurse and one or two CNAs. If the staff is short on any given day, floaters who might not be busy pick up the overflow of patients. It is rare to have to wait for help.

After four days I was released and sent to Rehabilitation, otherwise known as Rehab. Marquis is within walking distance of CherryWood. I was able to have more clothing than just a hospital gown and by the caring and goodness of our Lacey was able to bring my personal pillows and other things I needed.

It's a different world over here. The place is jumping with medical people of all sorts. Each resident gets her or his personal nurse and CNA for the day and they are here at my push of the red call button that is attached to my bed so it won't drop on the floor. The CNAs and nurses all wear black scrubs so they are easily recognized and their response is quick. They are the ones who help those like me who can't get up to use the Loo without them. Nothing, and I mean NOTHING is beyond what they will do to make you feel human, even if you are less than clean.

The food? The kitchen people are great! They deliver food to the patients who want that service, but I miss talking too much and as soon as I was able to sit up and eat, I have been coming to the dining room for my meals. The portions are "dainty", but most of us are too queasy at first to eat much. They also use the same purveyor as CWV and the "fresh fruit" is the standard melon, grapes, and possibly some pineapple. Today, on a whim, I asked for just grapes and the cook cut them in half so I wouldn't have to bite through them and possibly choke.

I am eager to come "home" and will be able to do so after I pass a few more percentages of success. By the time you get this, I should be there.

Be well, stay healthy, and I look forward to seeing you all.

Donna Winkler – Royal Anne Resident

NEEDED – Items for the Cherry Pit. Any poetry, prose pieces fewer than 400 words, classified ads, stories, letters, recipes, jokes, puzzles, etc. **must include your name and telephone number** in case we need additional information. Hand items in at the Front Desk and ask that they be forwarded to Editor Joan Walborn.

The poem “The Year 2020” we enjoyed in the July Cherry Pit was written by Irene Harding who lives in Orchards, 425.

From your Environment Chair: Our committee representative from Greens has resigned due to health issues and we are looking for a replacement. If you would like to volunteer to serve on this committee, please call me at 503.703.7789.

I will try to answer any questions you have.

Judy Keiper



WANTED: Large size LIFT CHAIR. Dick Barry 503-719-4413

FREE: several gallon size water jugs. Call Lauralee Ware, 503-899-9855



WOODY'S WISDOM

That moment when you walk into a spider web,
instantly turns you into a Karate Master.



CherryWood Direct Lines

Front Desk: 503-546-7917

Cherry Delight Café: 503-546-7947

Vitality Desk: 503-546-7924

Hair & Nail Salon: 503-946-0227

Jennifer, Nail Salon: 971-267-7133

CWV T-shirt Spirit Days are August 10th & 25th

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

Tom Alison, Gardens 110

Jerry & Geneva Gannon, Orchards 406

Dan & Jean Jones, Wynridge 211

Patrick Quanstrom, Orchards 206

IN MEMORIAM

Marilyn Cowan, former Wynridge

CHERRY PIT Staff

Joan Walborn, Editor
Karen Arendt, Proofreader
Susan Howard, Art Editor
Clara La Marche, Reporter
Janet Sciolaro, Reporter

The purpose of the Cherry Pit is to get news to the residents, furnish some entertainment, provide little-known facts of CherryWood, and have fun.

Deadline for ads for the next issue is 3pm on 4th Monday of the month.

*The pit is the heart
of the cherry.*

