



# THE CHERRY PIT

## Sylvia Bates: The Girl from the Blitz



September 1939. Britain declared war on Germany. Sylvia Garfinkle was a six-year-old Londoner from a wealthy and cultured Jewish family. Soon London schoolchildren were carrying gas masks and looking for German bombers. In July 1940, the Battle of Britain began with bombings of British industries. By September, having lost the Battle, German strategy switched to terror bombings of cities. The bombers appeared in huge numbers dropping thousands of tons of bombs every day. The Blitz had begun.

The Garfinkles and other suburbanites had bomb shelters installed in their backyards and Sylvia's school had a shelter underneath. Almost every day the sirens sent the schoolchildren rushing into it, but seven-year-olds enjoyed the break from schoolwork.

Suffering losses the Luftwaffe switched to night bombing. Sylvia was usually asleep when the sirens sounded and the children had to be practically dragged to the shelter most nights until mother just put them to bed in the shelter where they slept through the bombing.

Neighbor's houses were being destroyed within blocks. One of Sylvia's friends was almost buried alive. When her father's factory was blown-up, Sylvia's parents insisted the children be moved to the countryside.

Reluctantly, in winter-1940-41 Sylvia and her sister were evacuated to a small farming village in Cambridgeshire, 75 miles from London. They stayed with an elderly childless couple, who were very good to them. Although only 75 miles from London, few of the people had ever been to London or had exposure to the culture which Londoners took for granted. Most of them never had exposure to Jews either, some even thought Jews had horns! Nevertheless everyone got along and the children maintained friendly relationships long after the war.

May of 1941 the Blitz ended because Hitler needed his planes in Russia. Time for the kids to come home. Back to a London in rubbles. Time to carry a gas mask again. But also, time to renew a very rich family life.

The Garfinkles were a religious household. They observed the holidays, kept kosher, and honored the Sabbath. On Passover, the extended families gathered at their grandparents where they would celebrate the traditional seder meals and prayers and sing Passover songs late into the night.

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In June 1944 Hitler launched his Buzz Bombs, a winged, pilotless, rocket propelled bomb. Thousands of tons of bombs were dropped, mostly at night. A very effective weapon of terror. Sylvia was almost killed by one. Time to go back to the country for the kids, to the little village outside London.

They stayed for a year and returned again in May 1945. Two days later the war ended in Europe. Even though London was in rubble and Sylvia's home severely damaged, the celebrations went on for weeks.

When things settled down, Sylvia finished high school and attended a two-year Business College. Her family tried to fix her up with "a nice Jewish boy," but none interested her. Then at age 19 she was "picked-up" in Trafalgar Square by handsome U.S. Air Force Sergeant Glyn Bates and they fell in love. He was not Jewish, so they eloped to get married and she was disowned by her family for marrying outside their religion. But, at her mother's insistence, she was soon taken back into the fold and Glyn and Sylvia's father became great friends. Their first child, a girl, was born in England and they agreed that the children would be raised in the Jewish faith.

Glyn was transferred to Washington state in 1958 where they had a daughter and a son. Sylvia found rural America was as provincial as rural England but, being career military, they transferred often so she didn't always have to live in a cultural vacuum.

Glyn served in Viet Nam 1969-70. When he returned, they settled in Palo Alto, California. Sylvia became assistant director of a Jewish student organization at Stanford University. They introduced the ancient culture and ideals of Judaism to the campus, brought in speakers, and coordinated the Jewish student and faculty interests with the University's. Sylvia was not only a manager but a surrogate mother to a bunch of homesick kids. Having access to the great Stanford campus was a bonus.

After 22 years at Stanford, Sylvia had to leave when Glyn contracted cancer. He died of lymphoma in 1997 leaving Sylvia a widow at 62. After he died it was learned that his cancer was a result of exposure to agent orange in Viet Nam, a fate shared with thousands of other GIs. Even though it was known that agent orange could cause cancer, the troops were never told.

Sylvia retired and traveled extensively. She moved to Ashland, Oregon in 2015 to be with her family, then again to Portland in 2018 and finally to CWV in 2019.

She has one son, two daughters, nine grandchildren, five great grandchildren and she is always smiling.

*Bill Sanjour, Wynridge*



## **WOODY'S WISDOM**

A positive attitude may not solve all your problems.  
But it will annoy enough people  
to make it worth the effort.

## Meet Your Staff



**John Goodwin** is the new Senior Executive Director for Cherrywood Village. The first impression he makes is a man of energy and enthusiasm.

He has a degree in justice administration from Brigham Young University. He was headed to a career in law or law enforcement but lost interest in law by the time he graduated. He also met and married his wife that same year and she wouldn't countenance his carrying a gun so that limited his options. After a while he found a career in hotel management which lasted for 20 successful years. But fifteen years ago he experienced senior living management which was a "fantastic" transition for him because he got to know and get involved with the lives of his clients. The experience "candidly filled spaces in my heart I didn't know were empty."

His last job was managing a Colorado facility similar to CWV. He had a good experience there, but like everyone else in the country involved with managing senior living, jumped through a lot of hoops in the last few months because of the covid-19 outbreak.

John is currently separated from his wife but they remain on good terms. When the last of his five sons left home, he began to suffer from "empty nest syndrome." Since all his family were scattered on this side of the Rockies, he sought a new position closer to them.

About CWV he says he can tell the residents and staff have done a good job of coping with covid-19. "I'm pleased with what I see, like the hallway activities. I hope we can do more because I'm afraid the restrictions will be with us for more time yet. This means we're going to be challenged to be creative with our individual and small group touch points; to try to make sure that everybody does have an opportunity to have some social interaction. It's really tough to just isolate yourself from humanity. That is not what this community is designed for. So, we need to work together to overcome those shortfalls till there's a vaccine and it's safe to move out into the general public again."

*Bill Sanjour, Wynridge*



## Generations Family Foundation (GFF)

GFF was launched in 2018 with a sole purpose to **assist members of Generations Family (employees and residents) in times of hardship**. We hope you never have need, but if an emergency or disaster comes to you or your family, causing a real hardship, please know the GFF is here, able to assist confidentially, and is wanting to help. It is entirely funded by donations; the more it has, the more it can help people. Everyone is welcome to be a GFF supporter. Every penny helps and (depending on your personal circumstances) donations to GFF may be tax deductible.

Some examples of recent help includes an applicant who needed emergency dental work, but without insurance was required to pay the entire amount in advance, which she simple could not cover; GFF made the balance of the needed payment. GFF was able to re-activate phone and electric service for another applicant that had fallen behind after a work gap and was refused a payment installment plan by the utilities. An applicant's wife had just had a baby at the same time she was laid off, lost her insurance, and his school loans came due; GFF assisted with insurance, utilities, rent, and groceries. Another applicant's family was evicted without notice and, due to the eviction on the record had trouble finding any new place to rent, so was rotating her family between friends. GFF covered first, last, and the higher-required deposit on a new place so they could set up a new home. This applicant had an enormous out of pocket expense for a medical emergency and as the sole provider of her family could not catch up; GFF covered the balance and referred the employee to the hospital's financial department for arrangements for additional assistance in the future. Another applicant's husband had been out of work and the new job would not start early enough to cover all the critical family expense; GFF covered the rent.

Remember to use the <http://smile.amazon.com> instead of [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), and choose Generations Family Foundation as your charity, then 0.5% of the purchase price from all eligible purchases will deposit straight into GFF's bank. It is no cost to the customer. Thank you to all who have supported this foundation and remember if you find yourself in need of assistance, please see Olivia in the Human Resources Office. Donations can be made in cash/check to the Business Office, and you can make a one-time donation or monthly donations and have them added to your monthly rent statement.

*GFF Team*

**From the desk of the President:**

Words of encouragement and strength for tough times:

Our journey through life isn't easy, we know! Sometimes you have those moments where your dreams seem to be lost and things aren't going quite like you planned. We all have experienced some kind of setback.

But a setback is the perfect scenario for a comeback!

This may sound harsh, but it's not untrue to how some of us feel. It is easy to feel buried by our circumstances. However, we can go on to paint a picture of a farmer planting a seed. Did the farmer bury the seed? Well, yes, but he also planted it. Instead of feeling buried by our situation, we must realize that the pain and heartache that has been piled upon us is not meant to bury, but to plant us in a way that will allow us to grow and prosper.

As you stop and take in the circumstances around you, will you allow yourself to be planted?

The post-pandemic world is going to be different. How different? We are getting a glimpse of it now.

As its outlook improves and we start to move toward the normalcy we used to know, we should not allow our lives to run too fast to appreciate the beauty of nature, which are things that cause us to slow down. When life becomes too much like a race for you, it should not be like riding a fast bike. It can be reading, knitting, exercising or creating new things. Try to find that one thing that allows you to unwind and refocus when life seems too much to handle. You will need some sort of inspiration to spark your inner strength and encourage you to keep going. Maintain contact with family, friends and neighbors. Participate in the floor exercises or go to Vitality. Visit the self-distancing tents in the parking lot. Schedule a time for a family visit at the Concierge garage in front.

All you need is some sort of inspiration to spark your inner strength and encourage you to keep going. We are in all of this together.

Claudio Lima

Resident Council BOD President



**BOOK REVIEW****Braiding Sweetgrass**  
by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Robin Wall Kimmerer, a distinguished teaching professor of environmental biology at one of the state universities in New York, is also a Native American member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, who grew up near the heartland of her native tribe, and spent much of her childhood exploring the woods and the meadows nearby. Her love of nature led her academically to a completely different, scientific approach to the natural world, where she succeeded extremely well. But all this time, she recalled the many stories about the natural world as handed down from previous generations of her native heritage. So these collected essays, part memoir, part scientific studies, bring several perspectives to her descriptions of the natural world. We have much to learn from the natural world, how we are all connected to the plants and the land, how intelligent they are. This book is also about gratitude and thanksgiving. *Dick Sakurai*

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER:** Little Jamie was attending his first wedding. After the service his cousin asked him, "How many wives can a man marry?" "Sixteen," was Jamie's quick answer. "How do you know that?" his cousin asked. "Easy" Jamie answered. "All you have to do is add it all up, like the pastor said: Four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer." (Chaplain Mick is glad for his ONE wife!)

**A note from your Employee Appreciation Fund (EAF) Committee:** The committee is sending out a flyer once or twice a month highlighting each of CWV's hardworking employees by departments. The first one featured the Maintenance Team who work hard to meet all of the resident's needs as well as the needs of CWV, like preparing apartments before a new resident moves in and work outside that is never ending (a 13-acre campus). They also help where needed with Vitality events such as putting up the tents we are using during this season of pandemic. Give a shout out for our Maintenance Team, and remember to include all our employees in your donations to this fund. Donations can be made by check or cash (in an envelope), or by check made out to the CWV Resident Council, and noted to the EAF. Donations can be given directly to the Business Office, dropped off at the front desk, or put in the box next to the Front Desk.

*EAF Committee*

*The containers used for delivering our meals to us are NOT RECYCLABLE.  
Toss them down the trash chute.*



**Looking forward to September:**

The EAF committee is planning a very fun activity day around September 15. There will be many activities plus a raffle full of handcrafted articles and home - made goodies. There were a number of people who volunteered to bake for the scheduled (but cancelled) Spring Tea and who the committee will be calling to see if they can still help us out. We are also asking volunteers to share some of their sewing, knitting, or paintings for the raffle. There will be some embroidery pieces such as pillowcases, hand towels, and tablecloths or runners.

Please contact Judy Keiper at 503.703.7789 or e-mail at [jkeiper2@comcast.net](mailto:jkeiper2@comcast.net) if you are interested. Thank you in advance!

*EAF committee*



Donna Winkler started The Other Side in January and has decided to not contribute further. We're hoping someone else in Royal Anne might be interested in writing a monthly paragraph about what's happening on the West side of CherryWood. Call Joan 503-327-8173.

What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers  
and Laser printers have in common???

All were invented by women.

**CLASSIFIED ADS** *and other important info*

**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 placed in the Cherry Pit wall file. Deadline for ads for the October issue is 3pm Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

**CWV T- shirt Spirit Days are September 10<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**



## WELCOME, NEW RESIDENTS

Beatrice Jones, Greens 311  
Emery Karst, Royal Anne 224  
Beverley Newson, Gardens 111  
Fern Walker, Greens 212

## IN MEMORIAM

BJ Nichols, Wynridge 203

Thank you BJ for your many years of  
friendship and creative artwork.

Joan, CP editor

## CHERRY PIT Staff

Joan Walborn, Editor  
Karen Arendt, Proofreader  
Susan Howard, Art Editor  
Clara La Marche, Reporter  
Bill Sanjour, 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 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month.

*The pit is the heart  
of the cherry.*

