

SNU Chamber Chorale Ushers in Yule Season for Academy Luncheon

By Milton Sonnevik

The Academy of Senior Professionals will celebrate the Christmas season on December 11, 2000, by welcoming the Southern Nazarene University Chamber Chorale. This outstanding group of 12 musicians will present a program of Christmas music, both sacred and secular. The Chamber Chorale is one of five performing vocal ensembles in the SNU School of Music.

The Chorale is directed by Dr. D. Brent Ballweg. This is Dr. Ballweg's first year at SNU. In addition to his responsibilities directing the various choral groups, he teaches courses in conducting, choral methods, music history and church music.



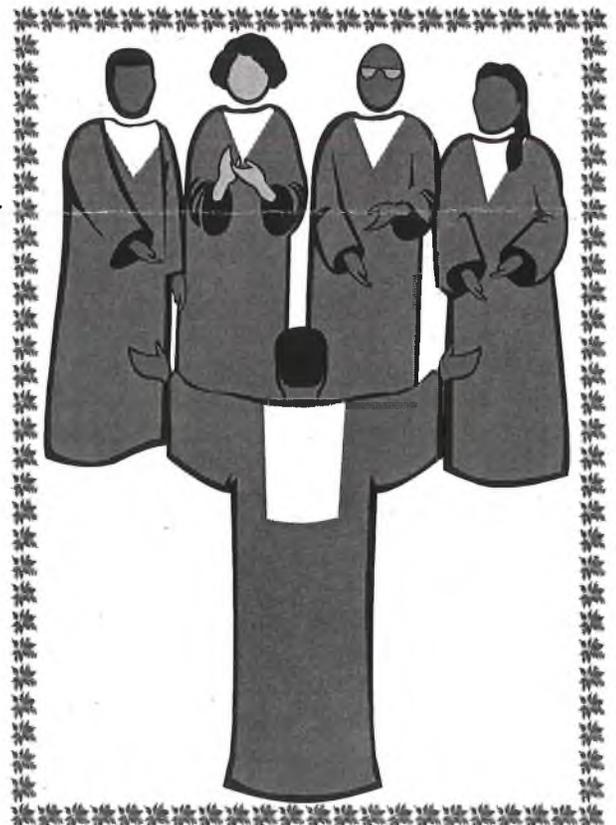
Dr. Brent Ballweg

Dr. Ballweg is a native of Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He received his B.M. degree from Oklahoma Baptist University and his M.M. and D.M.A. degrees in choral conducting from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music respectively. Prior to his coming to SNU Dr. Ballweg held college and university conducting positions in Texas, Arkansas, Arizona, Oklahoma and Missouri. He also served as the artistic director and conductor of the Plano, Texas Civic Chorus, assistant director of the Kansas City Symphony Chorus, and founder/director of the Northeast Arkansas Chorale. In 1986 he won first place in a national choral conducting competition held in

Nashville, Tennessee. In 1996 Dr. Ballweg was invited to represent the United States as a participant in a conducting master class at the IFCM Fourth World Symposium of Choral Music and World Choirs Festival in Sydney, Australia, and in 1997 was invited to conduct master classes with the Phoenix Bach Choir at the Southwest Conductor's Symposium.

The Chorale's accompanist is Jessica Swanigan from Independence, MO. The members include Beth Balderas, Duncan, OK, Leslie Bond, Yukon, OK, Jordan Brown, Richardson, TX, Marti Callies, Norman, OK, Sarah Cantley, Bixby, OK, Tracy Crouch, Iota, LA, Rachel Graves, Houston, TX, Jennifer Huff, Big Springs, TX, Rachel McArthur, Norman, OK, Jeremy Stover, Rifle, CO, Melanie Swanigan, Independence, MO, and Owen White, Ephrata, PA.

Together with their teacher and conductor, the Academy welcomes this fine group of musicians.





Your president's point of view:
by Jack David Arnold

What's Next?

When I turned 50 in 1978 as a professor at Jackson State University and pastor of a country church in Ellisville, Mississippi, I received a letter from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) congratulating me, wishing me a happy birthday, and inviting me to join AARP.

My first thought was, "I am not ready for this precursor to the Grim Reaper!" I knew that I had to keep my sense of humor and have a little fun with this watershed date, but I also remembered this observation:

**The great enemy of truth is very often
Not the lie—deliberate, contrived, and dishonest—
But the myth—persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic.**
—President John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-63)

Today I realize that turning 50 was not the tragedy—nor comedy—it's portrayed to be in our popular culture. It's more of an adventure.

People turning 50 today have roughly half of their adult lives ahead of them. And they are beginning to view that milestone as a time of enjoying new-found freedoms, of making new choices, and dreaming new dreams. They approach it, not by looking back and lamenting that "the party's over," but by looking forward with anticipation and asking, "What's next?"

"What's next" is a matter of choice. And, obviously, the better prepared senior adults are, the more choices they have. Their choices should be guided by their beliefs, values, experiences, health and lifestyle—not their age.

Age, in and of itself, is not a relevant nor a particularly effective gauge for determining "what's next," or for understanding the 50+ population.

"What's next" is a matter of attitude. What "age-fit senior adults" are saying is, "Okay, so I'm older; it's not that much different. I still like to do the same things, I enjoy life. I have goals to achieve, contributions to make and adventures to experience." In other words, getting older is a subtle process—not a drastic change like I thought it would be when I received the surprising AARP birthday greeting on my 50th birthday in 1978.

Nothing happened to me biologically on my 50th birthday—or any other birthday—to make me fee "old"—though the cards I got are a different story. And there is absolutely no evidence to suggest that I will wake up on my 73rd birthday with a biological urge to sell my house in Dallas, get rid of my dog, Penny, move into a retirement home in the Sun Belt.

I can't help getting older, for aging and living are synonymous, but I can help how I grow older, and what society will be like as I grow older. It is my choice, my voice, and the attitude that will shape my future.

Continued on Page 6— Arnold



**"Sharing
a
Continuous
Flight"**

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ASP Approves Scholarship Program

By Elbert Overholt

You took a step forward in our goal to make important contributions to the University students when you passed the Academy Scholarship Program at the November meeting.

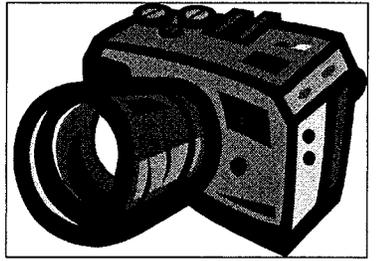
If you would like to include your contribution to the ASP Scholarship fund in this year's giving you may send or give your check to Bud Cargill. Make it to SNU with a memo for "ASP Scholarship."

Anyone interested in placing your present SNU scholarship under the ASP Scholarship Recognition umbrella please sign the Scholarship Recognition sheet at our next meeting. If you are interested in helping develop the ASP Recognition program please speak to one of the Academy officers.



ASP PICS

PICTURES BY EDITH SONNEVIK PAYNE

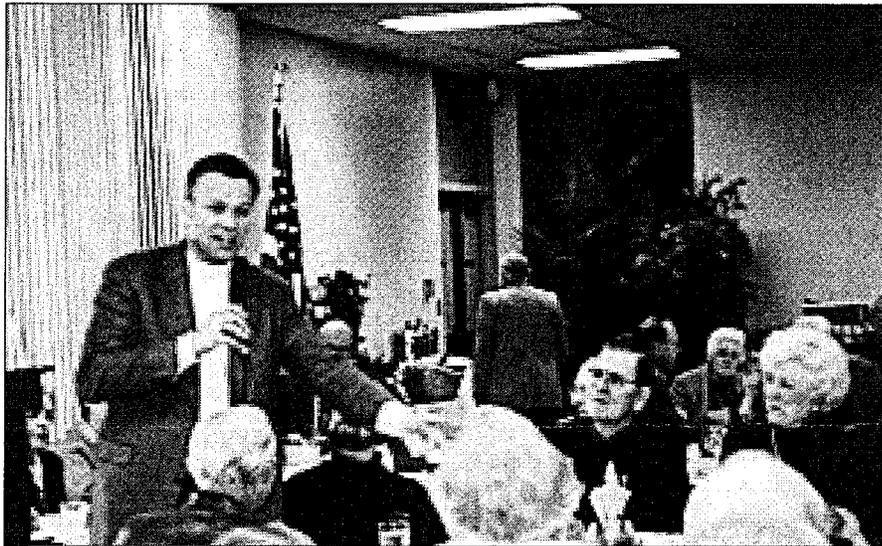


New ASP members are Robert and Beverly Parker. The Parkers are Bethany residents and Robert is Chairman of the SNU Foundation.



President Arnold enjoys a light moment with guest Michael Crabtree, Assistant to the President for Endowment Development at Southern Nazarene University.

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Jim Priest, attorney and columnist, spoke to the Academy of Senior Professionals at the November luncheon. His talk on the relationship of the senior generation to family values was inspiring!



[left] Howard Oliver, a visitor from Colorado.



[right] Member Louvenia Jellerson, lives in Marysville, Washington



[right] ASP welcomes Jarrell & Bernice Garsee as new members. They reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Russia by Waterways

By James R. (Bob) Emmel

To board a jetliner and eighteen hours later step onto the soil of St. Petersburg, Russia, is to enter another world indeed. In the recesses of our minds, Naomi and I had known for many years this world existed, but now it slowly dawned on us that we were actually in the bosom of mother Russia. It was our privilege to have fourteen days cruising almost 2,000 miles of Russian waterways—rivers, lakes, canals and eighteen locks, eventually sailing on to the Volga river and into the canal to Moscow. While it all seemed like a dream that Bob had from his childhood geographical studies and pictures; memories of seeing Russian ballet through the years, reading the works of literary giants such as Tolstoy, Chekhov, Dostoevski, Pushkin, and Solzhenitsyn among the many, it was Russia with its best foot forward. We remarked a number of times that it was a vision come into reality that we were having this phenomenal experience.

By necessity, in this article many places of interest and numerous details of this cruise will be limited to the major points of interest.

Welcome to St. Petersburg (name changes from Petrograd to Leningrad to St. Petersburg). This city is rapidly updating itself after the ravages and neglect from decades under Communism. In conversations with a cross section of St. Petersburg citizens, we found they are working desperately to rid their lives from every trace of the Communist regime. Many older people, however, still want the old ways, for there were not many demands put upon them to work hard and yet they received the same benefits.

St. Petersburg, second largest city in Russia, is located on the Gulf of Finland in the Baltic Sea. The history, physiognomy, and development of this great city are filled with intrigue. It was built on the bones of the people, who died developing every inch of it. The ruthless rulers had little regard for humankind and each death was a stepping stone to the completion of what each ruler envisioned for the city. Peter the Great envisioned this city as an emulation of the great cities of Europe which he had visited. It was captioned by this ruler to be the Capital City of Russia; but after many years of feuding, the capital was finally established by Lenin in Moscow. The city itself, boasting over 200 stunning palaces and monuments, representing the baroque or neo-classical style, is considered a museum of architecture. Almost five million people enjoy 50 museums, 20 theaters and concert halls, 60 stadiums and 4,500 libraries.

Also in St. Petersburg is the wonderful Hermitage Museum, with only three rivals, the Louvre in Paris, the Prado in Madrid and the Metropolitan in New York. Every inch of the Hermitage—inside and out—is startlingly beautiful; one simply views its beauty with exhilarating awe. The elegance, grandeur and vastness of the configuration of buildings at the Hermitage defies tongue or pen.

St. Petersburg and vicinity, Mecca of great art, can be mainly attributed to Peter the Great and Catherine the Great.

As Naomi and I continued our Russian waterway travel, we docked at the small village of Mondraga, where we enjoyed a Russian Shashlik barbecue, listened to Russian music and watched thrilling folk dancing. This unique experience was followed by a visit to the port of Kizhi, a fairy tale island situated on Lake Onega. It is the site of an outdoor museum depicting Russian life through the years. The highlight was the picturesque rural wooden architecture of the region. The main attraction was the church of the Transfiguration, with its 22 cupolas. It is a masterpiece of wooden architecture. Not only is it constructed without a single nail or piece of iron, but also the only tools that were used were chisels and axes. This

was one of the wonders of the entire trip. Nester, who built the church, threw away his tools when the work was finished, saying, "Master Nester built this church. There is no church like this in the world and there will never be one."

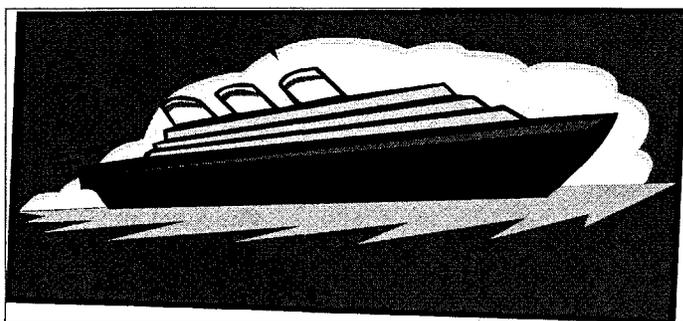
The town of Goritzi was a short stop. We found there a delightful rural setting with beautiful pastoral views and the Resurrection Convent, which was restored in 1997 to its original state. We did a walking tour of this rural village, where we were invited into a simple Russian home and were served delectable tea and pastries.

Our Yaroslavl stop was at one of the oldest cities in Russia. We made a visit to Transfiguration Church, where we heard perhaps the best choral music presentation one could enjoy.

Kostroma was the next port of call. Here we encountered the Ipatievsky Monastery, with its brilliant, glittering, gold cupolas, considered one of the most impressive in Russia. Mihail Fjodorovic, the founder of the Romanov Dynasty, ruled in Russia for more than 300 years and ascended the throne from this monastery. A compelling exhibition of mural art and icons leaves one spellbound with its artistic and wondrous precision and beauty. On this same day we enjoyed a Russian tea with their famous pastry, piroski.

The second oldest city in Russia, Uglich, preceded in age by Moscow, was a memorable port of call. The history of this old city, located on the Volga River, would fill a book. Suffice it to say, it established its own principality in 1218. Unfortunately, during the Communist regime the city lost a great deal of wonderful architecture. Half of its churches were destroyed—either blown up or demolished—a ploy of the Soviet bureaucracy at its best. The Soviets wanted very little to do with any other culture, art, architecture or religion, and many great minds were also destroyed. This led to a city and nation that were almost void of free thinking or intellectualism. The Soviet mind had the concept that the arts made weak citizens. With the lesser-educated people Communism could mold the thinking and ideas of the populace to produce a Marxist, Communistic mindset. Fortunately during the Gorbachev years the people of this city began to restore the remaining churches, cathedrals and convents. They had been used for storage buildings and in other devious ways, and many beautiful, sacred murals and icons in the religious structures were covered over with debris and paint. The present-day citizenry are doing a remarkable job of restoration of these notable works of art. Among the superb edifices that are left are the Transfiguration Cathedral and the Church of Dimitry-on-the-Blood. Listening to Russian sacred choral concerts in these almost acoustically perfect shrines is a rare experience; Russian choral music is almost unsurpassed. Uglich prides itself on its world-renowned Chaika watch and clock factory. Naomi's birthday was celebrated by Bob's gift of one of the lovely watches from the factory.

The concluding portion of this article will appear in the January issue of "The Perspective."





"If you ask me"
By Vada Lee Barkley

In the Lord's Prayer Matthew quotes Jesus as follows: "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors (6:12). Luke says, "And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us" (11:4).

Paul tells us to forgive as the Lord forgives us (Col. 3:13; Eph. 4:12).

The American Heritage Dictionary gives four definitions of as: 1) to the same extent or degree, equally; to the same degree or quantity that; 2) in the same manner or way that; 3) at the same time that, while; 4) since, because.

A dictionary lists the most commonly-used definition first and the least commonly used one last. In the above references, only Luke seems to use the fourth definition "for."

Matthew and Paul use the word as, which three times out of four does not mean since or because.

If we give the term its most commonly used definitions, the picture it totally different. We are to forgive like Christ forgives.

How does Christ forgive? Does He go around forgiving everyone arbitrarily? Did He forgive Judas? If not, why not? Did He forgive Peter? If so, why? Judas went out and hanged himself. Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Two thieves were crucified with Jesus. Both taunted Him. One repented. Jesus said to him, "Today thou shalt be with me in Paradise." What happened to the other one?

Clearly God's condition for forgiveness is confession (I John 1:9) and repentance (Acts 2:38)



Interest Group Report
Research Interest Group

By Bea Flinger

The PURPOSE of RIG is "To provide opportunity, encouragement, and accountability for members of the Academy of Senior Professionals (ASP) at Southern Nazarene University (SNU), and the citizens of the extended community. The MISSION is "To promote, perform, and disseminate the results of research that is germane to the interest of the ASP membership, the alumni, faculty, and students of SNU and the citizens of the extended community. (Quoted from the March, 1998 Web Page)

RIG researches topics which are relevant to mature adults, and will welcome suggestions from academy members. These will be brought to the attention of the RIG membership, selected for research, and presented in papers read at the meetings. Some will be printed in TAP.

Much of the research will be carried out via the use of the internet, hard copies (books and periodicals), and frequently professionals such as physicians, administrators, etc.

NOTE: A picture of the RIG members will be taken at the December meeting. This will become a part of the revised RIG Web Page. Please be present!



A look at a book
By Wini Howard

What's So Amazing About Grace? by Philip Yancey

In re-reading portions of "What's So Amazing About Grace", I am more impressed than ever with its message—a truly powerful one.

Philip Yancey is surely one of the most significant Christian writers of our day. His pointed insights into the soul are truly startling. He does know how to force the reader to think again about some long-held spiritual concepts. He says, "... grace is indeed amazing—truly our last best word. It contains the essence of the gospel..." He maintains that many people think of morality instead of grace when the church is mentioned. And, of course, the question is: Why did the sinners throng after Jesus while the moralists of His day rejected Him? Jesus was dispensing Grace!

Yancey goes on to say, however, that the truth is that the world can do everything as well or better than the church, but the one thing only the church can do is to offer grace.

As Yancey re-tells the story of the Prodigal Son, the forgiving love of the Father becomes more gripping than ever. The Father didn't even let the Son say how sorry he was for all the awful things he had done. Grace is loving forgiveness given before it is asked. The chapter entitled "Lovesick Father" is a beautiful commentary on the love of God for us.

Yancey quotes from Eugene O'Neill, "Man is born broken. He lives by mending. The grace of God is glue."

This book will make you wonder why you might be living so far below what grace can do for you. God's helping hand is extended down to us, I'm sure, but often we don't even look up and ask for His amazing grace.

This book is available in bookstores and libraries.



Interest Group Report
Memoirs Writing Workshop

by Vada Lee Barkley

The Memoirs Writing Workshop (MWW) met November 13 in the Faculty Lounge.

Vada Lee Barkley highlighted excerpts from *How to Write the Story of Your Life* by Frank Thomas. Included in a handout were suggestions on where to begin a memoir and what to include in one. "Some [writers] start with birth and others with a dramatic episode such as a turning point.

Bob Emmel read his article on memorials written for publication in a specialty magazine. What "sparked" his thinking on this subject was his recent trip to Russia where he saw "... hundreds of memorials honoring its dead."

Carol Spencer read "The Blue Coat", a story about a memorable experience she had in kindergarten in 1942.

The next meeting will be December 11, from 10:30 to 11:15, in the Faculty Lounge.

Arnold—Continued from Page 2

In our Academy of Senior Professionals (ASP) at Southern Nazarene University (SNU), we are building upon our solid foundation of a rich tradition of education, culture, and service to shape and enrich the experience of growing older for our members and the citizens of our extended community by creating an environment to help them make their own choices, reach their goals, live their dreams, and make the most of their lives after 50.

And finally, we do so filled with optimism, hope and promise as we ask the question again, "What's next?"

**To all, their chance,
To all, regardless of their birth.
Their shining golden opportunity.
To all, the right...to be themselves,
And to become whatever their vision can make them.**
—Thomas Wolfe, American author (1900-38)



ASP Calendar & News Briefs

ASP Calendar of Events:

9:00-10:10	Research Interest Group	R. Brown Conf. Rm.
10:20-11:10	Memoir Writing Workshop	Faculty Lounge
11:15-1:00	Luncheon Meeting	Heritage Room
1:30-2:30	Administrative Council	R. Brown Conf. Rm.

ASP News Briefs:

- **ASP Shuttle Service** available to ASP members and guests. The van leaves the west parking lot of Bethany First Church at 10:45 a.m. and makes continuous round trips for all desiring transportation. It returns to the parking lot immediately following the luncheon.
- **New Luncheon Time:** Please note that the ASP luncheon will begin at **11:15 a.m.** to allow more time for food service and program.
- **ASP Website:** All SNU websites, including the ASP website, are under construction and will require most, if not all, of this school year for completion. Significant improvement is expected in the new site.
- **Evelyn Keeton's Christmas CD recording now available.** Evelyn's "Christmas Favorites" and "Sentimental Journey Through the 40's and 50's on the Clavinova" are available on Audiocassettes (\$10) and CD's (\$12)—Prices cover mailing/shipping costs. Make checks/purchase orders payable to "Evelyn Keeton", 4600 N. College, Bethany, OK 73008. Orders may also be placed with the SNU Alumni Office, 6729 N.W. 39th Expwy, Bethany, OK, 73008 (1-800-998-4768)

A portion of the proceeds from sales will benefit the SNU alumni Association and the SNU class of 1950.



Art's Chuckles



Memoir Writing Workshop

"Wanta' Play Barber?"

By Carol Spencer

The "junk" drawer in Mother's kitchen contained all sorts of forbidden treasures and was reached by dragging a wooden kitchen chair across the floor to search its contents. Paul was two and a half and I was sixteen months younger. We looked like twins, both chubby and towheaded, and we were frequent partners in pre-schoolers' mischief. We both liked to rummage through the contents of the "junk" drawer.

The roar of the Hoover vacuum could be heard as Mother cleaned the living room. We were alone in the kitchen with both doors closed. Mother issued a stern warning emphasized by the shaking of her index finger while saying, "Behave yourselves," before she left the room. Immediately after she had closed the door, Paul requested, "Wanta' play barber?" Of course, I said "yes", with an agreeable shake of my blonde silky-haired head. Paul had secured a sharp pair of scissors from the "junk" drawer and directed me to sit under the kitchen table. Even at this young age he could find and use many types of tools, including hammers, saws, and screwdrivers. Father designed and built homes, and because of his ability and skill in carpentry, he had taught Paul the use of these tools.

Paul's skill was questionable, but his determination was great. I sat trustingly still while Paul whacked and hacked my hair to the scalp on one side of my head. It was amazing that I escaped injury-free from the hair-hacking incident. It did not take long to lose a half head of baby fine hair, nor did it take long for Mother to discover the culprit.

Paul was caught with scissors in hand before he could cut off the remainder of my hair. He received a sound scolding and a few good swats on his bottom for his crude attempt at barbering. I wore large floppy bonnets for the next year to cover the evidence of my near scalping until my hair grew out to a respectable length. We have several snapshots in our family picture album to attest to the fact.

Mother enjoyed telling this story many times to family and friends. And as a child, I liked hearing it told over and over again.

Paul's future profession did not include barbering nor was mine in creating hair-styles. My hair eventually grew very long, and I did not have it cut until I was twelve years old. But after that time I have never had long hair again, and still prefer short hairstyles. I also take pleasure in wearing a variety of hats and caps. Did this one incident have a lasting effect on me?

- *Few of us ever get so confused in our thinking that we can't see the other man's duty.*
- *Strange thing about blunt people—they always come to the point first.*
- *Want to make your old home look more attractive? Just price the new one.*
- *Did you hear about the man who was so narrow-minded that he could look through a keyhole with both eyes at once.*