



Perspective

Vol. 14 — No. 7

April — 2005

ASP members and guests will hear David Gergen at “PLN Presents” on April 8

By Jack Arnold

The Peer Learning Network (PLN) of Southern Nazarene University (SNU) will present White House advisor David Gergen on Friday, April 8, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Cox Convention Center in Great Hall C. A Renaissance-catered meal will be served.



David Gergen

Gergen will appear at the second annual “PLN Presents,” a downtown Oklahoma City session intended for the greater Oklahoma City business community. He will take a look back and a look ahead at the current administration of President George W. Bush, offering key lessons for leaders of the future as he

draws upon his thirty-year experience in Washington D.C., and the White House.

A noted conservative who served Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Reagan, Gergen brought his wisdom and hands-on knowledge to Clinton’s first years in the White House. Today, he helps audiences break through ideological barriers to recognize simple and lasting political truths.

Gergen currently serves as editor-at-large of

U.S. News & World Report, as director of the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, and as a regular contributor to *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer* television show on the Public Broadcast System.

For the second consecutive year, SNU’s President Loren Gresham has invited us to this year’s PLN event and offered to subsidize the cost of the PLN luncheon for our members, I happily accepted his generous invitation. For me, last year it was a dream come true to hear Dr. Kenneth Cooper, ‘the father of aerobics,’ at this event. It is a top-drawer event! I eagerly look forward to hearing David Gergen in my hometown. It will be awesome for me to meet him face-to-face and shake his hand.”

PLN is a program facilitated by SNU. Each year, PLN partners, comprised of chief executives of twelve local corporations and their management teams, pool their resources to bring world-class presenters to the leaders of Oklahoma’s premiere companies.

Tickets for ASP members are \$7.50 per person; tickets for guests are \$40.00 per person. Over fifty ASP members have purchased tickets.

For further information about this or future PLN workshops, please **contact Becky Walker, PLN Coordinator, at 405.491.6600, email pln@snu.edu, or log on to www.snu.edu/pln.**

Concerning the ASP bus schedule, parking at the Cox Center, and the Oklahoma Spirit shuttle service at the Center, please read the article “**PLN Presents: ASP Travel Information**” on page 3.



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

**Life with purpose: Looking
for the light of *why* in dark places**

In the 19th century, German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) wrote this maxim, "He who has a *why* for which to live can bear almost any *how*. This maxim was confirmed later in the 20th century by Dr. Viktor Frankl (1905-1997), the Austrian developer of existential psychology and a Holocaust survivor. He documented in his seminal book, *Man's Search for Meaning*, the profound power that a *life with purpose* exerts over an individual under the worst of circumstances.

Frankl, who survived the Nazi concentration camps, described how prisoners who felt they had nothing to live for succumbed, while those who perceived themselves as having a mission to complete, struggled to survive.

Deprived of all external supports that might give life meaning, these survivors came to realize that, in Frankl's words, "It did not really matter what we expected of life, but rather *what life expected from us*." Their sense of inner purpose pulled them through the most horrible physical and emotional experiences so that they might make their unique contribution to the world.

"Ultimately, man should not ask what the meaning of his life is," Frankl wrote, "but rather must recognize that it is *he who is asked*. In a word, *each man is questioned by life*; and he can only answer to life by *answering for his own life*; to life, he can only respond *by being responsible*" (*Man's Search for Meaning*, 1946, p. 172).

Everyone has a purpose in life beyond one's immediate interests and gratifications, though that purpose frequently goes undiscovered. Many people devote their entire lives to the pursuit of greater ease and pleasure. Those who had not found the *why* that gives meaning to existence may achieve material success, yet the goodness of life escapes them. The true meaning of life lies in sharing our particular qualities, talents, or virtues, with others.

Continued next column



**"Sharing a
Continuous
Flight"**

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By computer: www.snu.edu/sr_professionals

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Mail to: Roy Dorris, Treasurer
4607 N. College, Bethany, OK, 73008

May I suggest to you that there are three things you can do to discover your special purpose in life?

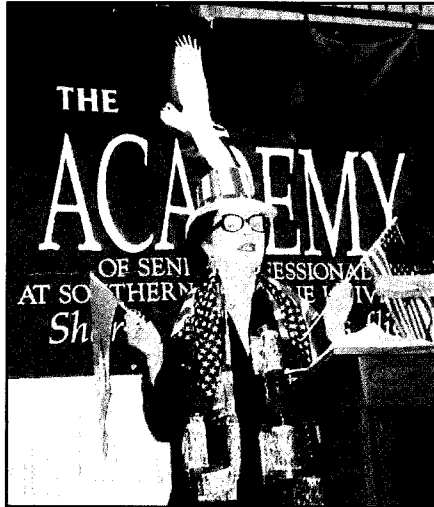
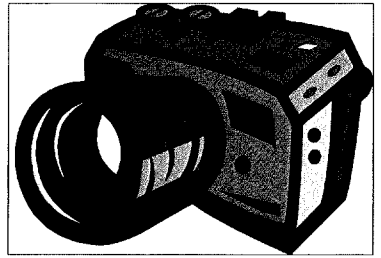
First, draw up a list of all the qualities, talents, or virtues you value in yourself and that other people admire in you. If you are a person with a sense of humor, you have the ability to uplift and entertain. If clear thinking is your strong suit, and you are skilled at developing ideas, accept this as a gift that can benefit those around you in many ways. Since you may sometimes think poorly of yourself, you should remember that it is important to dig a little to unearth those skills and talents that may be hidden.

Continued on page 6—Arnold

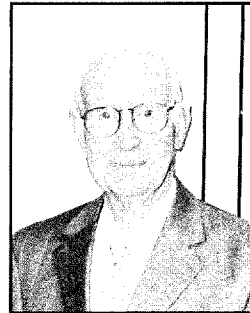


ASP PICS

PICTURES BY EDITH SONNEVIK PAYNE



Speaker for the March luncheon was Anna Belle Wiedeman who entertained members and guests with a speech "What's Right With America." She was accorded a standing ovation for her presentation.



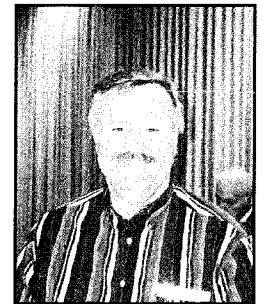
Introducing Lecil Brown, ASP member and recently appointed Academy Historian.



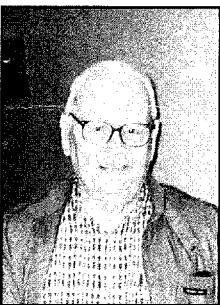
Academy members Milton and Mabel Sonnevik returned from their new home in Kansas for a visit.



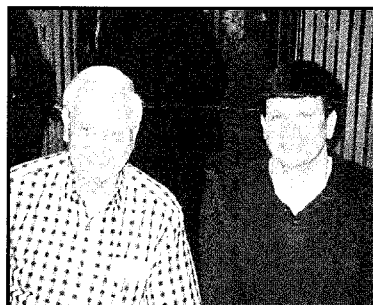
Guest Dr. Earl Folk, OKC



New member — John Branscum, El Reno, OK



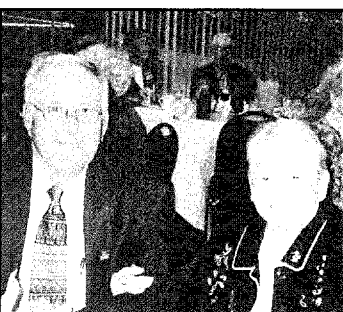
Guest Cecil Wyman, brother of Margaret Dawson



Guests Elmer King & Elmer King, Jr., Pekin, IL



Dr. Jack & Dorothea Wherry, Yukon, OK
The Wherrys are new ASP members

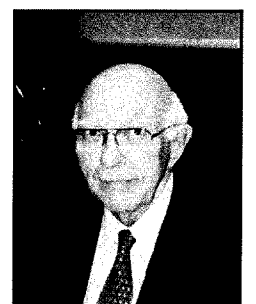


(left) Guests Ed Zweiacher and Ruth Taylor from El Reno, OK



(left) Sandra Stephens from Piedmont, OK. Guest of Edith S. Payne.

(right) Guest Dr. William Prince, Nazarene General Superintendent Emeritus,





Library Resources

By Bea Flinner

For this issue of *The Perspective*, my decision was to use a different approach than the usual. I am recommending a very interesting subject area that can be searched by using the computers in the university library under the subject heading, *Amish people in the United States*.

The Amish people do not settle in one particular locality; rather, they may be found in different states, as well as Canada. These wonderful, beautiful, and interesting folk, who have some unusual lifestyles and traditions that are special and meaningful to them.

There are many Amish people in Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania, which is where our families became acquainted with their uniqueness—where we saw their immaculate well-kept farms, little black horse-drawn buggies, and many eye-catching crafts. What a privilege to sit down at their tables laden with mouth-watering food.

Amish women and girls are well-known for their quilt-making and their beautiful small stitches as they complete the quilts. My mother gave me, our son and daughter each a quilt that she had made. We had those quilted by Amish ladies who live about thirty miles from my hometown in Pennsylvania.



Report on Writers' Workshop

by Vada Lee Barkley

The Writers' Workshop met March 7, 2005, in the Conference Room at SNU with Chairman Vada Lee Barkley presiding.

Other members present were Bea Flinner, Elbert and Darlene Overholt, Paula Greer, Mary Smith, Robert Emmel, and Jack Arnold.

Paula Greer opened the meeting with prayer.

Mary Smith read her story, "A Trip to Arkansas," for group discussion.

Robert Emmel is working on a novel about his family.

Paula Greer is continuing work on a book which she and her late husband, Bronell, started. It is entitled The Greers' True Fairy Tales of India.

Vada Lee Barkley distributed copies of "Write the Way You Talk" by Rudolph Flesch for group discussion. She urged members to read "Reader's Digest" and current periodicals to find examples of Flesch's principles. For example, the use of such words as "and," "but", and "for" to begin a sentence or even a paragraph, the use of contractions, punctuation, etc.

Bea Flinner called attention to the fact that many of Flesch's suggestions are included in "20 Rules for Good Writing," discussed in our January meeting.

All of us are well-versed in writing scholarly material. But most of us want to learn more about writing for a general audience. If we will apply the principles presented in the above sources to what we write during the summer, we will have some exciting sessions when we return next fall.



The Kids

By Naomi Tidwell
(Writing Workshop Contribution)



"Surprise!" "Surprise!" announced my dad as we lazily rubbed our eyes to wake up on that sunny spring morning.

Quick. Get yourselves dressed and come outside. I've got something to show you."

My brother Loran, syster Evelyn, and I dressed quickly. Barefooted, we ran outside toward the barn to see what it could possibly be that Dad had for us to see.

We opened the barn door and Dad called us to the far side of the barn and all the way to the back. There in a corner, nestled down in a pile of fresh hay, were two beautiful kids. We were hilarious. This was the first time we had raised goats on our farm, and now, to have white twin baby goats was very special.

They soon started growing, and we had lots of fun romping with them. They were so quick to jump, run, and frolic with us. They also learned the normal "goat thing" of challenging us with a big push. We were not always ready for this extra push, so we often fell to the ground, only to hop back up and romp some more.

As the kids continued to mature, they often stretched the limits. Dad started questioning the wisdom of keeping them around, like the time Dad's brother and his family visited us from Iowa. Uncle Charley had a beautiful new car. During the night, the kids found that this car provided a "fun" place to climb up and down. When Dad came out the next morning and found kid tracks all over that shiny car, he was terrible frightened about what his brother would say. Thankfully, the tracks could be brushed off and Uncle Charley had a good laugh.

Loran decided he could make a harness for the kids and hitch them up to our little red wagon and they could pull us around the yard. He and Evelyn worked through the morning getting the harness to fit on the kids, just like harness fit on our horses, except it was made of rope and string instead of leather. Now it was time to put the harness on the kids. The kids didn't stand in place like horses do. But Loran was determined. Finally, the team was ready to go.

Loran and Evelyn decided that I should have the first ride since I was the smallest of the three. I thought this was a special privilege. I got in the wagon, and by stretching my feet in front of me, I could almost reach the front end.

Now I was all set for a wonderful ride, and the kids were ready to move. And move they did. They jerked into action. I landed outside the wagon on the back of my head. Oh, how my head hurt.

For sure, that was the end of our "kid team." We never tried that again. It wasn't so much fun to play with the kids after that upset. They were getting too big, and we couldn't appreciate their tricks and their meanness.

Dad soon decided it was time to get rid of the kids for several reasons. We couldn't keep them inside a fence. We couldn't keep them off the roof. We couldn't keep them off the car. And we couldn't keep them from eating our garden, which was our summer food supply.

Perhaps it was a love-hate relationship we now had with the kids. In spite of the necessity of parting with them, we remembered the good times and shed a few tears when they left our farm with their new owner.

A Challenging Opportunity

By Vada Lee Barkley
(Past-president of ASP)

I owe a debt of gratitude to Southern Nazarene University (SNU) and to those who provided funds for my education here during the Great Depression. God seems to have provided a way for me to compensate for some of that generosity through Barkley Books.

Only in dire circumstances do I plan to recoup any of the thousands of dollars invested in writing and publishing these books. Except for expenses, such as marketing, taxes, and fees for a CPA, etc., royalties will go to the Arthur E. and Vada Lee Barkley Religion Scholarship Endowment at SNU. The Academy of Senior Professionals will receive credit. If enough people become involved in marketing the books, they can bring in a substantial amount. And Barkley Books will never go out of print.

Here's a chance to help spread the Word and educate a young pastor at SNU simply by distributing brochures.

Many of us have downsized. Others are facing "downsization." Maybe the last thing we need is a book. After three moves, I can understand that. But these books make excellent gifts.

If 5 people buy all 9 books, that means \$200 in royalties. If 40 people buy 1 small book, that means another \$100. If 20 people buy 1 large book, that adds another \$100.

Pooling orders will save \$3.49 per shipment on shipping costs.

How about a gift for your family and friends, especially young people? Have your grandchildren ever heard a Sunday school lesson or a sermon on Sanctification? Does it matter? For a pittance, you can give them a book on the subject, with references to some 40 outstanding Holiness preachers dating back to John Wesley.

How about strangers? Before Christmas I went to Cartridge World to have a cartridge refilled and save fifty percent. I handed the manager a flyer. He said, "I want *How to Keep from Dying in Your Shell* for my mother. She plans to retire this spring." He bought a book for himself and said, "I'll run off more of these flyers and give them out at our family Christmas dinner. We'll have about 35 people." He told me about his Christian family, some of whom were missionaries. I left him some brochures.

Who knows? Including a brochure in our correspondence, even with our bills, might lead to someone's salvation.



Proverbs

- Be not afraid of going slowly; be afraid only of standing still. — Chinese Proverb
- Behold the turtle. He makes progress only when he sticks his neck out. — James Bryant Conant
- The road to the head lies through the heart. — American Proverb
- The head never rules the heart, but just becomes its partner in crime. — Mignon McLaughlin

Spring Blossom

By Jack Pischel (ASP Member)

A warm breeze stirred the small
branches
and moved along the margin of
the moist, cold ground.

Sunlight snuggled into the hollows
and crept under the dead, dry leaves
slightly warming the surface.

Down under, a bulb—for months
only a pulseless, dormant thing
cradled

In the dark womb of nature,
began to swell, to push, to exert—
and life was born.

The breezes became warmer, and
longer,
and the sunshine brighter and
stronger;

And the new life stirred and moved
and strained against the earth until
it broke free—
a leaf was born.

A leaf, the dew, the breeze, the sun,
a hand to stir the soil in tenderness
and expectation;

A day or two; a bulb's quiet trans-forming energy,
a bud-bursting—and
a flower is born.

A he, a she, a soft breeze, warm
sunshine,
a flower, and—down under—a
dormant mass

Of lifeless matter all begin to throb with
energy long stored;
Hands touch, lips move,
and love is born.

PLN Presents: ASP Travel Information

Bus Schedule (tentative)

- 9:45 a.m. Board buses at SNU (Sawyer Center parking lot, on the corner of 41st and Donald)
- 10:00 a.m. Depart for Cox Convention Center
- 10:40 a.m. Arrive at Cox Convention Center
- 11:00 a.m. Session begins
- 12:45 p.m. Buses at Cox Convention Center
- 1:00 p.m. Luncheon dismisses
- 1:15 p.m. Board buses
- 1:20 p.m. Depart for SNU
- 1:45 p.m. Arrive at SNU (Sawyer Center parking lot)

For those of you who choose to drive separately, underground parking is available at the Cox Convention Center. The current charge is \$6 per entry. The parking entrances are located on the east side of E.K. Gaylord and the west side of the building on North Robinson. Additional parking is also available nearby, throughout downtown and Bricktown. Oklahoma Spirit Trolleys provide shuttle service to most off-site parking garages at a fare of \$0.25.

Secondly, examine the ways in which you interact with other people and make a list of those ways that work the best. Does it excite you to teach people a skill that will help them? Do you enjoy listening while someone shares a problem with you? Are you happiest when organizing a group for a project, or when encouraging people who feel hopeless about themselves?

Thirdly, and finally, imagine what the world would be like under the best of all possible circumstances. Would it be clean, peaceful, and productive? Form a mental picture of the world you would like all your loved ones to live in and write down that vision in as much specific detail as possible.

Your mission in life is to have a *why* to live for, to use your best qualities in the service of the kind of world you want to live in. That is your purpose. That is *what life expects of you*. When you live according to your purpose, setting goals that support it, you will find the pieces of your life drawn together into a strong, integrated whole. **No matter how difficult life's experiences may prove to be, you will be able to endure and even flourish!**

Resolve to be thyself and
*know that he who finds himself
 loses his misery*--Matthew Arnold
 (qtd. in *One-Day-at-Time in Al-Anon*)



Information You Can Use

By Shirley Mears

Start Your Sunday in Song

KKNG, 93.3 FM has a toe-tapping Sunday morning gospel show hosted by Jay Shankle that attracts more listeners than any other Sunday morning radio show in OKC.

If you love Southern gospel, great variety, fun trivia and new information about Christian events, then tuning in every Sunday morning at 7:00 a.m. is a good thing to put on your to-do list.

Jay plays a variety of gospel music from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Singing along with Jay makes Sunday morning a joyful way to wake up. You can enjoy your first cup of coffee with the "Musical Minister," jolly Jay Shankle.

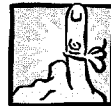
Carl and I set our alarm each Sunday at 7:00a.m. to wake up the Jay Shankle way. You can learn more about Jay at www.kkng.com. You can also request your favorite songs by e-mail to jay.s@tylermedia.com or by calling 460-kkng.



ASP Calendar

Friday: April 8

The Academy of Senior Professionals is joining with the Peer Learning Network (PLN) at the Cox Convention Center for its April meeting. For more information about the meeting, costs and transportation please read the lead article on page 1 of this newsletter. An early count suggests that approximately 50 ASP members plan to attend.



REMINDERS

- Don't forget that the **ASP meeting for April** has been replaced by joining with the Peer Learning Network on Friday, April 8. Read more about it on page 1.
- The year is winding down. Only the **May meeting** remains in the 2004-2005 year. Plan now to attend the May meeting on May 9.
- **AARP Driving Course** offered Saturday, May 21. Call 721-9250 for reservations and information. Class is held in the Royce Brown building, starting promptly at 9:00 a.m.
- **ASP Web Site:** Members and guests are reminded that the ASP Web site can be accessed by typing in www.snu.edu and then linking with sr_professionals. This is an excellent tool to learn more about our unique organization. Please forward your comments and copy to Dr. Don Beaver, ASP Webmaster (dbeaver@snu.edu)
- **Luncheon reservations:** Kindly be reminded that when a member or guest makes a reservation, the ASP Treasurer must include it in his count and pay Sodexo food service.

Luncheon reservation cancellations must be received by Friday morning before the Monday luncheons or individual/s are respectfully requested to forward a check to cover the cost to Dr. Roy Dorris, ASP Treasurer, 4607 N. College, Bethany, OK 73008.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

By Elbert Overholt, ASP Director

The Academy assembly will hold our annual business meeting at the May 9 luncheon. Annual reports will be made and we will elect officers and Ad Council members for the 2005-2006 academic year. We will streamline the business items and still have the privilege of hearing our District Attorney, Wes Lane.

NOTE: ASP CHANGE OF VENUE

As noted in the lead article for this *Perspective*, Dr. Loren Gresham, SNU President, has invited the Academy members to the "PLN Presents" on April 8. This meeting will replace our regular luncheon meeting for April.