

Perspective

Vol. 34 No. 3

November 2025



Speakers By Rosalynn Wade

Our November speaker will be Amy Rollins, who has worked for more than 21 years in the hospitality industry. Today, she and her husband own and operate Castle Falls Restaurant & Venue on MacArthur Blvd. just south of NW 10th Street.



Amy went to Putnam City High School and studied at Oklahoma State University and at Moody Bible Institute. She and her sister Robin Jones founded Historically Local Initiatives, which focuses on West OKC. Their projects include the monthly Council Grove/Castle Falls Historically Local Tour, a Historically Local Speaker Series, and the creation of Historically Local Public Art and Signage.

In 2004, Amy and Ralph Rollins bought the property that is now Castle Falls. “We were drawn to the historical opportunity,” Amy said. Toward the end of WWI, war hero Bill Blecha was so fascinated by a castle he saw in Europe that he vowed to build himself a similar one in his hometown of Oklahoma City.

When Blecha returned home from war, he became a manager at Manhattan Construction Company. His duties included demolition and disposal. That gave him free access to historically significant architectural pieces - pieces that he would later use in building what became Castle Falls.

In the 1945s, Blecha saw the same European castle featured in an architectural catalog. So with renewed inspiration and a storehouse of unusual salvaged pieces he had acquired from demolition sites including the Colcord, the original downtown OKC Down-

town Airpark and Oklahoma County Courthouse, he and his wife built Blecha’s dream castle.

The castle was nestled into the side of a hill with three levels framed by 24” thick walls poured from 55 truckloads of Dolese Concrete. The Blecha’s labor of love took nearly five years to complete. This castle is a testament to a realized dream. Bill Blecha enjoyed his dream castle until his death in 1989 at the age of 96. His daughter and son-in-law continued to live on the grounds until 1994.

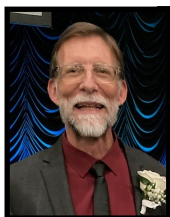
Hilda Vormann purchased the property from the Blecha family in 1994 and transformed The Cellar into the German Restaurant “Keller in the Kastle.” Then, in 20024, she put the property on the market. Within months, the third owners, Amy and Ralph Rollins, purchased it.

A series of improvements and restoration projects have created a setting for weddings and events. The restaurant reopened in 2005, and the construction of The Grande Hall was completed in 2007.



The ASP luncheon on November 10 begins at 11 a.m. in the Webster Commons Heritage Room on the campus of Southern Nazarene University.

Members will receive a call to RSVP. If you have not been contacted by Wednesday, November 4, you can RSVP to 405-517-3364 or by emailing emmalyncg@hotmail.com. Cancellations may be made by phone or email.



President's Column by Dave Bucher

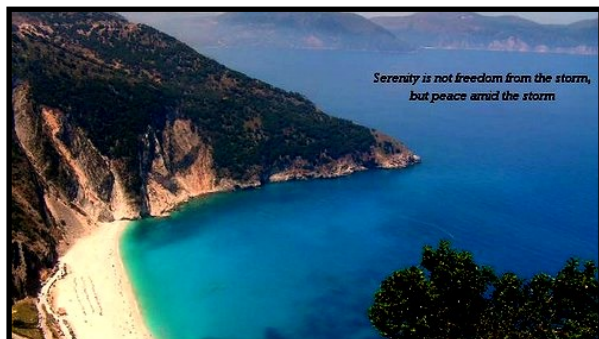
Years ago, I found myself in a community that I would label as somewhat dysfunctional, as it seemed to be daily embroiled in issues of corruption and incompetence.

Watching the effect this had on the people around me, I made a conscious effort to find a middle-of-the-road mental attitude, to avoid the ditch on one side, comprised of those who were oblivious or apathetic, and the other side of people who fought against the situation so vehemently that they quickly burned out. I wanted to be aware of the problems and pick my battles carefully so that I could stay in the fray as long as possible.

The middle-of-the-road approach continues to serve me well today. I'm a news junkie. I peruse the national and global, and a smattering of local, news from multiple sources in an attempt to keep up with current events, including the underlying factors that bring them about, and how they might influence our future. I find great wisdom in a prayer by Reinholds Niebuhr almost 100 years ago:

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

However, I do go back to those things I cannot change and pray over them, knowing there is One who can.



Book Discussion by Barbara Culbertson

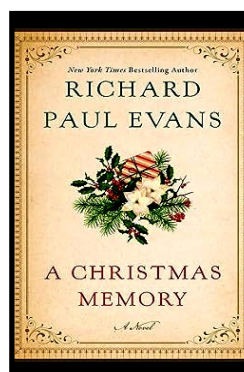
"Oh, the weather outside is frightful . . ."
But you'll be all comfy, cuddled up by your fireplace on Zoom, talking about Christmas with the Tsundoku ASP book discussion group.

The date is December 1, time 2:00 p.m.
The book? *A Christmas Memory* by Richard Evans, the man who has been called the "King of Christmas Fiction."

The novel is based on the author's own childhood. It's a rather different Christmas story—but I chose it somewhat because of this, to maybe include some ideas about how Christmas changes our values. Amazon says it is "a poignant, deeply felt novel about loss, grief, the healing power of forgiveness, and the true meaning of the holiday season."

To help you with your gigantic New Year's plans (like getting a job at NASA), our choice for the January 5 (that's **2026!!**) meeting will be *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly. Metropolitan Library System gives the following synopsis of this #1 New York Times bestseller: "The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space."

The story is available in different formats, including a motion picture. Pick your favorite from the library, and we'll share our thoughts during that first meeting of 2026.





“Giving Tuesday” will be December 2nd. What will you give this year? Gifts can be made through the ASP Treasurer at the November luncheon, mailed in to the SNU office, or on-line through the SNU web-site. While the ASP gift goes to the SNU Angel Fund, you can designate your donation to that fund or any scholarship endowment in the University. Just be sure that you indicate your gift is linked to ASP so we can see what our total giving will be.

Frank Dewey
ASP Treasurer



ASP Sponsors 2025-2026

October 13, 2025	Edward Jones Company Attn: Phillip Suarez
And	United Pharmacy Attn: Carly Ennis
November 10, 2025	Dignity Memorial Attn: Jon Gagnon
December 8, 2025	Southern Plaza Attn: John Stoddard
January 12, 2026	Bethany Law Center Attn: Rick & Susan Martin
And	First Bethany Bank & Trust Attn: Priscilla Cude
February 9, 2026	Mercer-Adams Funeral Services Attn: Marla Mercer Cole
March 9, 2026	Concordia Life Care Community Attn: Julie Davis
April 13, 2026	Spanish Cove Retirement Village Attn: Jill Huff



ASP LUNCHEON PARKING

The designated parking lot has changed. It is just west of Bethany First Nazarene Church at the corner of NW 41st and Mueller. The SNU bus will meet you there and return you following the ASP luncheon..



You've been generous.
THANK YOU.

 A graphic of a hand holding a small pie with a cherry on top, positioned to the right of the "THANK YOU." text.



**Academy Re-Views
by
Hal Swinhart**



**Marilyn Stark
State Representative
District 100**



**Sam Giffin
SNU Student**



**ASP Members Singing
Blessed Assurance**



Volunteerism by LaNell Stahl

Once again, we are volunteering at SNU. I am always happy to greet our volunteers and spend time with them during an activity. It's a time of fun, fellowship, and being useful. As you know, I keep track of the volunteers and the time they volunteer, not because I like numbers that much. It's because it helps remind us of the time we helped SNU succeed at some important activity. Sherry Anderson has stated that "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." I agree with her wholeheartedly. I love our volunteers, and I believe each one is a priceless treasure.

This month of November will find us volunteering at SNU's Homecoming events. Volunteers are needed for preparations before and during homecoming, registration, greeting guests, and clean up afterwards. Most volunteer activities are for two-hour shifts. If you haven't volunteered yet, please consider doing so if you are able and interested in helping.

December 6th is winter commencement at 2 p.m., and we have been asked to provide at least twelve ushers. Volunteers for this event are expected to arrive at 12:30 p.m. and can typically leave between 2:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer for any of these events, please call LaNell at 928-853-4908. If you have not yet completed your background check forms, please let me know so we can proceed with getting that done.

Community Helpers

A Creative Craft Activity Speaking And Writing Activity

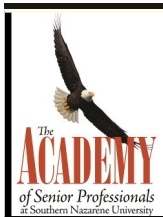


Fall 2025 Schedule

- *Nov 6-7, Fall Musical: White Christmas, Cantrell, 7:00 pm
- *Nov 8, Fall Musical: White Christmas Cantrell, 2 pm
- Nov 13, Night of Opera, Cantrell, 7:00 pm, Free Admission
- Nov 20, Clarinet Choir & Brass Ensemble Concert, Cantrell, 7:00 pm, Free Admission
- *Dec 1-2, Sounds of Christmas, Bethany First Church of the Nazarene Atrium 6789 NW 39th Expressway, Bethany, OK 7:00 pm

*Purchase tickets at snu.booktix.com





*“Sharing a
Continuous
Flight”*

2025-2026 Officers and Committees

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 Jim Dorough, Immediate Past President
 Helen Ann Bucher, President-Elect
 Nola Swinhart, Secretary
 Frank Dewey, Treasurer
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 Conley Henderson, Member Representative
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 Frank Dewey, Bylaws and Organization
 Emmalyn German, Membership and Calling
 Joan Dozier, Publications

Special Committee and Activity Leaders

Barbara Culbertson, Book Discussions
 LaNell Stahl, Volunteer Coordinator
 Karen Humble, Luncheon Assistant

Website Information

ASP Information

<https://www.snu.edu/asp>

Being revised



ASP Calendar

Monday November 10 2025

10:00—11:00 Shuttle Service from the BFC parking lot (41st and Mueller) to the Webster Commons.

10:15 Southern Plaza Shuttle

11:00—1:00 Luncheon Meeting in the Heritage Room of Webster Commons

1:00—1:30 Shuttle Service to the parking lots and Southern Plaza

1:15—2:15 Administrative Council Meeting

The Academy Perspective

- - -Publication Board- - -

Production Editor	Joan Dozier
Copy Editors	Howard Culbertson
	Barbara Culbertson
	Emmalyn German
	LaNell Stahl

- - -Columnists- - -

President's Column	Dave Bucher
Book Discussions	Barbara Culbertson
Speakers	Rosalynn Wade
Obituaries	Emmalyn German
Photography	Hal Swinhart
Volunteerism	LaNell Stahl

- - -Communications Policy- - -

We value correspondence from our readers.

By mail:

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By fax: (405) 491-6381

- - -Newsletter Subscription Information- - -

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- - -Contributions- - -

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