



## Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

# Things to ponder on those dark and stormy nights

It was a dark and stormy night.

I thought of that phrase as I went to bed Monday night. Was that credited to Peanuts creator Charles Schultz, author Charles Dickens, or both?

The answer is yes. Both. But it was not original to either of them. The phrase was coined by Victorian author Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton in the book, "Paul Clifford," published in 1830.

Charles Schultz taught Snoopy, as well as Charlie Brown, to begin their writings with that dark and stormy night phrase.

Schultz's five children often inspired his stories. Charles Dickens (who, by the way, had 10 children) borrowed the phrase from Bulwer-Lytton's book 112 years earlier.

We have enjoyed a few of those dark and stormy days and nights this past week. When I was young, I loved to sit on our porch (in those days everyone had a good-sized front porch) and watch our Michigan storms.

We were taught that thunder and lightning was simply God rearranging the furniture and, of course, God had to have the lights on. We learned to love storms!

For those of us who have lived here for many years, we can't help but remember our 2007 Advent Day storm.

The windows on my bedroom were rattling last night just as then, causing the entire room to vibrate and shake.

This Thanksgiving season, I am reminded to be especially thankful for my nice warm home that can weather such storms to the realm of enjoyment.

In Sir Bulwer-Lytton's book, he described the storm quite adequately. Here is the long, long first sentence of his first chapter: "*It was a dark and stormy night; the rain fell in torrents - except at occasional intervals, when it was checked by a violent gust of wind which swept up the streets (for it is in London that our scene lies), rattling along the housetops, and fiercely agitating the scanty flame of the lamps that struggled against the darkness.*"

One of my favorite of Dickens books is "A Tale of Two Cities." "*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times . . .*" And, this time of the year, we'll be reminded of his renowned "A Christmas Carol."

I realize our tables will be smaller this year with the current restrictions. Life goes on.

Read Ecclesiastes 3 and remember, God has made everything beautiful in its time (past, present and future)!

And now I will join Snoopy in wishing a heartfelt happy Thanksgiving to all my family and dear friends that I am honored and blessed to have in my life.

May this holiday season bring love to your heart, health to your body, and peace and joy to your home.

## Off the Shelf

by Kelly Knudsen



# Race Talks initiated mindful discussions

Warrenton Community Library hosted the six-session Rural Race Talks facilitated by LaNicia Duke, which wrapped up Nov. 4.

The talks began Sept. 23, with community members meeting via Zoom and in person at Warrenton City Hall and continued every Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m., with those attending learning how to talk about race. As they talked, most discovered core truths and values along the way.

Tackling the subject is challenging, but LaNicia helped the group feel at ease with her outgoing, friendly personality, thanking the group for showing up and being willing to challenge themselves through the discussion and learning process.

The first couple of sessions focused on building relationships and trust among the group, taking time for participants to get to know each other while creating a healthy, safe place to listen, learn and discuss.

Each session also took time for one or two mindfulness moments, led by a yoga instructor from Seaside. Mindfulness is a calming and relaxing necessity for meaningful discussions.

During the Oct. 14 meeting, participants discussed race as a social construct in the United States, Oregon's Exclusion Law of 1844, and the Racial Integrity Act of 1924. Participants were asked, "How do we unlearn social norms and ideas that no longer serve us?"

At the end of that session, LaNicia asked participants

to find and watch a movie about race in the United States. One of the recommended movies, *The Best of Enemies*, was an eyeopener for many. The movie is a true story of the unlikely relationship between Ann Atwater, an outspoken civil rights activist, and C.P. Ellis, a local Ku Klux Klan leader. During the racially charged summer of 1971, Atwater and Ellis came together to co-chair a community summit on the desegregation of schools in Durham, N.C.

In the end, the two find common ground and realize they have more similarities than things to divide them, a theme that resonated throughout the Rural Race Talk sessions. Other movies watched and discussed included, *Just Mercy*, *Good Trouble*, *Green Book*, and *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

Thank you to LaNicia and all the participants for their desire and dedication to discussing, learning and growing together.

A sampling of the comments from participants:

- "I wanted to thank you for the Rural Race Talk series. I enjoyed them very much and feel I came away with a better understanding of race and an improved perspective on how we can have different views and backgrounds but still work together to make this world a better place!" and

- "I cannot thank you enough for bringing safe dialogue/forum to Warrenton to have open dialogue about such a tough topic. THANK YOU!"

The library is interested in hosting more community conversations and discussion forums. Is there a community topic or issue you would like to discuss? What social issues impact our community?

If you have ideas for a topic, please send an email to [warrentoncl@gmail.com](mailto:warrentoncl@gmail.com) or call the library.

*Kelly Knudsen is director of Warrenton Community Library. She has a master's degree in library and information science.*

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF CLATSOP

In the Matter of the Estate of MARTINE G. STARR, Deceased  
Case No.: 20PBo6971

#### NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that James C. Casterline has been appointed personal representative of the Estate of Martine G. Starr. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned personal representative c/o Lawrence, Lawrence & Queener P.C., 427 S. Holladay Drive, Seaside, OR 97138, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative, Benjamin F. Lawrence, at the above address.

*Dated and first published on Nov. 06, 2020.*

Benjamin F. Lawrence  
Attorney for Personal Representative  
Lawrence, Lawrence & Queener P.C.