



# Inside Hyde Park

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## Crocheted Doll Dresses

by Janice Holka, HP Homeowner and  
HP Social Committee Chair



I became interested in crocheting when I was about 12 years old but did not actually start until I was about 20. I bought an instruction book, thread, and a hook and began with a doily. It was a struggle, but I stayed with it. Over the years I have crocheted more doilies, afghans, baby blankets, hats, scarves, etc.

While attending a craft show, I saw a Barbie doll with a beautiful hand crocheted dress. I decided to try my hand at making one. I have made five and have entered them in the Tulsa State Fair winning first and second place ribbons.

Currently, I am part of a prayer shawl ministry at our church. We provide shawls and lap blankets for people in the congregation who are ill or grieving over the loss of a loved one. I find it satisfying to provide a tangible token of love and care. **HP**

## Scams and Scammers

by Jeri Tucker, Tulsa Police Dept., Retired,  
HP Security Committee and HP Homeowner

**W**e have all heard about them, but scammers have become more clever and creative. So, how do we protect ourselves and our money and information?

First, NEVER give out your credit card, banking, or personal information to anyone! Legitimate companies DO NOT call you for that. There are a few simple rules to keep in mind.

First, if anyone demands immediate money in any form (credit card info, gift cards, bank account info), simply hang up. It's a scam.....it's ALWAYS a scam.

Second, do not fall victim to claims that law enforcement is coming to your door to arrest you if you don't comply with demands. That's simply not true. Never was, never will be.

Third, always confirm with your family members if a caller is making claims that someone is in trouble and needs money now. Hang up, contact your family to insure that everything is fine, and keep yourself from falling victim to scammers.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me and we can discuss it in more detail. **HP**

## Table Talk from the HOA Chair

by Les Gleaves, President, HP Homeowners Association

**T**here are many things that make Hyde Park a great place to live. Homeowner involvement, for instance, gives energy and life to all aspects of the HP community. The clubhouse library is a great example of what homeowners do. The late Sharon Maust was committed to the library. She organized it and could be found working there most days. Sharon provided a great foundation.

Several homeowners have stepped in to continue the work Sharon began. The Board was pleased to accept their recommendation to recognize her work by naming the library after her. A "Sharon Maust Library" plaque has been prominently placed at the library entrance. The plaque certainly is a well-deserved recognition for Sharon, but it also reminds us of the roles we can all play in our community. **HP**

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**In Honor of Sharon Maust**

## Library Team

(left to right)

Penny Roberts  
Mary Wentz  
Dee Dee Mundell  
Rita McBride  
DJ Pettit



## A World War II Veteran

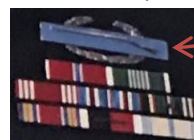
by **Paul Wentz**, Editor, *Inside Hyde Park*, and HP Homeowner

Though we all have many titles, few of us can claim “World War II Veteran.” I recently met a Hyde Park homeowner who can: Fred Burki. Fred and his kind wife Myrna invited me into their home on 84<sup>th</sup> Place, and we talked about many things, including the stresses of downsizing and the challenges of managing our lives in a Covid-19 pandemic. Fred and I then sat at his dining room table, and we shared some of our experiences and thoughts about war and combat. Since I served four years in the Marines and one tour in Viet Nam, we had some common ground to begin our conversation.

Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, Fred at 95 belongs to a group of just over 300 thousand who are still with us. Fred shared with me some of his history, including a few of his experiences serving in Europe during the war as part of the Army’s 89<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

Two experiences of his stood out. The first was the horrifying sights he witnessed during the liberation of the Ohrdruf concentration camp by his group on April 5, 1945. Since our talk, I have looked online at vintage photos of the camp. There

Combat Infantry Badge



are no words! The second war-time experience was the need to hide his Combat Infantry Badge (CIB). While eating their last hot meal in the rain before an assault across the Rhine River the next day, he and his fellow soldiers were each given a CIB. Though excited to have received this honorific, he and his buddies then buried their new badges in the mud to avoid being caught with them if taken prisoner by the Germans.

Fred started his career in the Army as an enlisted serviceman. However, following the war, he completed a training program that allowed him to enter the ranks of an officer. After 22 years of service, Fred retired from the United States Army in 1966 as Major Burki.

Thank you, Fred, for your service. **HP**



## Thank You Jacques-Yves Cousteau

by **Paul Wentz**, Editor, *Inside Hyde Park*, and HP Homeowner

At 14, I was an avid and card-carrying certified scuba diver. I had read *The Silent Word* and *The Living Sea*, both authored by Jacques-Yves Cousteau, co-inventor of the aqua lung, and I had watched the movies by the same names. I loved the sea, and since I lived in Los Angeles County, I was able to dive in the waters off the islands within sight of the California coast, e.g., Santa Catalina and Anacapa Islands. I was in awe of Cousteau and the crew of his research vessel *Calypso*.

I do not recall thinking that Cousteau would ignore me, so in 1960 I composed and mailed a short letter to the director of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, Jacques-Yves Cousteau. Several months passed without a response. If I had known that he was out at sea conducting a research project, I might have continued to hope for a response. But, alas, no response was forthcoming.

Then, shortly after my 15<sup>th</sup> birthday, yes, I received a letter from Jacques Cousteau! I was ecstatic! I still am. In his letter to me, he wrote, “I too hope to see you when you come to Europe and then we shall have a long chat.” At 15, visiting Monaco was never a serious consideration, but I never forgot his generous invitation. Even now, 60 years later, I smile at the thought of a “long chat” with Jacques Cousteau.

He passed away in 1997. My wife and I took a cruise many years after his death that included a stop that allowed us to visit Monaco. I recall standing outside the museum thinking that it would have been very nice to have had a chat with Jacques Cousteau, adventurer, inventor, and lover of the sea.

For decades, I thought the note from Cousteau had been destroyed in a fire in my mother’s garage. And for decades, I was saddened when I thought about it. Then, while preparing for our move to Hyde Park, yep, I found the note. I was like a kid at the best birthday party ever. I still cannot believe my good fortune. **HP**

