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Cedar Oaks Guild Newsletter

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11-15-2021

## Newsletter, November 2021

Cedar Oaks Guild

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### Recommended Citation

Cedar Oaks Guild, "Newsletter, November 2021" (2021). *Cedar Oaks Guild Newsletter*. 35.  
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# Cedar Oaks Guild Newsletter

November, 2021



The Guild met at Cedar Oaks November 9 for a potluck salad luncheon and short business meeting. There was so much delicious food! Keri Dibrell will solicit recipes to share.



We were pleased to welcome two guests: Nan Woods, Sharon Hawkins' neighbor, and Linda Noonan, another member or the wonderful Master Gardeners.



Sharon Hawkins and Nan Woods



Linda Noonan

**Halloween Trick or Treat:** Strange creatures and adorable children returned to Cedar Oaks on October 31 to trick or treat on our nature trail. The event was first held in 2019, with a Covid hiatus last year. The weather was perfect and everyone had a fabulous time! While we didn't open the house, 320 people enjoyed the big yard, nature trail, and decorated front porch for photo ops. There was such a good attendance that Laura Harper did a "candy run" to replenish our supply of treats. Check out the great pictures Sharon Hawkins posted on our Facebook page!



Thanks to 4 year old Tina Gentry's mom Mindy for sharing a picture of Tina assembling her and her brother's scarecrow puppet crafts.



The **Acquisitions Committee** (Jan Huckaby and Dianne Fergusson) has been working on recommendations to improve Cedar Oaks. Some of the furniture really needs to be recovered and a few items acquired to keep the house looking its best. While their recommendations reflect long range planning, it's never too early to begin preparing for expenses. With that in mind, **GivingTuesday** is approaching.



GivingTuesday is a global movement that encourages people to “give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.” This year the designated date is November 30, the last Tuesday of the month. Many people use GivingTuesday as a prompt for making their year-end donations. Tax deductible 501(c)(3) donations to Cedar Oaks Guild can be given online via <https://cedaroaks.square.site/> or mailed to Beth Ducrest, 144 Rosemont Loop, Oxford. Donors can specify “furniture.”

Another fundraising opportunity will happen on January 8 with the **Indoor Garage Sale** at the Conference Center. Thanks to Lynn McIngvale for reserving a booth for Cedar Oaks Guild. Save the date and your donations! In previous years, we made about \$1,000 from the event. We will sell a wide range of items, *excluding* clothing, shoes, hats, and Christmas decorations. Household goods, linens, books, jewelry, and art, especially framed pictures or empty frames, sell well. Please price the items you donate. The sale will run from 9:00 to 1:00 on Saturday; we can take items from 1:00 to 7:00 on Friday.



Picture from Hotty Toddy News 2018

**Happy Birthday:**

- Nina Patrick            Nov 1
- Emmie Lou Brunson   Nov 4
- Marilyn Taylor        Nov 9
- Keri Dibrell            Nov 11



**Cedar Oaks Treasure:** Tribute to Zilla Avent by Mary Alice Tate

Along with the headline “Lot is contributed to ladies for site of H. Smith house” *The Oxford Eagle*, February 7, 1963, published a long article about Zilla Avent, written by Mrs. Bryan Tate (Mary Alice Tate). It is reproduced below. Her name has been spelled as both *Zillah* and *Zilla*. The newly dedicated garden at Cedar Oaks uses the latter spelling.

# Lot given to ladies for house

By MRS. BRYAN TATE

Ladies of the Federated Clubs of Oxford, who have been working diligently to save the historic Smith home, built on North Lamar in Oxford more than 100 years ago, saw the first stage of their dream become a reality this week.

T. E. Avent, prominent Oxford businessman and founder and owner of the Lafayette County's largest home industry, Avent's Dairy, presented to the Federated Clubs of Oxford a site adjoining Avent's Park on which the house may be placed. This lot is being given in memory of his beloved wife, the late Zillah Holmes Avent, who was originally a native of Lafayette County.

Some Oxford residents, who were attending the University, as I was doing, 1919—when the total enrollment was only about 500 students, will recall as I do, the day when a striking looking new girl registered in mid-semester at Ole Miss. A tall, graceful brunette, beautifully dressed in the long skirted fashion of the day, with long, dark hair arranged beautifully atop her head like a crown . . . this girl created what almost amounted to a sensation. Everyone was asking, "Who is she? Where did she come from?"

Word then got around that this girl was Zillah Holmes, a transfer student from Lafayette College in Louisiana.

She soon became well acquainted on the campus and was very popular with both girls and boys. She

(Turn to LOT on Page 8)

## Lot . . .

(Continued from page one)

had a warm, outgoing personality with a friendly glow in her warm brown eyes, and a smile for everyone.

But college life was not hers for long. When school opened in the fall, there was exciting news of a wedding. One of Oxford's eligible young men, Edison Avent, then a pharmacist, had claimed her for his bride.

They first lived in the old Episcopal manse, which was located, where the Episcopal educational addition now stands. This writer joined the faculty of the Oxford High school, which was then located, where the City Hall now stands, a few years later. I have a vivid remembrance of her out in the yard of the church, playing with her beautiful brown eyed baby son. I used to stop by to chat with her on occasion and that is how I really got to know Zillah Avent.

Several years later, when the boy was of school age, the teachers had reason to really appreciate her spirit of cooperation. Homeroom mothers were something new, then. Each room had only one and Zillah was her son's homeroom mother every year from the time he enrolled in school until he graduated from high school. She loved not only her own son, but the children of all others and many a little under-privileged child has cause to remember her generosity.

Zillah loved her Sunday School and church activities. She was a faithful member of the T.E.L. Class, which was taught by Miss Ella Wright, who had the privilege of presenting Zillah with her first present, a cook book.

The then unmarried young pastor of the church, Roland Leavell, and a frequent and very welcome guest to meals in the Avent home, so we may assure that Zillah made good use of the cook book. In the T.E.L. classroom of the First Baptist Church stands today, a beautiful and spacious desk placed there in memory of Zillah Avent by her husband.

She was a pioneer in the efforts to turn children's activities at Halloween away from rough vandalism toward wholesome entertainment. She always invited them to come by her beautiful home for treats, a custom, which Mr. Avent has continued every Halloween since her death, both at his home and the dairy plant.

Most later residents of Oxford and Lafayette County remember Mrs. Avent's graciousness to all people in Avent's Drugstore, where she served as bookkeeper, but always with time to welcome those who came in, to sit down with them in the booths and inquire interestedly about their families and activities. She was always especially interested in the babies and children who were brought in.

It is entirely fitting that the beautiful historic Smith home, which will be used as a center of club, civic, and cultural youth activities of the town, be placed on a site given in memory of this beloved woman, whose most outstanding characteristic was her love for people, especially children and young people.