



THE CAROL WOODS NEWS

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS, A CAROL WOODS TRADITION

In 1985 resident **Ann Jones** was vastly annoyed by an article in the *Durham Sun* that referred to the “wealthy widows at Carol Woods who [sit] in rocking chairs on the porch counting their money.” The Carol Woods response to this calumny: the first audit, enumerating the number of volunteers engaging in off-campus, socially responsible activities. That number was 114, a significant percentage of the then-census of fewer than 300. The audit was published in the May 26, 1986, edition of the *Chapel Hill Weekly*.

Subsequently, the Community Relations Committee was created to “foster and maintain cooperative and responsible relationships between Carol Woods residents and their local, statewide, and global communities.” Ambitious in conception, this committee, headed today by **Dottie** and **Tim Heninger**, has continued what was already in residents’ bones. First, it encourages voluntary service by every resident. Second, it collects data on the number of hours these residents spend doing such things, both for one another and for the community at large. Third, as an extension of this effort it provides continuing education of fellow residents about the needs, activities, and issues abroad in the community and how they can become more engaged in its life. The more instrumental aspects of their work include screening requests for resident participation and helping manage applications for the use of Carol Woods’ facilities by outside groups.

The activities going on today are too many to list, of course, but include:

First: continuations of long-time commitments, like sponsoring non-partisan educational forums about upcoming elections; building Habitat for Humanity houses; answering phones for telethons; promoting

Cropwalk; fundraising for Ronald MacDonald House; functioning in numerous capacities at the Interfaith Council (IFC); tutoring young people, and delivering weekly desserts to the residents of the AIDS house.

Second: new initiatives. These include serving as juries at mock trials for training law students; contributing to the US Postal Service’s food drive; mentoring suspended high school students through the YMCA’s Boomerang program; and working on a variety of programs in cooperation with MSHAC (Mobile Student Health Action Coalition, an outgrowth of the Free Clinic). These programs for health professionals-in-training include “Project Compassion,” a project that trains teams to deliver voluntary and practical help to needy members of the outside community. One of these teams focuses on the homebound elderly of Orange County, for which Carol Woods residents serve as members, helping to provide specific things such as access

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Otty Snyder and friend cooking for IFC.

CAROL WOODS TAX EXEMPTIONS AND SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

A prevailing attitude among the residents, staff and the Carol Woods Board of Directors is that we want to support the community that supports us.

What does that have to do with Carol Woods' tax status? Lots! Carol Woods provides at least 5% of revenue from residents to charitable purposes. The more that we demonstrate a tangible commitment to charitable efforts, the more we act as a true not-for-profit organization. It is important that we earn the right to retain our 501(c) 3 status.

While we may not pay property tax, it is still important to be good neighbors and financially support the work of the town and county especially as it relates to services provided to the elderly.

Some examples of Carol Woods "giving back to the community" are:

Carol Woods provides annual gifts to the general funds of the town of Chapel Hill, Orange County and the Chapel Hill/Carrboro School District.

Carol Woods provides a refresher course for registered nurses who have had gaps in their work experience and wish to return to the work force.

The Employees Development Fund gives employees the opportunity to apply for grants to use for such things as courses to enhance work skills or make it possible for one of their children to go to a summer camp.

Camp Meadowwood, a day camp for children with behavior and developmental difficulties, is on campus for three weeks each summer.

This short incomplete list gives the "flavor" of our commitment to outreach in the community. When all is said and done, Carol Woods does not just do things right, but is equally focused on doing the right thing.

Shirley Collins

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS



Helen and Ib (pronounced eeb) **Hansen** (Apt. 1102) arrived from McLean, Virginia where they had been

residents for fifty years. They have a daughter and a grandson living in Chapel Hill.

A native Washingtonian, Helen graduated from George Washington University with a degree in French and psychology. Until her marriage to Ib in 1950 she worked for the CIA. After child rearing she was trained and certified as a tutor of dyslectic and blind children. She is a certified brailist. She has volunteered in many different areas and has special interests in reading, current events and gardening.

Ib was born and raised in Denmark where he received a Master of Science degree in Engineering from the Technical University. He was a member of an underground resistance group during World War II. Employed by the government following the war, he helped restore the war-devastated towns of Northern Norway. After coming to the United States, he took up a career in the structural design of bridges. When the family moved to Virginia, he entered into structural research with the Navy Department, which resulted in a long career as a supervisory physicist. His special interests are science, history, and, of course, UNC basketball.

Isabelle Webb



ON HER OWN GROUND

Madam Catherine J. Walker (born Sarah Breedlove in Louisiana in 1867) was an impatient woman in the history of women. Raised in direst poverty, she rose from the role of a 20-year old widowed laundress to become the owner of a cosmetics empire, a noteworthy philanthropist, and one of the richest women in America. I long ago read about her in an interesting biography which seems no longer to exist in The Chapel Hill Library. Happily I recently came across a long Web excerpt about her life from a newer book which is there: *On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C. J. Walker*, written by her great-great Granddaughter, A'Lelia Bundles. (www.readinggroup.com). Sifting through this excerpt will give you an intriguing picture of the times the Walker women lived in.

Here is a single mother boiling, washing, hanging and ironing to stay alive in St. Louis, Missouri, in a culture only slowly emerging from slavery. She noticed the prevalence of head wraps on African-American women, owing largely to poverty-caused scalp infections and hair loss. She herself was a sufferer. One day she went into her kitchen to look for a cure. After much experimentation, which included sending off to Africa for ingredients, she developed the first of her immediately successful hair care products. Hair salons for black women sprang up all over the country. Subsequently she delivered countless inspirational lectures on women's business potentials and created an empire of independent women entrepreneurs, much in the manner of Mary Kay. In 1906 she founded the Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company in Indianapolis —and the rest is history.

A portion of her fortune went to the building of a mansion in Westchester, New York, not far from the estate of John D. Rockefeller. For her daughter, the original A'Lelia, she gave money for another grand house in New York City that became known as "The Dark Tower", an open-door salon for flocks of Harlem renaissance artists; Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Thurston and many more.

Within her lifetime, writes A'Lelia Bundles, "My great-great Grandmother, Catherine Walker, became an advocate for women's independence, providing lucrative incomes for thousands of African-American women who otherwise would have been consigned to jobs as farm laborers, washerwomen and maids. As a philanthropist she reconfigured the philosophy of charitable giving in the black community with her unprecedented contributions to the YMCA and the NAACP. As a political activist, she dreamed of organizing her sales agents to use their economic clout to protest lynching and racial injustice."

During World War I she was under FBI surveillance as a "Negro subversive", yet in 1917 she was received at the White House to protest lynching. Her life story is replete with her impatient encounters with decision-makers in both the black and white communities. She died in 1919. Today many consider Madam C.J. Walker an American icon.

Jane Berryman



Madam Catherine J. Walker

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Jeanne Madigan urged residents to consider volunteering with Companion Corps and gave illustrations of the services provided.

Pat Sprigg gave a report on the past year's accomplishments at Carol Woods. In addition to refurbishing some residence buildings and other physical improvements in buildings on campus, new systems have been implemented to improve efficiency and control costs. We met all of the standards in our corporate control area, achieved a 99% rating in the sanitation survey, and had two deficiency-free surveys in Building 4. A Master Planning project is underway. Pat will host a Forum to provide us with major plans for the coming year. Discussions with Town and County officials about the idea of a Center for Excellence are moving forward. We will be preparing for a re-accreditation visit in 2008.

RM

Community Relations, A Carol Woods Tradition *Continued from Page 1*

ramps and socialization with clients. Project Compassion also provided consultation and the guiding concepts for the in-house group known as Companion Corps that pairs active volunteers with the frail elderly on our own campus.

The Community Relations Committee continues to publish a comprehensive listing of all the voluntary services provided by the Carol Woods community every three years, enumerated per activity. This is no small task. More and more residents are oriented toward helping the community for as long as they can.

We at Carol Woods are determined not to be "warehoused," but to maintain our connection to the world and to keep trying to make it better!

MR

CONCERTS AND LECTURES

Lectures:

February 15 – No lecture – Symphony night

February 22 – Walter Friedman – Friedman Family Memoirs

March 1 – Jim Peacock – Globalization in the American South and Beyond

March 8 – Lisa Stuckey – CH School System/ CW cooperative programs

March 15 – Mack Clark – Orange Water and Sewer Administration

Concerts:

February 14 – Trout Quintet – Strings, Piano

February 21 – Beth Tomlyn – Piano

February 28 – Barbara Rowan, Fritz Whang – 2 Pianos

March 7 – Mary Ann Nillssohn – Piano

March 14 – Myron Tsong – Piano

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CAROL WOODS

P.O. Box 2121

Chapel Hill, NC 27514-1438

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