



THE CAROL WOODS NEWS

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BEHIND THE SCENES

What do the annual July 4th reading of the Declaration of Independence, movies, Thursday Evening Programs, and the Summer Festival have in common? All occur on holidays, evenings or weekends when Ed Peppers, the one staff member responsible for managing the audio-visual equipment, is away from campus. So who runs the projector, adjusts microphones and sets up for power point presentations?

Enter the Audio-Visual Committee, sixteen Carol Woods residents who make possible our varied educational and entertainment programs. Fourteen years ago neither the committee nor the Assembly Hall existed. Audio-visual equipment was limited to a "public address system" and a slide projector. Working with Mr. Peppers, three members of the Thursday Evening Program Committee began to manage the equipment for their programs in the Community Room. Soon they were helping with musical and other evening events planned by residents. In 1993, recognizing the increasing demand, the Resident's Council created a committee of eight residents to assist management in operating audio-visual equipment.

Fast forward to 2007. We now have an Assembly Hall, equipment that projects video tapes, DVD's, and power point presentations, a state-of-the-art overhead projector that projects print from paper (no transparencies), a variety of microphones, hearing assistance devices, and more—all operated (and sometimes repaired) by our remarkable committee. A system is in place for scheduling events, requesting audio-visual help, and training new members of the committee. The chairman of the committee, **Ross McKinney**, prepares and distributes a monthly schedule of events and responsibilities. **Lew Woodham** takes the lead in training new committee

members. Working effectively behind the scenes, the committee is often taken for granted, but its accomplishments were highlighted last year when residents from another local retirement community visited to learn how we manage such an efficient operation with volunteers. Manage we do, but the committee always needs new volunteers.

NM



Committee member, Lee Sockwell and "the rack," the brains of the AV system.

Diane Brown's son, Mike, muralist at the new Seymour Center (see story page 2)



OUR NEW NEIGHBOR — THE SEYMOUR CENTER

Everybody knows Bob Seymour. He and Pearl live here. Bob and I are sitting in the Social Lounge at one of the round tables by the windows, and I think we're on one of his favorite topics: The Senior — oops — The SEYMOUR CENTER, which opened this summer at its new location on Homestead Road, just off the Martin Luther King Boulevard.

"Can we start with some history, please?" My pen is poised.

"Well," Bob says, "it began when I was asked to become a member of the Advisory Board to the Orange County Department on Aging, just after I retired twenty years ago. I was surprised to discover that the Chapel Hill Senior Center was located in the old Northside School Building and was very small and obviously unable to accommodate the rapidly-growing number of seniors arriving in our community. It seemed some action was needed, so we formed an ad hoc committee from Chapel Hill and Carrboro to advocate for a larger, more central facility."

"Sounds good, but it wasn't easy, was it?" I observe.

"Definitely not." He smiles. "We located a vacant automobile showroom on Elliott Road and proposed to the County Commissioners that this become the site of a new senior center. They were a little hesitant but finally agreed to lease 6,000 square feet of space. We protested that this was not sufficient, and entered into a partnership with the County to pay for an additional 3,000 square feet. Later, we pushed it to 11,000 by raising funds to make the mezzanine available for staff offices. This was a rented facility; we would need a permanent home.

"The first attempt at a bond issue failed, but a later one passed, thereby providing funds for a new building. Architect Richard Gurlitz, who had designed the Elliott Road center pro bono, was chosen to design a new center providing 25,000 square feet. We were off and running!

"Now, best of all, it isn't a center just for seniors any more: it's for everybody. That's one reason the name was changed," Bob adds.

Coming into the building from a generous parking lot, you walk into a light, bright, roomy lobby pleasantly filled with folks waiting for a bus, or a meeting with friends, or just enjoying the cool. A couple of us from Carol Woods play duplicate bridge there every Tuesday in a side room big enough to house twelve tables comfortably. The first floor still features a wellness area that includes exercise machines and a wide range of services, some from UNC hospitals.

On the lower floor (yes, there's an elevator) a very affordable lunch is served five days a week. Downstairs are located ping-pong tables, study groups, and many special events.

"You and your committee should be very proud."

"Everybody who voted for the bond issue should be proud," Bob responds. "I hope everyone will stop in and see what's happening, or read about it in *Senior Times*, available here at Carol Woods. And oh, by the way, the committee is still functioning as *The Friends of the Seymour Center*, just in case you should have any extra dollars lying around. Our work there isn't quite finished."

I get the feeling Bob Seymour's work will never be "quite finished."

JB



Ping-pong at the Seymour Center

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS



Winifred (Wynn) Berg (Apt. 3205) grew up in a small town on the shores of Lake Michigan. She graduated from Michigan State. In 1950 she married a sociology professor with whom she spent many happy years at five different universities, including one year in Oslo,

Norway. She has a son who lives with his wife in Connecticut.

Moving to Chapel Hill in 1987, Wynn first worked at UNC and then at the front desk of a real estate company. By a stroke of luck she discovered Co-housing and in 1995 moved to the Arcadia community in Carrboro. She quickly learned about consensus decisions, sweat equity, compromise and caring for the environment. Twelve of her Arcadia friends helped her move to Carol Woods.

Wynn is interested in sports, especially tennis, and enjoys music, ballet, modern dance, theatre and movies. She is a knitter and likes to read.

Gabrielle Falk



Napier (Nape) and Louise Baker (Cottage 181) arrived in Chapel Hill in 1976 when Nape became director of Pastoral Care at UNC Hospitals where he served

more than twenty-five years. Nape grew up in Baltimore; he graduated from Wake Forest and Colgate Rochester Divinity School. Louise, originally from Alabama, is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and SUNY-Brockport.

Before coming to Chapel Hill from Erie, PA, Nape had been the first Protestant Chaplain at the Catholic St. Vincent Health Center. Louise worked at the Episcopal Cathedral as education consultant and taught adult education classes at Villa Maria College.

Active at Binkley Baptist Church, both have been deacons: Louise once served as interim director of Christian Education and Nape is chair of the Building Committee. Louise retired in 1995 after ten years as information and referral specialist at Orange County Department on Aging where she met many Carol Woods

residents and learned to admire the community. The Bakers are delighted to have gotten the call to join their friends and the rest of us here.

The couple has one daughter whose stepson enjoyed a week at Carol Woods soon after Nape and Louise moved in. Louise enjoys reading and gardening. Nape, a model train buff, only regrets that, with their move, he had to dispose of his 10x23 foot HO layout, complete with buildings and scenery.

Annie and Ivan Lakos



Joe and Eva Clontz (Cottage 124) met while attending Wake Forest University and have been married 42 years. They have lived in Chapel Hill since 1971 and are active

members of Binkley Baptist Church.

Eva was born in Raleigh and lived on a farm in northern Wake County until her college years. Her 4-H club nurtured a love of sewing and gardening. She taught English in Jr. High and later at Western Carolina University. This June 30th she retired after 19 ½ years as Program Coordinator for the Statewide Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology at UNC Medical School. Now she has time for her favorite pastimes, reading and keeping her two grandsons once a week.

Joe was born and grew up in Charlotte. After graduating from Wake Forest University he went to the "original" Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. After ordination he served as Baptist campus minister at Western Carolina University for 3 ½ years, at UNC Chapel Hill for 13 ½ years and then as area representative for the Baptist State Convention of NC. He retired seven years ago to become a full-time house husband. His three great loves are his family, his grandsons, and playing golf!

When daughter Angela was eleven and son Michael was eight, the family spent a year as mission volunteers in Togo, West Africa. Many pieces of African art decorate their home as remembrances of this special trip.

Phyllis and Lee Sockwell

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS - continued



Diane Ellis (Apt. 2112) graduated from Austin College in Sherman, Texas, with a BA in Art and English. Her husband's career with DuPont took them to locations in North Carolina, Tennessee and South Carolina. In addition to raising six children, Diane taught high school part time. Later she volunteered with Charleston County Public Library, doing artwork for flannel boards used by Head Start reading programs.

After retiring to Isle of Palms, South Carolina, Diane and her husband served in the Peace Corps for two years in Antigua. They also went to India and China for two and one-half years. While her husband helped get new polyester manufacturing plants established, Diane spent memorable days absorbing the areas' culture and customs.

Diane likes to read, sew, do crossword puzzles, walk her poodle Angie, and be involved in the lives of her ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Ask her about her beautiful Ukranian Easter eggs!

Pat Humphrey

THERE'S WATER IN THAT AIR

"It's not the heat; it's the humidity" is not just a cliché. Even in years of drought like this my recurring thought has been "If we could just wring out the air..." Guess what, we can!

For the past two summers most of the water needed by the thirsty flowers and shrubs in my front garden has come from collecting the cool clear drops emerging from two air-conditioner condensation pipes—ours and our neighbor's. Out of curiosity on an idle, stay-at-home summer day I measured the water collected from 9 am to 8 pm. It was not even a "dog day" of August but an ordinary 70° (low), 90° (high) day in July. Would you believe eleven and one-half gallons? Now, if there were just a way to collect it at night without going outside to dump buckets every 60 to 90 minutes!

NM

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CONCERTS AND LECTURES

Lectures:

September 20 – Steve Vogel - Power from the People

September 27 – Melinda Meade - The Importance of Demographics

October 4 – Dan Reichart - Stonehenge

October 11 – Lee Calhoun - Heritage Apples

October 18 – Symphony night – no lecture

Concerts:

September 19 – Mendel Nguyen - Piano

September 26 – Beth Tomlin - Piano

October 3 – Pamela Nelson, Laura Byrne - Flute & Harp

October 10 – Gettes, Thomas & Heim - Violin, Cello, Piano

October 17 – Carol Woods Jazz Quartet

CAROL WOODS

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