

# THE CAROL WOODS NEWS

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Chapel Hill, North Carolina

February 2009



## 30 DAYS HATH SEPTEMBER

-so what's the matter with February?



When it comes to February, you could be in a much worse place than Chapel Hill, North Carolina, because Spring is on the way here even though many days are abominable. Vegetable gardeners are planting peas, lettuce, onions, radishes, spinach, cabbage, potatoes and more. Some early-blooming trees like Bradford pear and redbud may grace the landscape. Fortunately, February is short; if you're talented you can sleep right on through most of it.

In early times, there were a couple of attempts at a calendar, all linked to the lunar cycle of 282 days. Romulus legislated a ten-month year that added up to only 304 days. King Numa Pompilius added January and February. Legend has it that they made February short because nobody liked that time of year; we can all understand that. Finally Julius Caesar created the Julian calendar in use today that pays no attention whatsoever to what the moon is doing. Later there was a bit of fiddling: Augustus Caesar stole the 29<sup>th</sup> day of February and gave it to August. Reason? July, named after Julius Caesar, had 31 days, and August, which was Augustus' namesake, had to be his equal with 31.

More February trivia: birthday kids, your birthstone is amethyst, available in many shades of purple. Its name, in Greek, means *not drunken*, based on a belief that wearing an amethyst would keep you from staggering and slurring at a big-time party. Does it work? Ask an amethyst-wearing guest at the next February birthday event you attend.

Lastly, four United States presidents were born in February: Washington, Lincoln, Harrison and Reagan. So if you want to beget a President, May is the month to make sure your breath is sweet and you've left the bathroom tidy.

February pluses: low prices on motel rooms at the beach, when the sands are deserted and wonderful. Valentine's Day - if you've been nice, you might get a Mars bar or a soupy card, purchased by a loved one at a ridiculous price. (Remember when that \$4.00 for a Hallmark used to buy a *whole present*?)



Whatever else it may or may not be, February is only 28 days this year and maybe we'll have crocuses.

Jane Berryman

## MARRIAGE

What better time than the month of Valentines to speak of marriages that have stood the test of time? Over a year ago the celebration of **Shirley and Ivor Collins'** 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary set us to wondering, "How many couples on our campus share the distinction of so long a union?" An update of the informal survey made at that time indicates that at least seven couples currently on campus can claim more than 60 years together. Two couples, **Charles and Shirley Weiss**, and **Jay and Joy Rabb** have passed the 66 year mark!

In a column published by the Ithaca Journal (July 3, 2008), David Potorti, a resident of Raleigh, wrote, "Still here: Reflections on a 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary." He asked, "What does it take to live together for 60 years?" and concluded that the major characteristics are faith, community, and perseverance. To that excellent list I would add another element: a judicious selection of parents!

## SUNDAY JAMMIN'

Even in retirement Sunday is “different” from other days. One of the best differences is our Second-Sunday Jam Session in the Social Lounge hosted by the Carol Woods Jazz Combo. The first half hour consists of the Combo jamming. Other Carol Woods musicians join as guests to jam in the second half hour.

The current members of the jazz combo are: leader, **Howard Smither** (trumpet, flugelhorn, valve trombone), **Sandy Woodward** (flute), **Glenn Snyder** (accordion, piano), **Ann Woodward** (bass, vocals), and **Ray Mack** (drums).

Sandy says, “The joy of music is the communication to others from one’s inner spirit. It allows the musician to speak without words. Our Sunday evening jazz jam session is like that with one exception – each musician can communicate with total freedom on a level not experienced by the stricter rules of written music. It is the musician’s own personal creativity, a conversation, an improvisation, offered to the listener at the very instant it is being created. In jazz the vitality comes from this creativity and the music speaks to each listener from his or her own personal interpretation.”

Those who come to the jazz jams understand. They come to listen and enjoy. And enjoy we do, with sparkling eyes, happily tapping toes and softly humming or singing the words. Well-known songs are a gift to each member of the audience; joy comes to each of us through this jazz.

DJ

## MEMORIES....PUPPY LOVE

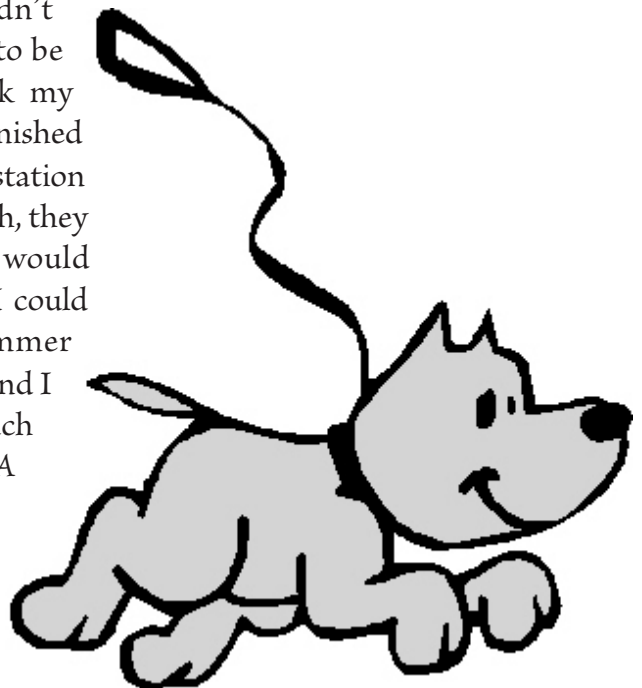
Breakfast was always a trial – a cloud in an otherwise golden summer with my grandparents on the coast of Maine. My grandmother believed in big bowls of gluey hot cereal whose purpose, she said, was to “stick to our ribs.” The fact that there lay hidden in the bottom of the bowl a treasure we were supposed to dig for did not help a bit, since I loathed the buried prunes as much as the cereal.

A break in the daily breakfast struggle was my grandfather’s, “You don’t have to finish your cereal; come out and see the surprise!” This had been mentioned as an incentive at the start of breakfast. My cousins and I raced out to the converted barn to find two puppies, offspring of a casual mating between a collie and a chow. Someone told me one of them was mine. “You mean...for me?” I asked in total disbelief. Yet it was true, and mine was the cuter of the two: floppy ears, big paws and no chow-like face.

Oh the joy of tending to that little animal who seemed so pleased to see me, not just when I fed him, but *any time!* His name was “Wag” for obvious reasons. He was my first pet other than a couple of dull and uninspiring goldfish with whom I never bonded.

That summer Wag was such a joy as I played with him and felt the joyful responsibility of an affectionate creature that was truly mine. My child’s mind did see the dark clouds waiting at end of summer when my parents and I would make the long train trip home to Baltimore. I do not remember who told me I couldn’t take Wag back with me but the blow, impossible to talk about then, is still palpable. The reasons sounded hollow: “no room for him,” “neighbors wouldn’t like it,” “he’d have to be tied up.” I think my parents were astonished at my visible devastation from this news. Oh, they assured me, Wag would be taken care of, I could see him next summer when I returned, and I could see how much he had grown. *A court of no appeal!*

Betty Grant



## WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS



**RUTH ZALPH** (Apt. 3106) – I grew up in the Manhattan area where I enjoyed volunteer work at various settlement houses.

I received my B. of Education degree from the University of Miami in 1952 and later earned Remedial Reading certification and resumed teaching when our youngest of three started school.

Ours was a rich family life enjoying boating, fishing, water skiing and tennis. Summer vacations were in North Carolina. I have three granddaughters.

My husband's untimely death in 1986 at age 59 hit me extremely hard until I was able to shift my focus from grief to the affirming productive life we had enjoyed for 35 years and it was time to move on and give back to the world.

Since 1987 I have been very involved with Habitat for Humanity, government, and peace and justice issues locally and abroad, appreciating the fact that social change comes slowly.

*Ruth Zalph*



**SUE FOSTER VAUSE** (Cottage 109), moved to Carol Woods from the historic McCauley Street in Chapel Hill, where she had lived since 1958. Sue prefers to be called Susu.

Born and reared in Micro, N.C., Sue attended UNC-G (when it was Women's College), and graduated from Barton College (then Atlantic Christian College), with a degree in English Literature. She has practiced Tax Accounting for the past 37 years. Her one daughter, Chanee, lives in Fort Mill, SC, with her husband Gordon Battle III, and they have four (4) children – two boys and two girls. Sue is a lover of dogs and is partial to poodles. Sue also loves to paint.

*Sue Vause*

## KEN REEB, JR., VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

A lovely wall hanging pieced and quilted by Ken and his wife Jane centers the main wall of his office—a powerful clue to the personality and abilities of this man.

Born in Kodiak, Alaska, where his father was serving in the Navy, Ken and his brother were the first grandchildren. In fact, with the limited facility for maternity patients, Ken Senior rushed off to telephone the news of a grandson, not knowing there were actually two of them!

Ken earned his undergraduate degree from Carleton College in Minnesota and then headed south for a master's in public health at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he met his future wife. The next few years were crowded with accomplishments: work on developing assistive devices for those with physical limitations, licensure as a nursing home administrator, work in eastern North Carolina establishing both a nursing home and a senior center, and finally the move to Chapel Hill. Here he learned from the late Florence Soltys of Carol Woods' opening, and the rest is history.

At Carol Woods Ken has continued willingness to take on new challenges: he has served as nursing home administrator again when Building 4 needed him; he earned adult care home administrator licensure when Buildings 6 and 7 needed him.

One of the reasons Ken wanted to move to the Triangle area from eastern North Carolina was the assumption the grandparents would find this area more attractive for their own retirements. Both sets (Ken and Mary Reeb and Jim and Marion Summerville) now live at Carol Woods, where they get to enjoy both a grandson and a granddaughter.

We residents are well aware of Ken's expertise. His work has helped to lead Carol Woods to a strong and enviable position even in this time of economic uncertainty.

*LB*

# JANUARY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

The January meeting of the Association of Carol Woods residents opened with a report from President and CEO, Pat Sprigg. She has not yet received the CARF-CCAC accreditation committee's report of the surveyor's visit, nor a response to Carol Woods' follow-up letter. Pat stressed that the safety and security of residents can be maintained only if we follow the policy of registering any individual from off campus who comes here to provide service to a resident. Pat will be holding quarterly meetings next month to address progress on the residents' satisfaction survey and to share plans for the coming year. She wants to hear from residents – concerns, contentments. The new Board members will be on campus for a half-day orientation soon, and their biographies are in the library. **Ruth Zalph**, from Miami, was introduced as a new resident. Treasurer **Lois Frost** gave the financial report and provided information about the Residents Life Fund. **Lew Woodham** reiterated the criteria for our different recycling programs, and **Nape Baker** reported for the Safety Committee reminding residents to follow the 20 MPH speed limit on campus. **Jacqueline Allen** announced the spring meeting of CCCR of NC. **Sara Hill** gave the report of the Dining Services Committee, saying that the addition of unannounced weekly specials has been well received. She acknowledged that word-of-mouth has proved effective at advertising these specials! **Charles Paddock**, President of the Residents Association, adjourned the meeting at 10:45am, perhaps a record!

*Dottie Heninger*



**STAFF** : Nancy Martin and Anne Wright, co-Chairs; Louise Baker, Jane Berryman, Ginger Davis, Betsy Hewitt, Betty Hughes, Lucia Pap, Burkhard Seubert, Sally Slack, and Ruth Zalph. Pat Bartell and Catherine Clark, proof readers.  
**Circulation** : Barbara Allen, Janet Campbell, Eva Lynch, Jessie Lutz, Stella Lyons and Jack Reed.  
**Pictures** : Bill Bayliss.

## COMING EVENTS

### Lectures

- February 5 Judge Joe Buckner, Chief District Court Judge
- February 19 Celia Merzbacher
- February 26 Elder Law – Jim Wilde
- March 5 Challenges for the New Administration – William Chafe
- March 12 UNC Botanical Garden Visitors Center – Peter White
- March 26 Future of Primary Care – Warren Newton

### Concerts

- February 18 Keowee Chamber Music – Kate Steinbeck, flute; Amy Bruksch, guitar
- February 25 Thomas Otten, piano
- March 4 Elaine Funaro, harpsichord, John Pruet, violin
- March 11 Leonard Gettes and friends
- March 18 TBA



### Special Events

- February 5 3pm, Poetry Out Loud contest (young people)
- February 13 7:30pm, Helen Wolfson, hammered dulcimer; Eric Thomas, guitar
- March 24 7pm, Act One Act Now student drama, "Little Women."

## CAROL WOODS

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