



# THE CAROL WOODS NEWS

is published each month except July and August. It is distributed to residents, applicants on the waiting list, and other interested persons.

Vol. MMVIII, No. 10

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

December 2008

## COOKIE TIME

Christmas cookie production was a vital part of my family's holiday celebration. When I was a child we started baking in November and it lasted for weeks with tins for storage carefully hidden from everyday eyes.

I was taught that the right time to make honey cookies, a family favorite, was Election Day. Honey cookies need to be aged, like several weeks, and not a one ever lasted until the New Year. Similar to Lebkuchen but with more honey and lots of grated lemon rind, they have a character all their own. I was allowed in the kitchen, but involved in only the most harmless ways. I hated grating lemon rind and I still do, but I loved the tart smell which clung to my hands most of the day. I was the one permitted to crack nuts and I eventually graduated to picking pecan or walnut pieces out of the shell. I pretended I was a dentist going after a cavity with my silver pick. The favored black walnuts were beyond my ability. For honey cookies there was citron to be chopped finely, a tedious task which required a very sharp knife. I was not allowed into that category until I was much older. My best contribution from early on was licking the bowl and scraper clean.

By the Friday after Thanksgiving our kitchen moved into serious baking. Cookies were special gifts mailed away to friends and family and Christmas mail was slow. We made rich crescents with chopped pecans, Springerle, spicy fruit cookies, nut balls, sugar cookies to cut out, and gingerbread men/women decorated with smiling faces and buttons down the front. We tied a red ribbon around the neck of each. The white Springerle were created with carved wooden boards pressed down on the anise flavored soft dough. The wooden boards were probably brought from Germany with my family about 1850. My grandmother taught my mother

how to flour the board carefully and to press evenly so that each detail of the flower or bird picture has contact with the board.

I remember when my uncle, a favored recipient of our cookies, sent my mother as a Christmas gift an almost unheard of electric beater. My father shared this news with me but the gift was not to be seen until Christmas Eve. We anguished over the long hand-beating required for Springerle batter, taking turns, but winking and smiling that next year would be better.

That was over 75 years ago. The world was too much with me on Election Day this year so honey cookie production was delayed. Maybe the story of the need for lengthy ripening was a product of a slower time. We'll see. Only one of our four children carries the tradition of making and sharing Christmas cookies. Each of her first grade students gets a gingerbread man/woman with buttons and smile and a red ribbon tied around the neck.

*Peggy Griffenhagen*



## FASHION FLASH!!

So they're back to stiletto heels again, eh? Not on my metatarsals! Nowadays I go for *comfort* first and foremost and the heck with fashion. So ...I'm here to talk up another hot item (no pun intended): *silk unisex long underwear*. My message is addressed to both males and females in the family.

Formerly considered the private domain of people in Wisconsin, Minnesota and all points north, silk threads make the most wonderful warm and easy to-care-investment that you and your pocketbook will ever make.

First of all, this year and more than ever before, silk under-duds can help Carol Woods cut down on wintertime heating bills. Which in turn lessens your monthly assessment. They are warming when it's cold, and surprisingly neutral even in a hot, stuffy room. Your clothes slide over them with silky grace: they seem to make you feel thinner, and that's some accomplishment! They come in all lengths, sizes, and neutral shades.

Maybe you're planning to fly away in a nasty old airplane that makes you pay for extra pounds. Just tuck your silk underwear into the corner of your suitcase, one lovable top and one bottom, and you're set for a world of adventure; these babies rinse out in the sink and dry overnight without a murmur. To further economize on weight and bulk, buy two sets: sleep in one (heavenly), and rinse out the other one in the sink for the next day. Consider using the top as a blouse under your suit or big shirt: that's another no-cost bonus.

So. Down with the thermostat! Up with silk underwear! Help end dependence on foreign oil and airline profiteering! E-mail your friends! Think Christmas presents! Once we give this message wide circulation, the fashion world may forget all about those ugly, torturous, stiletto heels and return them to the world of the tango where they belong.

*(I am Jane Berryman and I approve this message. I am not, nor ever have been, the owner of a silk worm factory.)*

JB

## CITIZEN BLUES

The United States Treasury just never misses  
In sending out formalized love-hugs and kisses:  
Always the Bureau contrives to remember  
The mailing of tax forms late in December.  
In due course that envelope lies in your hand,  
While your checkbook communicates just where you stand.

Look here .....

You're no longer a child. Blame only yourself,  
Pretending to be that right jolly old elf.  
Buying those gifts, writing many a check...  
'You only live once,' you said. 'What the heck!'  
But now with the forms staring right in your face,  
You realize your files are a grown-up disgrace.  
You started last year with such firm resolution  
The result is this January's utter confusion.  
Calculator goes busted, and where's that receipt,  
And the deducts for charity, where do they sleep?  
You won't feel much like smiling,  
You'd much rather curse,  
If Monday is dreadful, Tuesday's much worse.

But wait! It may not be as harsh as you feared,  
Last year's profits are scanty, the takeovers weird!  
And figuring your taxes a marvelous joke—  
You won't owe them a cent, darling.  
Truth is, you're broke!

JB



## ROSES TO OUR STAFF



*(notes about unexpected kindnesses; please share others with us)*

Recently I had a big birthday, not a great big one, just a big one; nevertheless my children were unhappy (and maybe a bit guilty, too) that they could not be here to share this milestone with me. They called the Carol Woods Dining Services, told whoever took the call their problem, and asked if some one could give me a cookie or maybe even a cupcake to mark this special occasion. Well, I didn't get a cupcake. Nor even a cookie. What I got was a birthday card from "your

*Continued on Page 3*

## WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS



**Sherri and Ed Davis** (Cottage 129) lived in a duplex on Weaver Dairy Road near the Timberline Shopping Center when they first moved to Chapel Hill in 1965 and now return to the neighborhood.

Both natives of Texas, Sherri grew up in Abilene and Ed on a farm near Waco. They met at Howard Payne College in west Texas, where Sherri majored in business and Ed in mathematics and biology. After marrying they moved to New Orleans, where Ed earned a M.S. in biostatistics at Tulane University.

In Chapel Hill Sherri worked in the administrative office of the Department of Pediatrics at UNC while Ed earned a PhD in statistics at N.C. State with a minor in public health at UNC. A three years stint in Gainesville, Florida followed, then a return to Chapel Hill, Ed on the faculty of the UNC School of Public Health and Sherri back in the Department of Pediatrics. For 30 year, Sherri administered the intern and residency program of Pediatrics at UNC while Ed was professor of biostatistics, serving as chair of the department for eight years. His applied research was primarily in cardiovascular disease. He directed studies of heart disease in the U.S., Russia, Poland, China, and Pakistan.

Sherri and Ed have two daughters (a health researcher in D.C. and an educator in Charlotte), and two (perfect) grandchildren. Since the grandchildren live in Charlotte, there are frequent trips down I-85. Sherri loves to quilt, garden and cook. Ed plays golf, fishes and does counted cross stitch.

*Bert and Mary Lou Liverance*

**Ann Seng and Anne Merkowitch** (Apt. 1111) came to Carol Woods from Cary, North Carolina.



Ann Seng grew up in Chicago and spent most of her life there, apart from attending Alverno College in Milwaukee. She did her graduate work in sociology at Loyola University, Chicago. Ann's career focused on issues of race relations, social justice and the alleviation of poverty. She did neighborhood organizing and public policy advocacy with Hull House Association. Ann retired to Cary after eight years as CEO of a city-wide civic organization in Chicago.



Anne Markowitch was born near Scranton Pennsylvania, grew up in Chicago, and attended Alverno College, Milwaukee. She did her graduate work in English literature at Loyola University, Chicago. After teaching for many years she moved on to Chicago politics, managing the office of one of the two independent aldermen. From there she moved into the international arena and founded the Jane Addams Conference, an international women's leadership program.

Before joining our community Ann and Anne lived in Cary for twelve years with their dog Hannah and their cat Joey. In North Carolina they both worked with the League of Women Voters and the YWCA and were active members of the United Nations Association of Wake County.

*Vanna Condax*

---

## ROSES TO OUR STAFF

*Continued from Page 2*

children" and a delicious lemon birthday cake baked just for me by Staff Member Cecilia Bynum. If these children weren't already looking to Carol Woods for their golden years, they would surely have signed up immediately.

*Betsy Hewitt*

## NOVEMBER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Our November meeting was filled with a spirit of Thanksgiving, as we welcomed new residents: **Carla Chamblee, Ed & Sherri Davis, Ann Seng** and **Anne Markowitch**. Our Association finances continue on budget, with thanks to generous resident donations to our primary income source, the Residents Life Fund. **Jim Summerville** presented the wide array of Building & Facilities Committee activities, featuring their leadership of our successful energy and water conservation efforts. The 2009 Carol Woods annual budget awaits final Board approval, having passed multiple preliminary reviews, which expressed kudos to management. In the face of the global financial crisis, we are able to maintain our operating budget; to limit fee increases to the target 3 – 4 % range; to maintain staff stability while providing competitive salaries and benefits and to continue to honor all future contractual commitments. Any resident with financial anxieties should meet with Pat Sprigg, since CW maintains our corporate commitment to support each other in crises. The excellent contributions of outgoing Board members will be celebrated at a November 25<sup>th</sup> post-meeting reception. Popular “Conversational Hours” – informal sessions for residents with the CEO – will be re-instituted.

*Submitted by: Ken Reeb, Sr., Secretary*

---

**STAFF:** Nancy Martin and Anne Wright, co-Chairs; Louise Baker, Jane Berryman, Ginger Davis, Betsy Hewitt, Denise Johnson and Burkhard Seubert. Pat Bartell and Catherine Clark, proof readers.

**Circulation:** Barbara Allen, Janet Campbell, Helen Hawley, Beth Jukes, Eva Lynch, Jessie Lutz, Stella Lyons and Lang Prouty.

**Pictures:** Bill Bayliss, Sarah Hyde.

## COMING EVENTS

### Lectures

- January 8 Woody Allen – Gordon DeFries
- January 15 Symphony Night, No Program

### Concerts

- January 7 Quintet – Clarinet and Strings
- January 14 Richard Luby, Wonmin Kim – Violin, Piano

### Winter Festival

- December 21 Cantari Singers – Christmas Music
- December 22 Chris Reynolds et al – Swing ‘N’ Jazz
- December 23 Memoirs Revisited
- December 24 Christmas Carol Sing-along
- December 26 La Fille Du Regiment – Opera Video
- December 27 Anniversary Quartet
- December 29 Wade Allen, Tom Justus – Reconstructing Medieval Armor
- December 30 “Dance” by Betsy Bullock – Video
- December 31 Carol Burnett, A Woman of Character – Video

### Art Show

- December 12-January 9** Residents Art Show
- Reception December 12, 4:30

## CAROL WOODS

P.O. Box 2121  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-1438

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Permit No. 258