



THE CAROL WOODS NEWS

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WINGS FOR OVER 50 YEARS

How many women do you know who have a Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award? We have one of these rare birds at Carol Woods. **Janet Davis** received the award on November 4, 2006, and might have missed the occasion had not a friend told her that she “just had to be there.” The award is given by the Federal Aviation Administration in recognition of individuals who have been pilots with a good safety record for fifty or more years.

At age fifteen and without the knowledge of her parents Janet began taking flying lessons, carrying peanut butter sandwiches to school for lunch so that she could use her lunch money for instruction at the local airport in Quincy, Illinois. Three dollars and fifty cents (ten days of lunch money) paid for one-half hour of flight instruction. Ready to solo at age sixteen she needed parental permission. Her mother looked at the permission slip and said, “What’s this?” Janet explained and waited. She was remembering her mother’s sister who was an early member of the Ninety Nines, a women pilots’ association begun by Amelia Earhart. Her parents signed, she soloed, and then got a job in the airport office. Now her lessons were free. She also had her pick of the Air Force cadets who came for flight training. Then she “doled out the rest” of the boys to her girlfriends.

Janet became licensed while at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana where she met her future husband. He also took flying lessons. There was time off from regular flying to work and raise four children but gradually they bought into one and then another Cessna 182 club. As they looked forward to retirement Janet’s husband completed his training and was licensed. They bought their own Cessna Skylane in 1983 which has landed in Alaska, Canada, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and every state in the lower 48 except Oregon.

Since her husband’s death in 1995, Janet has limited her flights to places she can reach in one day but goes on commercial flights further away to meet fellow pilots and fly in Cessnas. She enjoys sharing her love of flying. **Ellie Lawson** accompanied her on a trip to Texas where each visited a son. Janet and a pilot friend took **Dot Cansler** aloft for a breathtaking view of Crater Lake when they met in Ashland, Oregon. Janet also introduced **Stella Lyons**, who is legally blind, to the art of flying. Using a model of her plane, Mai Toi, she explained each of its parts while Stella explored it with her fingers. They repeated the exercise with the genuine article for over thirty minutes before the actual take off. Once aloft Stella had an opportunity to use the yoke (steering device) to turn left and right. When, at Janet’s suggestion, Stella pushed the yoke forward and the plane dipped downward she let out a “whee”! She said later “It almost scared the pudding out of me” but she was clearly elated by the whole experience, a topic of her conversations for weeks after.

NM



Stella, Janet and a model of “Mai Toi”

COMPANION CORPS

The Companion Corps resident volunteers give time each week to enrich the lives of other residents who have special needs. The group began by providing escorts to evening musical concerts for residents in Building 4 who have limited mobility.

Now there are 30 volunteers who enrich the lives of other residents by helping them to stay connected to the Carol Woods community. Activities include friendly visits, talking about hobbies and current events, helping with correspondence, reading aloud, strolling around campus or whatever activity the resident requests. First, volunteers attend training sessions where they learn of specific resident requests. Pam Johnson, social worker, pairs the resident with a suitable volunteer.

Sarah Price comments, "I love to see the smiles of the person I accompany to a concert." **Vivian Plonsey** finds the Companion Corps a way to make new friends. Recently **Ede Kaylor**, who loves to dance, was paired with **Doris Leonard** who takes her to the Building Five Happy Hour where they dance to Broadway tunes. Volunteers decide the amount of time they wish to give, ranging from an hour a week to several hours, several days a week. In addition, volunteers attend monthly meetings where ideas and concerns are shared.

As with most of the activities here this is a resident-led group. It was organized by the Health and Social Services Committee. New friendships are made and old friendships renewed in these meaningful everyday interactions.

DP

GET ME OUT OF HERE

Getting out of here is a breeze, unlike getting in, but this is about transportation. Even those of us who drive our own cars may sometimes need help getting around. Over the years residents have spoken. Carol Woods has responded with a variety of ways to come and go when and where you want.

First, the fun stuff. **Jacqueline and David Sices** have been chairmen of the CW Transportation Committee for three years. They arrange for buses to go to the many scheduled concerts, ballet, and theater productions in Chapel Hill, Durham and Raleigh, the round trip fare only five dollars.

So you've always wanted to see Old Salem or attend a Durham Bulls baseball game? Suggest it to the Trip Committee, now being handled by **Janet Davis**. They will assess the possible interest; if it's a "go" they'll make all the arrangements. They run about six trips a year but this year there were three separate jaunts to the N.C. Museum of Art for the Monet show.

If you need transportation to get somewhere on the Carol Woods campus just dialing "0" will get you a chauffeured ride in a golf cart. If you're wheel chair bound and you really want to get out of here, for a modest fee you can arrange for a wheel chair van to take you places you'd like to go on evenings or weekends.

There are times when maybe you'd just as soon NOT get out of here but there's no excuse—Carol Woods will see that you get to your medical appointments in Chapel Hill or Durham and with an escort if you need one. This is managed through a combination of help from our Security personnel and a local taxicab company (for late night pick-ups).

And now back to the fun stuff. You can get out to go shopping! On weekdays the Mini Bus will take you to shops in the local area and it's free. If that's not enough there are trips to the malls on Wednesdays and Fridays.

In addition to what Carol Woods offers there are other ways to get around. The Town of Chapel Hill provides free regular bus service to downtown and the hospital every day but Sundays and holidays. Transfers can get you to almost any place in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area. **Cathy Hanchett** uses the city bus for most of her transportation needs, including weekly volunteering at a Carrboro School. Two other Town transit possibilities: EZ Rider (free), for those who have mobility problems but are otherwise healthy and Shared Ride (a small fee), useful for evening getaways.

Finally, Creel's Wheels is in the business of transportation and will take you almost anywhere: to and from the airport or even out of state. And remember, if all else fails, there is probably a neighbor with a car. It's no wonder people are never home!

GD

WHAT A PARTY!

Despite broken bones, family emergencies and missed rehearsals, the Carol Woods Holiday Party was a smashing success. Dozens of residents contributed mountains of Christmas cookies; in the Assembly Hall actors, dancers and musicians performed for a most genial audience. A young magician created outrageous balloon hats in the Social Lounge, and a jovial Santa Claus, John Sikes, on loan from Hillsborough, toured

Buildings 4, 5, 6 and 7, with cheer and M&M's for all. Many thanks to a hard-working, grossly underpaid Party Committee.

JB

WELCOME NEW RESIDENT



Sylvia Gelblum (Cottage 133), a Chapel Hill resident since 1968 when her husband became Associate Dean of the UNC-CH Law School, is

a native of Philadelphia. She met and married Mory Gelblum while he was attending Law School at Harvard and she was an undergraduate at Radcliffe. After graduation they lived in Washington and Philadelphia before coming to Chapel Hill.

Sylvia returned to school for a Master's degree in Library Science at Drexel University when the youngest of her four children entered kindergarten. She became a research librarian at the Carolina Population Center at UNC-CH. Following her husband's death in 1982, she coordinated departmental grant proposals at the UNC-CH Medical School.

Sylvia has eight grandchildren in North Carolina, New York and California. An active volunteer, she was a long-time Board member of ACLU-NC and Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina. Currently she is a docent at the Ackland Art Museum and a library assistant at Carrboro Elementary School.

Dan Okun



Edith Welch sporting her party hat

JANUARY IN NORTH CAROLINA

Another gray denim day lords it over
all things shivering here below.
Finger-numbing, toe-aching cold holds sway.
Stripped bare of their autumnal reds and golds,
naked oaks and maples look beggarly thin.
Beneath these skeleton-like trees orphaned leaves
stutter in the wind. People scurry beetle-like
place to place, squint eyes with chins tucked in,
red noses leaking like faucets.
Birds who knew weeks ago winter was near,
skedaddled south leaving this place to you and me.
So, here we are, top dog on Darwin's rickety ladder,
presumably blessed with an extra scoop or two
when brains were ladled out. Lately though,
On days like this, I wonder about that.

Michael H. Ivey

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RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Bob Dunham, Chairman of the Board of Trustees described the range of the Board's activities during the past year and spoke of the aspirations of the Board for our community. Diane Henderson reported that residents had contributed \$147,101 for the Employee Appreciation Fund. This made possible gifts of as much as \$733 for each all year full time employee.

Architects working with us on the new Master Plan were here for two days. They spent most of their time talking to residents about what works, what is missing and what could be improved. The conclusion is that the original cottages (101-190) will not be replaced but will be renovated.

After their unannounced safety evaluation the State Life Safety inspectors assessed Carol Woods as deficiency free.

RM

Corrections: In our December issue **Howard Smither** was incorrectly identified as Howard Smithers; **Henry Woodward** was wrongly identified as Howard Woodward. Our apologies.

The Carol Woods News Committee



Cessna 182, Janet and Dot in Oregon

CONCERTS AND LECTURES

Lectures:

- January 11** - Sheila Kay Adams - Special program
- January 18** - Valerie Lester - "Phiz" with and without Dickens
- January 25** - No program - Symphony night
- February 1** - Jose-Marie Griffiths - Libraries of the Future
- February 8** - TBA (call for information)

Concerts:

- January 17** - Jonathan Bagg ensemble - Strings
- January 24** - Shah-Mei Ku - String Quartet
- January 31** - David Kelsey - Piano Trio
- February 7** - No concert (Serv-Safe)
- February 14** - Trout quintet - Strings, Piano

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CAROL WOODS

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