



THE CAROL WOODS NEWS

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POTTERY WITH A PURPOSE

The Raleigh *News and Observer's* recent scoop of our story about the pottery section of the Carol Woods Crafts Shop made me wonder how many articles about this place can the world absorb. Yet, the "take" of the *N & O*, that art and pottery-making are means of staving off dementia, made something so creative seem WAY too instrumental. The notion that exercising the mental faculties can protect it from deterioration has been hanging around since the Middle Ages and seems lately to have seeped into geriatrics.

Making pottery to keep the mind sharp was the last thing a group of 14 avid Carol Woods neophytes were looking for, however, when Carolyn Doyle, a professional potter and retired Duke chemistry professor, recently demonstrated a technique called "hand building" for them. What Doyle's students hoped for, and what she provided, was a way to create beauty, and even better, to have fun.

Hand building pots differs from the technique of making them round by throwing them on a wheel. In hand building the clay is rolled like a piecrust with a slab roller, an innovation that allows damp clay to be rolled flat between two canvass sheets to a pre-set, uniform thickness. This tool in our Crafts Shop is a rather recent addition, adapted by **Jim Summerville** for his fellow craftspeople whose *métier* is clay.

The benefit of this technique is several-fold. It allows flatter objects to be built: plates, soap dishes, and the like. It allows artists to use decorative features like texturing, hand painting and relief molding that elaborate the shaping and glazing of thrown pots. And, whereas throwing pots has a long-standing pedigree, it does require inordinate strength and skill in hands and arms. Hand building, on the other hand, allows any one to say with the song from Chorus Line, "Hey, I can do that!"

Another advantage of hand building is that one can produce multiple copies of one's own creations. When building a set of plates, for instance, one plate becomes a model for others. The plate can be placed on semi-damp clay slabs and traced with a sharp tool to make the next plate exactly the shape of the first and so on. To shape them further, Carolyn Doyle sprays the model's scooped-out interior with PAM to keep the clay from sticking, and settles the cut slab into this to create the second object as deep or as shallow as the first. One can imagine creating a complete place setting for eight in a single afternoon with techniques like these. A one-person, micro-industry.

To this observer, hand building recalled endless afternoons in the sandbox or standing on a three-step stool at the kitchen counter in a too-large apron, rolling and shaping and cutting cookie dough. In fact, the tools of the craft, (cheese cutters large and small, pastry rollers straight and rounded, molds and cut-outs of various shapes, and PAM to keep it from sticking), all in the service of making plates! incline me to urge. . . .oh, what the heck! *Bon Appetite!*

For more (and better) information, contact **Jeanne Madigan** and **Janie Freeman** at the Carol Woods Crafts Shop or the Clay Center in Carrboro where Carolyn Doyle has a studio.

MR



Judy Bellin
and Miriam
Alexander
with hand
building clay
instructor
Carolyn
Doyle

DO YOU SUDOKU?



Have you wondered about those strange grids increasingly seen in newspapers and magazines that hold people in thrall, pencils poised? These are Sudoku: puzzles typically containing 81 cells (nine rows and nine columns) divided into nine sub-grids of nine cells each. The numbers 1 through 9 must appear in each row, column and sub-grid. Although Sudoku involves numbers, no mathematics is required, only logic and concentration.

According to an article in the June 2006 *Scientific American*, what may seem a relatively new craze has been around since 1979 when Dell published the first such puzzle dubbing it *Number Place*. Although relatively unknown in the United States until recently, it has been popular for years in Britain and was an instant hit when it first surfaced in 1984 as *Su Doku* (single number) in Japan, where number puzzles play the role of crossword puzzles. Worldwide interest in Sudoku was sparked by its appearance in magazines and syndicated newspapers in 2004 and 2005, a development made possible by computer-generated Sudoku grids. An irony is that currently the puzzle is best known in Japan by its English name and elsewhere by its Japanese name.

Sudoku has become popular among seniors as one more way to keep their brain cells active. At Carol Woods there are those whom we might call “casual users” of Sudoku. **Dick Wasicko**, who directed me to the article in *Scientific American* in the Carol Woods Library, said he occasionally does the “easy” ones to keep tabs on himself, “figuring that if I can’t do an easy one I’m not all here.” Those in the second group do not describe themselves as addicted but may be headed in that direction. **Betsy Hewitt** keeps a little gadget in her purse that creates Sudoku puzzles of all levels of difficulty and records completion times. She uses it to diffuse the frustration of waiting or, sometimes, to amuse visiting grandchildren who put her to shame with

their speed and accuracy. **Mack Ivey, Dorrie Prouty** and **Carol Daniel** also carry these gadgets while **Marion and Jim Summerville** solve the puzzles online.

Then there are those who admit they are addicted. **Rosamund Putzel** has completed hundreds, including all in two Sudoku books as well as every one she finds in newspapers and magazines. **Janie Whaley** says she does the puzzle in the newspaper every morning before doing anything else. Will you be next?

And, prepare yourself— a timed Sudoku may well become part of our future mental competence tests, replacing the hated counting backwards by sevens.

NM



Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy (aka Hank Elkins and Isabelle Webb), two of many stars in the recent As We Were party

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS



Eugen and Ann Merzbacher (cottage 119) were born and reared far apart. Eugen was born in Berlin and, as a teen-ager, moved with his family to Turkey in

1935. After World War II and graduate school at Harvard he arrived at Duke in 1951. He then spent four decades at UNC where his special discipline is quantum mechanics and its applications in atomic and nuclear physics.

Ann was born in St. Augustine, Florida, came to Duke, and majored in mathematics. Eugen and Ann met at Duke. They have been married for 55 years and had four children (daughter Ann died last year).

Both Eugen and Ann are active at the University and the Chapel Hill community: Eugen in the Physics Department, occasionally substituting for absent faculty members; Ann quilts and plays duplicate bridge. Both enjoy auditing courses in poetry and history.

Bob and Martha Gwyn



Bill and Gwen Griswold (Apt. 1109) moved to Chapel Hill in 1995 from White Plains, New York. Bill was born in Gray, Kentucky,

served in the US Navy, and attended Georgia Institute of Technology. After graduation he worked in insurance, eventually joining the Chubb Corporation, where he continued until retirement. He likes all sports. He especially loves sailing. Once, he and two friends sailed a 35-foot sailboat across the Atlantic from New York to Lisbon.

Gwen was born and raised in Lenoir, NC, attended Salem Academy, and graduated from Woman's College (now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro). She received a Master's Degree from Vanderbilt University and served on the faculty of Westchester Community College in New York State. Gwen has been active with the Duke program for learning in retirement, teaching courses in poetry and Shakespeare, and has served as President. She has long been active in the League of Women Voters.

Gwen and Bill met in Raleigh where Gwen was teaching at Peace College. They have one son, one daughter and four grandchildren.

Elias and Marjory Schwartz



Diane Dickinson Brown (Cottage #231) grew up in Allentown, PA. She received a degree in History/Political Science/English from Lake Erie College. She has lived in Chapel Hill since 1962 except for two years her family spent in

Lima, Peru. Widowed after a 36-year marriage to her college boyfriend, James C. Brown, she has a daughter, four sons and four grandsons, residing variously in Chapel Hill, Augusta, Georgia, and Sedalia, Colorado.

Diane most recently worked as a mediator in District Court for the Dispute Settlement Center. A member of the League of Women Voters for more than fifty years, she has served in many capacities, including state president. In addition, she was the first director of the Orange County R.S.V.P. (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) and chaired the Orange County Board of Elections for many years.

Mollie DeWalt & Gordon Fisher



Annette Marsland (Apt. 2202) was born in Seattle. The family moved to various areas with her father's job until settling in Westfield, NJ. She attended the Art Students League in New York and received a BFA from Syracuse. She

met David Marsland on a blind date at Cornell where he completed his Ph.D. after several stints in the Navy. They moved to Raleigh when Dave began teaching chemical Engineering at NCSU.

Annette taught printmaking at NCSU School of Design and at Wayne Community College, Goldsboro. She also consulted and assisted at Meredith College in Raleigh and at Skidmore in Saratoga, NY. During the past 30 summers she has spent time at an experimental studio in Italy where photo-etching was developed.

Annette's two sons and their families live in Raleigh. Her two daughters married Frenchmen. Their families live in London and Tokyo. There are nine grandchildren.

Jean Parish

MAY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Residents elected by acclamation the slate of officers proposed by the nominating committee and affirmed the proposal of the Gardens and Landscaping Committee that a tree be planted to honor **Muriel Easterling's** extraordinary contribution to the beauty and maintenance of the grounds at Carol Woods.

Pat Sprigg reported a well-attended Open House for the Priority List despite the rain; the Early Admissions Program proposal was met initially with a positive reception and will be submitted for final review by the Department of Insurance; and a Staff Feedback Survey will be conducted with our staff by an outside research agency to learn about areas of job satisfaction and suggestions for improvement. Pat emphasized that if this is a great place to live it has to be a great place to work.

RM



Scarlett (Judy Smallwood) and fellow actors bringing down the final curtain on our *Way We Were* party May 18.

SUMMER FESTIVAL 2007

Friends, family and members of the Priority List are encouraged to join us for the Summer Festival programs scheduled Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays through August. Those for the remainder of June are listed below. The entire schedule is available at Carol Woods' front desk.

June 20 – Triangle Jazz Orchestra

June 21 – PBS American Experience: Carter Family, Johnny Cash Anthology - video

June 22 – Mary Rocard – guitar

June 27 – Mark Twain's *The Diaries of Adam and Eve* – read by Ivor Collins and Anna Mary Maddy

June 28 – Duets: Tony Bennett and Friends – video

June 29 – Opera: *Porgy and Bess* – video

STAFF: Nancy Martin, Chair; Jane Berryman, Ginger Davis, Betsy Hewitt, Ray Mack, Dorrie Prouty and Mary Reeb. Pat Bartell, proof reader.

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CAROL WOODS

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