

# 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. XXVIII, No. 8

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

October 2006

## THE TAPTATIONS

A small group in Carol Woods has always had a yen to tap dance. Some took lessons in their youth; a few took it up again in their middle years and, when an opportunity arose in their old age to shake out their tap shoes, they seized it. In September, 2004, **Rosalie Williams** dusted off *Leopards in Leotards*, a musical she had written years before. For the show she gathered residents for the chorus and dance line and **Jane Berryman** to play the piano.

Once the dancers smelled the grease paint, so to speak, they were hooked. After the well-received show **Alice Mennell** offered to teach and coach the group on a regular basis. Alice had become a bonafide tap dancer in high school, went on to teach dance and then to become a Radio City Music Hall Rockette before her marriage.

The dancers began rehearsing once a week, at first in the ping pong room, but as their athletic prowess expanded, the wooden floor and the piano of the Assembly Hall beckoned. Soon they had a permanent rehearsal schedule there.

A performance of the only dance they knew at the Chapel Hill Senior Center in October was

followed by their first big show, three numbers in the *Carol Woods Variety Talent Show* put together by Rosalie Williams, and then by an invitation from Mimi Benjamin and her dance group, *The Footnotes*, to do four numbers in a show titled *Tapping Through the Ages* at the Carolina Inn..

Flushed with success and wanting a catchy, identifiable name, they held a contest where anyone from anywhere could enter multiple suggestions. From a wide selection the dancers chose *The Taptations*, a name offered by a talented song writer from Durham, the late Lee Wing, who then wrote a song of the same title and presented it to the group. It was adopted enthusiastically as their signature.

Since then, the ladies have danced twice at the Children's Center, performing their waltz clog to the tune of *School Days*. By the time they danced at the February Mardi Gras party this year they had not only learned new tap numbers, but rolled out the Charleston, complete with costumes from the 20's. These and other outfits (including tails and sparkling top hats) had been suggested and gathered in part by **Alice Logan**, whom they designated their

*Hoofing at the Cruise Party*



Pianist	Francis	Sally	Ginger	Alice	Alice	Elaine
Jane	Young	Slack	Davis	Logan	Mennell	Roberts
Berryman						

Costume Designer, by dint of her interest and talent. The cruise party performances in May were followed by a few dances of their own at the talent shows given by the Camp Meadowood children.

Alice Mennell is both teacher and choreographer for the group. Sometimes she makes

up steps as she lies waiting for sleep, knowing she'll revise them when she sees them in rehearsal. The dance they perfected to go with their signature song debuted at the Chapel Hill Senior Center in September.

GD

## A WALK ON THE CIRCLE

Now that our Carolina weather is at its best – neither too hot nor too cold – you have probably been considering joining the fit folk who, alone or accompanied by a dog and/or a partner, stroll around Harkness Circle every day. So now is an appropriate time to share some thoughts to help you make your decision.

There really are no rules but there are various tips and suggestions for self-examination that will lead you firmly either out in the fresh air or back under the covers for an early morning nap.

*TYPE OF DRESS* is optional. Of course, sensible shoes just make sense. But whether you carry an umbrella or tie a rain jacket about you is a personal matter. You might want to harmonize with the season (green in the spring, yellow-brown in the fall) or make your own fashion statement. For instance, my dog Gina is the only pet on campus that has her own umbrella that attaches to her collar.

*OBLIGATIONS.* One, really. Pick up after your dog! Although some (well, two) walkers carry a second bag to collect the other detritus that clutters the walkways. You can also use this time to discharge your solemn responsibility to keep track of your fellow circle residents: Who's away, who has visitors and where they're from, who takes the Raleigh paper and who the Durham or the New York Times (it comes in a blue wrapper); and if you're lucky, who is just moving in. All this, in turn, will provide you with captivating dinner table conversation.

*ADVANTAGES.* The scents, which vary during the year, are pleasantly pungent, especially near the Farmers Gardens after a rain. Add to these aromas

the music of the birds and you have a virtual paradise. Once around the Circle is about a mile, a good start if you're conscientious about making the recommended 10,000 steps every day. (A pedometer makes this goal more fun). The walk also might help you lose a pound or so, and that's guaranteed to please your doctor. You will be one of the very few residents who have actually seen the albino deer. Also, you'll build your vocabulary as you experiment for variety with alternate ways of saying, "good morning" or "lovely weather, isn't it?" Best of all, just the act of striding, or even ambling, around Harkness marks you as an interested and interesting person. You will have daily contact with residents you might not otherwise encounter, people who miss you when you're away, who notice when you have a new dog or a stylish cane. You return to your apartment in about half an hour the same person as when you left, a curmudgeon if you wish, who has nevertheless dispensed enough cheerful greetings to last till tomorrow.

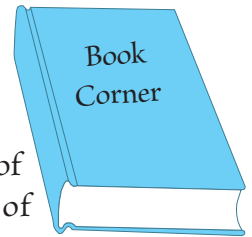
Betsy Hewitt



Gina ready for a rainy day walk

## BOOK CORNER

Residents' musings on favorite books or authors



Claire Tomalin ranks near the top of my list of favorite authors. A graduate of Cambridge University, Ms. Tomalin was literary editor of the *New Statesman* and the (UK) *Sunday Times*. She is Vice President of English PEN and the author of acclaimed, scholarly biographies: of feminist pioneer Mary Wollstonecraft, bisexual writer Katherine Mansfield, Dickens' mistress Nelly Ternan (it's in Carol Woods library), Jane Austen and Dora Jordan (who bore ten unacknowledged children of King William IV).

Vividly delineating historical periods, her biography of Nelly Ternan brilliantly describes the difficult, often dangerous and far from glamorous life of an actress in 1850's London. Austen's

biography describes the origin of baby bottles, the routine use of village nurses for small babies' care, and the restrictions placed on unmarried women in a household: Austen did not have the privacy of a room of her own (so there, Virginia Woolf!). Though she says she tries to uncover "secret" or "invisible" aspects of women's lives, she also wrote prize-winning biographies of Percy Shelley and Samuel Pepys.

The Chapel Hill Library has many of Tomalin's works. Give them a try!

*Judy Bellin*

***Do you have a favorite book or author you would like to share?***

## WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS



**Barbara Battenfeld** (Apt. 1105) comes to us from Santa Rosa, California, but previously lived in Chapel Hill for about ten years. She chose to come to Carol Woods because her sister and brother-in-law, **Marjory** and **Elias Schwartz**, live here.

Barbara graduated from the University of Iowa in 1941 and then served in the WAVES during World War II. Later she received a Master's degree in English from Boston College.

Barbara and her husband, David, spent much of their married life in Keene, New Hampshire, where they both taught English at Keene State College. They had six children and now there are eleven grandchildren (four of whom are adopted from India). In 1969-1971 Barbara served in the New Hampshire State Legislature. Her interests include reading, movies, and all sports (she is an avid Red Sox fan).

*Edith Welch*



**Mollie DeWalt** (Apt. 191) moved to Carol Woods from Chapel Hill. A native of Dunn, North Carolina she attended Pharmacy School at UNC-Chapel Hill, but left school to marry Joseph DeWalt. She worked for seven years at the UNC Press while her husband pursued his medical education. He went on to establish and direct the Sports Medicine program at UNC.

Mollie and her husband were avid dancers and members of a cotillion, something she misses greatly. She has three daughters. For the past four years she has been a volunteer at Mary Scroggs Elementary School where she works in the media center. Her primary hobby is reading, although she enjoys playing bridge, exercising at the UNC Wellness Center and following the development of her four grandsons. Having lived in Chapel Hill for fifty-two years she has many friends here, some of whom live at Carol Woods.

*Barbara Cromack*

## CONCERTS AND LECTURES

### Thursday Lectures:

**October 19** – John Sylvester - Japan:  
Problems with North Korea and  
China

**October 26** – TBA-

**November 2** – Thad Beyle - Upcoming  
November Election

**November 9** – No Program (Symphony  
Night)

**November 16** – PlayMakers - Tuesday  
Night with Morrie

### Wednesday Concerts:

**October 18** – Don Oehler and his  
students - Clarinet

**October 25** – Deborah Coclans, Piano

**November 1** – Violin, Piano & Cello  
Trio: Richard Luby, Fred Raimi &  
Jane Hawkins

**November 8** – Brenda Bruce, Piano &  
Isabella, Violin

**November 15** – UNC Women's Glee  
Club

## RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETING

Resident reaction was overwhelmingly favorable to **Audrey's Booth's** summary of the work of the Healthy Seating Committee, a.k.a. the Chair Committee. The chair they recommended from the 34 reviewed will cost approximately \$14,000, including a dolly to assist in moving the chairs, an amount already available from contributions to the Charitable Fund. **Ross McKinney** announced that committee Chairs have been selected for this year. **Jane Berryman** will chair the Party Committee, and would appreciate offers of help. The Audio-Visual Committee is seeking a new Chair, and would welcome volunteers to serve on the Committee. Dave Wilkerson reminded residents to review the recently distributed Board policy on the use of the Carol Woods name. He also reported that a new bus has been purchased and is in service, that the grocery service is up and running, and that "luggage" carts have been purchased for the central apartment buildings.

RM

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

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

**Pictures:** Bill Smither, Bill Bayliss and Nancy Martin

### 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



*Two Taptations, Francis Young and Sally Slack  
prancing to the strains of Alley Cat*