



# THE CAROL WOODS NEWS

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## GLOBALIZATION AT CAROL WOODS

At Carol Woods we recognize the diverse backgrounds of our residents, some whose birthplaces and/or careers have been overseas. We have variety among our staff as well, backgrounds and experiences to share from many foreign countries. Here are few of them:

**Fatima Fedda**, a gracious RA (Resident Assistant) in Assisted Living who, with her husband and 9 year old daughter, came from Morocco 3 years ago where she left a career as a French teacher. Taking care of older people helps her keep in touch with her ill mother in Morocco, she said, and the family atmosphere at Carol Woods has helped her know some of the people very well. She speaks French with some residents and has translated Arabic words for another. At home with her family she observes Muslim customs and foods, cooking the vegetables and spice combinations that she grew up with.

**Ibrahim Kenewa**, who is known as "Ib", works as an RA here because he knew other people from Sierra Leone who were satisfied working at Carol Woods. "People here are honest and friendly." His family is still in Sierra Leone and they do not know when they will see each other. Ib's education was all in British English so his speech keeps the accent.

**Rosmery De Reboredo**, from Honduras, works in the housekeeping department and has been in this country for many years. Her English is musical as she speaks with enthusiasm about her job as a floater, working in and out of the laundry area and meeting people in other parts of Carol Woods. She likes getting to know staff and residents because people live in so many different ways. After work, cooking for her grown son and teenage daughter, she said, involves much chicken and rice with some special Honduran touches. Her teenager absorbs

much of her interest and enthusiasm. On a serious side, Rosmery expressed concern about the Iraq war and for the people of USA.

**Tina Dege** came to United States because there were no jobs in Romania. When she arrived she spoke only Romanian and Hungarian and not a word of English. Fearful to be without a means of communication, she dashed off to school and today, with her blond hair and cheek dimple, her speech and smile are easily understood. With three daughters (Cat, the middle one, is a Carol Woods wait person) she may be learning some expressions we don't know. She's been here for a year working in the Payroll office. Her enthusiasms include driving, cooking, going to the beach, and walking around Carol Woods where she meets residents. She's a bread baker — "no machine, I like to knead!" She adds that her Appreciation check from Carol Woods' residents was a big and wonderful surprise.

**Wai-Fong Lam** came from Hong Kong and enjoys the views of trees and gardens here. There she lived in an apartment and was a fulltime mother. She and her husband made the difficult move so that their children could study in the USA. If you had a daughter who wanted to study piano performance (and now viola and organ) and a lively son absorbed with computers, could you overcome shyness, cope with body language, and struggle with English? Fong did and found that older people had more patience with her speech problems. Today Fong, an LPN (licensed practical nurse) in the Health Center, speaks well and with joy about most anything — her nursing, her gardening, and her children. She says that someday she will be a volunteer with no reward other than a smile because people have been so helpful to her.

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The good times were rolling on Mardi Gras Tuesday at Carol Woods. Normally sedate residents frolicked in purple, green and gold Mardi Gras beads, glittering feathered masks, harlequin stockings, zany hats, classic 20's dresses, and whatever else surprising could be extracted from long-forgotten closets, trunks, and drawers.

Most creative of all were the scooters, ten of them, decorated by the imaginations (and hard work) of Carol Woods groups and Committees. In New Orleans the clubs are called *Krewes*; here we made up our own name of *S-krew-e-ter*s. Competition was polite, but fierce. Elders for Peace took the prize with a scooter transformed into a Dove of Peace, ridden by **Mary Turner Lane**.

Entertainment featured: the Entrance of Mardi Gras King **Walter Stults** and his Queen **Libby Holder**; The Parade of the Skreweters; Mayor **Hank Elkins** in a humorous altercation with three insurgent citizens; the lively Taptations and a Costume Contest won by leaping clown **Judy Smallwood** and bag-lady **Gordon Fisher**. The fabulous Carol Woods Jazz Quartet bathed the room throughout with their authentic New Orleans sounds and **Donna Mayo's** superb ballads. King Cakes and other goodies were spread out by Dining Services and beverages were poured by sober residents.

The Party Committee led by **Kip Lester** had just one objective: fun for the residents. Said one reveler "Organizing that many people and events in that space was like herding cats!" Thanks to all who came, and to those who worked before and during, and to those whose names were omitted for lack of space. You know who you are!



# Mardi Gras Party

Photos: Caroline Sikorsky and Bill Smither



JB

Editor's note: **Jane Berryman**, Head Cat Herder, got them all in line!



*continued from page 1*

**Abu Bangura**, RN, has worked at Carol Woods only one year but is highly regarded in his nursing job as Health Center Clinical Coordinator. A big man, he is quick to reach out a hand and reveal an interest. Originally a teacher from Sierra Leone, he was raised with strong respect for ill and older people so it seemed natural that he should study nursing when he came to USA. Working the PM shift has been good experience because he values the ties between the Health Center and the rest of the Carol Woods community during that time. His wife is studying nursing today; they have a 15 year old son. Abu plays tennis, jogs, and reads English classics. He dreams of a day when he can help the schools in Sierra Leone obtain more current books.

*Ray and Peggy Griffenhagen*

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## WHAT'S GOING ON HERE

A recent newspaper story told about several Carol Woods residents who have been married over 60 years: **Charles and Carolyn Powell** 60 years, **Elizabeth and Dwight Cooley**, 64 years, **Hans and Renee Krusa** 65 years. We can add **Jean and Arthur Euben**, 73 years and there are probably several others... Our Congressman David Price met with residents in the Assembly Hall on the evening of February 27... At this writing we can say that there has been no measurable snow this winter. Will there still be a blizzard in March?

### CONCERTS AND LECTURES

#### Concerts

- March 15 – Durham School of the Arts – “Saxophrases”
- March 22 – Gregory McCallum – Piano
- March 29 – Mark Furth & Friends – Piano Quartet
- April 5 – Meredith Chamber Orchestra
- April 12 – Bonnie Thron – Cello

#### Thursday Lectures

- March 16 – Frank Wilson – Symbols and Symptoms
- March 23 – Curtis Jones – Current Events in Middle East
- March 30 – Samia Serageldin – Women in Islam
- April 6 – E.G. Martin – Publishing in North Carolina

## SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Nominating Committee (**Charles Paddock**, chair; **Audrey Booth**, **Rod Gorham**, **Phyllis Sockwell**, and **Jim Summerville**.) submitted its slate for the 2006-07 Council) President - **Ross McKinney**, VP **Peggy Pollitzer**, Sec’y, - **Ray Mack**, Treasurer - **Mary Scroggs**. Members-at-Large: **Dot Cansler**, **David Sices**, **Lois Frost**, **Caroline Sikorsky** and **Bill Wright**. On behalf of the Gift Shop, **Jane Young** presented a check for \$11,000 to **Pat Sprigg** for the Residents Assistance Fund. **Pat Sprigg** reported that Carol Woods has signed a contract with Durham Tech for a person to teach English as a Second Language to Carol Woods Latino staff and their families. At the end of July of this year, Carol Woods will be a tobacco free work place for all of its employees and vendors.

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**STAFF:** Natalie Fiess, Chair; Jane Berryman, Russell Graves, Ray Mack, Nancy Martin, and Mary Scroggs. Ann Kendall, drawing.

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

### CAROL WOODS

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