

## Dale's Judicial Stories

by Ted Harris

Substituting for a judge is important training for a lawyer aspiring to become a judge. Judge Minnix served as the head of the Campbell County family court in Rustburg, Virginia. On this occasion he was sick. His clerk called Dale asking her to substitute for him, which she was glad to do. The defendant in one case was perennially in court for petty crimes and seemed to know Judge Minnix personally. Once the case was over, when the defendant passed by the bench he said, "Mrs. Minnix please tell the judge that I am sorry he is sick and I hope he gets well soon to come back to work". Imagine thinking that the sick judge could have his wife take over his court.

In the middle of the night when the phone rang, Dale would answer it as if she was wide awake. One night the Sheriff had a problem. His department had just brought in a person that had been hard to catch up with. The sheriff did not know what to do with this person. Apparently the person had had half a sex change. The sheriff did not know whether to put he/she in with the women or the men prisoners. He would like Dale's permission to release the person. What should he do? This he/she needed to be brought to trial and had been very hard to capture. Dale suggested that he/she be put in the infirmary for the night. You would think such a simple solution would have occurred to the sheriff.

Another case involved a man who had been battered by his female partner. He had photos showing his black and blue marks on his upper body. When she came home from work she had picked up a lamp by the bed and hit him. She tried to strangle him. When it came time for her testimony, her lawyer was not interested in her saying anything, but she was determined to report the reason. She said she came home one night and there he was in my bed with that woman, pointing

at an attractive female in the back of the room. It made me mad. I decided to take it out on him, by letting him have it as much as I could with the bedside lamp. Then she said, "You see the suit he is wearing, I bought it. He is lazy but he's fun." Then she stopped! She put her hands on her hips and said, "I realized this wasn't getting me anywhere, if sex was what it was about, there were going to be three of us doing it."



Dale dropped her pen on the floor. As she reached down to pick it up she said "Court will be in recess for ten minutes." Well, it was more than 10 minutes because the two lawyers were trying to work out an agreement that would solve the situation. The court stayed in recess for thirty minutes working out the deal. When the court readjusted the crowd had picked up considerably with court staff and deputies. Most of them were wondering if they would find out what happened next. That was never revealed. The defendant had to take an anger management course and if she didn't cause any problems in a year the case would be dropped.

There was a case in which an 18-year-old was accused of stealing his neighbor's TV. On the

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### The Forester

The newsletter of the Residents' Association of The Forest at Duke, Inc., 2701 Pickett Rd., Durham NC 27705. Published monthly except July, August, and September by and for the residents.

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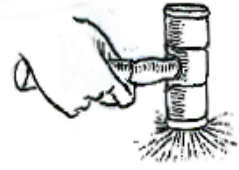
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## President's Podium



By James Freedman

The new fiscal year for The Forest at Duke officially started October 1, 2024 and runs through September 30, 2025. The increases in the budget were explained in detail by the administration, and you should be experiencing the changes in your monthly fees.

The Residents' Association year runs concurrently with TFAD's calendar. At the October 21 Annual Meeting, we officially voted on filling five expired board positions: Secretary, Treasurer, and the Chairs of the Finance, Health, and Marketing Committees. Sincere thanks go to the departing members of the board: Ken Barrett, Forrest Dixon, Judith Ruderman, and Judy Vick, for their unselfish contributions of time, constant flow of contributions, and leadership while on the board. Their efforts, working with the other board members, have contributed to providing the administration with information on our interests and concerns. I welcome the newly elected members to the board: Donald Chand, Andree Allen, Joel Huber, Ellen Barrett, and Dan Blazer, and I look forward to working with them on the team to continue fulfilling the goals and objectives of the organization.



Sharon Dexter has retired from years of service as the Managing Editor of The Forester, turning the duties over to Lisa Camel.

### In Memoriam

John Rawls

September 24, 2024

This and earlier editions of The Forester are available in full-color digital PDF format from the RA Website <https://ForestRes.org>.



New Board Members Donald Chand, Andree Allen, Ellen Barrett, Dan Blazer, & Joel Huber

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## Library Science 101:

By Carol Reese

The TFAD library's November—December book exhibit consists of books selected from *The New York Times* "Best Books" list for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Considering there are nearly 4 million new book titles released every year, trying to select those to acquire for our library collection can be a daunting task. Most of the time we depend on professional book reviews.

Once in a while we are lucky to find "best books" lists put together by novelists, nonfiction writers, critics, and other book lovers for guidance. The "Best 100 Books Published in 21<sup>st</sup> Century" by *The New York Times* (2024) is one such list. The Times list was voted on by over 500 literary luminaries, asking them to name 10 of the best books published since January 1, 2000.

Some of those that took part in this survey were Stephen King, Bonnie Garmus, Claudia Rankine, James Patterson, Sarah Jessica Parker, Karl Ove Knausgaard, Elin Hilderbrand, Sarah MacLean, Min Jin Lee, and Jenna Bush Hager, just to name a few.

As it happens, our small library collection already contains over 25% of the titles on this Best List of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, including Ian McEwan's *Atonement* and Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*. McEwan's book is both powerful and exquisite and considers the making of a writer, the dangers and rewards of imagination, and the juncture between innocence and awareness, all set against the late afternoon of an England soon to disappear. Mantel's *Wolf Hall* is a fictional portrait of Henry VIII's turbulent court, and the book is both spellbinding and believable. You will find those two "best books" and others in our current library exhibit such as these titles:

- Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*, based on Dickens' famous novel. Our soon-to-be orphaned narrator's mother is a substance-abusing teenage single mom who checks out via OD on his 11th birthday, and Demon's cynical, wised-up voice is light-years removed from David Copperfield's earnest tone. Yet readers also see the yearning for love and wells of compassion hidden beneath his self-protective exterior. An angry, powerful book seething with love and outrage for a community too often stereotyped or ignored.
- The biography of Frederick Douglass by David W. Blight, *Prophet of Freedom*, provides a masterful, comprehensive biography, particularly of Douglass' Civil War, Reconstruction, and Gilded Age years and occupations.
- Philip Roth's *Plot against America* is a politically-charged alternate history in which Aryan supremacist hero Charles Lindbergh unseats FDR in 1940—with catastrophic consequences for America's Jews.

For your reading pleasure, we have gathered these books into one convenient display. You will find these titles, plus many others, in our exhibit for you to enjoy until the New Year. †

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## President's Podium

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It is expected that 2025 will be a challenging year. The Terraces construction will be completed, and the first of the new residents will be arriving. Much of our focus this past year has been on working with the administration to define our role in assimilating the new residents while minimizing disruptions for our current population. Next year these efforts will be put to the test.

Although plans are being put in place to address the issues as we understand them today, there will almost certainly be instances where the defined plans will fall short of the goals, as well as new problems arising that were not anticipated. We ask for your understanding and patience as we go through the growing pains of increasing our population by approximately 30%. More importantly, we also request that you contact any member of the board, directly or through committee participation, with questions and issues that may develop as we progress on our journey. †

## Welcome New Residents

### Peter S. Hawkins

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We welcome Peter Hawkins who comes to us from Boston. Peter learned about The Forest from one of several friends in the Durham area and made the decision to move in after receiving the medical diagnosis of Parkinson's disease in February, 2024. Originally, from Flushing, Queens and Bethpage NY, Peter obtained a BA degree in English from the University of Wisconsin, an MA and a PhD in English from Yale University, and Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in NY. He taught religion and literature at Yale Divinity School from 1976 to 2000, where he developed a specialization in the works of Dante. From 2000 to 2008 Peter taught at Boston University where he directed the Luce Program in Scripture and Literary Arts. He received the Metcalf Prize for Excellence in Teaching at BU.



Returning to Yale in 2009, Peter continued teaching religion and literature to undergraduate and graduate students until his retirement in 2020. The Berkeley Divinity School, an Episcopal affiliate of Yale Divinity School, awarded him a Doctor of Theology degree *honoris causa*. After retiring he was asked to teach various Zoom classes during the Covid pandemic for the Yale Alumni College on

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### Tom Wolf

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Tom Wolf was born in Cincinnati and attended the University of Cincinnati, where he received a BA in Economics, followed by an MA in Psychology from Miami University (Ohio). He then attended the University of Waterloo (Ontario), receiving a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology. This was followed by completing a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Child Clinical Psychology at St. Louis University.



Tom's first job was in the Psychology Department at the State University of New York in Cortland, but he spent most of his career in the Department of Psychiatry at Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans. At LSU he taught courses and conducted research on stress, coping, and health during medical school, resulting in his book *To Your Health: Achieving Well-Being During Medical School*. This research led to the development of a health promotion and well-being program for medical students. Tom is Professor Emeritus at LSU. Following his retirement and the destruction from Hurricane Katrina, Tom moved to Durham and worked half-time at the psychiatric hospital in Butner NC and taught first and second year medical students at Duke as well.

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## Welcome New Residents

### Peter S. Hawkins

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Dante, St. Augustine, and T.S. Eliot. Plans have been made for Peter to teach poetry in a course on the Anglican tradition at Duke Divinity School in the spring 2025.

Peter is an active member of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in Durham. Professional memberships include the Modern Language Association, the American Academy of Religion, and SAGE (Services & Advocacy for LGBTQ+Elders). Peter is the author of eleven books and has edited collections of essays on a variety of literary and biblical topics. Since coming to live at The Forest, Peter has enjoyed participating in several fitness classes, particularly Water Wellness, Pilates and Balance. †

### Tom Wolf

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Tom was first married to Valerie Wolf, who passed away in 2002. He recently celebrated his 10-year anniversary with his partner now, Susan Denison. His son Mark received a Ph.D. in industrial organizational psychology from Georgia Tech; he is married with two daughters. Tom strongly identifies with his Jewish background and upbringing. He is proud to be past president of Touro Synagogue and the Jewish Community Center in New Orleans, and is currently an active member of Judea Reform Congregation and Jewish for Good (at the JCC) in Durham.

Tom lives an active lifestyle with Sue, and he has a passion for travel. He is fascinated with learning about different cultures and the beauty of nature. He exercises regularly and finds it stimulating to take courses at OLLI at Duke. Tom will celebrate his 80th birthday later this year and feels fortunate and grateful for the many opportunities life has afforded him. A key to his happiness has been the many family members and friends he has stayed connected with. Tom looks forward to many happy and fulfilling years living at The Forest and making new friends here. †

### Laura Piver

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We welcome Laura Piver who comes to The Forest from her home of 48 years in Chapel Hill. After growing up in Falls Church VA, Laura graduated from the UNC School of Nursing. Following graduation, Laura and her new husband, Warren (Duke '63), moved to Buffalo where he worked for Bethlehem Steel for a year before deciding to return to school for a PhD in chemical engineering at NC State. Laura earned her "PHT" (Put Hubby Thru) degree as a nurse in the Emergency Department at UNC.

The next several years were spent raising their young sons. Laura returned to work on a public health grant visiting families in the



north central region of NC whose babies had died of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). Other employment included co-owning a Triangle tour business with a friend for a couple of years. In 1985 Laura's husband was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. The success of a bone marrow transplant allowed him 13 years of good health before the return of cancer and his death in 2001. Subsequently, Laura returned to work as a nurse in family medicine.

Laura has three children: Michael, the Executive Director of Ambulatory Services at The Mobile Infirmary in Mobile, AL; Alan, a commercial construction territory manager in Pensacola, FL; and Sarah, a VP of an advertising agency in High Point, NC. Alan's son, Mark (17) and Sarah's daughter, Taylor (14) are Laura's two grandchildren.

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## Look — But Don't Touch

by Carolyn Cone Weaver

The Forest at Duke is full of surprises. Even though I've lived here for three years, I often learn Forest Facts from newcomers. For instance, newcomer Laura Piver told me about TFAD's fascinating pokeberry bushes growing right in our own backyard. Who knew!

Laura moved here from Chapel Hill, in June, and she shared stories about the pokeberry (*Phytolacca americana*). She urged me to take a look for myself, and once I found them, I searched the Internet to find more about the plant. There's more to it than its beauty.



Pokeberry bush near swimming pool patio

The pokeberry is a tall, bushy perennial, considered invasive, and growing wild in one of TFAD's naturalized areas—probably why it's also known as pokeweed. From September into November, its branches hang low, bowed by heavy, purple berry clusters. Despite its natural beauty, all parts of the plant are toxic. The leaves, stems, berries, roots, and seeds are toxic to humans, as well as to some birds and animals. Older people can be especially sensitive, because of the interaction between their commonly-taken medications and the toxins.

But despite its drawbacks, pokeberry is worth keeping in the landscape, if you are lucky enough to have it. It's a beautiful standout in

naturalized settings, but artists and craftspeople often use it in their works—after they have detoxified the berries.

Laura's mother, a weaver and spinner, used pokeberry juice to dye textiles and yarns with which she created folk art and clothing.

Laura's daughter still wears a bog jacket her grandmother created years ago, using her own dyed fabric. Children in the Pivers' Chapel Hill neighborhood made a juice they used to create their own street art. And Laura recently noted purple sidewalk "art" left by birds who had dined on the berries.



Red branches, light greens leaves and cluster of berries

Pokeberries are a favorite food for birds and wild animals. Photographers will stake out the bushes when the berries are ripe, catching pictures of local wildlife. Our Forest shutterbugs might want to take note.

You can check out the plant for yourself, though at this point it's been mangled by some heavy pruning. Stand on the pool's patio, pool to your back, and face the naturalized area across the sidewalk. Look to the left end of the plantings for the dark green leaves and the heavy-hanging bunches of tiny, shiny purple jewels. Pokeberries! You can't miss them.

If you want to find more about pokeberry growth habits there are many sites on the Internet. Just type the word *pokeberry* into your search engine, and dozens pop up. One that I enjoyed is: [georgiawildlife.com/out-my-backdoor-wondrous-pokeberry](http://georgiawildlife.com/out-my-backdoor-wondrous-pokeberry).

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## Perseverance Plus

### Matt Martin

By Robyn Sloan

There he goes again! The strong and fit runner trotting around our campus is an inspiration to the less-motivated exercisers among us. Who is the dedicated pavement-pounder who has been reliably completing a self-inflicted two miles daily, no matter the broiling temperatures or overcast skies?

Matt Martin, TFAD’s Network Administrator Supervisor, set an ambitious goal in January to overhaul his lifestyle, with support from Rashad Wilson, Director of Technology. Embracing the challenge head-on, Matt began with a strict carnivore diet, shedding an impressive twenty pounds. Not one to back down from a challenge, he then incorporated running into his routine, despite his previous dislike for it.



With music in his ears and sheer willpower, he transformed running into a habit. His commitment does not stop there—Matt also hits the gym daily for a few hours after work, demonstrating the discipline and perseverance that have come to define his fitness journey.

Matt came to TFAD eleven years ago and initially worked in a resident-facing role similar to Scott Brown’s current position, a role that allowed him to build strong connections within the community. While his current responsibilities focus on ensuring TFAD’s internet runs smoothly and securely, he still fondly recalls the personal interactions from his earlier role. Matt was recently recognized for his dedication to The Forest with a Community Champion award.

Outside of work, Matt enjoys quality time with his ten-year-old daughter Esther and his cat, Reign, and he is eagerly preparing to welcome a dog into the family. This transformation reflects Matt’s drive for growth, both personally and professionally, proving that with dedication, anything is possible.



### Carolyn Cone Weaver

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Just beware. If you’re thinking of using parts of the plant in your desserts or flower arrangements—DON’T EAT! And don’t touch! Instead, take photos, look, and *oooh* and *aaah*.

Now, maybe you’re as intrigued as I was to learn that Mother Nature chose to plant the lovely pokeberry for us to enjoy on our TFAD campus, toxic concerns and all. †

### Laura Piver

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Laura’s activities include being a co-chairman for Project Graduation in Chapel Hill; being an elder at the University Presbyterian Church; and being a member of P.E.O., an international educational, and philanthropic organization for women. Through the years, Laura’s free time has been filled with caring for her pet dogs. †

## Dale's Judicial Stories

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witness stand, he denied doing this. He would not under any circumstances take advantage of his neighbors. They were family friends, and besides, he had been in West Virginia visiting a friend at that time, who was looking after his sick grandmother. He went back and sat down with his lawyer, and almost immediately a piece of plaster fell out of the ceiling on the table in front of him. We think that he thought maybe God was telling him to stand up and tell the truth, which he did, admitting that he had a drug problem and that he needed money so he stole the TV and sold it. On other occasions, Dale wished that she had a little button somewhere that she could press that would drop plaster on the defendant.

"I am going to kill you Judge Harris." This note was taped to the courthouse door. The Sheriff sprang into action. A deputy would be nearby Dale 24-7, following Dale wherever she went and being outside of our home at night time. The assigned deputy followed Dale so closely that she thought her demise might come from a car accident. The Sheriff suggested that we cut down our white pine hedge next to the street, affording a better view for the night time deputy. Dale told him that if that was done she would lose a husband. After three weeks another note was attached to the courthouse door. "I know where you live and I am going to kill you in a week." This was good news to law enforcement. The deadline meant if the deed was not accomplished within a week the threat would be over.

Luckily my dad was out of town and we moved into his apartment for the week. We never knew who the potential assassin was but Dale hoped she would have a chance to see the perpetrator and have time to remember the case.



## Calling Balls and Strikes

Two or three years ago Base Ball critics in the East and West began to agitate the question of signaling by the umpires to announce their decisions.

At first the judges of play did not want to signal. They thought it detracted from their dignity to go through a dumb show resembling the waving of the arms of a semaphore.

That did not deter the Base Ball critics from their stand. With good-natured persistence they urged upon the umpires the necessity of the new idea, and by and by the officials of the league took up the subject and suggested it would be worth a trial.



It was finally experimented with and has been one of the best moves in Base Ball as a medium of rendering decisions intelligible, and now there is not an umpire but uses his arms to signal. If he did not, two-thirds of the spectators at the immense crowds, which have been patronizing Base Ball for the last two years, would be wholly at sea as to what was transpiring on the field, except as they might guess successfully...

Even the older umpires, who were more loath to give their consent to the new system on the field, are now frank enough to admit that it has been of invaluable assistance to them in making their decisions understood when the size of the crowd is such that it is impossible to make the human voice carry distinctly to all parts of the field. †

From "Semiphore Signals by the Umpires,"  
Spalding's Official Base Ball Guide, 1909