

Volume 22 Issue 7

A Newspaper by and for the Residents of The Forest at Duke

April 2017

Hattie Wilson -- Eighteen Years at TFAD ... and Counting

by Shannon Ravenel

Hattie Wilson has been at The Forest at Duke's reception desk since 1999. Eighteen years after applying for part time work here, she says this: "I love my job. I'm planning to stay here as long as they'll have me. I just love it."

A native North Carolinian, Hattie is part of a big family: she's the second oldest girl of ten children, five girls and five boys. The siblings have stayed in amazingly close touch over the years since growing up on their father's tobacco farm in Chatham County. She and her older sister carry on their mother's tradition of gathering everybody (25-30 people nowadays) to celebrate most holidays with big home cooked meals.

After finishing high school, Hattie got a job at an insurance company and went to Durham Tech at night for a two year social degree. Soon after earning that degree, she went to work full time at UNC Health Care where she stayed for many years until her retirement in 2006. "Retirement" freed her up to take on more work at TFAD where her hours have expanded to 25 every other week and 34 on the odd weeks. "I love it," she reiterates. "I'm a single lady with no kids. I have time."

Asked how the job has changed over those years, she points out that there are more residents and more services offered them at the reception desk. Memorizing more names and putting those to more faces is just part of it. So is delivery of more birthday cards, more wake-up calls, more phone calls to redirect, more guest room slips going in and out, more questions to answer, more directions to more administrative offices, more stuff to stuff in the boxes, and, well, just *more*! It takes a whole team to make the front desk function.

What are the most frequent questions? "Where



Hattie Wilson

is...?" The most frequent request for help? "Can you show me how the copier works...?" The funniest comments? About her outfits (which are always beautiful): "One lady told me recently that I shouldn't wear purple. Another one said I shouldn't wear red." The weirdest incident? "People are always bringing odd things they've found to the reception desk." And the weirdest item? "An injured, half dead rat." Her response? "I called security."

In 2009, Hattie was the Employee of the Year. She wears a pin commemorating that and one that celebrates 15 years at The Forest. While she and I were behind the reception desk taking a new photo, the system-wide alarm suddenly went off, nearly deafening us for the five or so minutes it lasted. Everyone turned to Hattie: "Yikes, Hattie! What do we do???" "We call Security," she said, cool as a cucumber. She's seen, and heard, it all.

The Forester

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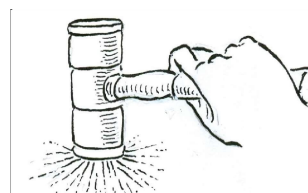
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President's Podium



by Dale Harris

We have a treat in store at our **April 17, 2 pm, Residents' Association Quarterly Meeting** in the Auditorium. **Dave Pottenger**, Chairman of The Forest at Duke Board of Directors, will be there to address us and to hear comments and questions from our residents. Other directors will be there with us too, and the first part of our meeting will be set aside for this purpose. Let's have a good turnout to take advantage of this opportunity.

Technology is a field which changes with updates and modifications on a frequent basis. We now have a Residents' Association (RA) group thinking about whether to recommend a committee or sub-committee of residents to help other residents in their use of this technology. At our February RA Board meeting we set up the following ad hoc committee to consider this. Those serving are **Carol Carson**, Chair; **Bob Dix**, **Craig Daniels**, **Bennett Galef**, **Carol McFadyen** and **Merrill Petrow**; so share your thoughts on this subject with them.

Library Science 101

by Carol Reese

Here it is April already. Spring is definitely here and the flowers are blooming all over the campus. We can enjoy them now only because people planted the seeds some time back.

The same can be said for the many activities and services we enjoy at the Forest today. For instance, our current library grew out of the dreams of several early residents. In 1993, the original “library” consisted of one bookcase of donated books. Due to the hard work by many volunteers, we now have an organized collection consisting of over 3800 items housed in its own inviting location. This information, plus much more, may be found in the publication *The Forest at Duke: Our First 20 Years* by **Mary Ruth Miller** and **Rheta Skolaut**. Residents, especially those new to the Forest, will find this booklet a font of information about the development of the Forest and the many efforts of the volunteers involved. FYI: it is housed in the In-House Authors (IHA) special collection on the bookcase against the wall by the conference room.

With this growth of the Library, the Library Committee thought it was time to codify many of the policies and procedures that have evolved over the past 25 years. The following **Mission Statement** will help to guide the Library’s future development:

**To provide resources aimed at enhancing the quality
of life for the members of this retirement community.**

Along with this statement, the Library now has written policies concerning such areas as developing the collection, accepting donations, and organizing the collection. If you wish to read any of these policies and the procedures used to carry them out, they are kept in a white binder at the Circulation Desk.

The Forest’s Grievance Policy

The Residents’ Association has asked the Library to maintain a copy of the Forest’s Grievance Policy at the Circulation Desk along with copies of the form used to submit a grievance. The policy is in the white binder on the desk and the forms are kept in a blue file folder in the magazine holder next to the binder.

Friendly Reminder

When you take a book out, please remember to include **the day’s date, your name and apartment/cottage number** on the book card. Thank you for your cooperation.

In Memoriam

Edith Neece February 18, 2017

Thomas Wilson February 25, 2017

Barbara Mattingly March 6, 2017

What in the World is OLLI at Duke?

by Richard Melanson, OLLI-at-Duke Instructor

Since OLLI at Duke is celebrating its 40th birthday this year, now is a good time to tell its story.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Duke was formed in 1977 as the Duke Institute for Learning in Retirement with 42 members and 11 courses. In 2004 it became part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Network; it changed its name to OLLI at Duke two years later. The OLLI Network is comprised of about 120 college and university affiliated institutes across the country, and is named after Bernard Osher, a business executive and philanthropist who founded the Bernard Osher Foundation in 1977 to support higher education and the arts. This foundation provides generous grants to OLLIs including OLLI at Duke.

OLLI at Duke currently has approximately 2000 members and offers more than 140 courses in both the 10-week fall and winter terms and more than 75 courses in its 6-week spring term. These courses cover a wide range of subjects including literature, art, music, history, current affairs, health and wellness, creative writing, languages, philosophy and religion, financial planning, drama, natural science and technology, social science, computers, and retirement issues. It is a constituent part of Duke Continuing Studies.

Because of the breadth, quality, and number of courses offered, OLLI at Duke is recognized as one of the finest Osher institutes in America. Instructors come from the Duke faculty, faculties at nearby universities, emeritus professors, and other professionals working or retired in the Triangle.

Slightly more than 40% of its members are Durham residents, about 30% live in Chapel Hill, almost 10%

hail from Fearington Village, and the rest live in other parts of the Triangle.

The OLLI staff consists of a salaried director and a staff assistant. All other positions are filled by volunteers including instructors, the Board of Advisors, and the Curriculum, Finance, Hospitality, Communications, Instructor Relations, Membership, Information Technology, and Strategic Planning Committees.

Most courses are taught at the Bishop's House on the East Campus and the Judea Reform Congregation education building on Cornwallis Road, but there are satellite venues at Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Emily K Center, and several retirement communities, including, of course, The Forest at Duke.

OLLI at Duke also has several activities and interest groups ranging from ballroom dancing to literature to the New Horizons Band and Chorus. It sponsors a weekly Conscious Aging lecture series during the fall and winter terms and frequently sponsors visits to area art museums and other cultural venues.

Many of you have taken OLLI-at-Duke courses and a number of you have volunteered as instructors or as members of the various committees. Thanks so much for doing so, and get ready to celebrate a great 40th birthday!

Richard Melanson has been an OLLI-at-Duke instructor since 2015. He taught international politics at UCLA, Kenyon, Brown, and the National War College during a 38-year academic career.



At a Kitchen Table a Middle School for Young Men Was Born

by Ann Carole Moylan

When people wonder how Joe, my husband, and I came to start the Durham Nativity School, I answer that it really was a chance meeting at our kitchen table that laid the foundation for our starting the middle school for under-served young men.

The Durham Nativity School was founded in 2001 as a tuition-free non-sectarian private school at which at least 75% of the students must come from households that are at or below the poverty line. The goal is to accept young men who have academic potential but also demonstrate strength of character. Families are so important to educational success that they are also interviewed to ensure that they understand the rigor and commitment required. While academic education is the focus, the school day is filled with activities like public speaking and community service to ensure that the students understand their responsibilities as citizens. The young men are required to wear a uniform which includes a tie. Due to their academic and character preparation, when they “graduate” in 8th grade they receive scholarships to both local and residential college preparatory schools. And 95% of the Durham Nativity School graduates have attended college.

The inspiration for the school came almost 30 years ago when one of our sons was asked to tutor two young men. They had both been offered college athletic scholarships but were struggling to achieve the minimum test score for acceptance. Twice a week, after practice, they would sit at our kitchen table and review for the SAT. It became evident early on that they were both academically unprepared and, sadly, college was not in their future. The question for Joe and me was how it was possible that they were so far behind in their schooling. There was, of course, not just one reason. They were thoughtful and talented young men, both of whose lives had been somewhat chaotic with several moves and

school changes. It seemed that, as students who were neither troublemakers nor exceptionally gifted, it was easy for them to be overlooked.

My husband never forgot the experience at our kitchen table and continued to think about how we could change the outcome for similar young men. As retirement from Duke University Medical Center approached, he began to investigate educational programs. What became clear to us was that the earlier in their educational journeys we could reach the young men, the greater chance for success. On the advice of a friend, Joe contacted The Nativity Mission Center which is located in New York City. Since the founding of that first “Nativity School” in 1971, 45 more schools based on the Nativity School model have been founded across the country. At the basis of the Nativity model are small classrooms, extended days and an extended year middle school program which prepares the student for a college preparatory high school.

The school has been supported by so many great partnerships which have allowed the young men to attend summer camps, enrichment programs and the college preparatory high schools they attend.

Word limit does not allow space to describe the many successes of the young men, so I extend an invitation for you to visit the school to meet the young men. Truly, Seeing is Believing!!

Ann Carole Moylan grew up in Hartford CT and worked as a nurse early in her marriage to Joe Moylan. The mother of four, she still gives of her time to the Durham Nativity School and several other local charities.

Welcome New Residents



Judith Shannon

Apt 3027 610-717-2085
judith.shannon@gmail.com

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, Judith has been moving ever since. She grew up the youngest of four girls in the upper Midwest and found her way to Washington, DC, graduating from American University in Business (later pursuing MBA work at Rockhurst University, Kansas City). Her corporate career began at Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT) in the exciting years when satellite communications introduced live TV worldwide. She worked with NASA and Shuttle payload customers. She led communications, marketing, and governmental/regulatory affairs for telecommunications companies, including Sprint, Global One (a joint venture of Sprint, France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom, where she was based in Brussels), and Telcordia Technologies.

Early retirement and divorce led to creative thinking: she joined the Peace Corps, spending several years in Ukraine teaching MBA students at Donetsk National University. Back in the US she helped establish and operate an emergency shelter for single homeless women; chaired her local planning commission; conducted historic tours; helped hospital patients; and worked with hospice patients in their homes, often accompanied by her pet therapy poodle, Lizzie.

Judith has one son, Eric; he lives in Wake Forest.



Bill and Pat Joklik

Pat: Apt 3045 919-489-9268
Bill: H&W 002 919-433-2302

Durham residents Pat and Bill moved to The Forest in November 2015.

Bill was born in Austria, grew up there and in Sydney, Australia, where he earned degrees in biochemistry. He obtained a PhD from Oxford in work that introduced him to virology, a field in which he made seminal contributions. Bill was recruited from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine to become Chair of the Duke Department of Microbiology and Immunology. During his 25-year tenure the department grew to national rank. Bill was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and its Institute of Medicine, and in 1991 he was awarded the ICN International Prize in Virology. He was instrumental in winning for Duke one of the regional Comprehensive Cancer Centers (CCCs) of Nixon's "war on cancer."

Pat grew up in Columbus, OH, attended St. Mary's College at Notre Dame for a year, then traveled with her parents to Germany where her attorney father was a judge on the local war-crimes tribunals. The war-ravaged countryside left an indelible impression. Returning to Columbus, she continued her education at Ohio State and married Chuck Downey, a Columbus native. Because Chuck was a reluctant flier, they satisfied their

(Continued on page 8)

The Beaver's Feast

by Ted Harris

The beaver eyed the sycamore sapling along the bank of the James River and said to himself *what a wonderful repast that would make*. The beaver was sure that the bark of the young tree would be delicious, nutritious and certainly tender. Beavers, as you may know, are vegetarians, relying entirely on plant life to sustain them. They have a unique ability to digest the cellulose in wood.

He first must gnaw down the tree. This would be easy as his species had evolved to cut down trees to build lodges and dams. He then moved up the fallen tree to where the trunk was only one inch and a half in diam-

eter and gnawed it off. The beaver's teeth, hard on the front side and softer on the back side, are sharpened with use as the back side is gradually worn away.

Next, the top and the side branches needed to be removed so that the feast could begin. He was quite proud of himself when he finished because he had a meal on a stick that was

about five feet long without any protruding branches to hamper his eating.

Now he did a most human thing. Sitting on his haunches, he held the sycamore tree trunk in his front paws and started eating it like corn on the cob. Except, at five feet long, it was much better and certainly much longer than corn on the cob. What a feast it must have been, especially when you consider five feet is the equivalent of six ears of corn ten inches in length.

What did the beaver do with the remainder of the meal? He probably dropped the debarked refuse into the river. A canoer downstream spotted it and paddled his canoe toward it. On retrieving it, the canoer marveled at the construction of the beaver's former forest feast. He thought it would make the perfect walking stick.

And so it did. For over forty years the author has used this beaver creation for his walking stick.

Ted Harris, former banker, legislator, advocate and promoter of old-growth forests, has a serious interest in environmental issues.



Ted Harris ready to trek with his hiking shoulder pack and beavered walking stick.



Section of walking stick showing teeth marks from beaver chewing off bark.

BITS & PIECES ...

First Sprouts....

The Community Gardens (4'x 8' raised beds accessible on a paved path between Cottages 68 and 70) are coming alive, a Spring reawakening. Already other residents are being invited to share an early harvest.



Free Weeds -- Pull your own!

Summer Memories....

Since the June issue will be our last until October, we'd love to celebrate the summer vacation with a collection of best summer memories. Mine is of being 12 years old and lolling away hot afternoons reading love comics at Camp Brickhouse on Edisto Island, SC. If you have a favorite, send it to the editors (shannonr@algonquin.com and hpgwiv@gmail.com) in 50 words or less and we'll squeeze in as many as we have room for.

Digital Access (in Color!)....

Digital editions of The Forester in color in PDF format are archived under *Quick Links* on the Resident Association web page www.ForestRes.org.

Joklik

(Continued from page 6)

urge to travel in a Winnebago bus. When Chuck founded Carolina Beverage Packers in 1960, they moved to Durham and actively engaged with the community. Chuck was invited to become a member of a Citizen Advisory board established to support and advise the Duke CCC. When Chuck died unexpectedly of cancer in 1974, Pat was invited to take his place on the Board, and she remained a member into 2015. Bill was a technical consultant to the Board and for a time its Chair.

Pat and Bill were married in 1977. His wife, Judith, died of cancer only a few months after Chuck. Motivated by this shared experience, they devoted considerable effort with a small group of key benefactors¹ to founding Caring House, a residential facility for out-

of-town patients undergoing intensive chemotherapy through the Duke CCC.

Because he is at home in two cultures (Austrian/German and British/American), Bill has been greatly interested in international affairs and travel, only lately curtailed by infirmities of age. Pat shared many of Bill's interests. Currently her primary concern is the welfare of Bill, but she enjoys bridge here at The Forest and with her bridge group in Hope Valley.

¹ The Healing Garden at Caring House was dedicated in honor of the six founding angels Barbara Booth, Frankie DeBose, Susie Leaming Huffines, **Pat Joklik**, Bunny Kerns, and **Martha Erwin Uzzle**.

Resident Readers

by Carol Oettinger

Back in 2009, I read a novel by Christopher Morley called *Parnassus on Wheels*. It was interesting and funny and I told the librarian, **Mary Ruth Miller**, that I wished I could read parts of it to some of my friends. She said that it was a good idea and that she would tell people who came in that I would be reading in two weeks. It took me a while to arrange, delete and highlight. We settled on a time—Tuesday at 4PM. Why that time is a mystery.

About six or seven people came and enjoyed it. Several of them had things they wanted to read. So the word got around. On January 5, 2010, **Charlie Black** was our first official reader at 4PM on Tuesday. More and more people began to volunteer to read and to come and enjoy. The library got so crowded that the fire regulations said we had to move to the auditorium.

There has been a wonderful variety in what the readers have chosen to read. Some have read things they have written themselves. There has been poetry, short stories, funny and serious. It's always something the reader has enjoyed and found meaningful.

I have kept a record of each of the people who read for the last seven plus years. In the first few months **Evebell Dunham, Barbara Birkhead, Bill Anderson, Oliver Ferguson, Carol Scott** and **Nell Rubidge** were some of our readers. Many of the readers are now entertaining other angels up in heaven.

I have been organizing the readers during these seven plus years. I ask some readers, but am always happy to have volunteers. Just call me. I'm in the book..

We have many new residents, so to them as well as all residents, we would like to welcome you to our Resident Readings every Tuesday at 4PM. **COME READ AND ENJOY!**

Carol Oettinger started reading when she was three which is why she enjoys writing so much. Her current project is a book for her children about their earliest memories. She says that, after 14 years enjoying life at the Forest, she considers herself an old resident.

The Mind's the Thing

by Don Chesnut

Our hair may gray, our joints may creak,
Our voice may waver when we speak.

While thoughts decline, our memory weak,
An active mind is what we seek.

To that grand goal we should aspire,
Since what we think is what we are.

Above all else, the mind's the thing
Where lies the essence of our being.

*Don Chestnut, a frequent contributor in prose
and poetry, is Emeritus Professor of Chemistry*

Woodshop Group Renovates Garden Shed

by Dean McCumber, Photos by Gretchen Dix

Working in collaboration with The Forest's maintenance staff, residents from our Woodshop have been renovating the Garden Shed in our Raised-Bed Gardens. The shed provides convenient dry storage for shovels, rakes, hoes and other gardening tools useful to residents, especially apartment residents, working in the raised-bed gardens. Rain flowing off the roof caused deterioration of the T1-11 siding on the rear wall, and that is being replaced by our woodworkers.

There is also evidence of a small roof leak. The Forest's maintenance staff will install a new roof. When that is done and the new siding painted, the shed will be as good as new, probably better than new!

Right: Bob Dix and Russell Jones nailing the new back wall.



Above: Wes Carson relays measurements to the cutters and keeps the nailers supplied.



Above: Lloyd Redick and Banks Anderson "measuring twice, cutting once."

Lessons Our Burglar(s) Taught Us

by Bennett Galef

Just another Friday

Friday evening March 3 was unexceptional: a quiet, early dinner for two in Chapel Hill, a mediocre performance at Memorial Hall, home just after 10:00. Parked the car in the garage, took out the key to the back door. Odd, it wasn't locked. We ALWAYS lock the back door before we leave.

As we were to learn, uninvited guests had jimmied a bedroom window and spent hours exploring our home looking for loot.

Closet drawers had been dumped on the floor, handbags and sweaters pulled from shelves. Our storeroom was inches deep in papers from filing cabinets, and open suitcases were in a heap on the floor. Most ominously, the safe was open, its door a foot from the safe itself, a screwdriver and hammer beside it.

Gone were mothers' and grandmothers' jewelry, fathers' and grandfathers' watches, 40 years of birthday, Valentines, Christmas and anniversary presents, souvenir jewelry from 30 years of world travel. Cameras and binoculars were missing from living room cabinets as was a MacAir and a raft of lesser items – among them a suitcase, briefcase and pillow case to transport the loot. Most amusing, a massive stack of counterfeit \$100 bills, "ghost money" burned in China to honor ancestors, had departed the premises. The complete list of purloined items runs to many pages.

We were lucky. Our uninvited guests were thieves, not vandals. Indeed, while searching for marketable goods they had taken considerable care not to disturb the many paintings and sculptures about the house. And our papers – passports, birth and marriage certificates, credit cards, etc. – were of no interest to them. They had similar disdain for silver.

We of course had insurance (after all, TFAD requires that we carry household insurance), but not enough. We had some appraisals, pictures and descriptions of missing items, but not enough.

Why tell you all this? So you won't have to suffer the losses we experienced.

Stupid, Stupid, Stupid, Stupid, Smart, Stupidest

The first stupid thing we did was to not keep our insurance current as we acquired more stuff.

The second stupid thing we did was to not keep either receipts for or appraisals and pictures of each item on which we might someday want to collect insurance.

The third stupid thing we did was to believe a safe was safe. Items that you really want to keep belong in a safe-deposit box.

The one smart thing we did was to keep model and serial numbers of cameras, binoculars, and computers.

The fourth stupid thing we did was (maybe, we aren't sure) not to set the alarm before leaving.

The last and stupidest thing we did was to enter the house after we had deduced someone had broken in. Encountering an intruder hard at work safe cracking might not have been good for our health.

We were very lucky that despite our stupidity, we are both safe. All we lost was some stuff.

So, my message to you is **don't be stupid**. Tomorrow, you could come home after dinner and a performance to find unlocked a door that you are absolutely certain you had locked before leaving.

Bennett Galef admits to a long history of doing stupid things.

ASK A NUMISMATIST

How Did Our US Coins Come by Their Mottoes?

by Bill Michal

A motto can be defined as “a brief sentence, phrase, or single word used to express a principle, goal, or ideal.” Throughout most of the history of world coinage, mottoes have appeared on the vast majority of coins. In our Colonial era and after the American Revolutionary War ended, there were several historic and interesting coinages related to America issued by various “governments” but none by the United States until the establishment of the US Mint in Philadelphia in 1793.

However, a bit of an anomaly exists. The prior year, there is strong evidence that George and Martha Washington actually donated some of their table silver to the unopened mint. It is an established fact that in 1792 some silver half-dimes (pronounced “dimes”) were struck bearing the remarkably prophetic motto, “*Liberty Parent of Science and Industry*.”

After this fledgling start, official US coinage began in 1793. Over the ensuing 224 years, our coins have carried only five different mottoes. (For clarification, it should be stated here that the two sides of a coin are called the obverse and the reverse.) The 1793 coins were copper half-cents and cents which bore the word “*Liberty*” in prominent letters above the head of a symbolic rendering of “Miss Liberty” on the obverse. From 1793 through 1976, “*Liberty*” has appeared on 86 out of 91 major different coin designs and always on the obverse.

In 1796, the \$5.00 gold “Half-Eagle” was the first US coin to carry on its reverse side the Latin phrase “*E Pluribus Unum*” which translates to “One unity composed of many parts.” Its first appearance anywhere had

been ten years earlier on the copper coins issued by the State of New Jersey.

For the next 65 years, no other mottoes appeared. Near the end of the Civil War and primarily stimulated by it, in 1864 “*In God We Trust*” was placed on the newly-issued bronze two cent piece.

Our country first issued silver dollars in 1794, but their production was the most sporadic of all US denominations. One gap occurred from 1905 through 1920. Triggered by another war, this time WWI, in 1921 we issued a new silver dollar design. It became known as the “Peace Dollar” because “*Peace*” was featured in prominent letters below the feet of the eagle on the reverse side. Since that design also included the three previous mottoes, the “Peace Dollar” is our only coin to display all four mottoes. “*Peace*” never appeared on any later coins.

To celebrate our 200 years of independence, in 1976 special bicentennial designs were placed on the quarter dollar, half dollar, and dollar. Almost totally overlooked except by a few “numismatic fanatics,” our fifth motto appeared with the addition of “200 Years of Freedom” printed to the left of Independence Hall on the reverse of the half dollar.



Obverse



Reverse

Bill Michal is a retired pediatrician, banjo player and long-time collector. He enjoyed collecting rare US coins for several decades. Of special interest were the steps leading to the appearance of the motto, “In God We Trust.”