

## Gregory Manning—The Forest's Desktop Support Specialist by Shannon Purves

Gregory (his name tag says “Greg”) Manning joined Rashad Wilson and Matt Martin in The Forest’s Information Systems Department on November 19, 2018. His official title is “Desktop Support Specialist.” He says it might, however, be more accurate to insert the words, “Laptop” and “Cell Phone” into his title as so many resident requests for IT support involve those two computer systems. He describes the typical interaction as beginning with a phone call from the resident struggling with a seemingly non-compliant machine, a struggle that, in many cases, is quickly solved by Greg’s advice. But if the solution appears more complicated, Greg makes an apartment or cottage call for on-site intervention. He says he averages two or three of these house calls a day.



Photo by Bennett

Having graduated in 2017 from North Carolina State University with a degree in computer science, Greg took a part-time retail job helping out a friend while he looked for full time work in his chosen field in the Triangle. He did that using “Indeed,” the highly regarded on-line employment website. He entered his credentials on Indeed and then searched it for likely job listings in this area. The Forester’s IT job appeared, Greg applied for it, and here he is, sharing the IT office with Matt and Rashad.

Greg believes he inherited his interest in computer science from his father, a systems administrator at AT&T in Raleigh who moved the family here from New Jersey for that job when Greg was nine. Despite having grown up here, attended primary, middle school, high school (Leesville High)

and college in North Carolina, Greg’s speech is accent free. He can’t explain why and says maybe his older sister makes up for it with her very strong, acquired drawl. He has an older brother as well. As the youngest and the only one of the three siblings still at home, he inserts his claim to be “the favorite” into the family profile with a wink.

Asked how he spends his free time, Greg describes something he likes to do at night—gathering his on-line “clan”—or “guild”—to play the on-line computer game “World of Warcraft,” a hugely popular on-line multiplayer role-playing game. He ordinarily plays for about four hours on most Wednesday and Thursday evenings. On a recent Thursday, he gathered 27 clan members who played for a little longer than the usual four hours.

Greg has two suggestions for TFAD residents having trouble with their computers, whatever the system. First, before you call him, try turning the computer off, waiting ten seconds, and turning it back on.



Photo by Bennett

Often the problem is solved just that easily. But, if not, the second suggestion: when you call him, first tell him exactly what it is you’re trying to accomplish on the non-compliant machine.

Asked if we oldsters are generally computer inept, Greg answers, “Not at all! There are all ranges of competence in all age levels. And I get a nice sense of enjoyment when I can help somebody—no matter their skill set—do what they’ve been trying to get done.”

Hear! Hear! ♣

### The Forester

The newsletter of the Residents Association of the Forest at Duke, Inc., 2701 Pickett Rd., Durham, NC 27705-5610. Published monthly except July, August, and September by and for the residents:

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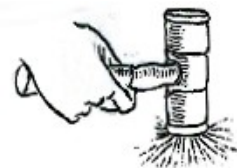
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## President's Podium



by Russell Jones

One of the joys of life at The Forest is meeting new people, plus hearing about their life experiences and exposure to events around the world. March could be a particularly interesting month for that. Early in the month you could go to Forest Speak and learn about “Why the Tension: Ukraine – Russia – USA” from Judith Shannon. At the next Forest Speak later in the month you can learn firsthand about “Storm Clouds on the Western Pacific” from Dennis Blair, who can provide a unique perspective on that part of the world. And don’t forget Bill Harrington’s interview series with Sy Mauskopf on the 18<sup>th</sup> and our very own pizza guy Kenny on the 25<sup>th</sup>. By the way—what is the connection between wrestling and pizza?

While these sessions are great for intellectual enlightenment, don’t forget that thing called your body. Next time you are enjoying a comfortable couch-potato session, get on your computer and search on “benefits of exercise for seniors.” One of the things you will find is from helpguide.org which tells us that “... as you grow older, an active lifestyle becomes more important than ever to your health.” Continuing, “People who exercise tend to have improved immune and digestive functioning, better blood pressure and bone density, and a lower risk of Alzheimer’s disease, diabetes, obesity, heart disease, osteoporosis, and certain cancers.” That is really only part of a long list of the benefits of exercise. You want low impact exercise? Check out the pool classes. Need strength training, mobility, or balance? Check with Sheri on what fits your needs in the gym. Living a long life is one thing. Living a long healthy, active life is something else. Enough, it is time for my walk. ☸

### In Memoriam

Lois Klauder	January 30, 2019
Talmadge Neece	January 31, 2019
Mary Wilkinson	February 6, 2019
Evangeline Tanner	February 7, 2019

## Library Science 101

by Carol Reese

### NATIONAL READING MONTH!

March, a month of cool temperatures and cloudy skies—just the perfect month to be selected National Reading Month. To help celebrate it would be a good time to develop the habit of browsing the “New to the Library” shelves when you come into the Library. You will find them to your immediate left when you enter. Items newly added to the collection (books, DVDs, audio books, etc.) are first featured on the shelves for about two months. This should give everyone plenty of time to see what has been added, and maybe even sign some of the new items out to enjoy.

### BOOK SALE SUCCESS

First, I’d like to thank all those residents who participated in our little book sale on January 25<sup>th</sup>. We made enough to add some monies to our book buying account with some left over for basic supplies.

Especially for our new residents, here is how the Library handles all the generous in-kind donations from residents:

1. The Library’s Acquisitions Committee members check to see if the items are in the collection already. Then, based on the Acquisition Policy (available at the circulation desk) they determine which items fit the collection. The remaining items are then placed on the shelves along the back wall in the Library workroom. Once these shelves are completely filled, we contact the owner of the Durham bookstore, The Letter, and invite him to go through these leftover donations and purchase the items he could use. This way we both win—he gets good-quality used books at low prices and the Library gets funds to buy new books (especially large print books).
2. Once the book buyer has bought what he wants, we then hold our sale for the residents and staff.

These purchases provide the Library with some cash to buy such mundane things as pencils, pens, notepads, etc.

3. However, the donation process doesn’t end there. Another resident volunteer donates her time to go through the remaining books to select, and then deliver, books that might be of interest to clients of Urban Ministries.
4. Finally, the remaining donations are packed in boxes so that our Maintenance staff may deliver them to the Durham County Library for their book sales. Thus, all donations find a use—all items are recycled and find a new life.

### LIBRARY COMPUTER UPDATE

With the support of The Forest’s administration, the Library was able to update its software program from the company, Library Concepts. Previously, the software program was installed on the Library’s main computer. The volunteers had to make sure the data was backed up, program updates downloaded, send the data to the company in Texas for the online search database, etc. Now this program is accessible through the company’s website. We no longer need to maintain the program on our computer; they are responsible for backing up our data and maintaining their software.

Most importantly for you, the online search database (accessible through the RA website) is updated automatically directly from their website. When we add a title to the collection, that information will show up immediately in the online database. Therefore, the residents have better access to the Library’s collection and the volunteers have less to maintain.

A win for us all. ♫



## BOOK REVIEW

***Cry of the Kalahari***  
 by Mark and Delia Owens  
 (Mariner Books/Houghton Mifflin Co. 1984)  
 by Caroline Raby

Fire! The Kalahari Desert savannah was burning with choking smoke reaching thousands of feet in the air. The marauding flames ravaged every blade of grass in its range.

American zoologists Mark and Delia Owens knew they had to prepare to save their meager camp, their rickety Land Rover and themselves from furious flames in Deception Valley, Botswana. They were deeply concerned about the fleeing wildlife. There was also concern that the precious data they'd collected would be consumed by raging flames.

As the fiercely destructive fire spread closer, Mark tied a dead tree to the back of the Land Rover and dragged it around the camp, making a firebreak. The air was full of ash; breathing was quite difficult. Mark wrote: "By midafternoon, driven by the desert winds, the first flame reached the top of East Dune. It paused for a moment, licking at the tall grasses and lower branches of a tree, then leaped quickly to the top, turning the tree into a 30-ft torch....whole trees exploded like flares."

With Mark driving the Rover in an attempt to drag the tree once more, the truck, rope, and the Rover's undercarriage caught fire. There was no water for thousands of square miles except in their canisters.

The furious fire came closer, moving with 30-40 mph winds. The two threw their food and whatever else they could into their Rover. They dragged the tree around the camp again, scraped the earth with shovels, and beat out the cinders.

The above account is from one of the literally breathtaking chapters. The authors should have entitled their book *Survival!* They struggled with months of intense drought, scarce food, sleep deprivation, and seeing animals steal their camp food. Yet, they overcame indescribable extremes.

The zoologists wrote numerous volumes on animal relationships, including lion prides, jackals,



Wikipedia Photo

and the rare brown hyena. When first spotted, the couple didn't even recognize the hyena, and realized there was scant scientific data on the subspecies. With the Land Rover and a flashlight, they would track and detail the numerous carnivores' nocturnal habits and interspecies relationships during the dry season.

Readers might wonder why this couple faced immense life-threatening challenges over seven years, tangling with the environment and the animal kingdom. To provide some insight, the authors offer some lines of a poem:

*Nature is rude and incomprehensible at first,  
 Be not discouraged, keep on, there are divine things  
 Swell envelop'd, I swear to you, there are divine  
 things more beautiful than words can tell.*

—Walt Whitman

I highly recommend this extraordinary story to gain a deeper appreciation of African creatures and two zoologists camping in a most remote area of Botswana to learn more about these fascinating, beautifully captivating animals—some lying or grazing in high grass within yards of their camp. ♣

*Caroline Raby, a retired science writer, is a history buff, a tireless reader, and a frequent reviewer for The Forester.*

## State Representative Mickey Michaux in Pursuit of Racial Equality

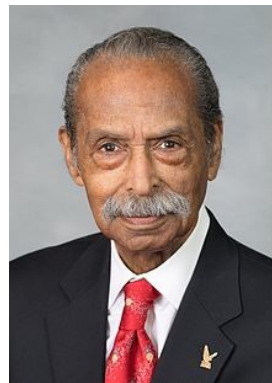
by John Duvall

On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered a speech to a massive rally of civil rights marchers gathered around the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom brought together the nation's most prominent civil rights leaders, along with tens of thousands of citizens, to press the United States government for equality. King's extraordinary "I Have a Dream" speech electrified the nation and, indeed, the world. Standing with King that day was his friend Mickey Michaux of Durham. Michaux, then 33 years old, shared King's dream that someday America would fully realize racial equality.

Residents of The Forest at Duke were privileged to hear remarks by Representative Michaux concerning that day in 1963 at the community-wide celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life on January 23, 2019. King first came to Durham in 1956 at the invitation of the then 26-year-old Michaux. He stayed at the Michaux home, as he did several times in ensuing years, and addressed the Durham Business and Professional Chain, an African-American organization that Mickey chaired. Mickey pointed out that King's home town of Atlanta and Durham shared similar characteristics which sometimes made them competitors. Both cities were banking and insurance centers serving a growing African-American clientele. King knew that Mickey was passionate about equality for America's African-American population. He urged Mickey more than once to go into politics and also to go to law school.

Mickey received his law degree from North Carolina Central University in 1964 and began to run for political office, an often-unrewarding process until he gained a seat in the North Carolina General Assembly in 1973. His drive for political office was motivated by Dr. King's advice but most especially by King's assassination in 1968. He served in the North Carolina House of Representatives for the 31<sup>st</sup> District from 1973 to 1977 and 1983 to 2019. When he was first elected to the House, he was only the third

African-American ever elected to that body. President Jimmy Carter appointed Mickey as the United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina, the first African-American United States Attorney in the South since Reconstruction.



Wikipedia Photo

named in Mickey's honor.

Mickey Michaux retired from the North Carolina General Assembly at the end of 2018, after 43 years in politics. He was highly esteemed by all of his political colleagues. Wayne Goodwin, chair of the State Democratic Party, called Mickey "a giant of Durham and North Carolina politics ... He has worked tirelessly for fifty years to create a forward-looking, inclusive North Carolina where the color of one's skin mattered less than what they believed in their heart."

Like his friend and mentor Martin Luther King, Mickey knows, at the end of a long career, that the fight for racial equality is far from over. Speaking before the North Carolina House at the end of 2018, he noted that "Somehow or another we have morphed from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, forgetting all the progress that was made during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. But now the progress on racial equality won in the 20<sup>th</sup> century seems to be evaporating." Martin Luther King's dream, shared so passionately by Henry McKinley "Mickey" Michaux, is still not fully realized. ¶

*John Duvall spent over thirty years as a historian and museum director for the U.S. Army at Fort Bragg, twenty of those with the 82nd Airborne Division.*

## Welcome New Residents

### Elizabeth Gillis

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egillis@rice.edu



Photo by Carol Carson

Elizabeth Cifers Gillis was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where she attended grade school and high school. In 1964 she graduated with a degree in elementary education from the University of Florida, where she had met Malcolm Gillis on a freshman blind date. They were married in 1962. Elizabeth taught second grade in Champaign, Ill., while Malcolm was in graduate school.

In 1967 they came to Duke where Malcolm taught economics, but in 1969 they headed for Harvard where Malcolm worked at the Institute for International Development for the next fifteen years. They lived in Colombia, Ghana, Bolivia, and Indonesia during those years. Malcolm returned to Duke's Sanford School of Public Policy in 1984 as a professor of economics. He later served as Dean of the Graduate School and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. He closed his career as president of Rice University from 1993 to 2004.

Malcolm and Elizabeth raised three children. Nora Bynum (Duke, '85; Yale PhD '95) lives in Bahama, NC; Heather Salter (Duke, '91; Duke PhD '98) is professor of history at Northeastern University and lives in Ipswich, MA; and Stephen (Guilford College, '95; University of Idaho MA '13 ) also lives in Bahama. Malcolm and Elizabeth were married for 53 years until his death in 2015. She has five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

*(Continued on Page 7)*

### Phil and Ellen Baer

Cottage 22 919-908-6792  
Phil: philbaer.nc@gmail.com  
Ellen: ehbaer.nc@gmail.com



Photo by Carol Carson

Ellen has nurtured a lifelong interest in "all things French." She spent her junior year in Aix-en-Provence and studied in Strasbourg after college. She received a BA in French from Rhodes College in Memphis in 1962, went to Stanford as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow for an MA in French, then later earned an MA in Anthropology from the University of Memphis. She was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1964, she married Phil Baer in Jackson, where their two sons were born: Chris, now a novelist and mental health technician living in Memphis, and Ethan, a park ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park. When the boys were very young, the family lived in Canada and Italy before settling down in Memphis.

Phil comes from Huntington, West Virginia, graduated from Rhodes College where he met Ellen, and received his PhD in physiology at the University of Mississippi Medical School. His career emphasized research in hypertension and drug discovery in several disease areas at Glaxo Smith Kline. Ellen's career was in communications, corporate and otherwise, mainly working at Advanced Energy Corp. in Raleigh.

After retirement, Phil and Ellen moved to rural Person County (north of Durham), where they raised chickens and ducks, did serious gardening, and wrote several collections of personal essays. Their volunteer activities included the Tourism Development

*(Continued on Page 7)*



## TWENTY YEARS AGO IN THE FORESTER

### Earthling's Folly

by Ellen Cheek Dozier

If I had a direct line  
To the Man who lives upstairs,  
I'd request his opinion  
Of our President's affairs.

As He does not make mistakes  
Some human error occurred  
Causing this farce to happen  
Our Nation's high office slurred.

To rebuke an erring child  
Is a matter of debate  
A modern question for sure  
Seldom practiced much of late.

It was not so long ago  
When P.T.A.'s rule was supreme  
Neighbor watchouts were honored  
Obedience was the mean.

It is said what goes around  
Will return to us again,  
Let's hope that morals and truth  
Will become the normal trend.

*Ellen Cheek Dozier (1919–2011) was a Pioneer resident of The Forest, a member of the Forest Singers, a contributor to The Forester, and a prolific writer of verse.*

### Elizabeth Gillis...

*(Continued from Page 6)*

Elizabeth's life vocation has been education. She taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in Illinois and Massachusetts. She was a board member at the Wallip Charter School in Houston. She has also dedicated much of her time to community service. She has served on the boards of the Rice University Library, The Shepherd School of Music at Rice, and The Texas Prevent Blindness Association. She volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House in Durham, served as church secretary, and taught Sunday School. Rice University established the Elizabeth Gillis Award for Exemplary Service in her honor, naming her its first recipient. She received the Gold Medal from the Rice Alumni Association in recognition of "exemplary service and devotion to the Rice University Community." Here at The Forest, Elizabeth intends to pursue reading, travel, and bridge at her leisure. ¶

### Kids Can Cook!



TFAD Executive Chef Alex Brown (in baseball cap) with 7th-grade sous chefs at the Durham Nativity School, a supported program, "It's a great experience to mentor and encourage these kids, to know I am making a difference in their lives." ¶



### Phil and Ellen Baer ...

*(Continued from Page 6)*

Authority and the County Board of Elections (Ellen) and the Mt.Tirzah Fire and Rescue team and the Economic Development Commission (Phil).

Ellen loves to read, continues to write, and is an enthusiastic fan of theater, the American Dance Festival, and OLLI courses. She serves on the vestry and volunteers as parish librarian for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Phil enjoys birding, gardening, cooking, writing, translating Kafka, and going to the theater with Ellen. ¶

## An Evening with Joseph Schildkraut

By John Howell

Many years have passed since I met Joseph Schildkraut, but I still remember the resonant voice, the hint of a German accent, the intense focus on what you said, a concentration born of his years on the stage. Though the distinguished actor had appeared in at least sixty movies and eighty-five television shows, the stage was his “first and last love,” and when I met him, in May 1955, he was, in fact, preparing the last role of his career—Otto Frank, the father in *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

Schildkraut created many indelible characters over the years. He was famous for his villains, including Judas Iscariot in Cecil B. DeMille’s silent movie *The King of Kings* (1927). But his greatest roles were inspired by his Jewish identity, especially his dramatization of anti-Semitism. Early in his career he had won an Academy Award for his supporting role in *The Life of Emile Zola* (1937), playing Captain Alfred Dreyfus—a French Jew wrongly convicted of treason. Now he was planning to dramatize the tragedy of the Holocaust as it was experienced, not just by Anne Frank and her family, but by all Jewish families, including his own.



*Schildkraut as Capt. Dreyfus (ca. 1937)*

I was introduced to Schildkraut by Nanette Bovard, a young actress I had met in a television production class at the University of Southern California. When I learned she had acted with Joseph Schildkraut, I was curious. What was he like? How did he get his start? She knew only that he had been born in Vienna, and that he had performed in German theater and silent films before coming to America in 1921. That he had starred on Broadway in Ferenc Molnar’s *Liliom*, and in D. W. Griffith’s silent movie *Orphans of the Storm*. But when I asked about the impact of the movie on his early career, she didn’t

know. “Come to dinner,” she said, “and ask him yourself.”

So I came to dinner and met Mr. Schildkraut, or “Pepi,” as he asked me to call him. He was happy to talk about his work. But when I quoted a review of *Orphans of the Storm* that praised his performance as the Chevalier de Vaudrey and said he would become a matinee idol, he shook his head.

“That could never happen,” he said. “My father, Rudolph Schildkraut, was famous for his roles in German and Yiddish theater. I was proud of my father. I couldn’t—wouldn’t—change my name and identity to something more ethnically palatable.”

Instead of *Orphans of the Storm*, he wanted to discuss the German translation of Anne Frank’s diary that the “real” Otto Frank had sent him. He was concerned about the tone of the play that Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett had created from the diary.

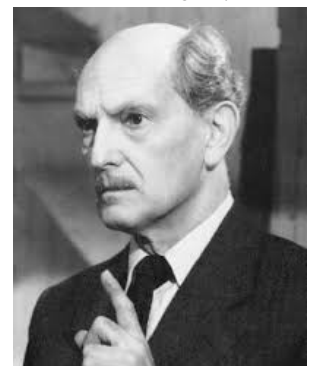
“The Holocaust was an existential tragedy,” he said. “I worry that the play is too dark and claustrophobic for the typical audience. Yes, Kermit Bloomgarden has hired Garson Kanin, a brilliant director. But even that is not going well. Kanin has put off rehearsals until August and the play won’t open until October.”

“Don’t worry, Pepi,” Nanette said. “You’ll be fine.”

“I hope you’re right—but enough angst,” he said, turning to me and smiling: “Have you been to Scandia, John?”



*Schildkraut in 1953*



*Schildkraut made up as Otto Frank (ca. 1955)*



## Schildkraut ...

(Continued from Page 8)

“No, sir,” I said. “I’m looking forward to it.”

“Excellent,” he said. “It’s a fine restaurant.”

And with that, we followed him to a small, strangely antique car with a long engine and silver exhaust manifolds. “It’s a 1937 Cord 812, with a four-speed electric transmission.” He had bought it after winning the Academy Award for *The Life of Emile Zola*. “Captain Dreyfus paid for this car,” he joked. “And I love it—even when it slips out of gear.”

But the gears meshed, and we were soon at Scandia, where Pepi was greeted by the owner and we were surrounded by smiling waiters, who pulled out chairs, shook out napkins, and talked of “specials” and accompanying wines. Dinner included dishes I’d never heard of.... Veal Oscar, Crab with Bearnaise, lingonberry cheesecake. And sometime during dinner, I realized that Pepi and Nanette were probably more than friends.

For me, it was an unforgettable meal, enhanced by Pepi’s stories about the theater and the movies, and I was grateful to be included. But more than a great meal with charming anecdotes, it was a chance to talk to a great actor while he was in the process of creating a character who would live on in the memories of many thousands of people when he toured with the play and appeared in the movie.

And the role had an even greater personal significance for him. As he says in his autobiography, *My Father and I*, “Today I feel there was a definite pattern in the many lives I’ve lived, to the seemingly chaotic years of my artistic struggle and emotional wandering. It was, I believe firmly, not accidental that *The Diary of Anne Frank* became the culmination of my professional life.” ‡



*John Howell was a professor of American Literature and chair of the English Department at Southern Illinois University. This is an excerpt from a memoir in progress.*

## DOGS

by Ned Arnett

I guess it’s true  
That in a natural world  
That’s so often been  
So hostile,  
Somehow we’ve had one friend  
Who’s shared our caves,  
Hunted with us,  
Warned us of predators,  
And given every sign  
Of shared affection  
Through a welcoming bark  
Or a friendly lick.  
Just watch the TV commercials;  
Half of them manage  
To include a dog  
To make you feel comfortable  
So that you’ll welcome their product  
Into your home.

Somehow, way back when,  
We learned to live together.  
Ancestral dogs figured us out.  
Somehow they picked up on  
Our longing for affection,  
And that by joining our pack  
They could be in with some  
Real hunters, some real killers,  
Who could take on  
The biggest and toughest game  
And were glad enough  
To share the meat  
And give away the bones,  
If dogs would join the hunt  
Find the game, corner it,  
And help to bring it down.

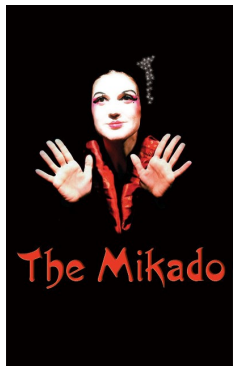
After maybe a million years  
Since we started our  
Partnership together,  
Through thousands  
Of years of selective breeding  
We have almost four hundred  
Clearly recognizable breeds.  
From the biggest to the smallest,  
From the smoothest to the hairiest  
From the friendliest to the fiercest.  
All one interbreedable species,  
Our oldest animal friend.

*Ned Arnett is Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Duke and a frequent contributor to The Forester.*

## THE MIKADO

by George Williams

The Durham Savoyards, Ltd., the long-lasting troupe of supporters and performers of the comic operas of W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, will present *The Mikado, or the Town of Titipu* at the Carolina Theater March 28–31. This operetta is said to be worldwide the most popular one by these two collaborators; it is certainly a favorite here, for this will be the seventh presentation by the group in Durham since The Savoyards' inception 56 years ago in 1963. Their first production of *The Mikado* was in 1965; **Paul Bryan** was music director.



2010 Playbill

The popularity of *The Mikado* has existed from the beginning. At its first showing at the Savoy Theatre in London in 1885 it ran for 672 performances, longer than any other work by this pair. The enthusiastic audience at that first performance had been prepared for several years for the special quality of this collaboration, but *The Mikado's* predecessor, *Princess Ida* (1884), had been a disappointment, “fallen short of expectations.”

The success of this first production—and of subsequent ones—was threefold. The two collaborators had just recovered from a serious spell of anger; they had reconciled and were renewed in spirit to be working together again after a painful separation. That good will is manifest in this joyous joint labor. The second, the location in Japan, was distinctly novel. Japan had been “discovered” by the West in 1884, when Admiral Perry and the American navy had ended Japan's isolation; an exhibition of Japanese art and culture had just opened in London. And third, the setting and the costuming were new and authentically presented.

This year's production will benefit from those same qualities. Though the two directors have not been angry with each other, this is their first collaboration on a full-scale event. The music director will be Jackson Cooper, his first full-scale opera with this troupe, but TFAD residents will remember his exceptionally good work with last year's *Trial By Jury*, which was presented in our auditorium by the

troupe as thanks for the use of the auditorium for their rehearsals here. And the dramatic director will be Derrick Ivey, an old friend. His first show with the Savoyards was the 2003 *Mikado*, and he repeated that success with another *Mikado* in 2010. His first production was strikingly modern; his second was “more traditional;” his third will be “contemporary American.” Who knows? The work of this troupe will, as always, be entertaining. ¶

*George Williams, one of the editors of this monthly, is Emeritus Professor of English at Duke, also a keen supporter and past president of the local G&S Society.*

### IMPRESARIO

#### Richard D'Oyly Carte

Richard Carte (1844–1901) was an English theater owner and hotelier during the latter half of the Victorian era. He believed that wholesome, well-crafted, family-friendly English comic operas could be as popular as the risqué French works dominating the London musical stage in the 1870s. To that end he brought together dramatist W. S. Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan, nurtured their collaboration, and produced thirteen of their fourteen operas. He built the state-of-the-art Savoy Theater to host the operas and founded the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company to play them.

Eight years after opening the Savoy Theatre—the name is borrowed by our local Savoyards—Carte built the Savoy Hotel next to it. Attracting wealthy clients like the Prince of Wales, the Savoy became the meeting place for London high society. The food and ambiance lured people from the clubs. It allowed ladies, hitherto fearful of dining in public, to be seen in full regalia in the Savoy dining and supper rooms. ¶



## CAROL'S CORNER

## REPRINTED BY RESIDENT REQUEST

**John Farrington**

by Carol Oettinger

John was born and raised in Chapel Hill and graduated from Chapel Hill High School. He tried college at Johnson C. Smith in Charlotte, but decided that that was not for him. He then drove a school bus for “special needs kids” for 15 years during the day and at night he started as a dishwasher at Mariakakis Restaurant, where his father worked. He was soon promoted to cook and worked there for 20 years, until the restaurant closed. Someone at the restaurant who was a resident of Carol Woods told him of an opening there. He worked there for ten years as a cook.



Photo by Bennett

A friend told him about a position open at The Forest. He liked the fact that there were so many choices of food at The Forest and came here as a cook in 2016. In two months, the supervisor saw what a “people person” he was and moved him out to the serving line. John is a genuinely nice person. He loves the residents and enjoys the compliments he gets. I was late in finding out that if you don’t find anything



Photo by Bennett

you like in the hot foods section, John will cook you a hamburger or something else you like.

John was married and has a daughter, Shekenta, of whom he is very proud. She has completed undergraduate work at UNC-Greensboro and is working toward a doctorate.

John works out at the gym almost every day and also enjoys bowling weekly. He loves music and has been a DJ at parties. There is a fun video of him doing karaoke, singing “Papa was a Rolling Stone” on Facebook.

I told John that several people wanted a story about him. It certainly is obvious that John is a beloved member of our Forest family. ☸

## HEY, YOU DOWN THERE, IT'S ME

by Don Chesnut

What will remain when we no longer are,  
Where will we find repose?  
Is there some purpose to it all, or,  
As they say, God only knows?

Do we indeed return to sod,  
Back into this world's crust?  
Can one only say “My God,  
Is it just earthly dust that's us?”

Or does something else transcend  
When our life ends, my Friend?  
Is there a better way, you ask,  
To aid the Cosmos in its task?

I think one can take a grander view  
For long ago when died a star  
It was its dust that made us US  
That's what we are!

So though I'd have to travel far,  
I think I'd like to be a star.  
Hey, you folks down there below,  
It's me, it's me, I'm all aglow

I'm up here almost every night,  
So look me up, keep me in sight.  
I'll be up here for all to see,  
It's what's called immortality!

What remains when we no longer are?  
A STAR

*Don Chesnut, a frequent contributor in prose and poetry, is Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at Duke.*



## TFAD's Financial Health at Yearend 2018

by Carol Carson  
Chair, RA Finance Committee

The Finance Committee, as part of its mandate “to monitor and report,” has reviewed information about TFAD’s financial health. This information leads to the conclusions that, as of September 30, 2018, TFAD’s current financial health was sound, that indicators of its financial health compared favorably with those of other CCRCs, and that the long-term prognosis for TFAD was good.

The information used to reach these conclusions, summarized below, is from three diagnostic tools.

**Financial statements.** Three financial statements—a balance sheet, a statement of operations, and a cash flow statement—record an organization’s financial performance and position and show how its financial position changed over time. The audited financial statements for TFAD confirm that fiscal year 2018 was not a year of big change financially; unlike the last several years, there was no debt refinancing, no stream of new cottages being built and then coming on stream with revenue and expense, and no major remodeling. In terms of key balances, the *statement of operations* again showed a positive operating margin. That is, in the core business of providing services to residents, the revenues again more than covered the expenses, providing some flexibility. The *balance sheet* again showed a positive result. A \$2.1 million addition put total net assets at \$9.1 million at the end of September 2018.

**Ratios.** Ratios calculated from values in the financial statements help analyze critical aspects of an organization’s financial health. Furthermore, they facilitate comparison with like organizations. CARF, the CCRC industry’s independent accrediting organization, annually compiles 17 different ratios and presents metrics that facilitate comparisons. First, a broad comparison: almost two-thirds of TFAD’s ratios

for fiscal year 2018—11 of 17—ranked in the top quarter of all accredited CCRCs. Another four ranked in the upper middle quarter.

Four of these ratios are often considered especially useful in assessing an organization’s financial health:

- *Net operating margin ratio*, an indicator of “profitability,”
- *Day’s cash on hand*, an indicator of liquidity,
- *Debt service coverage ratio* and the *unrestricted cash and investments to long-term debt ratio*, indicators of short- and long-term financial viability.

Focusing on these four ratios, TFAD again fares well in comparison. All four were in either the upper middle quarter or top quarter of all accredited CCRCs.

**Actuarial analysis.** Managers of CCRCs and managers of insurance companies are alike in that both must figure out what amount of fees paid in advance (entrance fees and premiums) will be needed to cover the costs of events taking place well into the future. Therefore, it should not be surprising that the CCRC industry, like the insurance industry, draws on the combination of mathematics, probability theory, statistics, and computer science that makes up actuarial analysis. TFAD engages an actuarial consultant who provides, among other things, a measure called the *actuarial funded status*. It is a measure of the extent to which the stream of future fees plus reserves are adequate to cover the stream of future costs of care for current residents. When the measure is 100 percent, future costs are covered; when it is above 100 percent, a buffer exists for contingencies. At 109.6 percent, TFAD’s actuarial funded status for September 30, 2018, was within generally recommended range of 105–110 percent. ¶