

Alice Sharpe The Forest at Duke Board of Directors' Chair by Shannon Purves

Alice Sharpe, who will step down as Chair of the Forest at Duke's Board of Directors in October, is a proud native of Durham who has long participated as a member of many other local community-focused boards. These include The Junior League of Durham and Orange Counties (on which she had a term as President), the Durham County Library (where she was the Development Officer and liaison to the Durham Library Foundation), Downtown Durham, Inc. (on which she also had a term as President), Durham Central Park (another Presidency), and Durham Convention Center Authority. And, before being named the Economic Development Coordinator for the City, she served as Downtown Coordinator for Durham.



And that's only a partial list!

Born in 1949 to Rosalie, a nurse, and Raymond, a small business owner, Alice is the eldest of three siblings. She attended Durham public schools and Duke University, from which she graduated in 1971 with a degree in Psychology. Immediately after graduation, led by her penchant for adventure, she embarked on an 18-year-long see-the-USA, living and working in State College PA, Winston-Salem, Newport News, New Orleans, Tampa, Cleveland, Tampa again, Atlanta, New Port Richey/Tampa and Orlando. It was Orlando's all-summer climate that made her realize how much she was missing Durham's more seasonal weather and, even more so, how much she was missing her family, most of whom were in Durham. So she moved home in 1989 and has been here—very, very happily—ever since.

Alice has, in addition to her volunteer work, worked hard professionally—for 13 years with a major

retailer, later forming and operating her own events planning company, and now as a real estate broker. She's always cherished time spent with her family, especially with her brothers, Raymond, Jr., and Michael. And now that the pandemic is easing up, she is looking forward to seeing lots of them once again. She's lived in a number of places in town, including the "Bull Durham House" (for one year). In 2006, she bought the downtown Durham condo she lives in now. From its roof garden (where many of the plants are hers) she greatly enjoys looking out at her beloved hometown from all directions.



As she does that, she points out the many changes and improvements that have taken place in Durham in recent decades. And she notes the widening range of nonprofits that strive to continue meeting Durham's challenges. In an article written for the 2016 City of Durham Citizens' Financial Report, Alice remembers how she involved herself: "... one visit to the Volunteer Center of Durham (now the Triangle Nonprofit and Volunteer Leadership Center) quickly filled that void of 'what can I do and how can I help?' One volunteer opportunity will lead to another, I promise."

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The Forester

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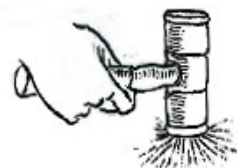
Columnists

Lois Oliver

Carol Oettinger

Carol Reese

President's Podium



by Lois Oliver

Those of us who were here a while before the pandemic remember our twice-a-year celebration for TFAD employees. These were fun with music and dance, and good snacks and drinks. They were held at the time the Employee Appreciation Fund bonuses went to the staff. All of us appreciate the work of the employees we know, as housekeepers, dining personnel, and maintenance providers, whom we see often or run into in the halls. But The Forest has employees we don't see, or see only rarely. Those who work in the laundry, empty our trash, look out for our safety, and others who make our lives comfortable.

Next month we will be asked to contribute to the Employee Appreciation Fund, and all but a few of us usually do, at the calculated amounts suggested on the request. But this year when life has been difficult for all of us, including the staff, there are soon to be fewer residents because of the loss of the residents of 14 cottages. I think we should all think about adding something extra, both to make up for the loss of numbers, and for the added burdens the staff has cheerfully taken on. These funds go only to the employees, not to the top administrators. So, when your taxes are all done and Spring is in full form, be generous. 🌱

This Issue ...

The front-page article highlights Alice Sharpe, current Chair of the Board of Directors of The Forest, our official governing body. Brief biographies of the other members of our Board are at the website <http://www.forestduke.org/board-of-directors/>.

This issue of eight pages is shorter than recent dozen-page issues, perhaps reflecting COVID-19 fatigue among you, our authors. *The Forester* is a vehicle principally for the writings of the residents. Its purpose is to inform and entertain; it is not a "gripe sheet" nor a vehicle for promoting particular religious or political views. It is also a resource for preserving our history. We welcome your contributions. 🌱

In Memoriam

Eugene Moriarty

February 27, 2021

Louise Chut

March 14, 2021

Library Science 101

by Carol Reese

BANNED OR CHALLENGED BOOKS EXHIBIT

Since before this country was a country, people have been trying to control what others think by trying to ban one book or another. For example, the *New English Canaan*, published in 1637, presented a harsh and heretical critique of Puritan customs and power structures that went far beyond what most New English settlers could accept. So they banned it. Most likely that made it the first officially banned book in the New World. As long as books have been printed, there have been individuals and/or groups challenging the ideas presented. In this country, the American Library Association, working with other library groups, has fought for the right of a free press and for the freedom of speech. That is why they keep track of books that have either been banned or challenged in various communities around the country over the years. For more information on the different books that have been banned, and why, go to the *American Library Association's Banned Book FAQ* (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/banned-books-qa>)



By putting together this small exhibit on **BANNED OR CHALLENGED BOOKS** (available through April), your Library wishes to stand up for the right to read and to think. As you browse the cart holding the exhibit, you will see many classics such as Hemingway's *The Sun also Rises*, Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and Warren's *All the King's Men*. When making your selection, keep in mind that somewhere in this world some people do not have the freedom to make their own selection because others have limited their choices "for their own good." Then remember what the former Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas wrote in *The One Un-American Act* (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/one-un-american-act>), "Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us."

OASIS (Older Adult & Shut-In Service)

The County Library has restarted this service to the CCRCs in the area. At this time they plan to drop off a collection of books (regular and large print) the first Monday of the month. TFAD resident Cathrine Stickel has volunteered to put these books out on two tables in the Library every **Thursday from 2:00–4:00 pm** for selection by residents. **You do not need a County Library card to take these books out.** If you wish to request a specific title from their collection, contact Cathrine (cathrinestickel@yahoo.com) and she will pass on your request to the County librarians. They will try to include it in their monthly delivery as soon as possible.

LIBRARY HOW TO's:

1. HOW TO RESERVE A BOOK THAT'S CHARGED OUT

If you want to make sure you are the next person to get a specific book, just leave a note on the Circulation Desk that you want the book next. The note should include your name, telephone number, the book's title, and, if possible, the book's author. You can also email the same information to me (reese.carol911@yahoo.com) and the book will be reserved for you.

2. HOW TO RENEW AN OVERDUE BOOK

If you receive an Overdue Notice for an item but you wish to keep it longer, indicate on the Overdue Notice which item(s) you want renewed and then leave the Notice on the Circulation Desk. You can also request that something be renewed via an email to me (reese.carol911@yahoo.com)—be sure to include the item's title and author. ♻️

Tech-Savvy Foresters Combat COVID Fatigue

A series stimulated by Phil Baer's observation that the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic provided newly found "free time" for doing things long delayed or crowded out by the busyness of life.



Visiting Friends and Family by Kay Nelson

Five months ago I had never heard of Zoom! Now I use Zoom almost every day and many days I use it multiple times. What a great way to communicate with friends and family during this time of self-isolation and social distancing!

Zoom has the advantages of being very user friendly and of enabling us to see and visit with several people at once. We attend Zoom aerobics classes and Zoom balance classes three times a week, we attend meetings of organizations we belong to, and we visit with our siblings and their spouses every Saturday and with some friends every Thursday. Through Zoom I attended the four-day national annual meeting of an organization in Washington DC from the comfort of my recliner in my living room without having to travel there and rent a hotel room. Ralph has attended the commemorations of Revolutionary War battles in several states.

Zoom has revolutionized communication for everyone. What a wonderful way to keep families and friends close and for business people to conduct meetings. Even after this pandemic has finally been stopped, I hope we will continue to use this wonderful way to communicate. Perhaps, like "google," "zoom" will become a new word in our vocabulary. ¶



Sharing Information with Other People by Ralph Nelson

East-Coast Trail Signs

In 2000–2004 I helped create the National Washington–Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association that supports, interprets, and preserves the Washington–Rochambeau National Historic Trail (WARO) commemorating the allied French and Continental armies during the American War of Independence, and the hundreds of miles they travelled in 1781 and 1782 to and from the victorious Siege of Yorktown. See <w3r-us.org>. Its mission is to increase public recognition and appreciation of French assistance to the fledgling United States during the Revolutionary War (1775–1784) by developing signage and commemorations along the 680-mile route from Newport RI to Yorktown VA.

In 2009 the U.S. Congress designated this a National Historic Trail. In 2020 I volunteered to compile a database of the signs along that route. From several databases I extracted sign type, street location, photograph, latitude, and longitude for 450 signs in nine states. I put the coordinates into Keyhole Markup Language (KML) files for display using GoogleEarth™. This information will be used to determine where we need new signs.

Escaping Isolation

I like to develop websites that share useful information. We have a good Residents' Association website at TFAD, but some topics of interest to me are not covered (exercising, writing, musical accompaniment for tenors, etc.), so in 2019 I created the personal walter site at <MYLOMD.org/walter/> with topics of this kind.

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Hey, What About You, Dear Reader?

How did COVID-19 affect your life—your daily routines, your special plans, your priorities, and even, perhaps, your health? Did it cramp your lifestyle, or did you find more opportunities or new areas of discovery or service? Whether for good or ill, please share your experiences with us in *The Forester*.

Combating COVID Fatigue ...



Sharing Information ...

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The pandemic and consequent social distancing greatly reduced the amount of cultural enrichment and social interaction that we normally have, so in March 2020 I added several new topic areas to the site: “Roaming the World from Your Room” and “COVID-19” with information from reputable sites. Residents who have web browsers can access the walter site and find links to several major sources of entertainment (YouTube, Ted Talks), information (Wikipedia), and literature (Project Gutenberg, Internet Archive, Google Books), etc. As new resources are found (such as the bear on the home page), I shall add them.

Estimating the Spread of COVID-19

In February and March of 2020 I watched newscasters explain how social distancing would “flatten the curve” to prevent surges in hospital admissions that could exhaust supplies of ventilators and leave people to die without the breathing support they needed. I wanted to see how the curve changed as the assumptions changed, how rapidly the virus spread, what fraction of the population recovered without requiring hospitalization, what fraction of hospitalized people died even if ventilated, and how many ventilators might be required. I found on the web a simple model for the spread of an epidemic, wrote a BASIC computer program for a three-stage disease (symptom-free, mild-symptomatic, and severe-hospitalized). This program gave results that paralleled what was reported on TV. To share the results, I posted the results on the walter site. See <MYLOMD.org/walter/> and “COVID-19,” for “Modeling the Timeline of an Epidemic.” I might extend the model for “Second Wave” calculations. ¶



Helping Battered Businesses

by Tom Small

During the pandemic and the resulting economic crisis, business bankruptcies have increased substantially. Although I retired from the bankruptcy bench several years ago, I’ve enjoyed working these past months with Congressional staffers to develop and draft the bankruptcy-related provisions of the CARES Act (enacted in March 2020) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (enacted in December).

Also, from my makeshift broadcast studio in cottage #27, I taught eight educational programs about small-business bankruptcy reorganization. The programs ranged from basic to advanced and aired nationwide. They were sponsored by Wake Forest University School of Law, Thomson Reuters, the Federal Judicial Center, the American College of Bankruptcy, and SCORE. Some programs were pre-recorded, and some were live. Viewers included bankruptcy judges, attorneys, accountants, and retired business executives who volunteer to assist small businesses.

A couple of times, TFAD landscapers cheerfully moved to other locations to accommodate my requests for quiet. But a few brief sounds of mowing and blowing were included in a broadcast or two—a fitting background of a small business at work. ¶

Virus Images

The illustration above of virus in mucous was created by editor Jo Mooney from descriptions provided by the CDC online. COVID virus sizes (20–500 nm) are too small for features to be resolved in optical microscopes, but they can be “seen” in electron microscopes. Color is added arbitrarily to identify features in the latter images.

Welcome New Residents

Beth S. Timson

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The Forest at Duke welcomes new resident Beth S. Timson. Beth is, however, no newcomer to North Carolina, having been born and having received most of her early education in Charlotte. Nor is she a newcomer to Durham, having earned her BA from Duke (as an English major) in 1969. Those were heady days at Duke, as the University emerged from a rather sleepier phase in which maids cleaned student rooms every day to a time of student activism amid America's engagement in Vietnam and the integration of schools. Beth went on to Vanderbilt University, where she received her MA and then PhD degrees (1980), with a dissertation on structural patterns in modern British and American novels. (She confesses that she now prefers reading those by E. M. Forster and Anthony Trollope.) From 1970 to 1988, Beth taught English at UNC-Charlotte and at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, which had been founded in 1980 in Durham. She reports that her time as a teenager at the NC Governor's School had inspired her decision to make the latter move: she had seen firsthand how such schools helped talented young persons, often from small communities, receive a first-class education.

In the 1990s, her career took a different turn: Beth enrolled at NC State University in Landscape

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Diane Strauss

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A native of Milwaukee, Diane Strauss attended schools in that city before enrolling at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. After trying out several undergraduate majors, she settled on English. Undecided on a career, Diane took a battery of vocational interest tests that pointed her in the direction of library science. She took a few elective courses in the subject and "got hooked," earning her MS degree at the School of Information and Library Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. There, she developed special interests in book selection and in issues of book censorship.

A newly minted librarian in the era of the civil rights movement, Diane's first position found her in Baltimore, where she became a young adult librarian at the Enoch Pratt Free Library. From there, she returned to Madison to work on a project sponsored by the University of Wisconsin and the American Library Association to identify and develop reading materials for functionally illiterate adults. Following other positions in public and government libraries, Diane spent the last 30 years before her retirement as an academic librarian at UNC-Chapel Hill. She began in the University Library's Business and Social Sciences Reference Department. Her growing expertise in business and finance led to the development of

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New Residents ...

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Diane Strauss...

workshops for librarians across the state, to 10 years of creating and teaching a similar class in UNC's School of Information and Library Science, and to publication of her *Handbook of Business Information; A Guide for Librarians, Students, and Researchers*, now in its 3rd edition. Strauss retired as the campus' Associate University Librarian for Collection Development and Public Services.

As in other professions, technology has dramatically changed libraries and librarians and the services they provide. In the early seventies, Diane remembers, librarians began working with students and faculty to construct computer-based search strategies to support their research. The first searches were batch-submitted to the campus computing center. After considerable lobbying, her department was given a computer terminal on the condition that it be kept in the janitors' closet, amidst mops, brooms, a large sink, and dustbins!

After retiring in 2010, Diane volunteered to proofread for (and became contributing editor to) *Carolina Woman*, the newspaper that some at The Forest will remember picking up at the supermarket—until it ceased print publication in 2020. She has taken several courses in creative writing and has contemplated taking a second improvisation class. She has a keen interest in film, drama, and music, and is seldom without something to read. Diane also enjoys collecting art (albeit “nothing grand”). She and her Havanese dog, Levi (Strauss) are now settling into the Forest at Duke. Please welcome her! ☸

Beth Timson ...

Architecture, receiving an MLA degree in 1995. In the years following, she worked on environmental planning with the City of Durham and in the Parks and Recreation division. She was a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the American Institute of Certified Planners. She has written many academic and professional journal articles.

Beth now teaches poetry classes for OLLI and at Peer Learning in Chapel Hill. She serves as a Board member for OLLI. Beth reports that she would love to continue teaching poetry in some capacity. ☸

Alice Sharpe ...

(Continued from page 1)

Certainly, in her case, truer words were never spoken.

Alice Sharpe's many volunteer opportunities and connections led her to our Big Board (along with the added connection of former Director and Chair, David Pottenger) 13 years ago. We are very fortunate that we will have her for one more year, as Chair Emerita.

We have more to thank Alice Sharpe for than we'll probably ever know! ☸



Alice enjoying a pleasant afternoon overlooking downtown Durham from the roof garden of her condo. The downtown address permits easy access to the amenities of the increasingly attractive city.

Celebrating the Earth with Poems

by Ellen Baer

Every day was Earth Day for poet Mary Oliver, who had a lifelong passion for taking long walks in the wild and celebrating them with words. When she died in January 2019, she was described by the *Washington Post* as “America’s most beloved poet.” She had published poems inspired by the natural world since her first book in 1963 when she was 28, and she continued until her last book in 2015 when she was 80. But the last book was not the last because she climaxed her career with a collection of her poems that she herself selected and arranged for a new volume called *Devotions: Selected Poems of Mary Oliver*. It’s a large and lovely book that makes me want to pick it up and open it anywhere. When I do, I’m sure to find a poem that lifts my spirit with its truth and beauty and connects me to the whole world through a tree, a bird, a pond, or a shaft of light.

When *Devotions* was published in 2017, a reviewer in the *New Yorker* noted that it’s not necessary to take a seminar to understand Mary Oliver’s poetry because “she’s speaking directly to you as a human being.” In an interview on NPR a few years earlier, Oliver herself had said, “Poetry, to be understood, must be clear. It mustn’t be fancy. I have the feeling that a lot of poets writing now—they sort of tap dance through it.”

There’s no tap dancing here. This may be why Mary Oliver is not only critically acclaimed, having won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for Poetry, but also immensely popular. Oprah chose *Devotions* as one of the “Books That Help Me Through.” Oliver was also beloved by other poets, with U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith paying tribute in the *Post* article mentioned above: “Mary Oliver’s poems, which pay a deep, awe-struck attention to the worlds of animals and nature, are filled with quiet revelations about who we are and what we belong to.” In the same article, poet Billy Collins told the story of being with Oliver at a public reading when several fans approached her to get their books signed—and the fans burst into tears. He said, “It was quite amazing and quite moving to

see that poetry can strike at the heart at that depth. She was more than a poet to a lot of people. She was a spiritual companion and someone to lean on.”

Once she mused (in a poem, of course): *If I have any lasting worth, it will be because I have tried to make people remember what the Earth is meant to look like.* A worthy goal, indeed, and one to be grateful for, especially on this Earth Day in this place where we live that was named for a forest. ♣

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, “Stay awhile.”
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, “It’s simple,” they say,
“and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine.”

— Mary Oliver, 2006

