

What is it About Owls?

by Carolyn Cone Weaver and Vivian and David Kraines

What is it about owls? You might not know they're common outside The Forest at Duke. In fact, I saw a young barred owl on a neighbor's balcony last summer. But there's one owl, right here *inside* TFAD, that mesmerizes me with his hollow, hypnotic eyes. (Let's call him Hall Owl.)

Before Hall Owl came to TFAD with **Vivian and David Kraines**, the wall outside apartment 3003 was blank, invisible to me whenever I walked by. Then one day there he was, flanked by classic, Chinese hanging scrolls embellished with mountains, forests, and waterfalls. Now, this steely creature greets me every day: *Whoooo are you?* he asks. Better yet, I say, *Whoooo are you?*



I had to find out about that seductive, metallic bird of prey and about the lustrous silver and black scrolls on either side. Surely Vivian and David Kraines are responsible for the elegant display, but where did they find these treasures? They graciously agreed to enlighten me, and I realized that there was more to this story than one owl and two scrolls.

Did you know that an owl is considered a Guardian of Knowledge? And a group of owls is called a Parliament? I didn't, until a parliament of forty owls greeted me when I visited the Kraineses. These forty owls were originally members of the couple's parliament of about seventy-five.

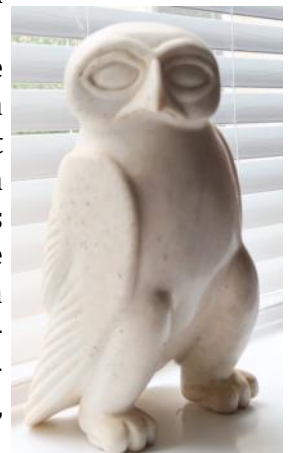
The Kraines's collection is, in a way, a story of their lives together. They met in class in Berkeley, married a few years later, and received their doctorates in math. They've lived in Cambridge, Philadelphia, and Denmark before moving to Durham in 1971. Since then, they've spent sabbati-

cal terms at universities in the United States and Canada and traveled extensively, collecting owl figurines along the way.

Vivian and David's apartment is a comfortable home gallery. The art arranged in their living/dining area spans the globe and includes a range of styles and media. Paintings and family photographs grace the walls, and figurines from around the world enhance the teak and rosewood cabinets. Incredibly intricate ivory carvings, which would be impossible to acquire today, stand in a display case. And those forty owls? Ranging in size between a teeny half-inch jade owlet to seven inches tall, they've taken up residence across the room.

The couple doesn't remember which of their parliament of seventy-five owls was the first, but they do remember they bought it on a trip to Vancouver BC, in the late 1990s. Vivian says she "identifies" with owls. "It's their eyes" that captivate her, and ever since, whether on their sabbaticals or vacations, owls have tempted the Kraineses into adding more to their parliament. "Almost everywhere we go," Vivian says, "we can find owls." The couple emphasizes their collection was not planned. Rather, the items are objects they considered "unusual" as well as happy reminders of the places they've visited and lived.

While sitting in the Kraines's living room I felt an eerie presence eyeing me. It had to be owl eyes, fixing me in their inscrutable gaze, and this tough-looking bird, a white stone owl, measuring fourteen inches tall, was carved by acclaimed Inuit artist, Lukta Qiat-suk. The couple acquired it,



(Continued on [Page 3](#))

The Forester

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

Lisa Camel, *Managing Editor*

Beth Timson, *Copy Editor*

Dave Sloan, *Layout Editor*

Linda Cushman & Louise Scribner,

New-Resident Biographers

Elodie Bentley & Ken Parker, *Proofreaders*

Richard Eelman and Stephen Koff,

Photographers

Catherine & Sanford Berg, *Couriers*

Authors, please send submissions to

Forestermanager@iCloud.com

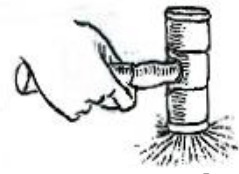
For pictures documenting activities during TFAD's summer months, see the online issue of *The Forester* (<https://theforester.net>).



In Memoriam

Musia Lakin	June 10, 2025
Mary Ann Morris	June 30, 2025
Richard "Bert" Alexander	August 1, 2025
Clinton Hewitt	August 1, 2025
Ann Inderbitzin	August 9, 2025
Lois Fussell	
Dr. Jack Hughes	August 21, 2025
June Whitaker	August 26, 2025
Paul McBride	August 27, 2025
Scott Hughes	August 28, 2025
Virginia "Ginny" Mullinix	September 7, 2025
Audrey Fedyszyn	
Jakubowski Lazarus	September 8, 2025
Lila Singer	September 17, 2025

President's Podium



by James Freedman

Here it is October, and summer is already behind us. Fortunately, at our age it's not back-to-school time. I hope you all have had a pleasant summer, whether it was here at The Forest, on a long-desired trip to complete your bucket list, or just a return to a treasured vacation/relaxation spot.

Temperatures were well above normal averages for most of the summer, and activities here at The Forest were also "hot." There has been a lot happening since the last publication of *The Forester* in June. Consider the following:

- A posting of Resident Association activities monthly, occurring by the end of the week of the third Monday of the month, on both Cubigo and the RA website to provide rapid access to important issues the association is monitoring for residents;
- A very active calendar presented to us by Community Services;
- The early move-in of The Terraces "Champions" to test the moving protocols in mid-September;
- The ribbon-cutting ceremony opening Level 2 of The Terraces to all residents occurred on Thursday, September 4;
- Two separate Coffee and Communications were held in September by Nathan Summers on the General Services and Dining plans to respond to the increase in the population. Similarly, April Ravelli held a C & C to answer resident issues/questions on the impact of The Terraces opening. I hope you had an opportunity to attend those sessions. I went to all three and felt Nathan and April did a great job in holding an open and informative session;
- The 2026 budget was released by the TFAD administration, announcing a 4.3% increase in fees for the coming year—an outstanding job in holding costs under control with food price inflation and the need to pay our service employ-

(Continued on [Page 4](#))

Owls

(Continued from [Page 1](#))

along with Inuit prints, in Canada.

Vivian was born in Shanghai. When she was nine years old her family moved to Taiwan and then to Hong Kong, before settling in the United States. Her family now owns a gift shop/gallery in Paramus, NJ where the Kraineses acquired the exquisite and extremely rare ivory figurines in their collection.

In 1990, Vivian and David were invited to demonstrate the then-new personal computers at a university in Shanghai. On that three-week trip, they toured Beijing, Hangzhou, Guilin, and Hong Kong, where they acquired some of the tapestries, hangings, scrolls, and ivory carvings that are now in their apartment.

The collection also includes gifts from David's family. His mother gave them the painting of a black horse that seems to gallop out of its white background, and the spindly Don Quixote with the short and tubby Sancho Panza at his side were given by his father.

Their son Steve, who has one daughter, lives in Tokyo, and son Tom, who has two daughters, lives in Philadelphia. Because it's difficult for all the family to



have reunions in Durham, they compromised over the years by gathering, as David says, "halfway" in California or Hawaii.

Vivian and David have also collected works here at home. For years, they attended the annual Durham Art Fair where they've found some of their favorites, including a lovely painting by Durham artist Diane Rodwell. My friend Hall Owl was also created here in Durham, sculpted of anodized aluminum by local artisans of Vega Metals.

By the time the Kraineses were ready to move to The Forest



in January 2024, their collection required major downsizing. Their sons' families now have many of the smaller pieces. Granddaughters shared about a dozen members of the parliament, and a daughter-in-law has several of the largest paintings. The Kraineses donated or sold the rest of the collection, keeping the extra-special ones to take up residence with them here at TFAD. "Having our art here makes us feel more at home," Vivian says. David adds, "We wanted to take something home to remember our experiences, lest we forget."

Now, every time they walk to their new home *Whooo* greets them, as well as anyone lucky enough to be passing by. It's that inscrutable Guardian of Knowledge, Hall Owl. 🦉



Ducks on Bridge
(photo by Ellen Baer)



President's Podium

(Continued from [Page 2](#))

ees a living wage providing the cost pressures. Anita Holt held an Executive Update on September 10 to provide information on the process;

- The Health Center was formally recognized as The Cohen Center for Health on Friday, September 19. Comments on this were provided in the last Podium report;
- Official move-in of 68 of the total 71 Terraces units is starting early this month and will continue into November, commencing with the 5th floor and working down to the 2nd, with two units per day for six days a week, until all move-ins are completed. The Marketing Committee has worked closely with Marketing and Sales to provide mentoring services, information about neighbors, and pertinent facts about The Forest and Durham to assist new residents in their ability to enjoy the many services and advantages of The Forest.

This brings us to this month. The Resident Association Membership Meeting will occur on Monday, October 20. At that meeting five existing positions will be vacated on the RA Board, and candidates will be presented for approval. A nominating committee was put in place in June to assure at least one qualified candidate per position. This has been completed, and five outstanding candidates will be presented. I would like to remind you that the committee was established to insure one candidate per open position. This does not mean it is a "fait accompli." Individuals themselves can still request that they be considered for a position and will be presented (or already have been) with the opportunity to place their name on the ballot. I encourage all residents to attend that Oct 20 meeting. 🌿

Bluegrass Party, August 15

Watch band play:



Born to Care for Seniors

by Elinor and Jay Williams

During all three of her jobs at TFAD, **Ajia Rutherford** is always helpful and warm. She joined the Dining Staff in February, 2023. She then added hours as a Companion in the Forest at Home program. Most recently, she joined the Community Life staff.

Ajia is a Durham native, and most of her large, extended maternal family lives in Durham. She graduated from

Hillside High School in 2019 and began at Winston-Salem State University as a Nursing major. Unfortunately, the pandemic interrupted her education there. She transferred to North Carolina Central University where she switched her major to Social Work at the encouragement of a cousin who is a social worker. Ajia graduated this past fall with a BSW. She is about to begin an online MSW program through Walden University with advanced standing that will allow her to graduate in one year while continuing to work at TFAD.

Working with seniors was a natural choice for Ajia. She is close to her grandmother and great-grandmother, both of whom live in Durham. She especially enjoyed learning to cook from them and spending time together in the kitchen. She and her family have been active in the Ambassador Cathedral Church in East Durham and the Woodrow Moorman Senior Center, established by the Church in honor of Ajia's great-grandfather.

Ajia is the oldest of five siblings, with the youngest being only three years old. She has her own home that she shares with her Shih Tzu. In her free time, she enjoys cooking and shopping, especially for clothes. 🌿



Our TFAD Library: An Open Book (and More!)

by Diane Strauss

As October begins, summer vacations are just a memory, committee meetings have resumed, and folks have moved—or are about to move—into their new digs in The Terraces, while those already here are beginning to learn their way around that addition to our campus. It's TFAD's version of a new school year—new faces, new things to experience, and new things to learn. As incoming librarian, I feel very much like the new kid on the block, making the transition from working in large and well-staffed academic, public, and government libraries to one that to me is unique. It's completely run by dedicated volunteers, features collections consisting primarily of resident donations, and is open 24/7. Perfect for insomniacs!

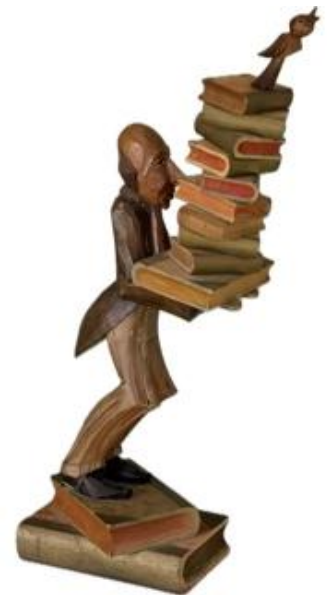
One of my responsibilities is contributing a monthly column to *The Forester*. I'm hoping that it will inform, entertain, and lure you to the library. If you're a book person, know that we have a collection of some 4,500 titles, arranged by broad categories: Fiction, Mysteries, Large Print, Biographies, Nonfiction and Nonprint. In addition, there are special collections that include resident biographies and resident-authored books. If you're a news hound, drop in to peruse the current day's edition of *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Raleigh News and Observer*, or the *Durham Herald Sun*; settle into one of our comfortable easy chairs, and savor any covered beverage you bring in. Behind and left of the Circulation Desk are racks containing circulating DVDs and CDs.

If you're a puzzler, look no further. (While verifying that "puzzler" is indeed a word, I came across a more impressive synonym: "dissectologist"). As most TFAD dissectionists will agree, we have puzzles aplenty but will gladly make room for more. Two of the tables in the back frequently are covered by puzzles of varying size and difficulty. People work singly or in groups—whatever your preference, it's a great way to meet and get to know interesting people. Like most things in the library, puzzles also circulate.

A BUCK A BOOK

Our budget for purchasing collection additions is modest. Twice a year, we supplement it by holding a sale of donated items that are duplicates, don't fit our collection, or are otherwise deemed sellable. For just one dollar, you can buy a book, puzzle, or almost anything else, while CDs and DVDs are available for fifty cents.

Good news! On Wednesday, October 15, we'll be holding our first sale of the year in a new place and a different time than in the past. We'll have tables in the Community Center Lobby and be open for business from 11:00-2:00. We're hoping this new arrangement will attract folks going to or coming from lunch and won't interfere with other appointments. Cash only. Checks and credit cards are unacceptable, and our petty cash on hand isn't sufficient to make change for big bills.



MEET ENOCH

I decided to add a logo to this column and settled on Enoch, the image above. Enoch was a gift to me from my late brother, to celebrate my becoming a librarian decades ago. Although its origin is German, I decided to name him Enoch not only because he looks like an Enoch but also because my first post-graduation job was at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. I hope you like him.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Future library columns in *The Forester* will include how-to information, descriptions of recent acquisitions, solicitations for additional volunteers, news of special exhibits, and pleas for suggestions, complaints, compliments, and ideas. It is *your* library! ♪

Welcome New Residents

Dr. William (Bill) D. and Anne Bradford
Apt. 2037 919 489-4937

Welcome to Bill and Anne, who have joined many friends from the Duke community here at The Forest since early in the summer. As distinguished members of the Hope Valley area, the Bradfords and their elegant home were recently written up in *Stroll Hope Valley*, a magazine of much interest to not only their neighborhood but also the Durham community at large and The Forest.



This summer Bill will have been with Duke Medical School for 60 years. A native of Rochester NY, he attended Deerfield Academy in Deerfield MA, and Amherst College from 1950 to 1954, majoring in chemistry and biology. His college interests included research in developmental biology, basketball, and lacrosse. His life's vocation has been medicine—pediatric pathology.

Bill's tenure at Duke Medical School included serving as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education as well as Professor of Pathology. He has served as President of the Society for Pediatric Pathology and President of the Duke University Medical Alumni Association and has produced over one hundred written and published abstracts and scientific publications. He has also served as Faculty Chair of Athletics for the University and as President of the ACC. He was an elected member of the NCAA Council as well. He has served

Judith A. Modell (Judi)
Apt. 2033 410 830-0688
jamodell@yahoo.com

A warm welcome to Judi, who moved from Baltimore to The Forest in June. She hails from Cleveland, attended Cleveland State University and received a BBA in Business Administration. After graduation she married Don, her college boyfriend. Judi taught business courses in a Columbus OH high school while her husband finished his undergraduate work in Chemical Engineering. After they moved, she taught in a public technical high school in Painesville OH.

Judi and Don had three children: Heather, who lives in West Virginia, Christopher in Maryland, and Kendra here in Durham, and two



grandchildren. Judi and Don also lived in Charleston WV, New Orleans, Albany NY, and then made their final move to Baltimore. In Maryland she worked for the Baltimore County Public Schools doing administrative work. Judi became a widow in 2008.

Judi is enjoying the friendliness of The Forest and making new friends here. She enjoys swimming, walking, reading (especially mysteries), travelling and spending time with her family, most importantly watching her young granddaughter grow up. She enjoyed an adventurous "girls' trip" with her daughter and granddaughter to Wyoming in June of this year, where they visited Jackson Hole and Yellowstone.

Judi has already joined TFAD classes in jewelry repair, flower arrangement, line dancing, and dance exercise, and looks forward to attending concerts and going to area performances. ♪

(Continued on [Page 8](#))

The Talk

by Joan Seiffert

The “talk” is a prominent subject in family life. It can mean many things, though most lately I associate it with the necessary family messages that parents present to their teenagers about safety precautions of all sorts: alcohol, drugs, smoking, driving or walking while Black, crossing the street, and, maybe of late, contraception.

For me it had something to do with dishwashing.

We did the dishes together every night after dinner at my house, in the kitchen at the sink with a dish pan of soapy water, and family members filling the various roles for the project: washing, rinsing, drying, putting away, scrubbing the various pots and pans at the end of the job. I was drying this night, as I was considered too young at seven to handle slippery dishes without a dish towel, even though we didn’t have “the good china.” We had an assortment of jelly glasses and mismatched and chipped plates, bowls, cups and saucers, and the sharp and dangerous large grey carving knife, which I feared.

There were four of us. My older brother and I used to talk of our longing for a machine that would wash the dishes for us. But then, we would have missed what happened when one night I asked some kind of question that launched my father into a full-fledged, detailed answer explaining not the gentle metaphorical birds and bees story of mammalian reproduction—and not putting me off by saying “talk to your mother about this”—but sexual intercourse..

The assembly line of dirty dishes did not stop, and neither did my father. He used “real” words. It became clear to me that sex was a very good thing, the way he explained it, and could result in a baby. It could be enjoyable. That event did not include any precautions, rules, or warnings. He just answered the question. Rules and warnings just weren’t a big deal in my house.

Now, my father was an Episcopal priest, educated at ETS (the Episcopal Theological School) which was then at Harvard. He had grown up in coal-field country in Hazleton PA, where he had had an early job driving Sal, the reluctant mule pulling a cartload of coal. He was sure to add that it was hard

anthracite not soft bituminous coal. But Sal didn’t want to pull either kind as it was uphill, a long way to the top and lighted only dimly

Was mine an unusual family? Maybe everyone’s family is unusual. What happened next certainly is. Not long after this dishwashing episode, we all piled into our two-door 1938 Chevy and drove downtown to pick out new dishes. When we got home, my father and brother loaded the current dishes in our pantry into two laundry baskets. We took them outside to our backyard where we had a garage with a wide cement strip at the end of the driveway.

I don’t think I would have even now believed what happened next. We stood outside with the baskets of old crockery and jelly glasses and threw them at the garage door, piece by piece, being carefully keeping all the shards on the apron. My mother giggled. My brother worked on his curve ball. I loved it. Then we swept it all up and put it in canvas bags in the garbage. And my father took care of the carving knife himself. ☿



Morehead Planetarium, July 13
(photos by Ellen Baer)



Welcome New Residents

Mary Ellen Adams

Apt. 2046 (252)945-5928

maryellensadams@gmail.com

Born in Philadelphia, Mary Ellen's parents soon moved the family to Richmond VA, where her two brothers were born. The family moved twice before settling in the Palm Beaches when she was eight years old. Following high school, she attended the University of Richmond, receiving a BSBA in Economics.

Mary Ellen met her husband Rick Adams at UR, and they were married in 1969. After she graduated, she joined him at the Army base in Bad Kreuznach, Germany where they lived for two and a half

years. Returning to the US, they settled on Long Island where Rick was employed in his



family's business. In 1978, the family business closed, and Rick was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis which he lived with until his death in 2021. After his diagnosis, the family moved to Gainesville while Mary Ellen obtained her MA in Marketing from the University of Florida. Returning to the Northeast, Mary Ellen began a 20-year career as a market research analyst while Rick pursued a career as a business entrepreneur. The family lived in Manhattan for two years before moving to Ridgefield CT. Those were busy years with work and school, boating and camping, and summers with extended family in the Adirondacks.

In 2000, the couple built a house in Bath NC where they lived for 20 years until moving to Hillsborough in 2021 to be near their son Chris. Mary Ellen started a second career as an independent real estate broker with her office in Bath. She was the editor of her church newsletter and on several committees.



Bradford's

(continued from Page 6)

as President of the Durham YMCA and Trustee of the YMCA of the Triangle. Bill and Anne co-chaired the Board of Visitors of the YMCA Camp Sea Gull and Camp Seafarer.

Anne and Bill have recently celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary, having married in 1961 in Graham NC. Originally from Wilkesburg PA, Anne grew up in Burlington NC and attended Randolph-Macon Women's College in Lynchburg VA as a biology major. She worked in endocrine research at Lemuel Shattuck Hospital in Boston and in Undergraduate Admissions at Duke. She has been President of Durham Council of Garden Clubs, Board Chair of Volunteer Center of Greater Durham, Chair of the Durham Debutante Ball Society, and a Board member of the Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo and of Tryon Palace in New Bern. She is still a member of the Hope Valley Garden Club and Halcyon Book Club. Anne is listed in *Who's Who of American Women* (2004) and received a Certificate of Appreciation in 1993 from then-NC Governor James Hunt for her Service in Volunteerism.

The Bradford's son Scott lives in Los Angeles and is a Music Law Attorney, and daughter Lisa lives in Madison CT and is a retired Early Childhood Intervention Specialist. The family also comprises four grandchildren.

Bill enjoys basketball and lacrosse and time with family and friends; and Anne, an accomplished painter, also enjoys cooking, sewing and tennis. At The Forest she looks forward to joining exercise classes and enjoying our many programs, and Bill mentions tai-chi and balance classes as interests to explore. ¶

Mary Ellen has two sons: Chris who lives in Chapel Hill with his wife, Irina, and their son, Matthew, who will be attending Brandeis this fall; and Justin who is unmarried and lives in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Mary Ellen's interests include genealogy, history, reading, OLLI classes, water exercise and yoga. ¶

Welcome New Residents

Isaac Levy

Apt. 4050 984-335-3175

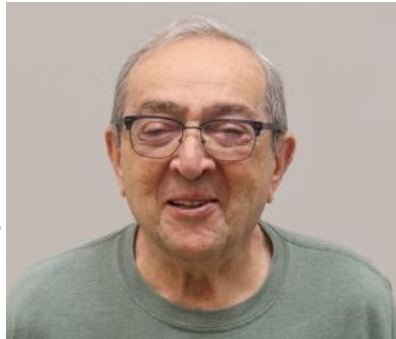
tatilupi07@gmail.com

A warm welcome to Isaac Levy who comes to us from Durham. Isaac was born and raised in Bueno Aires, Argentina, where he attended a six-year technical school training to be a tool and die maker, a career which became his life's work. Isaac, and his wife, Rose, with their two older children moved to Chicago in 1963 to be near Rose's parents who preceded them there. Quickly Isaac found employment as a tool and die maker at Decimal Tools where he stayed for about a year before leaving for a job offering better pay and benefits.

In 1967, Isaac and Rose welcomed their daughter Susann before moving to Los Angeles for two years and then returning to Chicago, preferring it to Los Angeles. Also of note, while working as a tool and die maker in Chicago, Isaac had a part-time job as a licensed real estate agent for ten years. In 1980, the family moved to Orlando FL for 14 years before moving to Fort Lauderdale in order to be closer to their grandchildren and to obtain better employment. Rose was a homemaker while the three children were young and later worked in the mortgage department of a bank. In 2001, when Isaac retired from employment as a tool and die maker for Cardinal Health Company, the couple moved to Durham to be near their daughter and her children. They were married 63 years until Rose's death one and a half years ago.

Isaac has three children: Carlos Levy, DO, a family practice doctor in Weston FL; Marcelo Levy, retired and living in Durham; and Susann Clifford, MD, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Duke University.

Isaac is of the Jewish faith. For entertainment he enjoys puzzles, sports, gardening, and chess. At The Forest he is hoping to find a chess partner and other residents who enjoy speaking Spanish. 🌿



Rhoda Silver

Apt. 2001 (919)724-0610

Silver.Rhoda29@gmail.com

We welcome Rhoda Silver who comes to us from Durham. Rhoda has lived in Durham since 1980, pursuing her career in social work through a variety of jobs which included working at the UNC Center for Aging and at Duke on a research grant.

A native of Chicago, Rhoda was educated at the University of Wisconsin, receiving a BS in Political Science in 1964. Following brief employment as a social worker in Chicago, Cook County, Rhoda began classes at the University of Michigan School of Social Work in January 1965. She left school briefly to join the civil rights movement in Montgomery AL, returning to Michigan later in 1965 to complete the semester but not her degree. Next, she moved to New York to work as a social worker for the Department of Children's Services in Bedford Stuyvesant. After two years in New York, she went to South America to join her sister for travel. Rhoda's desire to travel the world has always been with her—even today as she looks forward to a trip this fall.



Following her travels in South America, Rhoda moved to Los Angeles where her parents were living. In California, she taught school for a year prior to working as a social worker for three years. At this time Rhoda decided it would be beneficial to complete her Master of Social Work degree, which she did in 1972 at Rutgers University. With her new degree in hand, she worked as a social worker in London and in the Bay Area of California before moving to Durham.

Past volunteer activities include working at Urban Ministries of Durham and at the Jewish Community Center. Currently she volunteers at Beth El Synagogue. She has been a member of the National Association of Social Workers and she is a member of Carolina Jews for Justice.

Rhoda's interests are reading, gardening, walking, politics, and travel. 🌿

And the Question is ...

by Phil Baer

Do you remember the Johnny Carson skits in which he played the character Carnac the Magnificent? He would take an envelope from Ed McMahon, hold it unopened to his head, and divine the answer. Then he would open the envelope and read the funny question on the enclosed card. Well, I have a variation on that, and it begins with this answer: 6439. That's right, 6439, which implies the question would ask about that many somethings. So you probably got that, but for full credit you have to get the hard part: what are the somethings?

Give up? Okay, here's a hint. They're outdoors. Need another? Okay, they're around the Terraces. All right, I saw a hand go up, and the shouted answer is correct. The question for which 6439 is the answer is: How many plants are being planted around the Terraces?

No, I don't think that's a funny question and I know it wouldn't make the cut in Johnny's writers' room, but focus on the very impressive answer—6439 new plants placed around the newest building on our already lush campus. And even if you subtract the 2406 monkey grass plants, you've still got 4033, and that's an impressive number.

Well, okay, you may be saying, that's a lot of plants, but I'm really into variety, so how many *kinds* of plants are there? There are 108 species belonging to 61 genera, or *genuses*, that's allowable, but definitely not *geniuses*; and no matter how you break down the number, that's a lot of variety. All right, granted, that's a lot of plants and a lot of varieties, but how about beauty, and especially flowers? You'll be very pleased to hear that 92 of the 108 species will be blooming successes, from early spring through summer and into late fall.

But here's my favorite part, and I can't believe no one asked, *50 of the 108 species are native plants* that support beneficial insects, birds, and small mammals, providing food in the form of nectar, pollen, and seeds, and acting as host plants, where

insects lay eggs and their larval offspring feed on the leaves. To put that in a campus context, our Pollinator Garden has 40 species of native plants, and only four plants are common to both lists: blue dogbane, Joe Pye weed, coneflower, and little bluestem grass.

The new plants came from about 20 different nurseries, the great majority from North Carolina, and some from New Jersey, Maryland, South Carolina, and Georgia, which must have been a supply-chain, logistical challenge to coordinate. Examples

include trees: oaks and fringe trees, redbuds, cedar, magnolias, and elm; many shrubs: azaleas, beautyberry, sweet shrub, witch alder, oakleaf hydrangea, and possumhaw viburnum; and grasses and ground covers: little bluestem grass, switchgrass, and rose verbena.

The planting of so many new native plants on campus provides us an opportunity, a laboratory, an experiment, a chance to learn about plants that are both beautiful and beneficial. Over the next couple of years, I hope to locate and identify

all 108 species, to figure out which is which, and I would really appreciate help with that project. I am far from an expert, barely an informed enthusiast, being totally dependent on the copy of the *Ruppert Landscape: Plant Material Source and Supply* that I got from a helpful fellow in the construction trailers, the trusty Pl@ntNet app on my phone, and the NC State Extension website (<https://www.ces.ncsu.edu/>).

My long-term goal—or ours, if you join me—is to see which native plants do well on our campus, to help residents learn about and appreciate the beauty and benefits of native plant gardening, and ultimately to encourage a gradual replacement of non-native with native plants on campus. If you want to be part of a radical resident-initiated project, here's your chance, and for you early joiners, maybe you'll even get to name the group. ☸



Centenarians at the Forest: Shirley Sukonick

by Deborah Tunstall Tippet

Prior to my moving to the Forest, **Shirley Sukonick** called me monthly to try to talk me into taking mahjong classes with her. I was excited to meet Shirley and hear about her love of games. She asked me if I had grown up with games in the house and told me that her house was always filled with games and laughter. When I moved in, I took mahjong lessons with **Donna Goldstein** and found Shirley to be a fierce competitor who loved a challenge, especially if there was betting involved. It was not surprising that when she turned 100 she opted for a trip with her sister to a casino as opposed to a big party.

Shirley was born on June 7, 1924 to Louis and Lena Rubin in Norfolk VA. She was the middle of three children, an older brother Leroy and a younger sister Ramona. Her parents had immigrated from Latvia; and while they learned to speak English, they had difficulty reading and writing the new language. However, they got the Times magazine every week because that is what Americans did. Louis was often asked to write letters to the "old country" in either Hebrew or Yiddish.

During the difficult times of food shortages during the Great Depression and WWII, Shirley remembered that her family always had things to eat because her parents owned and operated a grocery store. Her mother had a strong grasp of numbers and kept the books and even supervised the building of their house.



Shirley doing her patriotic duty by dancing with sailors at the USO Club in Norfolk, VA

Shirley was a teenager during WWII and reminisces fondly about the exciting times she had dancing with the sailors at the USO club. Her father's Lodge provided the dance hall, and Shirley and her friends danced every night with sailors from the Norfolk Naval Base. She recalls that she lost a dear cousin to the war and acknowledges that while it was hard for many, it was a fun time in her life.

After high school, Shirley attended the Keys Business College and studied the comptometer, which was one of the first adding machines used by many businesses. After her graduation, she kept books for Hofheimer's Shoe Store, a leading chain on the East coast. Her career ended after Oscar Coplon, who was working under a car, spotted Shirley's beautiful legs and instantly wanted to see the rest of her. They married and moved to Blacksburg VA where he attended college at Virginia Polytechnical Institute (now Virginia Tech) to receive his undergraduate and graduate degrees in engineering. In 1949, they had a daughter, Claudia.

In 1952, Oscar joined 29,000 other employees to open the Savannah River Plant operated by the Dupont corporation in Aiken SC. Being one of the few Jewish families in Aiken gave them the opportunity to make close friends with people from all religions, though Oscar and Shirley were also very active in the synagogue. While in Aiken, they had Marsha in 1954.

Both daughters Claudia and Marsha said their house was the one where all their friends wanted to go because their parents were so much fun. In fact, when they started dating, they learned that they had to be on time or else they would never leave the house. Their dates loved to talk with their parents and were always roped in to play various games. The daughters later learned that their friends had often called their parents in emergencies.

The Coplon house was full of laughter with games played all the time, even at mealtimes. Marsha recalled that the neighborhood gave them the freedom to play safely. One neighbor had a choco-

(Continued on [Page 12](#))

Shirley Sukonick

(Continued from [Page 11](#))

late addiction and kept her chocolate in the Coplon's pantry. On some occasions, Shirley would wake in the middle of the night to hear the front door open and then footsteps to the kitchen where the pantry would open. She would smile and go back to sleep.

Shirley became very active in the community, volunteering at various organizations including the Red Cross, the League of Women Voters, and numerous school groups. She worked the polls and generally cancelled out Oscar's vote by voting the opposing ticket. Her parents, according to Marsha, taught them that they needed to earn the air that they breathe by giving back to the world. Claudia said that they encouraged them to be the best that they could be and to know that they were always loved.

I met with Shirley and her daughters for this article, and they could not wait to tell me about their car. Oscar bought a car, made by the Checker Cab Company for families, called the Superba. It was supposed to be the safest of all cars, and it had the same build as the famous cab. Oscar and Marsha loved the car, while Shirley and Claudia detested it. It was sturdy and had a large floor area where Marsha could sleep on two inner tubes and a sleeping bag on long trips. Claudia hated the appearance, and Shirley disliked driving it. She could never get the second gear to work, so the car frequently stopped on her. She learned to just leave it on the side of the road, and one of their friends would spot it and drive it home.

Sadly, Oscar passed away in 1972 at the age of 57. Two years later, Shirley relocated to Richmond to be closer to family. While in Richmond, Shirley was a popular date. In fact, her girls admitted that

Shirley had been on more dates than both of them combined. She was once invited to a dinner party at which the hosts invited one single man and three single women. Shirley won that game, and in 2001, at the age of 75, she married Bennett Sukonick who was with the Foreign Intelligence Of-

fice. They had a wonderful marriage until he passed away ten years later.

In 2017, Shirley moved to The Forest at Duke to be near her two daughters. She had put in applications to multiple CCRCs and first selected one in Raleigh. She signed the contract and paid the deposit. To celebrate, Claudia suggested that she have dinner there with some of the residents. When Claudia picked her up, Shirley was not smiling when she said, "These are not my people." Fortunately for us, The Forest had a spot and she moved here and found her people!

When asked about the secret to her successful aging, Shirley said that she had an uncle who lived to be 106 and was still mowing his own lawn. She said that she had always been active, both mentally and physically, and enjoys a martini every night. On a recent phone call to Claudia, Shirley closed by saying, "I

have to hang up to watch another Ted Talk so I have something interesting to discuss at dinner tonight."

I would suggest that Shirley is interesting without the aid of a Ted Talk, because she is so curious and interested in others. Her sense of humor, kindness to others, positive outlook, and warm personality have certainly made her own life full and interesting. ‡



Shirley at 100, still dancing with David Therrell, a ballroom dance teacher

A Visit to Pauli Murray's Childhood Home

by Ellen Baer

In 1898, a free Black man from Delaware named Robert Fitzgerald, a teacher and a veteran of the Civil War, and his wife Cornelia, a woman born into slavery in North Carolina, built a house in Durham. It was on an acre of land that abutted the Maplewood Cemetery, and the view from the back of the house was (and still is) of gravestones. The house is the childhood home of Pauli Murray who was sent to Durham from Baltimore as a four-year-old to live with her aunt and her maternal grandparents after the deaths of her parents.



Starting about age seven, Pauli would begin the day reading the newspaper to her grandfather whose vision was impaired after a battlefield injury. No doubt her grandparents' emphasis on the importance of reading and writing, plus a daily dose of news and at least weekly attendance at the Episcopal church where Aunt Pauline sang in the choir, all motivated her to become the kind of person whose childhood home has become a site of historical significance.

One of the people on a recent tour to the Pauli Murray house arranged by Community Life said it was rather exhausting to think about how much she accomplished. Exhausting and inspiring. The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray (1910-1985) was an author, poet, teacher, legal scholar, civil rights activist, co-founder of the National Organization for Women (NOW), and the first African American woman to become an ordained Episcopal priest. It's interesting to note that as a newly-ordained priest she celebrated the Eucharist for the first time in the very same Chapel Hill church where her enslaved grandmother had been baptized as a child. In her Bible that day was a bookmark given to her by Eleanor Roosevelt—but the remarkable relationship of those two women is a story for another day.



The one-hour house tour is impressive to visitors whether they arrive knowing a lot or nothing at all about Murray's remarkable life. The combination of photographs, facts, quotations, and artwork tells a story of resilience and discovery that is enhanced by a knowledgeable guide who provides context and encourages questions.

The Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice opened to the public in September 2024 with a festive outdoor event that featured music,

(Continued on [Page 14](#))

Pauli Murray Home

(Continued from [Page 13](#))

storytelling, and a theatrical performance on the front porch. The house itself, having been designated a National Treasure in 2015 and a National Historic Landmark in 2016, was closed at the time for continuing interior restoration. Now that the multi-year construction project is complete and the house is open to visitors, it's unfortunate that many of the Center's plans (like a new exhibition and the development of a curriculum for eighth graders) have been canceled due to the recent termination of a federal grant. Staff members and board members are bound to be disheartened, but they do have a good example of courage and endurance to follow.

In Murray's own words:

- "As an American, I inherit the magnificent tradition of an endless march toward freedom."
- "What is often called exceptional ability is nothing more than persistent endeavor."
- "True emancipation lies in the acceptance of



the whole past, in deriving strengths from all my roots."

The house is an educational institution rather than a museum and so contains only one true artifact: Pauli's typewriter. For more information, our TFAD Library has a book of the surprising correspondence between Pauli Murray and Eleanor Roosevelt titled "The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship" by Patricia Bell-Scott. 🌿

(Photos by Ellen Baer)

Seasons in the Vineyard

by Sharon Dexter and Beth Timson

Many of us in TFAD like a nice glass of wine, but one TFAD resident spent years up close and personal with a vineyard. Sharon Dexter recalls that her husband David always loved growing things (though his career was in the world of computers), and she laughs as she recounts his delighted realization that some of their Italian neighbors were bringing in fresh wine grapes from California to their homes in New Jersey. After using these grapes to make a small amount of homemade wine, he determined to grow his own, and that started their future journey with grapes.



The vines stretch out and begin to fill in the trellises

The Dexters had a small vineyard, only one half acre, at a home in Michigan, but they got serious when they moved further south. After looking for suitable land for several years, in 1999 they bought a 36-acre property in Nelson County, VA a few miles from the Blue Ridge Parkway, named it the Hat Creek Vine-



Spring, and the flowers start appearing on the vines

yard, and began to plant vines in 2000 on seven acres of the property. They built a house on what

(Continued on [Page 16](#))

Welcome New Resident

Marylou Anderson

Apt. 3043 919-638-4817

marylouisea35@gmail.com

A warm welcome to Marylou Anderson who comes to us from Durham. Marylou was raised in Philadelphia and attended Bennett College in Millbrook NY for one year before leaving to marry Larz Kennedy Anderson in 1958. The couple moved several times during their marriage while Larz pursued a successful career as an educator. Upon his retirement in 1997, they moved to Fearrington, having become familiar with North Carolina where two of their children attended college. The Andersons lived at The Cedars from 2004 to 2007 when they divorced. At that time Marylou moved to Durham and Larz to Texas, where he died in 2020.



In addition to being the mother of four children, Marylou worked at St. Mark's School in Dallas as a middle-school secretary and at The Hockaday School in Dallas as assistant to the head of the Boarding Department. Her volunteer work includes driving for the Red Cross and also driving people to vote. Other volunteer work includes Meals on Wheels and tutoring children. For entertainment she enjoys knitting, reading, traveling and bird watching. When her family was young,



A Touch of Brass, July 14
(photos by Ajia Rutherford)



she liked to write children's stories for them.

Marylou is close to her children and her grandchildren. Her daughter, Cate Jarrett, a retired realtor, lives in Hilton Head with her husband, Gregg Jarrett, who works for Fox News. They have two daughters. Marylou's daughter, Carey Ciolfi lives in Dallas where she is employed as a manager for a large company. Carey has two daughters and a son. Her oldest daughter is the Poet Laureate of Dallas. Marylou's son, Nick Anderson lives in Durham and has one daughter, Sydney, who works for the National Wildlife Foundation. Marylou's oldest son, Larz Anderson, died at age 33 during the AIDS epidemic. He was a chartered financial analyst for Baron Capital.

You may see Marylou around The Forest with her little black and white dog Pinto who enjoys on-leash walks. 🌿

Vineyard

(Continued from [Page 14](#))

had been farmland, and a wine expert from Charlottesville helped design the vineyard layout for maximum sun exposure. While David took responsibility as the primary viticulturist, Sharon commuted to a job with LEXIS/NEXIS in Charlottesville; both contributed to the many activities required to support the vineyard production year.

The Hat Creek Vineyard grew seven varieties: Gewürtztraminer, Petit Verdot, Tannat, Traminer, Cabernet Franc, Pinot Gris, and Vidal wine grapes as well as table grapes for eating. The varieties would ripen at different times during the harvest season, but the rituals of the vineyard year were similar for all of them.

Spring would bring out the first new growth and flower shoots on the vines, so each would need to be pruned and then spread out on the trellis for maximum sun and air exposure. As the nascent grape clusters emerged on the vines, the laborious process of spreading nets over the vineyard would begin to protect the fruit from hungry birds. During the warm (and often humid) summers of Virginia, the focus shifted to protecting the growing grapes from insect and mold damage. Late summer and early fall meant a time of watching the weather forecast closely and hoping that rough weather—like a seasonal hurricane—wouldn't ruin the ripening crop.

Finally late September and October brought the harvest. The irregular and hilly landscape of the vineyard meant that the netting had to be removed by hand and the grapes picked by hand. Sharon recalls the regular crews that came into the area each fall to work their way through the vari-

ous neighboring vineyards; she says that the crew they used could harvest more than an acre per day. The Dexters would always keep some grapes to make their own wine for home consumption and sell the rest of their crop to wineries in the area.



Cabernet Franc grapes ready to go to the winery

After November came the dormant season for the grapevines and a time of rest for the growers. The site elevation in the foothills of the Blue Ridge meant several inches of snow each winter. Sharon and her husband combined vacations in this off-season with vineyard research, so trips included visits to viticulturists in northern Italy, California, Oregon, and Washington.

After her husband's death in 2016, Sharon sold the vineyard and moved to North Carolina to be closer to family. But she has a wealth of memories, a lot of beautiful pictures, and a palate for wine from these years in the vineyard. 🌿



A member of the picking crew harvesting Cabernet Franc



Update by Management, June 30
(photo by Joel Huber)

I Know What You Did Last Summer

Photos by Sanford Berg



Memorial Day, May 26



Dr. Vincent van Gelder, May 29



Hillary Harrison, May 30



Singalong, May 31



David Graham, June 2



Resident Readers - Beth Timson,
June 4



Oak City Sound Concert (barbershop chorus), June 16



Ice Cream Social (C-1, C-2), July 17



Rose Mills, June 23



Ethan Ulsan concert. Jazz, Rag-
time, and Swing, Aug 5



Seated dance in the mirror, August



Bluegrass Party, Aug 15



Jazz, Aug 21



Coffee & Conversations, August



Banana Splits, Aug 25



Singalong: "Ain't Misbehavin'", with Phil Baer on the Ukulele, Aug 30



Baroque to Beatles: Mallarme String Quartet, September 3

**Terraces Ribbon-Cutting
Ceremony, September 4**





Four Seasons Concert, Sept 5



"The Gilded Age of the Italian Baroque" with Steve Hilton, Sept 9



Kayla King Jazz Trio at the Social Hour, Sept 12