

# THE CAROL WOODS NEWS

is published each month except July and August. It is distributed to residents, applicants on the waiting list, and other interested persons.

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October 2007

## DÉCOR IS THEIR ART

From the beginning Carol Woods residents have considered this campus home and have chosen to use their considerable skills to improve not only their lives but those of fellow residents. There are, at last count, forty-five committees serving these purposes, and of all of them the Decorating Committee is one residents are most likely to take for granted. Unless, of course, you actually see the members working: measuring for new draperies, carting a mini-van full of lamps into a building, or grouped around a painting to get the effect. There are fourteen of these artistic souls under the co-leadership of **Phyllis Sockwell** and **Mahla Ivey** who are responsible for the furniture and art work in all of our residential common areas—the lounges and the hallways—in addition to the Guest House, the apartments in Coventry for our “Try It You’ll Like It” visitors, as well as the library and the main lounge in the Health Center. They accomplish this on a budget of \$14,000 which they get from the Residents’ Fund as well as donations—many of them art and valuable antiques from people who live here.

Back in 1979 when Carol Woods first began accepting residents, two of them—**Helen** and **Charles Metz**—involved themselves in keeping up appearances in the growing number of buildings and common areas on campus. The “Interior Decorating Committee”, as it was then known, was just the Metzses who did all the work themselves. And they did it by themselves for eighteen years. In 1997 after Charles died and Helen was no longer able to carry out the mission by herself, the lamp passed to **Eliska Chanlett**, the term “Interior” was

dropped from the title and a committee of fifteen members was formed with staff member Jack Chestnut as advisor. The field of operations for this group has widened to the extent that it seemed desirable to have co-chairmen, **Carolyn Powell** and **Janie Whaley**, who were on board to see us through “The Great Disruption” when the social lounge did double duty as our temporary dining room while our usual domain was being enlarged and improved. **Margie McKinney** took over in 2003. She and Janie remain as long time members.

One of the most interesting long term aspects of this committee is its continuing relationship with our Cash and Carry shop and Bid Sale: indeed, the Decorating Committee was, you might say, the progenitor of the two. In 1986, finding itself in need of funds to work its ambient magic, the committee did what many of us do in similar circumstances—it staged a huge and successful yard sale on campus. The volunteers eventually packed up their goodies, all donated as tax deductions by residents and their friends, and moved indoors where, as Cash and Carry and the Bid Sale, it currently caters to inveterate bargain hunters among both residents and the staff.

When, hereafter, you spot an interesting painting on a wall, the new carpets in the walkways, or a good looking loveseat in the lounge, say a little “thank you” to the Decorating Committee and take it off the “most likely to be taken for granted” list. Better still, write a note to Phyllis and Mahla.

BH

*Resident donations grace the Social Lounge*



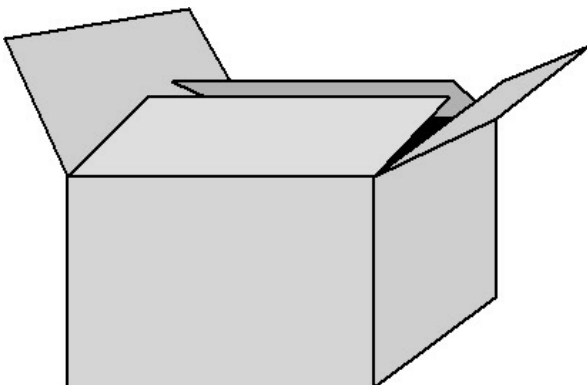
## LOOKING BACK: MOVING

Moving-in stories are the fodder for many entertaining table conversations—the rocking chair that ended up in Memphis instead of Chapel Hill, the pet that hid for a week, etc. We might reflect somewhat differently on our moving pains if we thought about what our parents may have experienced in the days when moves were done mostly by railroad. Of one such move **Dorrie Prouty's** father wrote:

“I know we have been a long time packing but it is no small job to pack ten thousand pounds of furniture. I have over ten thousand in the (railroad) car in Pittsfield, and almost two thousand more coming from Enfield. You can get only a slight idea of the amount of work involved when I tell you that in all there are more than seventy-five boxes, over thirty pieces carefully burlapped, almost twenty chairs every part of which is wrapped in paper and tied, seven barrels of collateral in excelsior, besides stoves and miscellaneous collections of packages, three trunks, sewing machine, curtains, carpets and other articles too numerous to mention. Then everything had to be packed into the freight car so carefully that I was surprised at the amount of time it took.”

Let us be grateful for the raw courage to downsize our precious stuff and for today's shipping companies that deliver it safe and sound to our doors here at Carol Woods!

NM



## WELCOME NEW RESIDENT



**Vanna (rhymes with Donna) Condax** (Apt. 1103) is a new resident but no stranger to Carol Woods. She has long volunteered her dogs at the Blood Pressure Clinic and at Buildings 4, 5, 6 and 7. She also completed her social work practicum here and fell in love with Carol Woods.

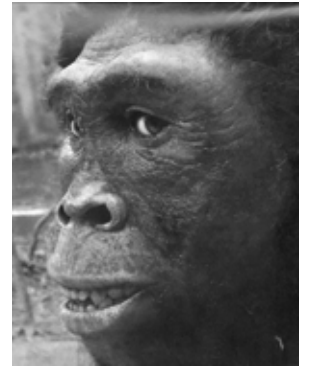
Vanna was born in Philadelphia and grew up in Moorestown, New Jersey. She graduated in English from Barnard College, completed her Ph.D. in Chinese Linguistics at Princeton and then taught at the University of Hawaii for 27 years, before taking early retirement in 1997. A world traveler, Vanna has spent several months each in France, Germany, Taiwan, Japan and Fiji.

Vanna's two dogs Eclipse, a Border Collie, and Iowa, a Scottish Deerhound are both certified AKC Canine Good Citizens and Delta Therapy Dogs. Vanna and her dogs will be wonderful additions to the Carol Woods family.

Janie Freeman

## SIGNS

Empty bottles of Guinness Stout,  
well stomped cartons of milk and juice  
cans that held tuna, beans and soup,  
fill their boldly labeled bins.  
And under GLOSSY MAGAZINES  
Virginia Tech mourns its dead,  
*Buy now, pay later*, Blair Catalogue pleads,  
Gaza gunman stands defiant,  
Hillary looks across the pile  
to Condoleeza's winning smile,  
national champs jump, shout, cut the net,  
*Foot Smart: Better products for lower body health*,  
a legless soldier stares at the sky,  
bin Laden taunts and spells our doom,  
galaxies collide, supernovas explode,  
from National Geographic an ape-man,  
with wide eyes, surveys the scene.



Bob Martin

## BOOK CORNER: DYSTOPIA IN MINATURE

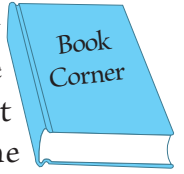
For a work as disturbing as Cormack McCarthy's *The Road*, a book whose most complimentary critics call horrifying, the fact that it was Oprah's book club choice, a National Book Critics Circle winner, and the winner of the 2007 Pulitzer for fiction, make it a must-read as penance.

The book, a road story of two wanderers, a father and his small child, takes place in a landscape so denuded as to be not only, as critics say, "post-apocalyptic" but hellish. Apparently, the world has indeed come to an end with a bang. It has also been raided, looted, burned beyond recognition. The air is clouded with ash; the road, a broken asphalt remnant, scarring the land with criss-crossings of what had once been life's arteries. The trees are stumps, bare after the conflagration; the sun is absent, and the weather, a kind of perpetual winter. The travel vehicle, a series of broken-down grocery carts.

Not only has the looting already taken place, but the looters are on the prowl and it becomes a contest for what bits and pieces of life remain in the ghostly leaning structures the travelers pass on their way to "the coast" which is "south" where the father remembers warmth. They are threatened by everything, bad guys, rain, thirst, even cannibals; what is human is no longer even recognizable.

But believe it or not, there are signals of rebirth. In a word here or there; in the father's creative ability to forge life-saving elements out of the accidents of discovery; in the boy's unfailing, if inexplicable, hope. And in what critics praise as McCarthy's Biblical prose and his exploration of the love the two have for one another that transcends whatever is horrifying in their circumstances.

MR



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## THOUGHTS ON THE EXTENDED POLITICAL SEASON COMING UP

Between now and November 2008 our nation appears to be headed for one of its longest and most intense political seasons. Because we pride ourselves on welcoming and encouraging diversity we can expect to hear many passionate discussions during this process of choosing our local, state and national leaders.

We may need a reminder, though, that Carol Woods, as a 501©3 tax-exempt organization, is prohibited from participating in partisan political activity. That is, we cannot use our public spaces for an activity that supports or opposes any political party or candidate for office. That means no campaign posters on our bulletin boards or our front lawns and no campus-wide distributions of campaign brochures in our in-house mailboxes.

Some contend that the implications of our 501©3 status are limitations of free speech. But

that's not true. Conversations at the salad bar, at the dinner table or in a hallway are a testimony to that many times a day. In addition, residents plan a variety of gatherings focusing on particular issues and we have a variety of candidate forums where candidates explain their positions. If you want a candidate to have the floor all by him or herself, invite the candidate to your apartment with as many friends and neighbors as you can accommodate.

Many residents are politically active and outspoken. We write partisan letters to the local press and media. We also enjoy protection from bombardment of political biases on our community public spaces. This is an important measure of respect for the diversity of political outlook among us.

Shirley Collins

## SEPTEMBER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Lois Frost, Treasurer, presented the Association's strong financial picture. Our carry-over from last year is expected to cover all budgeted expenditures for 2007-08.

At its first two meetings for this year, the Residents Council has focused on organizational issues and bylaws review.

Our performer honorarium has been increased. Two members of the Decorating Committee were commended for their inventory of all artwork displayed throughout Carol Woods.

The UNC Mobile Student Health Action Coalition (MSHAC) continues collaboration with Carol Woods in their home care program for elderly, with a September organizational meeting.

An art gallery walk began September 28.

Much has happened this busy summer: 1) A new care team model, which uses care coordinators

and medication aides, is beginning in the Health Center. 2) The Duke Endowment visited September 17 to review our grant proposal for innovative services to the elderly. 3) The newly developed Master Plan was prepared and presented for discussion in September. 4) A resident committee is pursuing a goal to decrease overall annual electricity utilization by 1%. 5) Employee feedback surveys yielded an unusually high 87% response rate. Eighty-six per cent of these feel they make a difference, are proud to work here, and would recommend Carol Woods to their friends.

And 6) an architectural design team, in reviewing Buildings 6 & 7 to confirm the functional worth of their earlier National Award of Merit for building design, was "wowed" by this innovation for assisted living facilities.

A resident satisfaction survey begins in October.

*Ken Reeb, Sr.*

**STAFF:** Nancy Martin, Chair; Louise Baker, Jane Berryman, Ginger Davis, Betsy Hewitt, Ray Mack, Mary Reeb, Burkard Seubert, and Anne Wright. Pat Bartell, proof reader.

**Circulation:** Barbara Allen, Janet Campbell, Helen Hawley, Beth Jukes, Eva Lynch, Jessie Lutz, Stella Lyons and Lang Prouty.

**PICTURES:** Bill Bayliss, and Nancy Martin

### COMING EVENTS

**Lectures:**

**October 18** – NC Symphony – no program

**October 25** – Jerry Berke – The UN Today

**November 1** – Lee Calhoun – Heritage Apples

**November 8** – Anne Scott – Reading Other People's Mail

**November 15** – NC Symphony – no program

**Concerts:**

**October 17** – Carol Woods Jazz Quartet

**October 24** – Alan Toda-Ambaras - Cello

**October 31** – Oliver Steiner, Bonnie Wagner – Violin & Piano

**November 7** – Jonathan Kramer & Jeremy Thomas – Cello & Piano

**November 14** – Thomas Warburton – Piano

**Art Show: October 26 – November 26**

**Opening Reception** – October 26

**Mark Bashista** – photography

**Howard Schroeder** – wood sculpture

### CAROL WOODS

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