

Find Studios, Galleries & Gifts in Historic Downtown Siler City

Charming restored storefronts bring small town ambiance to Siler City's North Chatham Avenue. To reach the historic district, take US 64 W. from Pittsboro into Siler City. Turn left on E. Raleigh Street, turn right on N. Chatham Ave. Rediscover Siler City — we are alive and well and hope to see you soon! Here are the shops and galleries that have opened recently.



Person to Person Gallery

Roger Person is an award-winning artist from Wisconsin who has now relocated to Siler City. His rich and varied background has now become possibilities for expression that dazzle your eyes and mind.

Roger describes his work as "multi-dimensional assemblages." A fine sense of drama, tragic and comic, are found in this museum-quality gallery. Roger is pleased to have you around while he works. He says, "It's great to meet people, especially confident collectors and curious admirers of fine art."

210 N. Chatham Ave.
919.663.0982 • www.persontopersonart.com
Open most afternoons or by appointment



The Other Person Gallery & Gifts

Just down the street from Person to Person Art Gallery is The Other Person Gallery & Gifts, operated by Roger's wife Linda. The Other Person has handcrafted artwork and gifts from artists across the country. The gallery has only been open 2 months and new and unique items are arriving daily. The theme in this space is "color is good!"



143 N Chatham Ave • 919.663.2631
Wed-Fri: 11-5; Sat: 10-3

Against His Will Gallery and Studio

Our shop is dedicated to work created in a "non-virtual" environment; we are strictly hands-on folks here! Art with personality, texture and color is what we bring you.

Choose from our handmade cards, fair-trade knitted kids' items and curious metal sculpture and mobiles. We have hand-poured candles, environmentally-friendly knitted rugs, wooden knitting tools and hand-dyed fiber. Also offering classes and supplies for spinning, dyeing and knitting. Gift certificates are available.

128 N. Chatham Ave. • 919.742.1122
Wed-Fri: 11-4:00; Sat: 11-2



Raleigh Street Gallery (Opening in October)

A membership co-operative gallery. Paintings, ink drawings, pottery, sculpture and metal art, woodcrafts, gemstone jewelry, handbags as well as "paint your own" pottery.

Artists: Chana Meeks, Vance Dunn, Carlyne Thomas, John Lipscomb, Kenneth Coldren, Dee Dee Brown, and Barbara Berman.



120 Raleigh Street
For information: Chana Heins Meeks at Chanas_art_market@yahoo.com

The Cracked Pot Antiques and Garden Shop

Container gardening and garden design, owned by Jenny Pleasants.

N. Chatham Ave
919.548.6971
Open Wed-Sat: 11 - 5



SURGERY

continued from page 1.

book: *State of the Heart: A Medical Tourist's True Story of Lifesaving Surgery in India*, published by New Harbinger Publications. [www.stateoftheheart.name (click on Upcoming Book Events)]

Howard is only one of over 46 million Americans who remain uninsured, either by financial necessity, denial of coverage, or by choice. It is untrue to say that our government does not provide these people with health care. It does, but only in what may be the least efficient, most expensive, and riskiest way possible — by refusing to provide any needed care until a patient's illness has become a medical emergency. Then, the patient is not turned away. Only then does the government foot the bill. I came to understand the absurdity of this system when Howard and I faced his diagnosis.

The Cost

I requested a meeting with the CFO of our local hospital to explore the entire cost of mitral valve surgery, and a payment plan. The hospital bill alone was estimated at \$100,000. They expected "half up front." The valve itself, the surgeon, cardiologist, anesthesiologist, radiologist, and pathologist would bring the total closer to \$200,000, if there were no complications. Where would we come up with \$200,000? If it were you, where would you come up with even "half up front"? Howard was encouraged to apply for Medicaid, but we knew he would not qualify for Medicaid or any other hospital discount based on income. He was not an indigent patient. He made a living and paid his bills.

I knew that hospitals and doctors contract with insurance companies and agree to accept whatever the companies deem the "usual and customary fee" for any procedure. Insurance companies "allow" less than one-third of doctors' and hospitals' charges, and pay only a percentage of that. The Hospital CFO conceded that self-pay patients pay inflated charges. We offered to pay the hospital the full amount that any insurance company would pay. The CFO said they could not compromise that way.

I was sure Howard was not the only self-pay patient to face the prohibitive cost of surgery. The CFO agreed, but said we were the first to come to him ahead of time to talk about it. Others wait until they come to the E.R. by ambulance. If we had chosen to wait — Howard's mechanical problem would have forced his heart to work harder until the exertion actually damaged his heart muscle and it began to fail. We

had no intention of waiting until he was in heart failure. Yet this is all our hospital offered us.

Alternatives

Howard's cardiologist said Howard's heart would not last a year. We explored every alternative: from surgeons in Argentina, Mexico and Texas to a robot at East Carolina University. We chose Dr. Trehan, a U.S.-trained surgeon and founder of Escorts Heart Institute and Research Center, a state-of-the-art facility in New Delhi. He estimated the total cost of Howard's hospitalization, including all tests, doctors, and surgery, to be under \$10,000 U.S. Carrboro's

website guru extraordinaire, Jackie Helvey (www.uniqueorn.com) created a website, www.howardsheart.com, so I could efficiently communicate with family and friends at home. We applied for visas and flew to India.

The Outcome

When we landed in Delhi, we were greeted by liaisons from Escorts who led us through customs and out to the car waiting for us. It was then, standing on the curb of the airport parking lot, that we learned that Howard was the first American to have heart surgery at Escorts — the world was watching. The attention of the media: CNN, 60-Minutes, Bloomberg Magazine, The Washington Post, The Times of India, Time Magazine, gave credence to the global importance of the issue.

Our experience in India was successful; the total cost of our hospital bill was \$6,700, all inclusive. The hospital itself is pristine; our room, big enough to dance in. I slept on a sofa in Howard's room for three weeks, with three delicious multi-course meals brought to us each day. The medical staff was attentive and prompt. And get this: if Howard was asleep when the nurses came to take his vitals, they'd whisper to me that they would be back later — that Howard needed his rest.

How Do We Heal?

Nearly everyone agrees our health care system is broken. So, how do we fix it? I would start at the end, and ask the same question I ask myself and my children when we find ourselves in an undesirable situation that needs to change: "What would a healthy, 'fixed' system feel and look like?" Basic and preventative health care would be easy to get, affordable, and not linked to employment. In a healthy, healed nation, treatable medical conditions would not instill in Americans the terror of facing financial ruin, death — or both.

Maggie Ann Grace is a Carrboro resident.

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