

Making your beer and spirits bright at Carolina Brewery

By Peggy Mulqueen

Clearly Carolina Brewery & Grill loves the holidays as much as you do and is ready to get their festive on! Whether it's parties, shopping, entertaining or holiday brews you seek the brewery's got it all for you in December.

First up this month is the annual Toys for Tots Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. This year they will be bringing out some very special beer from storage, and surprising you with creative appetizers and cool desserts. To participate in this traditional Brew Crew event everyone must bring an unwrapped toy or make a minimum \$5 donation to the United States Marine's Toys for Tots charity. If you are not already a Brew Crew member you will want to register. The more the merrier, so bring your friends and family along for a fun evening.

When doing your holiday shopping this year, think about keeping your dollars local. One idea for that special someone on your list is to "Give the Gift of Beer!" by purchasing a discounted gift card from Carolina Brewery.

Gift cards are valid for food and beverages, beer to go and all logo merchandise. Brewery gift cards are discounted during the holiday season so when you purchase a \$50 gift card you will receive a \$5 bonus, a \$100 gift card earns you a \$15 bonus and a \$500 gift card gives you \$100 in bonus money at Carolina Brewery! Gift cards may be purchased in any amount desired and are always useful and appreciated.

To many of us, the holidays mean entertaining so if you are looking for a place to host your holiday party this year you will want to consider the private dining room or intimate bar lounge, The Barley Room. The beautiful upstairs private dining room can hold up to 60 people, while The Barley Room, a more casual option, holds up to 25. Carolina Brewery can help you entertain with ease, in a fun and comfortable setting. Stop in and ask to see the catering brochure or call and speak with a manager.

Hosting out-of-town company is another holiday tradition and here's a fun outing suggestion for you. Why not take your visitors on one of the free weekly brewery tours? This unique activity is something your guests will

long remember. Tours are fun and informative and feature a choice tasting along the way. Come and see what's brewing every Saturday beginning at 5 p.m. You could be lucky enough to find a fresh batch of the popular winter ale, Santa's Secret in the tank!

In December the brewery's featured seasonal beer is Santa's Secret holiday-spiced ale. This tasty elixir contains a careful blend of coriander, cinnamon, orange and allspice. It's fantastic on its own or served as a float with vanilla ice cream. How's that for a grown-up dessert? Get into the spirit of the season and enjoy Santa's Secret winter ale while supplies last.

The holidays are for spending time with friends and family, counting our blessings, helping others less fortunate, and for making a little merry. Locally owned Carolina Brewery can help you keep your spirits bright this season. Carolina Brewery & Grill is located at 120 Lowes Drive in Pittsboro. Reservations may be made by calling 919.545.2330. Please remember to get festive responsibly.

Peggy Mulqueen is Marketing Manager for Carolina Brewery.

QUESTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(God's) gift to me. What I do with that life is my gift to the Deity." An awareness of "giftedness" can become the pathway of gratitude leading to a life that promotes prosperity for the "good earth" and all its inhabitants.

Whether this gift of planet earth is the result of divine intervention or simply a roll of the cosmic dice does not change the requirement for wise and faithful stewardship. Whatever one's motivation for caring for the earth and sharing its life sustaining gifts, this moment in history demands an unprecedented commitment to the critical work of salvaging a prosperous life on earth for all.

The ultimate fate of life on earth has reached a decisive point never before experienced in the 10,000+/- years of civilization. We have always lived in a dynamic, ever changing and interconnected set of systems that control life on earth. But the current rapid acceleration and negative direction of environmental change is unprecedented in the annals of human history. As such, civilization is being confronted as never before with the necessity to make a quantum change in the way we live in order to preserve a measure of prosperity that we have learned to

take for granted.

Because the threat of social and ecosystem collapse is difficult to perceive and accept, we often respond with doubt, denial and despair. Because of the overwhelming and foreboding nature of this danger we react with anguish, anger, acrimony and a host of other emotions that shape our response. We hunker down and hold tight to our possessions. This is especially true if we hold positions of influence and affluence. As such, maintaining the status quo becomes an all-consuming effort that robs society of the critical time and resources needed to adequately respond to the "inconvenient truth."

This inconvenient truth reveals that all 7 billion people on earth and those yet to come are passengers on a planet traveling the route of the Titanic. If there is yet hope of changing course to avoid the consequences of that ill-fated vessel, we must:

- stare reality in the face, sound the alarm and turn the great planetary wheel quickly toward a maintainable lifestyle,
- marshal all our willpower, wisdom and resources and begin rescuing a climate in calamity,
- protect all natural and environmental resources,
- reduce global population,
- develop new technologies – especially energy

technologies, and

- organize work so as to advance the above.

To continue on our "business as usual" course and deny the collapse of essential life support systems won't cut it. Honesty requires that we stop denying the reality of human driven climate change, the collapse of marine life in all the world's oceans and the ongoing sixth great mass extinction of life on earth.

To paraphrase an ancient admonition "For what does it prosper (profit) a person to gain a dying world and forfeit life on earth?" This is the ultimate moral question concerning prosperity in the 21st century.

Do we have the moral courage to undertake the critical work of saving what is left of "God's Creation"? Will we have the wisdom of the ancients and build a 21st century ark that can lead to prosperity for all of God's creatures "great and small"? The next article explains why the first and perhaps most difficult "ark building" task we face will be limiting population growth.

Gary Simpson is a board member of Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities. Sonny Keisler is a board member of the Rocky River Heritage Foundation and Friends of the Rocky River. This article is sponsored by CONNECT: a Chatham based network of civic groups (see ConnectChatham.com.)

GALA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Start have been sustained at reduced levels, but many have been discontinued. There have also been fluctuations in the NC Pre-K Program's funding, which provides a year of preschool for 4-year-olds whose families are low income or out of work. Recently, the Partnership succeeded in securing 37 more slots for children this school year. Despite this recent expansion, we are still serving fewer children. These cuts come at a time when many parents are looking for work or going back to school. Families with young children need support now more

than ever.

The Winner's Fest Gala the major opportunity to bridge the budget gap. This is a great way for people to make a significant contribution to their community and have a good time doing it.

Tickets for the gala, which will be held at the Governors Club from 6 to 10 p.m., are available online at www.chathamkids.org Each \$50 ticket includes one entry for the cash raffle and one dinner. An additional dinner may be added to the ticket for \$10. Music will be provided by Justin Johnson Jazz and Dynamo Muse Productions. The event will also include a silent auction and a live auction with Tucker Withington of LillyDen Farms as auctioneer

— always a lot of fun.

Sponsors for this year's event are: Governors Club (Platinum); First Citizen's Bank, Progress Energy, and Robyn's Nest Creative Learning Center (Gold); Barber & Barber, PLLC, Branch Banking & Trust, Edward Jones-Chad Virgil, Polks Village, INC., Tarheel Photo Booth, and WDL Systems, LLC; plus a host of community supporters and donors.

For more information about Winner's Fest or the Chatham County Partnership for Children, call 919.542.7449 or visit the website at www.chathamkids.org.

Genevieve Megginson is Executive Director of the Chatham County Partnership for Children

BRIEFS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

CORA was able to distribute an astonishing 158 tons of food to members of our community — that's 294,819 meals!

During the week of December 10-13, New Branch will be accepting donations in lieu of monetary charges for existing patients who bring in 8 can goods/food items. They will also be accommodating new patients with a \$20 donation to CORA. New patients will receive all first day services for that donation. New Branch Chiropractic has noted that some legal exclusions apply to Medicare patients.

Any questions can be directed to Mollie Miller at New Branch Chiropractic at 919.642.0555.

Get help with tax preparation

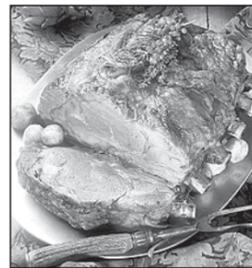
The IRS-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program will begin its free service on February 4, 2013, in Orange and Chatham counties. VITA is a free tax service for clients with low to moderate income, regardless of age or county and who meet eligibility guidelines.

For the first time, clients can make appointments online at www.orangecountyvita.org Call or visit the Web site after January 22, 2013, to learn about eligibility, what to bring and to make an appointment. Allow two hours for your appointment. Additional information will be available in January at local libraries and online.

IRS-certified volunteers are trained to prepare computerized federal and North Carolina tax returns for eligible clients. Returns are filed electronically at no charge. Each return is reviewed for accuracy and to determine that the return is complete with all applicable credits and deductions. Clients with lengthy returns may have to go to a paid preparer. Non-English-speaking clients must bring an interpreter with them.

For appointments in Chatham County, call 919.542.4512 (Chris Carter); Spanish 919.742.1448. For appointments in Orange County, call 919.245.4242 (English) or 919.245.2010 (Spanish) or the Compass Center for Women and Families 919.968.4610 (English only).

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