



This issue focuses on our environment.

■ **GROWING GREEN.**  
The art of cultivating fruit trees. page 7

■ **BUILDING GREEN.** RAFI sets the standard for eco-friendly constructions. page 6



# Roos dedicated to farmers

Agricultural extension agent focuses on sustainability.

By Judy Hogan

Chatham County is one of the few counties in the U.S. to have its own sustainable agriculture extension agent. Sustainable agriculture enhances environmental quality, economic profitability, and quality of life. Debbie Roos took the job in early 2001, as the fourth such agent for Chatham. Her focus: commercial fruits, vegetables, and alternative crops, like cut flowers. Most of these Chatham growers are using organic farming methods, which is why they need an agent who can help them do that well.

**WOMEN OF CHATHAM**

Debbie came to us from Lee County and had heard of our job in the 90s when she was in graduate school at University of Florida. In 2001 she wanted the job and the county farmers wanted her when the previous agent left, but the state froze all vacant extension positions and cut that job from the payroll. Fortunately, the farmers, Chatham's Agricultural Extension Service, and the Commissioners agreed on the county funding the job 100 percent. Most extension agents are half-funded by the county and half by the state. All N.C. ag agents work out of our land grant universities, N.C. State University and N.C. A&T State University, and bring farmers the latest research-based information.

Debbie's innovative programs have included: 1) monthly workshops on soil, farm taxes, pest management, etc.; 2) a sustainability website; 3) her newsletter, Plow Sharing. These services she sees as proactive, preventing problems. She also serves reactively, responding to calls and e-mails, visiting farmers with particular problems.



Gulf resident Debbie Roos, an extension agent since 2001, helps Chatham growers implement organic farming methods.

PHOTO BY JOHN SHILLITO

"It's a privilege to work with farmers," she said. "They are appreciative, self-motivated, work hard at learning the latest ideas and methods, and each farmer is a little different."

Perhaps her greatest desire is to enhance these farmers' ability to sell their produce locally. Recently she helped **ROOS** continued on page 4.

# Green Card Blues

One couple's adventures with the INS

By Julian Sereno

Earlier this spring, on March 24, my wife, Debbie Groves, became a U.S. citizen. The joyous event on that warm, soft spring day was the culmination of a process with the Immigration and Naturalization Service that fell between Catch-22 and Franz Kafka.

Ten years ago Deb applied to and was accepted by Duke Divinity School, and also applied for and was hired as a dialysis nurse at Durham Dialysis Center. A Canadian citizen, she got a visa under NAFTA because of her profession, which is rare and in great demand. (Whatever criticism the North American Free Trade Agreement might draw, I will always hold it close to my heart.) Her NAFTA visa was renewable annually.

She and I met in Mickey Efird's "Introduction to the Old Testament Class," which I was auditing during my lunch breaks at the Herald-Sun. A little less than three years later we married in December 1996.

Deb's residency was never an issue during our courtship. But after we were married, as the wife of a U.S. citizen, she had an absolute right to work and reside in the United States. So brimming with confidence, we took the next step, applying for Permanent Residence Status, aka the Green Card. We presumed that that getting it would be quick and easy but just in case we hired an immigration lawyer to guide us through the labyrinthine procedures of the INS.

He assured us that it was all routine, and that getting the process going in late winter would result in a Green Card by mid autumn (of '97). First we would apply for an I-130, which is merely permission to apply for permanent residence. That, he said, would take 30 days.

**GREEN CARD** continued on page 12.

# Students flock to study CCC's sustainable agriculture

By Kira Collins  
SPECIAL TO CHATHAM COUNTY LINE

Students from all over the country and across the state are packing their bags and heading to the heart of Carolina to enroll in the sustainable agriculture program at Central Carolina Community College (CCCC).

The two-year associate's program, started in 2002, is the only one of its kind in the North Carolina Community College System. The curriculum provides students with practical, hands-on education encouraging the development of profitable, environmentally sound, community-based farm enterprises.

"Although the associate's program has only been up and running for a year, we are already attracting people from out of the area," said Robin Kohanowich, coordinator of the sustainable agriculture program. "The



Mike Breymeyer, a sustainable agriculture student at Central Carolina Community College, waters some crops in the college's 'Land Lab.'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

majority of the students hail from North Carolina, but we typically have a few from out of state."

In fact, according to fall enrollment records, this program not only has stu-

dents from the CCCC service area, but also from Durham, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Person and Wake counties. And still others come from as far away as Michigan, Alabama and South Carolina.

Joann Horner of Carrboro is one of those students who traveled some distance to enroll in this program. Originally from Maine, Horner moved to North Carolina in search of a rural, nurturing environment, and found that in Chatham County.

"I already had a degree in history," explains Horner, "but I knew I wanted to pick up a hobby doing something earthy, like gardening. I looked into taking some classes at CCCC and stumbled upon the sustainable ag program."

Horner, who is a second-year sustainable agriculture student, is loving her classes and plans to someday own a farm. "I am looking at some land right

**AGRICULTURE** continued on page 9.

# briefs & announcements

## dispatches

### New high water mark for Jordan

Less than a year after the big drought which found Jordan Lake was six feet below normal, the lake (as of mid-April) was at its highest level ever – 17.7 feet above normal. The Army Corps of Engineers is planning on releasing water as soon as they can do so without flooding Fayetteville. Officials said the water releases will be behind the high water caused by downstream rainfall. The Cape Fear River will be kept below flood stage at Fayetteville, and the lake will be lowered about a foot a day, officials said.

FROM NEWS REPORTS

### Commissioners nix park; eye the tigers

Chatham County Commissioners reversed field and abandoned their plans to buy nearly 100 acres of undeveloped land near the Orange County line, which had been proposed for recreation and parks. Last fall the commission voted unanimously to pursue an offer on the property. The county was willing to pay more than \$300,000 for the land, which included an 80-acre, wooded lot for hiking and fishing, as well as another 10-acre tract where a ball field and other recreation facilities would have been built.

But that was then, this is now. Commissioner Carl Outz put it bluntly: "We don't have the money. We just don't."

At the same April 21 meeting, the Commissioners revised the ordinance regulating "wild and vicious" animals. As a result, Chatham residents will soon have a chance to see tigers and a host of other exotic carnivores as tour groups will be able to visit the grounds of the Carnivore Preservation Trust, near Pittsboro. Anyone interesting in visiting the big cats should be able to make plans by early May.

FROM NEWS REPORTS



At Crosswinds Marina on Jordan Lake, it's water water everywhere.

PHOTO BY JOHN SHILLITO

### Comedy Central features Carrboro

The Comedy Central television show, "The Daily Show," a news parody featuring comedian Jon Stewart, recently featured the town of Carrboro. In a segment about growing anti-French sentiment, correspondent Steven Colbert traveled to Carrboro, and claimed the town, possibly the least patriotic in the nation, was the launch pad for a French invasion into the United States. Interviewing alderman Mark Dorosin, Colbert asked the confused French Sympathizer many sarcastic and accusatory questions about the town's vote to name April "French Appreciation Month." Then Colbert traveled to Johnny's Sporting Goods, a local bait shop, and interviewed several members of the town's anti-French resistance. Good ol' boys in high water pants politely and good-naturedly answered Colbert's spiteful and sarcastic questions, and then the correspondent summed up his thoughts on Carrboro as a hotbed of pro French sentiment before dousing himself in French wine.

FROM ALEX SERENO

run the 5K course for the Seventh Annual Komen NC Triangle Race for the Cure. The race will begin at 8 a.m. Sat. June 14, on the campus of Meredith College in Raleigh.

Last year, with more than 15,000 participants and 261 teams, it was the largest 5K (3.1 mile) road race in North Carolina. It also raised more than \$640,000 to fund breast health care programs, with most of their efforts directed at Triangle communities.

Registration for the event is \$20 for adults, \$15 for children 15 and younger. The Ferrington Village team, "Galloway Gals and Guys" will all receive team T-shirts and travel to the race by team bus, which will depart "The Gathering Place" at 6:15 a.m. To register on line, click on [www.nctrianglerace.org](http://www.nctrianglerace.org) and follow the instructions for registering as a "Team Member." For more information, contact Gail Smith, 542-7295, [gsmithy@nc.rr.com](mailto:gsmithy@nc.rr.com) or Gloria Wilkins, 542-0305, [gkwilkins@aol.com](mailto:gkwilkins@aol.com).

### Emily Wilson to speak at library

The Friends of the Pittsboro Memorial Library present Emily Herring Wilson on Thurs., May 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Reeves Auditorium. She will read from and talk about her current book, *Two Gardeners: Katharine S. White and Elizabeth Lawrence — A Friendship in Letters*. The book will be on sale at the program and Ms. Wilson will be avail-

able to sign books. The program is free and open to the public. This program is rescheduled from February when it was cancelled due to an ice storm.

Wilson has taught at Wake Forest University, Salem College, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and Cornell University. In March 1992, she organized a statewide Women's Writers Conference at Salem College, the first of its kind. She is well known for mentoring women writers and being a mover and shaker in women's scholarship.

The Pittsboro Memorial Library is located at 158 West Street, just over a block west of the Chatham County Courthouse. Please call the library at 542-3524 for more information.

### Chatham County Together! benefit

A May 18 concert will benefit Chatham County Together!, the program that provides mentors and other support services to Chatham youths ages 6 to 17. Ann and Max Drake and Kim and Brenda Currin will perform Old Time fiddle music. It will be at the Drake's home in north Chatham. The \$20 admission includes a home-cooked meal.

For information call 542-5155 or email [cct@emji.net](mailto:cct@emji.net).

## briefs

### Step lively for a worthy cause

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Chatham County Line is a community newspaper serving all of Chatham County as well as the southern part of Orange. Our mission is to inform our community by providing a forum "where all voices are heard." We seek all views and ideas about our community, and we report on important matters – including our cultural life — comprehensively and in depth. Our commitment is create the best-written, best-edited and most stylish community newspaper anywhere. Chatham County Line is published five times a year – in February, April, June, September and November.

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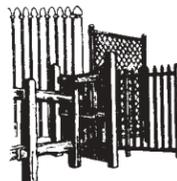
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# Respite for Alzheimer caregivers

By Carolyn Dorisdotter

As a professional caregiver for individuals with Alzheimer's Disease, I often find myself blessed. People look at me strangely when I say that I enjoy working with these individuals. People with Alzheimer's give me two gifts in particular. They help me stay in the present. The past and future hold no reality for them; it is now or nothing. How often I've needed that lesson in my life, for I can find myself too focused on the future or past. Another gift is a certain childlike quality, in the best sense of the word. Freshness, honesty and a total lack of pretense are basic to their make-up.

There are, of course, many difficult moments. I



suggest these five guidelines for these times.

- 1) Never argue. You can never win an argument.
- 2) They are always doing the best they can.
- 3) Whatever they are doing makes perfect sense to them. Try to get in their world and you may well understand the inexplicable. Respect their feelings. Feelings are more important than facts.
- 4) Do or say whatever works. Truth is definitely secondary and often complicates things.
- 5) Laugh at every opportunity and look for those opportunities. Laugh with. Laughter saves many a potential disaster.

My training involves a degree in gerontology with many years spent in nursing homes, culminating in a position as coordinator of an Alzheimer's Unit.

## Neighbor to Neighbor

For the last five years I've been offering respite care to caregivers. I go into homes to relieve the caregiver for a couple of hours or a day.

This offers a break to the caregiver and gives me a chance to relate one on one with the individual with Alzheimer's. This opportunity enables me to form a relationship important to us both. When both the individual with Alzheimer's and I share some positive time together and the caregiver enjoys some free time, my goal has been met.

*Carolyn Dorisdotter offers respite care for Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers. A former Hospice Director in Iredell County, she has a BA from Duke University and M.Ed in Gerontology from UNC-CH. She can be reached at (919) 933-8306.*

# Old home remedies making comeback

By the Rev.  
Bertha Thomas

When I was a child in the 1920s, nurses came to the public schools to check the students for various diseases. They brought scales to weigh the small children and checked our eyes, ears, and our throats — for tonsil problems. They also measured our height. We rarely went to the doctors' offices. Few people had transportation.

Health nurses also visited people's homes. They were very patient and gentle with sick people. They taught family members to care for them at home. Neighbors sometimes provided transportation in emergencies or came to help at the bedside. Being neighborly included doing chores, cleaning, laundry, and preparing food. When



there was a special need, a doctor visited and gave further instructions. Most health care was delivered at home.

In those days we also had home remedies made from herbs. Medications were prepared from recipes handed down generation to generation. We learned the vines and roots to gather and how to prepare them as tea or rubbing ointments, made by mixing the herbal remedy with congealed fat. It was common to use sarsaparilla root to purify the blood. Certain herbs were soaked in apple cider vinegar to bring down fever and get rid of headaches. Asafedita root (parsley family) was soaked in corn whiskey for cramps and diarrhea. Camphor gum was used for headaches and flag root for stomach aches. Elm and pine bark were also made into healing teas. Rashes, especially diaper rashes, were cured with egg whites. This was also used to clear skin, along

with vinegar and lemon juice. White potatoes, sliced or shredded, were used to draw poison or splinters of wood, glass, or other small objects, out of the skin. The oil from pigs feet was used for nose drops, and mutton suet for rubbing aching muscles.

Most vegetables had use in healing. Figs cured skin boils. Cotton seed and cornmeal were heated and used to make compresses to put on the chest to remove congestion. Onions were used to loosen and clean out phlegm.

Now some doctors are turning back to herbs for healing medicines. All these cures were gifts from God to heal

people. They are coming back into home use. All of the remedies mentioned here have been tried and proved to work. In those days we used what we had to help others, and a higher power accomplished the rest. I once knew how to prepare many of these remedies, but my age and time have caused me to forget. I have relatives who still know them.

*The Rev. Bertha Thomas lives in Moncure, where she was born and grew up. She serves as Associate Minister of the Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church.*

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# Timber shades Bonlee's history

When John and Isaac Dunlap came to the area now known as Bonlee in the 1890's, it was inhabited only by the family of Jack Causey, a blacksmith who apparently liked his privacy. The Dunlap brothers bought 2,545 acres of first growth timber from Colonel John R. Lane, Chatham's Confederate war hero, and each built a fine home on opposite knolls. In addition, they built a sawmill, planer, and later a cotton gin. The Dunlaps prepared a proposed map of the area showing what they thought it needed, and invited enterprising friends to come and set up businesses in the community, which soon had a barber shop, dry goods store, doctor's office and a post office.

The area was soon popularly referred to as Dunlap Mills, but because of a similar name elsewhere, the Post Office Department renamed it Causey around 1898 in honor of its original inhabitant. The Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad had come through the area in 1884 and soon made a Causey flag stop. The railroad stimulated the growth of Causey, Bear Creek, Goldston and Siler's Station (now Siler City).

Ike Dunlap built a flour, meal and feed mill along the tracks and once again decided to change the name of the town. He is said to have offered a barrel of this best "White Daisey Four" to anyone who chose an acceptable new name. A shoe salesman named Glazebrook suggested Bonlee - "Bon" meaning good and "Lee" meaning breeze - and so Bonlee was chosen.

The Dunlap brothers soon bought more timberland over a 12 mile area, but found they needed a better way than the slow mule teams to get the cut timber back to Bonlee for sale and shipment. As a solution, they built the Bonlee and Western Railroad, which opened in 1910.

## CHATHAM'S Historical Heritage

by Fred J. Vatter



Originally it was intended to go all the way to Randolph County to serve the cotton mill in Coleridge, but the tracks only went as far as Bennett. The railroad was not more than 10 miles long, but at Bonlee it connected with the line running between Greensboro and Sanford. A wood burning locomotive pulled a combination baggage and passenger car as well as freight cars. The wood came from piles of timber stacked along the tracks when the roadbed was put through. Escaping sparks from the stack set fires along the tracks often.

The Dunlaps exchanged passes for the Bonlee and Western with many other railroads, and therefore they could send their lumber salesmen all over the country free. One time, another railroad checked into the Bonlee and Western, and refused to swap passes because the B&W "wasn't long enough." An irate John Dunlap wrote to the offending railroad official and supposedly stated, "My railroad may not be as long as yours, but it is every bit as wide."

The B&W ran until the mid-1930's when a combination of the depression, hard surfaced roads, and increased truck traffic forced it out of business.

In 1913 Bonlee was incorporated as a town and Isaac H. Dunlap became its first mayor. It had a policeman, street illumination, and even a jail, but the town charter was repealed in 1931. During this period Bonlee had been a thriving community, with a local bank - the Bonlee Bank & Trust Company - a café, a hardware store, drug store, general and grocery stores, as well as a barber

and doctor. The B&W Railroad carried about 25 passengers daily and about 50 on Sunday around the time of World War I. It carried crossties, timber, fertilizer and miscellaneous freight. Its station became the community gathering place.

The State of North Carolina did not provide secondary schools in Western Chatham and John Dunlap was convinced that his up and coming community needed a quality school. He was instrumental in organizing and building a boarding school, which opened in the fall of 1914. It was a private, co-educational school, which had a brick 10-room, two-story building, plus an 18-room boys dormitory and 20-room girls dormitory on seven acres. Its 1916-17 catalog listed 194 pupils. In 1917 Bonlee High School was transferred to Chatham County and became a public school.

Isaac Dunlap's daughter Ina was only six months old when the family moved to the Causey area. After college she came home to Bonlee in 1917 and taught school for some 40 years. She married Archie Andrews and their son, Isaac F. "Ike" Andrews became a lawyer and later a U.S. Congressman who represented Chatham in the 4th District. To this day "Miss Ina", who once said, "I can honestly say that I have never taught a boy or girl I didn't love," is fondly and reverently remembered by many former pupils.

Not all of the local citizens were prosperous businessmen. During the 1940's my favorite local historian, Joe Burke, grew up in a sharecropping family in Bonlee. The family raised cotton, later tobacco, grain and corn, and their basic transportation was by mule and wagon. The kids not only had to plow the fields and chop weeds, but picked blackberries and caught rabbits to earn extra money. Their dad sometimes took a little extra work in the saw mill to earn some cash, because sharecroppers only settled up with the landlord at year's end. Shirts and underwear were made from chicken feed sacks and the boys were allowed to go pick up the feed so that they might choose their favorite patterns. Joe explains that ... "we were poor but didn't know we were poor. We had a family and we were loved."

After the Great Depression Bonlee's bustling downtown gradually became a tranquil crossroads with only the blinking traffic signal almost silently keeping watch. Perhaps when the old-time residents hear the whistle at the nearby feed mill, their minds briefly recall the B&W approaching the long-gone depot.

Sources of information included: "Bonlee High School" compiled in 1997 by Curtis Moore; *The Chatham News Record* (1976 Bicentennial Salute special edition); *Chatham County 1771-1971* published by the Chatham County Historical Association; and periodic conversations with Joe Burke.

Fred J. Vatter is past president of the Chatham County Historical Society, an organization for which he is also a board member and museum curator.

## ROOS

continued from page 1.

recruit farmers for a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program for our growers so that people working in the Research Triangle Park can invest ahead in summer crops and then receive fresh fruits and vegetables through the growing season.

We also have farmers' markets in Pittsboro (Thursdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m., April-November) and at Fearington Village (Tuesdays, 4-6 p.m.). Our farmers are regulars, too, at the Carrboro Farmers' Markets (Saturdays, 7 a.m.-noon, through Dec. 20; and Wednesdays, 4-7 p.m., mid-April through mid-October).

Debbie grew up in an Atlanta suburb and didn't even know what an ag agent was until she went to Senegal in 1990 with the Peace Corps. Her B.A. had been in Anthropology and Natural Resources Conservation. In Senegal they made her an agro-forestry agent. Helping farmers grow trees for fruit, fuel, and fodder was very challenging as there was little rain, the livestock wandered freely and ate everything. Back in the U.S. she went to U.F. on a scholarship in Applied Anthropology and Agricultural Development. Then she realized that she wanted to work in the U.S., and in order to become an ag agent here, she needed a biological sciences degree. She did a second Master's in Horticulture and became very interested in sustainable agriculture. When she did a web site on cover crops for a class project, she learned about NCSU's fine program, the many opportunities for sustainable ag in N.C., and about the Chatham job.

Debbie lives near Gulf, just over the Lee County line, in a 200-year-old house, for which she's the caretaker. Two lively, friendly dogs keep her company. She admits she works long hours, but then one of her hobbies (the web page) is also her job. In her spare time she's fixing up the house. She likes to garden and hike, to be outside. The more she does for Chatham's farmers, the more there is to do.

Her advice to us is to think about the food on our plates, be aware of our county's farmers, be glad they're here, and help keep them in business by buying their products. The best produce you can buy is picked the day you buy it. She estimates that Chatham has over 100 commercial producers of fruits and vegetables. We are one of the few N.C. counties that had more farms in 2000 than it did in 1990, and this is largely because of the many new sustainable ag farmers.

"We're in danger of losing our farmers," Debbie says. She works to keep the farmers on the land and to connect them with consumers. "Development can be a threat or an opportunity. If it is managed carefully and protects farmland, it offers new markets."

To meet Debbie or even to receive her nearly instant e-mail responses is to feel her passionate commitment to serve farmers. How does she find the energy? She feels valued, she says, and that raises the bar. She likes her job's diversity - not just desk work but visiting the farms and meeting with farmers at regional conferences conducted by the Sustainable Ag Working Group (SAWG) and the ROOS continued on page 9.



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By Deborah R. Meyer

# ART MATTERS

The world is infused with creative souls who enrich the planet with their talents but Tommy Edwards is convinced that Chatham County is blessed with more than its fair share. "Shake a tree in Chatham County and an artist will fall out and land either on a musician or a writer," said Edwards, President of the Chatham County Arts Council (CCAC) Board.

Edwards has been working hard on the CCAC board to promote its activities and to raise the level of attention the performing arts receive and is proud that the council held its first Heart of Carolina Festival last October with an emphasis on music. This guitar player, a member of The Blue Grass Experience, is a firm believer in volunteering for the arts but it wasn't until he retired recently from teaching in the Chatham County Schools that he could contribute so much of his time to the CCAC. The many hours that Edwards commits to the CCAC are becoming even more essential as funding for the arts, across the national, state and county levels, is faltering.

If you've ever thought about giving time to the arts, start now. Not only will you have a ball (think wonderfully zany artists, opening receptions, invitation stuffing parties and late-night jams) but you will also be providing a bridge of viability to the future.

"Arts are perceived by many, erroneously, to be non-essential societal needs, therefore arts and cultural programs are often the first to be cut financially," said Regina Bridgman, Executive Director of the CCAC. Bridgman, who is starting her third year at the helm of the CCAC, said the economy of the past two years, which has been the worst in recent history and has closed the doors of many non-profits, has been a frustration along with the fact that she only has 24 hours in a day. But for her, the positives far outweigh the negatives.

A highlight for Bridgman was finding a home for the CCAC. "It was pure serendipity to find the beautiful traditional turn-of-the-century farmhouse on 100 acres in the center of Chatham County on Highway 64," Bridgman said. Other highlights were presenting the first arts and music festivals by the CCAC for the community, creating venues for more performing arts (music and theater), and becoming a membership organization.

The CCAC was founded in 1982, becoming the designated county partner for the North Carolina Arts Council, and in 1992 Executive Director Cathy Holt organized the first Chatham Studio Open Tour, which

became a model for many others across the state.

Bridgman said, "Besides the tour, among the efforts the CCAC support are: the artists, individually and corporately, through all our endeavors; we support the schools and other organizations through our resources, finan-



Chatham artist  
Sally Sutton  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Chatham artist Beth Goldston  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

cially, with information and strategic planning; public arts projects, literacy, preschool arts, youth and senior programs, and Latino initiatives." But why is the CCAC necessary? Do artists really need an advocate? If Van Gogh had the CCAC in his court, perhaps he wouldn't have died poor and with a pitiful view of his extraordinary talent.

The list of things the CCAC does to promote art is too extensive to enumerate but to get a better idea, check its web site: [www.chathamarts.org](http://www.chathamarts.org). Also listed there is information on membership, events, and volunteering. Just to give an example, Bridgman

explained that last year the CCAC referred more than 100 income-producing opportunities to Chatham artists, and Bridgman and the board served, as they are intended to do, as liaison for the arts community in Chatham County at the local and state level, to other organizations, foundations, and the State Legislature.

Whether an artist or not, one may not understand why this advocacy is vital, said Bridgman. "If this foundation crumbled, we would truly have more 'starving artists' and businesses, and the local and state economy would suffer noticeably. The universal challenge at this juncture in time is for the arts councils to do more than just survive. Most are struggling. A few are thriving. Too many are losing ground. We, the arts councils, serve as much needed advocates on many levels so the artists can use more of their time to create art, and have a more informed audience to which they can present and sell their work," said Bridgman.

Besides joining the CCAC, other things the community can do to support the arts is to volunteer, attend events and bring friends and family and spread the word! Tommy Edwards said that community involvement in the CCAC is vital and even if people can't make a regular commitment to volunteering, an hour here, an hour there would have a great impact. One never knows what great things will unfold.

To get involved in the CCAC, email [arts@emji.net](mailto:arts@emji.net), or call 542-0394.

*Deborah R. Meyer writes about the art community in Chatham and Orange counties.*

## Firm with film or dare to go digital?

By John Shillito, M.D.

Should you not put away your trusty 35mm film camera and "go digital"? Why pay for film anymore? There are a few things to consider before making this decision ...

**It depends on what you do with your photographs.** If you intend to take and distribute copies to several remote members of the family, and if you are computer-comfortable and all others are too, it makes sense to switch, or even to start from scratch with a digital camera. For instance, in taking photographs for the Chatham County Line, it is a happy solution, for we route these pictures from photographer to editor to layout artist, without any of us ever handling a print.

**Do you really want to become your own processor?** It takes time. If your spouse has already made comments on how much time you spend in front of that computer, she or he had better have a vote in this too. However, those of us who have ever worked in a darkroom, developing and fiddling with pictures, will have a ball enhancing, cropping, resizing, retouching and otherwise manipulating our work on the computer. But after a week at the beach, or a two-week cruise on a barge through France, what are you really going to do with 360 digital photographs? I have a friend who can look at that many pictures, bravely throw away all but 24, and make a lovely album of the trip. Not I!

If you "go digital," you are buying a camera and a small computer. You must shop carefully for the camera features you want, and then look carefully

at the computer features, for you will have to talk to it on its own terms, like any other computer. Consider the resolution (megapixels) you'll need, lens speed and focal length, power of zoom, both optical and digital, size, weight, battery life, storage capacity in the memory chip, programs, ease of changing from one mode to another, and if it is able to fill your needs. Does it look and feel like a camera, or a miniature space station? It probably won't be like your film camera, in that you can, if you wish, set aperture and shutter speed with a twist of your wrist, but rather you must punch a button for a menu, then select the proper option. Can you read the tiny print on the screen, even with your glasses, and can you see it in daylight?

**Picture quality and cost**, as expected, have improved dramatically in the past several years. I am so pleased with the quality of an 8x10 enlargement from my new little pocket digital that I would be surprised if you tell me it's a digital print. The colors and also the latitude — the ability of the camera to give details in the dark as well as the light areas — surpasses that of many films. But if your goal is a batch of 16x20 or 20x30 poster prints, you better either stick with good film or quiz a processor or copier as to how likely it is that you can achieve a good print of that size. Someone else will have to make it for you, or copy your 8x10 and blow it up. Try it. You can now get a very serviceable digital camera with a couple of megapixels, good enough for small prints and enlargements, and for E-mail, for about \$150. If you want to put all your existing 35mm lenses on a digital single lens reflex body with upwards of 6 megapixels,

loosen up \$1500 to several thousand dollars. Press photographers have done this, with great results and shorter processing and transmission times.

**Filing and storage will be different.** I have a beautiful negative filing system, but I fail to keep it up-to-date and waste a lot of time hunting around. In one's computer, with a little planning, one can cross file by date, subject, events, people, trips, etc. At the stroke of a mouse, your photos will pop up. Two problems. Probably you will be the only one in the world who can find them, and there they will sit, on your hard drive or better on a zip-disc, and you must start by finding that, too. Furthermore, unlike a nice photo album of your week on the Outer Banks, the only way you can share these is by collecting your guests around the computer, or perhaps the TV, and giving them a slide show, just like the old days. A gathering, equipment, a master-of-ceremonies dominating the evening. But at least you and your spouse can enjoy them at your computer, if you can get her to sit still that long.

**Edit your pictures at the scene.** Because you can see what you took immediately, although in very tiny form, you can discard a bum shot, or a portrait when the subject blinked, and shoot again. Great fun; you can show people what you just got, but look out. When you bring that tiny picture up to size on your computer, you may find that great indoor shot in low light is well exposed but all blurry from your motion. There's a tendency to shoot first and see if you like it, rather than carefully composing the scene, as you should. But the digital screen does give you the exact composition, just like a SLR through-the-lens image, so exact

**GO DIGITAL?** continued on page 6.

PHOTOGRAPHY



# RAFI office epitomizes eco-building

## BUILDING GREEN

By Alicia Ravetto, AIA

The Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI-USA) is a private, non-profit organization located in Pittsboro. RAFI-USA promotes sustainability, equity, and diversity in agriculture through policy changes, practical assistance, market opportunities, and access to financial and technical resources. In 1997, the Foundation's members began planning a new building to house its staff offices, rental offices for like-minded small nonprofits, and space for a conference center. They wanted a building that would embrace their mission statement of investing in the environment through sustainability.

RAFI envisioned a sustainable design, which would lower the impact of the new structure on the environment, cause minimal damage to the existing site and minimize the amount of fossil fuel needed to heat, cool, and light a building.

RAFI also wanted to recycle materials from an existing building and minimize landfill debris during construction. Not only does the new green building for RAFI sustain its natural habitat, but also its employees benefit from architectural features that provide comfort and delight.

A full-day design charrette (kick-off brainstorming meeting) was conducted at RAFI's site in downtown Pittsboro. Participants included architects, engineers, RAFI staff and board members, municipal officials, and community members. They did a walk-through of the 2.8-acre site and the 1830 two-story building. After the site visit, they analyzed land features and evaluated options to re-use the aged structure. Gathered under massive old oak trees, the team produced a list of priorities that later became part of the building program.

To satisfy RAFI's commitment to sustainability, the design team focused on the reuse of existing materials as well as the building's siting and orientation. The existing structure was carefully deconstructed and all re-usable materials incorporated in the new building. To minimize site impact, the designers locat-



ed the new building on the existing footprint and preserved the mature hardwood trees. Driveway and parking areas were designed to minimize stormwater runoff by using gravel instead of impervious materials. The new one-story design is elongated on an east-west axis to maximize the use of natural lighting in the offices and meeting rooms. All offices also face south, and the users can control temperature, lighting, and airflow individually.

Techniques such as daylighting, passive solar, energy efficient lighting, natural cross ventilation, R-19 insulation in the walls and R-30 insulation in the ceiling, and high efficiency HVAC help reduce lighting loads by 70 percent, cooling needs by 50 percent, and minimize heating requirements compared with a building not using these strategies.

In July 2002, one year after completion, Ravetto benchmarked the new building's actual energy per-

formance using EPA's online energy performance rating system. The rating compares one building against a database of similar facilities nationwide. Ranked in the top 10 percent of office buildings, The RAFI-USA building earned the prestigious Energy Star—the first office building in North Carolina to receive the distinctive label. This exemplary facility had an annual energy consumption of 25.1 thousand Btu per square foot and operating cost of \$0.60 per square foot. The architect and owners alike were pleased that the design energy target came very close to the actual energy use of the new building. By using energy wisely, the RAFI building prevents the emission of almost 300,000 pounds of carbon dioxide, compared to an average facility. So the environment benefits, too.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This achievement is concrete testament to the owner's and architect's unwavering commitment to incorporating energy efficiency and sustainability into RAFI's new building project from charrette through design and construction.

*Alicia Ravetto is an architect in Carrboro. She lives in a passive solar home in Chatham County. She can be reached at [ravetto@mindspring.com](mailto:ravetto@mindspring.com). This article is adapted from an Energy Star New Building Design Case Study for the RAFI Office Building, NC, USA.*

## GO DIGITAL?

continued from page 5.

cropping is possible.

**Alternatives.** Continue with your trusty film camera. Ask your processor to make a CD from the roll. It can be of very high resolution. Some will send copies of lesser resolution to you by e-mail. It costs an additional \$3 to

\$10 to have this done. Either way, the pictures get into your computer, just as though you had used a digital camera, and off you go. You still have to wait for processing, but the system I use occasionally, CVS to KODAK in Charlotte, to me via AOL, can usually return the e-mail photos the next day! Another option is to buy a scanner (\$150). Continue with your film

camera. Scan special prints into the computer, and there you are.

**My current solution.** A combination. For many years I used a Polaroid camera for instant prints, which could be filed immediately where they were needed. Then I was given a simple point-and-shoot digital camera which gave better quality photos which could be manipulated, and

with this I could get pictures in a couple of hours, after I got back to the computer. As computer equipment changed, this system was lost. Because of the desire to send photos around, either to this paper or to family, I recently purchased a good digital camera which really fits in my pocket, is light, and looks and works like a familiar film camera. A stable of well-used SLRs and 35mm pocket cameras complete the armamentarium, and will always be around for trips, for work that requires special lenses, and to take over when the digital's battery dies!

A good camera store can advise you as to how many megapixels you need to do your particular thing, and at the same time you can hold the camera in your hand to get to know it better. Try Southeast Camera in Carrboro.

*John Shillito, M.D., is photographer for Chatham County Line, as well as for Pittsboro-Siler City Convention and Visitors Bureau. His photos are also on display during the annual Chatham Open Studio Tour. Before moving to Chatham County, he was a neurosurgeon and authored many surgical articles and a neurosurgical text book.*

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# Forethought, planning bear fruit

## Trees flourish with spring planning, fall planting

By Al Cooke

Growing your own fruit is one of the more gratifying of gardening activities. The dessert to the vegetable garden's salad and entrée. The piece d' resistance.

Unfortunately by early to mid-summer we often find that plants failed to set fruit. Fruit falls on the ground. Fruit rots. Leaves develop spots. Fruits are misshaped and ooze thickened juice. What went wrong?

As I deal with home gardeners and their problems, I often find that what went wrong is unrealistic expectations. We still have a notion that we're in the Garden of Eden. That fruit grows on trees. That all we have to do is walk out and pick it. Wrong!

In the real world, fruit does grow on trees or shrubs. Some years there is more of it than other years. Some years there is less or none. Some fruits are more dependable. Some are better suited to other climates. Our ancestors may have walked miles or even scheduled their annual migrations based on the hope that fruit would be available. The notion that we just pick what's there is about 10,000 years out of date.

It was about 10,000 years ago that our ancestors started noticing that the refuse pile where they camped last year had grown up in plants. Eventually someone noticed the seed-to-plant relationship. Some primitive gardener also noticed that plants were more productive in some locations than in others. And gradually over the next 10,000 years, both amateur and professional gardeners have learned that certain things make fruit trees or shrubs more productive.

All this is preliminary to suggesting that a lot of the things that go wrong with fruit are a direct result of decisions and actions made before planting. These pre-plant decisions are usually among the most important, and corrective actions after the fact are seldom a satisfactory substitute. Many gardeners seem to think that whatever the problem there is probably some simple fix. With fruits, usually not!

For many of these problems the most practical approach is to give up on the plant in place and start over. It's not an answer that most folks want to hear. But it's often the best answer there is. Sometimes a frog is just a frog and will never be a prince.

Following are some important concepts that the careful gardener should consider before planting.

**Site selection.** Sometimes the only place where you can put a fruit tree is not a place where you can reasonably expect fruit to grow. The tree may grow but not produce fruit. The things that go into a fruit that make it sweet or give it subtle flavors are the result of photosynthesis. The leaves of the plant should be in full sun all

day long. Any less is a compromise and you must reduce your expectations.

**Air flow.** Your site should also have good air movement. Ideally it will be on the side of a hill so that cool air will drain away from it in late winter when buds are opening. It should not be close to a hedge or the edge of the woods where air stands still at times. Especially in the southeast where humidity is high, air movement is among our most effective controls for fungal diseases that thrive in damp conditions. There is no fungicide as valuable as open air movement for a fruit tree.

**Soil preparation.** Our ancestors found 10,000 years ago that some things done to the soil before planting enhanced plant survival and growth after planting. Importantly, plants don't perform well if their roots are wet all the time. Roots have to absorb oxygen, and they get oxygen from the same place they get water. Both are in the spaces between grains of soil. If the soil is full of water, there's no oxygen and plants can't do some of the necessary things that plants do. Good drainage is the first requirement. If you don't have it, you'll have to create it. You can incorporate organic matter. You can create a raised bed 10' x 10'. You can install subsurface drain tile. Or you can do some combination of those. All will enhance plant performance.

**Acidity and fertility.** Another aspect of soil preparation is fertility. Our native soil tends to be sufficiently acid that plant nutrients are chemically tied up in the soil and not available for plant use. If this acidity is not corrected before planting, it's nearly impossible to do an adequate job afterwards. Take a soil sample and submit it to the NC Department of Agriculture for analysis. At no charge! Do it in the summer and you'll usually get a report back within a couple of weeks after it gets to Raleigh (longer if you leave it in Pittsboro or Siler City). Your soil report will tell you how much lime you need. And you need to till it into the soil. Lime left on the surface may take years to get down to where you need it.

**Variety selection.** I'm not going to tell you that you can't grow cherries in Chatham County. But if I bet against every sweet or sour cherry that is planted, my odds would probably be better than the stock market. Some species and cultivated varieties (cultivars) will do well in our part of the world; some won't. Invest most of your energy in apples, pears, pecans, persimmons, strawberries, blackberries, blueberries, and muscadine grapes. If you are willing to maintain a rigorous spray program you may also try peaches. For the others, experimentation is encouraged. And remember that certain varieties perform better than others in certain circumstances. Your Extension office

can provide suggested varieties for each of the fruits listed. For some you will need at least two plants to provide adequate pollination. Plan ahead.

All of the forgoing decisions should be made before you start shopping for plants. When the site has been carefully selected and prepared, when the varieties have been chosen, then you can head to the catalogs or garden centers. There are



still some important things to follow through on.

**Plant in late fall to early winter.** Trees and shrubs are not good at growing roots when the soil is warm. Root growth is better in cool soils. With good root establishment through the fall, winter, and early spring, the plant is better able to get the water it needs through the summer. (Remember that after it freezes in Minnesota, they won't ship live plants again until they have reasonable assurance that cold weather is over – about June, I think. Include shipping time in your plans.)

**Planting.** Open up a hole large enough to spread out the roots. Be sure the bottom of the hole is firmed to prevent settling. And be absolutely sure that the plant sits a bit higher (and certainly no lower) than it was grown in the nursery.

**Water.** Be sure the tree is well watered when planted. If you plant in fall or winter, it may not need water again until it leafs out in the spring. But don't forget it if we have a dry winter.

**Prune.** Start pruning the day you plant. The tree that is shaped well in

its early years will be much easier to manage later. You must select the branches to keep and remove others to create a shape that optimizes light penetration to all branches and air circulation through the plant (we're still thinking about plant diseases). For the plant that is not pruned for years, it is perhaps easier to start over than to salvage a tree that is unmanageable. Contact your Extension office for a nice guideline to training the young tree. Sorry, but we don't know how to deal with the overgrown, never pruned tree either.

**Orchard floor.** Even if you only have one tree or shrub, eliminate the competition. Maintain a weed free zone that extends as far from the trunk as the branch canopy. Weeds not only compete for water and nutrients but also provide wintering habitat for insect pests. Use mulch to reduce weeding and keep the weed trimmer away from the trunk.

If you have followed all these guidelines, you may have reduced your need for pest management. We seldom eliminate pest problems altogether. If you are an organic gardener, you're primarily limited to soaps and oils for insect control and some copper sprays for fungal diseases. This doesn't cover all the potential problems. There are other chemicals available if you're willing to use them. Remember that your pruners can help remove some problems while they are small if you're paying attention. During the summer evenings or weekend mornings, create a ritual of walking through your plantings with the pruners in your pocket. Take a cup of coffee or whatever and make it a relaxing stroll. Make it fun. That's why you started this isn't it?

*Al Cooke is the extension agent specializing in horticulture with the N.C. Cooperative Extension, Chatham County Center in Pittsboro. He can be reached at [al\\_cooke@ncsu.edu](mailto:al_cooke@ncsu.edu).*

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# My Green Chatham

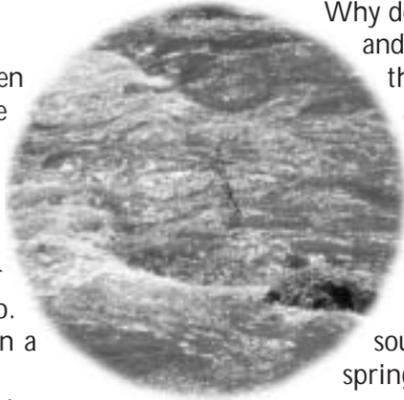
By Maggie Wilson

How can I write about my green Chatham County in a black and white newspaper? I know, I know. They didn't mean THAT kind of green. But that's what I saw. See. Green.

And smell, and hear, too. Yeah, that's the kind of guy I am. I hear colors, and smell them, too. Especially smell them. Especially on a night like this.

It's the night after Saint Patrick's Day. How could I not see green? I'm standing out in the field watching a huge day-after full moon rise through shreds of clouds and shedding more light than the sun has in days and days. The sky is light and it's hard to tell if it's because of the moonlight, diffused through the clouds, or if it's still daylight.

Or is it the lights from the Luck Stone-3M plant a couple miles away reflecting from the clouds? That's not green, not in any sense of the word.



Maggie Wilson's technicolor world includes the milk chocolate sounds of a rushing river.

PHOTO BY JOHN SHILLITO

Why do they have to have so many lights and why aren't they shaded? Why do those of us who live for miles around have to have our sky lit because of them?

At any rate, it's light enough to walk outside, if not light enough to see colors. At least not with my eyes.

I hear one of the greenest of sounds to be heard in this world — spring peepers. They start the first warm day and sing on though it gets chilly again. I can hear the roar of the river, too, but that's not a green sound — it's a big milk chocolate Rock-Cocoa River

brown sound, rushing from these days and days of rain. The river has a big smell, too, though not green. I hear that when it floods, the sewage treatment plant upriver in Siler City gets overwhelmed and "improperly treated sewage" flows into the river.

Walking the path is a challenge — avoiding the puddles and tripping on the clumps of thick grass that have sprung up in these warm temperatures. I wonder if I'm going to have to get pontoons for the mower.

I head down the hill to the river, more slowly than usual because my pound puppy is dawdling behind, distracted by smells of her own, and I don't have her wavy white collie tail to lead me.

First stop: an oak tree that, like most of the trees here in our woods, is green with moss on the north side, a moss that right now is a soft, mellow yellow green with hints of black.

Down the hill, watch out for the big pine root across the path, and stop to hug the holly tree. Greens there are at least three — first, on the bark, a pale yellow-gray green, in splotches, but smooth to the touch; second, the older leaves are a smooth dark green, with lethal points on the tips; and third, the new leaves are soft, their points not yet hardened, their green still pale.

Over the creek at the bottom of the hill — running strong now — I picture the wildflowers I saw earlier today. The trout lilies were best yesterday, bowing their yellow heads, their leaves an odd mottled brown-green. With some of the wildflowers, it's hard to notice their leaves because the flowers

MY CHATHAM continued on page 9.

## chatham writers' corner

with Marjorie Hudson

Following are two pieces, the first an essay about how using a local small town library changed a young person's life. This will be the first in what I hope will be a series from readers, young and old. As president-elect of the Friends of the Pittsboro Memorial Library for next year, I want to remind readers of the importance of local libraries to the reading life of our community, especially young people, and invite them to send their own stories. To submit a one-page essay or anecdote, email me at [chathamwriterscorner@att.net](mailto:chathamwriterscorner@att.net)

The second is an excerpt of a poem my father wrote. Some of you know he died a few weeks ago, the day before the war in Iraq began. My father was author of six books and a lifelong advocate of international peace. His poem seems appropriate right now — a call to us to learn to make peace, an even harder task than making war. It is his answer to the book of Isaiah, and is one of the things I found on the Internet when I looked him up. So — Dad lives, in etherspace, and so does the message of peace, in our minds and hearts, much more powerful than any war.

— Marjorie Hudson

### MY LIFE

By Brenda Poole

Part of a series about growing up with a small town library.

I grew up in Greensboro, North Carolina; downtown was safer then, than now. I remember just how the library looked on Market Street. Big, spread out, and roomy. As a kid I spent a lot of hours mesmerized by what seemed like mile-high-stacked books, when I was there. I didn't find the library on my own. Like most kids my age a teacher introduced me to the library. Trips to the school library were somewhat of a ritual and reading aloud was done in ritualistic style. I fell in love with *The Ransom of Red Chief* by O. Henry, thanks to a teacher. I also wrote my biography when I was 10 years old. My teacher said she would be posting it on the board. Imagine how I felt, when my class field trip ended up at the downtown library on Market Street. There on the bulletin board not far from my beloved O. Henry, posted for the whole world to read, *My Life*, by Brenda Gray, (the first nine years.)

### THE AGE OF PEACE

By J. Elliott Corbett

Excerpted from *The Prophets on Main Street*, John Knox Press, 1977

For a new age shall dawn,  
and it shall not be called the Space Age  
or the Jet Age or the Atomic Age,

but the Age of Peace:  
an age when men will beat their  
tanks into tractors,  
their rockets into mail-service mis-  
siles,  
their atom bombs into power plants.  
For this will be an age  
when your builders will outstrip your destroyers,  
where resources, once used for arms soon obsolete  
will pour into schools and cathedrals of healing,  
into teachers' salaries and urgent medical research;  
where talents wasted on war strategy  
are redirected to the strategy of peace;  
where young Americans are not sent out to police the  
world with force,  
but to serve the world with talent and friendship;  
not to train guerrillas or anti-guerrillas,  
but to train teachers and farmers.  
For I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.  
Let the trumpets proclaim  
that a generation has come of age!  
Let that age step forth with eagerness  
as a bridegroom cometh from his chamber;  
when every man may speak his mind  
with no knock on the door at midnight;  
when religion may be taught to all who desire its benefits;  
when no press release suffers prior censorship,  
nor any peaceful assembly is disturbed by police;  
when rich nations share compassionately with poor,  
not out of fear, or threat, or contest;  
when no land will be a law unto itself,  
but all accept a common rule of justice ...

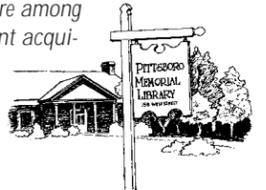
That winsome new age shall awake  
when all men enjoy the work of their hands.  
They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit  
They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat ...  
They shall not labor in vain  
or bear children for calamity ...  
Before they call I will answer,  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.  
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox...  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain,  
Says the Lord.

Marjorie Hudson is author of a novel, *Searching for Virginia Dare: A Fool's Errand*.



### New at the library

These books are among the many recent acquisitions of the Pittsboro Memorial Library.



**Cloud of Sparrows** by Takashi Matsouka. The tale of Lord Genji and three American missionaries takes place in Japan in 1861, as Western nations begin to break Japan's tradition of isolation. Part historical adventure, part love story.

**My Golden Lessons: 100-Plus Ways to Improve Your Shots, Lower Your Scores, and Enjoy Golf Much, Much More** by Jack Nicklaus with Ken Bowden. This collection of tips is compiled from Nicklaus' magazine columns from 1988 through 2001. This straightforward guide, which is more useful for players than for beginning golf students, is well illustrated and organized by themes.

**Child of My Heart** by Alice McDermott. In this coming-of-age story, a teenager from a working-class Brooklyn background spends the summer of her fifteenth year caring for the children and pets of wealthy Long Islanders. This is McDermott's first novel since her award-winning *Charming Billy*.

**A Long Way from Home: Growing Up in the American Heartland** by Tom Brokaw. TV anchorman Tom Brokaw's memoir of growing up in the Midwest, his early professional years in radio, and his many years in television journalism.

**Selected Stories of Philip K. Dick**. Twenty-one of the science fiction writer's short stories, including three that were the bases for films (*Minority Report*, *Screamers*, and *Total Recall*).

**The Glorious Cause: A Novel of the American Revolution** by Jeff Shaara. In a sequel to his *Rise to Rebellion*, Shaara follows the American Revolution from the declaration of independence to the defeat of the British Army. Told from the perspective of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Lord Cornwallis, and Nathaniel Greene.

**Rumpole Rests His Case** by John Mortimer. After an absence of several years, John Mortimer's barrister Horace Rumpole returns to defend eccentric clients in seven entertaining new stories.



Ginny Gregory surveys the flowering of her landscape design efforts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Long-time gardener to till new soil

By Ginny Gregory



I am a garden-er. Color, texture, form, function, vertical, horizontal. Anyway you look at it, I'm a gardener with passion. I'm a passionate gardener. My family is behind me. Women of the South, with Peonies cut, tucked under their arms, ready for vases to charm interior rooms of the Southern home.

I am a fearless gardener, trying the never done, combinations of color and form, not seen as partners. Plants familiar, only as dwellers of the inside, dragged out to embellish forgotten garden corners, frilled edges to soften the sharp corners, understated, when needed, and standing proud, with bold, vibrant, color and form, when allowed.

I am a loving gardener, filled with the emotional memory of fragrances from my past childhood. Wanting to

give life to the memory in a new time, my time, to smell the romantic Mimosa, the voluptuous Iris and the timid Lilly of the Valley, all in a new drama, mine.

After 14 years as the head garden-er at Ferrington Village, I gave birth to my own new me and developed a gardening consult/design/lecture business: Beyond the Pail. Helping people create a garden from their past to meet the needs of their present is my specialty.

A garden space tells you what needs to happen to allow the owners real enjoyment. I see where an arch should accent the cut flower area, where a gate announces the fragrant garden, where the path leading through the entire garden needs to flow, and where the sound of trickling water needs to begin and end.

The excitement of possibility expressed in a garden can only happen in nature. I'm a passionate, fearless, loving gardener who's job is visual pleasure.

*"When your values are clear, your decisions are easy."*  
— Roy Disney

## MY CHATHAM

continued from page 8.

are so showy. Like the hepatica with its vivid pinks. There aren't so many of those around here now that they paved the nearby road, clearing a 30-foot right-of-way and taking out gnarly old oaks and many rare and wondrous wildflowers.

Around the bend, over the dead tree, skirt that vine that always tries to grab me, and into a patch of new grass, so tender, so juicy, I simply must run my fingers through it every time I pass. What color is that green? That's grass green, the color in my box of 64 Crayolas that I always used up first. A truly Spring green.

Next I visit the sycamore tree that leans over the river, whose moss is no

thicker than anyone else's but it smells the best; a rich and earthy smell that I want to rub my nose in, that makes me look up at her soaring limbs and whisper, "You smell SO good!"

I touch the branches of a smaller tree and find something cool and soft on the tips — baby leaves. The feel of green, no doubt about it, so tender, so full of promise. In less than a month the woods will be in full leaf, all the openness and serenity of winter hidden in a riotous cacophony of green.

And finally, the taste of green. When I come back in out of the dark, fertile night, my dear husband has surprises from the grocery — maraschino cherries — GREEN!

*Maggie Wilson is an artist and writer living in her dream house in Chatham.*

## Ferrington Happenings

**Farmer's Market at Ferrington.** Every Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. Local farmers sell their finest produce at the Ferrington Farmers Market. Located next to the Administration Building. Call 542-4000.

**Art in the Garden Show.** Friday, April 25 through June 6. Local artwork will be showcased throughout the Ferrington Gardens. The works are free standing through the use of support rods and in some cases can be placed on the ground or mounted on walls. Call 919-542.1239.

**Pamela Duncan** will read from her new work, *Plant*. May 24 at 11 a.m. McIntyre's.

**Ferrington Gardeners** will give a demonstration on how to organically remove bugs from your garden. This demonstration is free and open to the public and will be held under the pine trees behind the Potting Shed. June 1 from 2-3 p.m. Call 542-1239.

Join **Brian Shawver** for a reading and signing of *The Cuban Prospect*. June 7 at 11 a.m. McIntyre's. Call 542-3030.

**Cooking School at The Ferrington House.** Director of food services and renowned grilling expert Cory Mattson will hold a class on outdoor grilling, smoking and barbecuing. Students will slow cook whole hog; BBQ ribs; smoke trout; grill shrimp; and make homemade lemonade. The reception, dinner at The Ferrington House Restaurant, overnight accommodation, gourmet breakfast, cooking class instruction and hand-outs included in package. Rates range from \$415 -\$555 depending on accommodations. June 8 and 9. Call 542-2121.

## ROOS

continued from page 4.

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association. It's not surprising that farmers and county ag agents from all over the state come to Pittsboro to attend Debbie's workshops.

To contact her, you can call her at 919-542-8202 or email her at deb-

bie\_roos@ncsu.edu. Her website is <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/chatham/ag/SustAg/index.html>

*Judy Hogan is a poet and free-lance writer living in Moncure. She is learning sustainable ag for her vegetables, orchard, and chickens from Debbie's workshops, newsletters, listserv, and website.*

## AGRICULTURE

continued from page 1.

now," she said. "I want to get into specialty vegetables and maybe raise some livestock. I really just love the idea of cultivating nice-looking produce to sell at markets."

Local student Mike Breymeyer joined the sustainable agriculture program this year and has three semesters left until he gets his degree. The Harnett County native was born and raised on a farm.

"It's always been in my blood," he says of farming. "After 30 years in the construction business I went back to the 22 acres of land handed down to me. Now I have a working farm, the Seven Springs Ranch," he says with pride.

Breymeyer said that it was important to him to go to school for farming. "The educational aspect of farming has sure changed," he explains. "It used to be that techniques were all handed down to you, but now there's a gap that is to large to overcome."

Having just received a grant from

the North Carolina Department of Agriculture for specialty crop production, Breymeyer is excited about the direction the Seven Springs is taking. "We've got livestock, three acres of vegetables ready to go, and we just purchased our first tractor on Saturday," he laughs.

But he does recognize the long road ahead. "It takes a long time to get up to good production," Breymeyer admits.

And this could be the problem that has traditionally faced smaller farms around the country. It seems that by the time things get going, a larger company is at their heels ready to buy them out. Dan Manternach, editor of Professional Farmers of America, concedes that the polarization of farms by size is one of the current agricultural trends in the world, but he also seems to think there is hope for small farms.

"The number of large farms is still increasing," he explains, "and the number of small farms is still decreasing, but at a much slower rate than 20 years ago."

**AGRICULTURE** continued on page 11.



## Searching for Virginia Dare: A Fool's Errand

by Marjorie Hudson

*"As fascinating as a detective story ... beautifully written."*  
— Lee Smith, author of *The Last Girls*

Available from McIntyre's Books in Ferrington Village, Edwards Antiques in downtown Pittsboro, and the Chatham County Arts Council Ferguson House Gallery

## Chatham County Line RACK LOCATIONS

■ GOVERNOR'S CLUB ■ PITTSBORO: Senior Center, CCCC, Ronnie's Quick Stop, Pittsboro Memorial Library, Pittsboro General Store, Cane Creek Video, Lowe's Foods, Thrift Store, Food Lion, Cooper Gas Station (15-501), Frosty's ■ SILER CITY: Chatham County Chamber of Commerce, Food Lion, BP Gas Station, Wren Library, Tienda Romero, Best Foods, Chatham Pharmacy, Servco Gas Station, PTA Thrift Shop, MovieMax Video, CCCC, Pantry, Helping Hands Center, Hispanic Liaison, Tienda Diana, Tienda Gabriel, Tienda Guerrero ■ BYNUM: Bynum General Store ■ CARRBORO: Weaver Street Grocery. ■ CHAPEL HILL: Chapel Hill Library, Wellspring Grocery, Davis Library, Student Union, Undergrad Library, Chapel Hill Senior Center ■ COLE PARK PLAZA: Lowe's Foods, thrift Store ■ FEARRINGTON: Market Café and McIntyre's ■ GOLDSTON: Goldston Library ■ JORDAN LAKE AREA: Amoco, (Hwy 64), Topp's Station (64/Mt. Gilead), BP (Wilsonville), Phillips 66 (Wilsonville), Carolina Meadows Center ■ MONCURE: Fast Serve Market and Mini Mart (by US1)

## Harrison student wins at regional science fair

Alec Tidwell, a third grader at Perry Harrison School, won first place in the Elementary Division Region 5 Science Fair, held at Sci-Works in Winston-Salem on April 3. His project, Turtle Nests: Top Secret, described nesting behavior of sea turtles on the North Carolina coast. Tidwell's project also won first place in the Chatham County Science fair for individual projects in the 3rd-5th grade division and shared Best Overall Project. Alec is in **Thelma Pike's** class at Perry Harrison.

## Northwood students excel in state contests

Several Chatham Career and Technical Education programs had students and teachers who attended the recent NC Skills USA State Conference in Greensboro. Among them were student competitors in Career and Technical Events. Winners were announced on Thursday, April 17, during an awards ceremony.

From Northwood High School, **Peyton Holland**, a junior, won the Job Interview competition for the second consecutive year. He will now advance to the national level. Holland was a first place winner in the national competition in 2002. Holland was

## school briefs

also elected state Skills USA VICA President.

Carpentry students **Laura Benitez** and **Martin Ellis** made a strong showing in their areas of competition. Benitez earned second place in Extemporaneous Speaking while Ellis placed third in the Carpentry competition. Both are students of **David Pendergrast**, the Northwood Carpentry teacher.

## Chatham students excel with Junior Beta Club

Several schools from Chatham had students who competed in events during the recent Junior Beta Club state convention in Greensboro.

**Melissa Mitchell**, an eighth grader at Bennett School, finished third in the talent competition.

The Bonlee School Junior Beta Club participated in a song competition. The group, with the help of Bonlee Principal **Ronnie Joyce**, created text about Junior Beta Club ideals that the students sang to the tune of "The Locomotion." The group placed second in the competition. Bonlee seventh grader **Paul Capps** was elected state Junior Beta Club secretary. In addition, a four-member team from the Bonlee Junior Quiz Bowl placed third in competi-

tion. Team members were **Travis Beal**, **Bray Harvey**, **Wesley Jones**, and **Clay Phillips**. Bonlee Junior Beta Club advisors are faculty members **Sherry Elmore**, **Molly Jones**, and **Cathy Snipes**.

At Chatham Central, freshmen comprise a Junior Beta Club with teacher **Beth Little** serving as advisor. The school had several winners in academic and arts and crafts competitions. These included: third place in Speech-**Philip Roscoe**; third Place in Essay-**Spencer Andrews**; third place in Science-**Jonatham Pegram**; second place in Decorated Baskets-**Courtney Foushee**; first place in Needlepoint-**Jennifer Kozulinski**; first place in Sculpture-**Jesse White**.

## Perry Harrison Environthon Team succeeds

The Perry Harrison School Envirothon Team placed second at Jordan Lake on March 13. The event was held at the Educational State Forest. The Envirothon Team is open to all sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders and focuses on natural science curriculum at a high school level. Members of the team include: **Rachel Fesperman**, **Heather Emch**, **Eli Burke**, **Zac Hackney**, and **Austin Raymond**. The team, "Aldo's Offspring," also tied for first place in the soils category. **Dawn Street** and **Michael Burke** are the team's advisors.

# The Astrology of George W. Bush

By Lynn (Monson) Hayes

It could be argued that George W. Bush, leader of the last remaining superpower, is the most powerful individual in the world today. Whether he arrived at that position by accident or as the result of a carefully orchestrated plan, the power he wields at this time as the U.S. controls Iraq is unprecedented.

George W. Bush has an interesting birthchart that reveals some clues to his personality and motivation. GW's Sun sign is Cancer, which is ruled by the moon and represents emotional security, family, and roots. Would this individual have been elected president if it weren't for his family history? I would venture to say this is doubtful. The genealogy and legacy of the Bush/Pierce family was crucial to his being elected. It was even said that GW Bush has more royal blood than any other president.

Despite this Cancer influence, this is not the chart of an emotional or nurturing man. The Sun is in the 12th house, indicating an intensely private individual, yet with Leo rising he requires attention, admiration, and validation from others. Mercury (communication) in Leo is paired with Pluto (issues of power) very near the ascendant — this is a man with strong ideas who is very expressive, who enjoys wielding power, and who can be extremely stubborn and unyielding in his opinions. Mercury is the trickster, and Mercury on the ascendant often shows an individual who wears disguises and wears many cloaks in the process of establishing Pluto's power base. The conjunction of Pluto with Mercury is one indicator of the language difficulties experienced by GW in the past — I have noticed that as he becomes more empowered in his position his language difficulties seem to have lessened considerably.

Mars in this chart is unaspected by any other planet, showing us that this is a man whose aggressive urge is unhindered by any moderating force. Janis Huntley's research shows that unaspected Mars possesses "a reckless, self-destructive quality which is highly inflammable.... [It can be] far too powerful for most people to control and is capable of taking over a person's identity." We can see this reflected in the way Bush is leading the country away from the coalition building of the previous presidencies, and away from operating by consensus through the United Nations. Bush's Mars is in the 2nd house of finance, and his headstrong push for a tax cut beyond all reason may be an example of the unbridled will of the unaspected Mars.

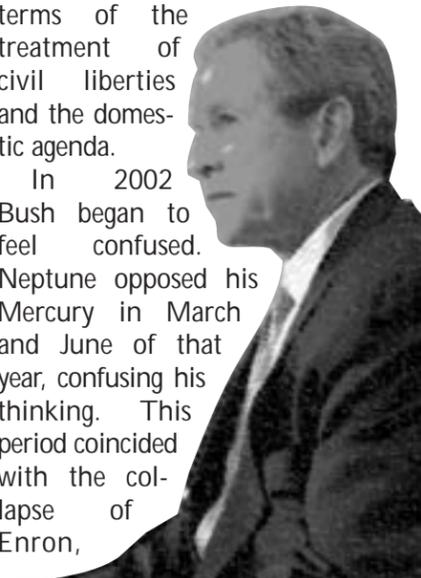
Bush's Moon is in Libra, which shows that he has a deep emotional need for peace and harmonious relationships, but the fact that his Sun (or conscious Self) is square to his moon tells us that he has difficulty activating his emotions. This is further evidenced by the conjunction of Chiron, the wounded healer, to his Moon. Often people with this placement bear a deep and unhealable wound to their emotional security, and particularly in men, can lead to one's detaching from the emotional nature completely. Alcoholism or drug addiction can be a result as these people attempt to heal the deep pain within them. However, the painful attributes of this aspect are ameliorated by the conjunction of Jupiter (faith and optimism) to the Moon, which also, by squaring the Sun, adds a degree of overconfidence and self-aggrandizement. Finally, the presence in the 12th house of the unconscious of Saturn, representing discipline and diligence, as well as disappointment and self-doubt, shows us that Bush is haunted by spectres of defeat that generally remain relegated to the subconscious realm except when activated by transit.

## Forecast for Bush in 2003

As I write this, Bush has just declared war on Saddam Hussein and the troops have begun to battle. In ancient times, the leader's horoscope was cast to predict the future of the nation, and I thought it would be helpful at this time to see what the planets have in store for GW, and therefore for us.

Overall, the year 2001 was a good one for Bush. Neptune, the ruler of transcendence, spirituality, confusion and deceit, aspected his ascendant which signifies the mask that we wear to the world. It can be argued that the events surrounding the tragedy of September 11 transformed the image of GW Bush in the eyes of the world. Chiron danced with his Midheaven, ruling his position in the world and career, healing some old wounds caused perhaps by his previous failures in the business world. Saturn, that stern taskmaster, worked harmoniously with Bush's ascendant and Pluto to deepen his sense of power and to foster the discipline required to do his job with the diligence that brings success and create order out of chaos. The country was affected by this deepening power base in the increasing power seized by the Bush administration in terms of the treatment of civil liberties and the domestic agenda.

In 2002 Bush began to feel confused. Neptune opposed his Mercury in March and June of that year, confusing his thinking. This period coincided with the collapse of Enron,



in which Bush's business associates played a prominent role. The role of the Bush administration, however, was obscured (Neptune) and the issue quickly dropped from sight. The remainder of the year was smooth sailing, however, with a number of harmonious transits of Saturn (discipline and order), Uranus (social change) and Chiron (healing old wounds). That Fall Bush signed into law the Homeland Security Act, putting the FBI, CIA and a number of other bodies all under his control.

The year 2003 began as a good year for GW. Astrologically, he was experiencing transits that brought good fortune (Pluto sextile Jupiter) and popularity (Saturn trine Venus). Unfortunately, the beneficent influences were quickly swept behind him with the onset of some very difficult transits of Chiron to his Sun, Mars, Jupiter and Moon, as well as Chiron in square to his natal Chiron, which will be the prevalent influence for him during this year. During the challenging aspects of Chiron (squares and oppositions), quite often a great deal of psychic pain is unearthed and old, unresolved wounds are exposed so that they are more available for the healing process. Unfortunately, however, many of us lack the courage to face this "healing crisis" of the psyche and may tend to seek escape instead. Bush may attempt to manage the cacophony of stress and emotional pain through the aggression of his unaspected Mars and by seeking more power in the attempt to shore up his crumbling self-confidence. This could have a negative impact on his ability to work together with other nations in seeking peaceful solutions to the world's problems.

It will be interesting to see what 2004 brings for Mr. Bush. With a harmonious aspect of Pluto to his Venus,

ASTROLOGY continued on page 12.



THE CHARGE? MMM...ILLEGAL USE OF STEROIDS

humor

# Many happy returns

By Carl Granath

Who says there's no free entertainment these days? Is the zoo too far? Does the museum wear the kids out? Then join the fun and have a fling ...at your neighborhood recycling center! What a great concept. A combination of conservation, economy, disposal and entertainment all under one roof. The open sky. Bring the kids, the dog, even Granny will enjoy the outing.

And if the world situation has you down in the dumps, then come on down to the dump and get rid of that stress. Ease your tension by smashing glass, flinging sacks, heaving steel shelving and pitching all those useless catalogs that pile up like worries. It's liberating to the spirit while offering all sorts of cardiovascular activities for your TV weary bod.

Don't miss the daily entertainment, a veritable variety show of human foibles. Just park a while and enjoy. Catch the sad look on the septuagenarian's face as he nervously scans the area before discarding his 40-year collection of Playboy Magazines. Obviously die Frau said it was time for one or the other to go. Hefner loses.

And then there's Our Lady of the Lexus who is straining as she reaches into the magazine bin to try and fish out some quality reading. Success brings a determined smile as she retrieves a copy of Oprah, a back number of ELLE and a like-new Smithsonian. Forget the money saved, it's the thrill of the chase that counts. Yes!!

For the Sherlock Holmes in you there's also the opportunity for... investigation! Why limit all that fun to the FBI, the CIA and the neighbor you left your key with while you were attempting to ski in the fog up at Boone? There are facts everywhere. Look into the green glass bin and you'll find out that Heineken is in. Sorry, Old Milwaukee. And a quick peek in the mixed paper bin reveals that paranoia is sweeping the county. Heaps of shredded paper tell all. Then there are the wine bottles. Not one lonely jug of Thunderbird in the lot. Who says we're in a recession?

*Carl Granath is a writer and graphic artist living in Ferrington. He is the cartoonist for Chatham County Line.*

## Make your VOICE heard!

Got an opinion you'd like to share? Send your letters and opinion columns to Chatham County Line and we'll share your thoughts on these pages.

Write to Editor, Chatham County Line

P.O. Box 1357  
Carrboro, NC 27510

or e-mail  
chathamcoline@mindspring.com

media meditations

# Bias is nothing new

By R.L. Taylor

Don't be surprised about Peter Arnett. His anti-American bias was there in front of you for years. In the first Gulf War, he even faked pictures of Iraqi workers running around a building described as a milk plant bombed by the Americans. The workers wore white coveralls with "Milk Plant" printed on their backs. Arnett never explained why Iraqi workers in Baghdad used English job descriptions. He didn't have to. CNN put it on the air without asking such a simple question.

Arnett is not the only newsman with his own agenda. "60 Minutes" also has a lot to answer for, especially in the 1980's deification of Ben Chavis, the North Carolina civil rights minister with the United Church of Christ and prominent member of what the liberals called The Wilmington Ten "political prisoners."

The Rev. Mr. Chavis was indicted and convicted of throwing a fire bomb that burned down a building during civil rights demonstrations in Wilmington back in the early '70's. When Chavis went to prison it was a coup for the liberals because they made him a martyr and The "Wilmington Ten" made a few headlines in the N. Y. Times and on network television.

Time has dimmed some of the details for me but I remember Chavis was up for parole when "60 Minutes" decided to investigate the case again in the early 80's. The famous and highly respected news show sent quiet, profound Morley Safer to dig out the truth. It didn't take Safer long to find just right witness to prove that Ben Chavis was the victim of bad justice and had been railroaded by a Southern jury.

The magic witness was a Lutheran minister who had moved away from North Carolina before Chavis's trial. The preacher told Safer that Ben Chavis could not have thrown the firebomb that gutted the store because Chavis was in his church with him at the time. The minister was white and that gave his account even more credibility to the liberal press.

Safer moved in close, like an understanding uncle helping the preacher through an ordeal. The TV star acted as if he carried the full weight of American justice and fair play on his soul and back. "And why didn't you come back to testify at the trial?" he asked.

Oh, said the man of God, he was afraid. Feelings were running very high at the trial and he was afraid for his life. At that point, I am not sure Safer patted his hand but he nodded and left it right there. See? People in a Southern

State had frightened off a witness who could have cleared an innocent public-spirited God-fearing Ben Chavis of a heinous crime. See? "60 Minutes" had proved evil men denied him truth and justice.

The story didn't make sense from the beginning. It is a sorry preacher who will sit in safety 500 miles away while an innocent friend is sent to the pokey. Afraid? Good Lord, of what? That was a federal trial and there were more U. S. Marshals in Wilmington than English sparrows. Probably none of them were from North Carolina but all were there to stop any hint of trouble or intimidation by anybody. No matter, he was still a sorry preacher and a lousy friend to abandon Ben Chavis.

The flimsy explanation answered nothing. It might have satisfied old Morley, but he could have found the truth with one phone call. I called the city editor of the Wilmington newspaper and he explained the preacher did not come back to testify because there were several outstanding warrants against him, something about some little girls in his church. But Morley didn't ask him. Why screw up a good story with facts?

The Rev. Mr. Chavis seemed destined to become a great civil rights hero. When he finally got out of jail he quickly became with the Executive Director of the NAACP. Observers saw a "more militant" approach by the oldest civil rights organization. But - oops - Not-So-Gentle-Ben was in trouble again. It was something about NAACP hush money to keep a Chavis lady friend quiet. The NAACP dumped him and the long-time Christian minister of God fell into the waiting arms of Louis Farrakhan and his Muslims. At least, that is where he was the last time his name was in the paper.

Programs like "60 Minutes" and CNN News are very good at making corrections. I would think they might revisit the Ben Chavis story for an update. Well, in fact, they might have done that but I would not know. It has been 20 years or more since I watched the show.

We must understand that "60 Minutes" and Peter Arnett are free to report these matters. But more importantly, I have right to think they are fools and don't have to watch stupid television shows at all.

*R.L. Taylor is a contributor to Chatham County Line. He has been a newsman for 50 years, working as a reporter, editor and publisher. He has also been an advisor to newspapers in Slovakia, Romania and Russia.*

## AGRICULTURE

continued from page 9.

Others agree that rural revitalization is under way. Alvin Toffler, author of Power Shift, says that based on the theory of universal cycles, "the current trend of industrialization and corporate domination must eventually come to an end."

He argues that the new model of agriculture is to produce customized goods aimed at niche markets.

Industry Consultant Peter Drucker analyzes the changes in farming in his book, The New Realities. He states that the smallest effective size is best for enterprises and that, essentially, bigger is only better if the job can't be done otherwise. Drucker also brings up a point that supports farming education. "The conventional factors of production like land, labor and raw materials, are becoming less important than the knowledge of them," he says.

That knowledge is seen throughout sustainable farming as it promotes greater individual creativity, greater dignity of work, and attention to social issues.

"People are the key to farming sustainability," says Drucker. "And although it's a practice that, educationally speaking, is far from established, there are some pioneers out there."

Pioneers like the sustainable agriculture program at CCCC. "The fact that we are attracting people from such diverse areas should be an indicator that we have something unique here," said Kohanowich. "It also tells us that the interest in sustainable farming is growing, which means that great things are to come."

**For more information on the sustainable agriculture program at CCCC, please contact Robin Kohanowich at (919) 542-6495 x229, or visit the college website at www.cccc.edu.**

*Kira Collins is the Public Information Specialist for Central Carolina Community College.*

# CHATHAM COMUNIDAD

bilingual news ~ noticias bilingües

## noticias breves

### Club de Mujeres

El Centro Latino las invitamos a compartir con nosotros un tiempo divertido lleno de diferentes actividades donde podras aprender cosas nuevas y utiles para tu vida como: Recetas de cocina, manualidades, adornos. Animate a disfrutar y hacer nuevas amigas.

Los Lunes de 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 101 Lloyd St., Carrboro. Transporte y cuidado de niños. 932-4652.

### Pre-K/HeadStart de las escuelas de Chapel Hill

HeadStart solicitudes aceptadas ahora y todo el mes de mayo en la programa de Pre-K/HeadStart de las escuelas de Chapel Hill-Carrboro.

La programa preescolar mixto sirviendo a los niños entre las edades de 3 a 5 años. Para calificar, los niños deben cumplir sus 3 años para el 16 de octubre.

Para mayor información o para inscribirse, llame a la oficina de Pre-K/HeadStart a 918-2153, x 20291

### CIRCULACION LARGA | WIDE CIRCULATION



Jewel Hoogstoel de Ferrington tiene a mano el jornal Chatham County Line en Havana, Cuba, en frente de uno carro clasico americano de los 1950s. ■ Jewel Hoogstoel de Ferrington holds up a copy of Chatham County Line in Cuba, in front of one of the classic American cars from the 1950s for which Havana is famous.

### Narracion de cuentos bilingue

Las librerias Barnes & Noble ofrecen narracion de cuentos bilingue durante el cuarto sabado de cada mes a las 11 a.m. en el departamento de niños. Las proximas son las 24 mayo y 28 junio. Ven a escuchar las historias favoritas de los niños leidas en espanol y ingles. 5400 New Hope Commons, Durham. 489-3012.

### ASTROLOGY

continued from page 10.

he will exude a powerful attractive quality, and this could be good news for the United States. On the other hand, Chiron will challenge his Venus at the same time, and he will need to make a great deal of effort to be able to harness the power of Pluto in dealings with others. Chiron will also make a difficult aspect to his Midheaven, or the point of career and power, and to Jupiter, his sense of faith and optimism. If he rises to the occasion, this could be a time of amazing healing and transformation for him. If not, the next two years will bring him a great deal of psychic pain.

*Lynn (Monson) Hayes writes about astrology for Chatham County Line. She has been a practicing astrologer since 1981 and is the founder of AstroDynamics, a technique using astrological counseling and psychological tools to break through blocks and old patterns for transformation and empowerment. She can be reached at 968-9989.*

### GREEN CARD

continued from page 1.

Then, we would apply for an I-750, or Permission to Work, which would only take three weeks. That would be followed by an interview with INS to make sure that our marriage was not a sham. Then, probably in November, Deb would get Permanent Residence Status.

He was wrong by years. Because of fear and anger at immigrants, Congress passed much more restrictive immigration laws right before we got married. This caused panic among the immigrant community, and INS was inundated with applications. At the same time, INS had to review the applications more painstakingly than in the past, and with a budget that was weighted much more toward patrolling borders than processing applications.

After an excruciating search for personal and family records, including marriage and divorce decrees and notarized copies of both of our birth certificates (passports won't do), the lawyer sent our first application, form I-130, to the INS office in Dallas in May '97. But it took 30 days just to acknowledge that they received it; they said it would take 90 to 120 days to process it.

In June my wife's NAFTA visa renewal was rejected. Her head nurse wrote on the renewal application that she had married a U.S. citizen and was applying for Permanent Residence Status. As a result, the application was rejected, since she no longer qualified for Temporary Residence status.

Because she is married to a U.S. citizen, she could legally work. But because she had no legal status from the INS, no companies could legally employ her. If she were to leave the United States, she couldn't get back in. She lost her job.

Add to this sorry situation a dumb lawyer. Hopelessly out of touch with the reality of INS and a font of incorrect information, he filed the application in the wrong field office.

We finally took the matter in our own hands and re-filed at the Charlotte INS office in late September of '97. Arriving at 11 a.m. after a two-and-a-half hour drive through a hard chilly rain, we took a number and took a seat. Four hours or so later, our number

was called and we gave our forms to an agent. I asked her if she could grant Deb Permission to Work, which in the past was given to spouses of U.S. citizens after reviewing the application on the spot.

She refused to do that but said that the application would be processed in 90 days.

I told her I thought it was ridiculous that my wife could no longer work in the U.S. because she married a U.S. citizen.

The agent eyed me coldly and said, "She no longer qualifies for a CVOCJ."

In January '98, after months of forced unemployment, Deb got a work visa and a job. And the INS process proceeded. The next big trip to Charlotte was for the interview for the Green Card the following December. This time we had a smart lawyer and her help was invaluable. She made us get all our records together and then grilled us on anything that caught her fancy.

We gathered photos of Deb, me and my son Alex that show him growing over time. And we brought along our daughter Antonia, then three months old. We were interviewed punctually by two INS agents, one a stern black man in his '40s, the other an avuncular Caucasian with a Midwestern demeanor in his '50s. The black man conducted the interview formally, although his questions were much less antagonistic than those of our smart lawyer.

The "good cop" engaged us in an informal conversation. During the banter, he inquired if we would be going to Canada to visit Deb's folks for the holidays. We smilingly said, "Not this year," while I bit my tongue, wanting to say, "You know that if she did go to Canada, she couldn't get back into the U.S."

Deb was awarded her Green Card, which is actually pink and made of some extremely high-tech holographic-looking material. The Green Card is the biggie, and we celebrated as we drove home from Charlotte in an ice storm.

Citizenship, the final step, was much easier. Deb applied after the required three-year wait, without legal advice. A year or so later INS scheduled another interview, this time to administer a citizenship test. And so we drove down to Charlotte for a 12:15 p.m.

appointment on that lovely spring day. We came early, but INS was running late and didn't call Deb in for her test until two hours after the appointed time.

She went with the agent to take the test, and then returned in a few minutes. What she described sounded like the test they give people to detect brain injury: "Who is the President of the United States?" "How many stripes can you count on the flag?"

They hurried us into an assembly room a few buildings away where Deb joined about 40 others who were being sworn in as U.S. citizens. Then something truly shocking happened. As I looked at those others taking the oath of citizenship – a majority from Latin America, but others from China, India, Sudan, Ghana, Bosnia to name a few – I realized how awesome U.S. citizenship really is. It was an oath my father took more than 60 years ago after bidding good riddance to Fascist Italy, an oath my grandparents took more than 100 years ago after their departure from Kaiser Wilhelm's Germany.

And I realized how totally spoiled rotten I really am. While my wife's forced unemployment was certainly an unnecessary kick in the rear end, we didn't miss any meals on account of it. We certainly never faced genocide, famine or civil war. We never had to brave pirates in a small boat on the open sea or cross the Sonoran desert, our lives in the hands of snakeheads or coyotes.

The new American citizen who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance at the end of the ceremony, a native of El Salvador, wore the uniform of the 82nd Airborne Division. In a few days he was going to be shipped out to the Gulf, as was another newly minted citizen and paratrooper, out of uniform, from Ukraine. I had trouble repeating the Pledge because the lump in my throat was too big.

While I often wanted to howl loudly and publicly about the idiocy and unfairness of the INS, I never did out of fear of somehow getting on some secret INS black list. But I'm speaking out now. Deb is a U.S. citizen, and I plan on enjoying my rights under our Constitution — particularly the First Amendment — to the fullest.

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