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TRADITIONS OLD AND NEW

Traditions thrive in North Carolina. Down in Wilmington, two homes — originally owned and occupied by sisters of the accomplished and wealthy Kenan family — serve the modern needs of UNCW while exuding memories of an older, statelier era. In Metro's quarterly Southern Style special report in this issue, Diane Lea shares a personal tour with the school's chancellor in a story laden with design details and evocations of the past.

The garden of Richard and Barbara Urquhart.

Down the road from UNCW toward Wrightsville Beach in the Landfall community, Katie Reeves organized and produced the fashion shoot for June's Southern Style, centered on the mania for outdoor activities during the summer months. Southern Style also means weddings this time of year. Sharon Swanson reports on the 75th anniversary of nuptials at one of the nation's best known buildings, Durham's Duke Chapel — and Liza Roberts investigates what to wear — or not to wear — for the weddings on your calendar over the summer months.

For garden devotees, the word is celebrate, with garden parties scheduled here and around the state to raise money and awareness for NC State's Raulston Arboretum, a veritable treasure trove of flora hidden inside the beltline. Garden guru Helen Yoest previews the festivities and adds a special visit to the peaceful garden oasis of the Richard Urquhart family in central Raleigh.

Editor-at-large Jim Leutze slips across the border to South Carolina to bring back news of the Civil War submarine the Hunley — and some inside tips on fine dining in the Low Country. Carroll Leggett travels closer to his roots to participate in a car rally for Parkinson's disease in Eastern North Carolina. Louis St. Lewis notes the march of time; Art Taylor reviews the new book on the Miller arsenic poisoning case that drew international coverage to the Triangle; and Philip van Vleck offers up good tunes for summer listening.

The Mint restaurant is attracting praise for its sophisticated “molecular” cuisine in downtown Raleigh. Metro food critic Moreton Neal comes away impressed. Wine critic Barbara Ensrud recommends celebrating in the summer with Champagne; Cyndi Harris rounds up coastal news and events for your summer agenda; Mary Ward Boerner's Preview provides activities all across the region; Liza Roberts reveals the identity of her mother-in-law; and the Raleigh Spy Conference receives international praise from the United Kingdom.

And coming over the summer in Metro:
The winners of the 2008 MetroBravo! poll, listing the best in the Triangle and across the region, will be revealed in two parts in the July and August issues; celebrated novelist Pat Conroy is penning an exclusive piece for us about his close friend Doug Marlette — the Pulitzer-winning political cartoonist and novelist who died in an auto accident last year; Bill Morris is preparing a historical journey into the life of famous novelist and journalist Robert Ruark; and look out for an in-depth probe into the rail transit plan proposed for the Triangle region by John Suddath.

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—Bernie Reeves, Editor & Publisher
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Correspondence

NEVER FORGET EVE CARSON

Once again Metro Magazine® Bernie Reeves is telling it like it is, going where others fear to tread to relate the sordid details of Eve Carson’s untimely death (My Usual Charming Self, May 2008).

The memory of Eve Carson and Duke graduate student Abhijit Mahato, killed the same week — and others — and violent encounters.

We have to stop the barbaric carnage that is occurring as society increasingly fails to protect its citizens.

Kris Christensen
Raleigh, NC

SAD LOSS OF ANDREW BRITTON

Many thanks for your lovely article in the May 2008 issue on the sad loss of my son Andrew Britton. He was so looking forward to working with Bernie Reeves at the Raleigh Spy Conference. I also wanted to thank you for displaying and selling his books in his absence at the event.

I told your writer Rick Smith that I hoped to find someone to work on the finishing touches of Andrew’s fourth book. He had the start and the end of it all put together and was very excited about it. I sent an e-mail to a wonderful writer in the UK who has many books, TV programs and movies under his belt who is considering the project. Andrew was a huge fan of his.

I am very excited about that, and I know that Andrew is sitting around smiling down and saying good work Mom. I am planning to meet with the writer in Dublin, Ireland in early July, and I will keep you all posted.

Again, many thanks to Metro Magazine from me, Andrew’s brother Christopher, his sister Roxanne, his heartbroken girlfriend Valerie, stepfather Graham and Andrew’s extended family in Ireland and the UK.

We would like also to express our sincere thanks to the wonderful people of Raleigh, NC — especially the huge Irish and Scottish community for all their support during this very tragic time in our lives.

To help give back and keep Andrew’s memory alive, we have set up a fund that will hold a benefit concert in the fall of each year in North Carolina. The foundation’s aim will be to help children and young adults with an interest in writing, help fund literacy programs and assist gifted children with autism.

Friends and fans of Andrew can help by contacting: The Andrew Britton Foundation
C/o Margaret Rosenfeld
Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan Attorneys
PO Box 2611
Raleigh NC 27602-2611.
Or communicate directly with me at annienice@yahoo.com.

Annie Nice
Raleigh

TARGET-RICH SPY CONFERENCE

Reading the excellent coverage and praise for the Raleigh Spy Conference in UK’s Eye Spy magazine gives me the opportunity to express kudos to Bernie Reeves and his staff at Metro for putting up a truly superb conference.

The briefings were fantastic, interesting and extremely well-delivered. But of even more importance to me, I found it was an extraordinary networking opportunity with the participants at the conference, to what we in the military call a “target-rich environment.”

I look forward to next year’s conference.

Cal Carnes
Reston, VA
(retired intelligence community)

DURHAM STEREOTYPE CRITICIZED

I don’t understand why your art columnist’s report about Somerhill Gallery’s move from Chapel Hill to Durham had such a sinister, dark tone to it.

Your columnist, Louis St. Lewis in the May 2008 issue, refers to the new gallery location as being in the shadow of a jail and notes that owner Joe Rowand has two big dogs that can provide protection there. The use of these details in this way perpetuates an unfair stereotype about Durham and is irresponsible and inflammatory. The new gallery will be near the Durham Bulls park, the American Tobacco complex and the new performing arts center in Durham — a perfect place for an art gallery. Why didn’t your columnist mention these nearby landmarks?

The last line of the Somerhill report is downright baffling, if not offensive: “Let’s all keep our collective fingers crossed and hope that Rowand doesn’t wind up ‘The Versace of Durham.’” Why make this reference to the murder of fashion designer Gianni Versace? It’s irrelevant and sensational.

About the only thing that made sense in the column was the comment that Rowand and Somerhill are integral to the art scene in our region. The fact that Rowand has found a place to relocate Somerhill is joyous news: This treasure of a gallery will remain in the Triangle and have a fabulous new home.

Arati Bechtel
Raleigh, NC

GENEROUS REVIEW

To: Arch T. Allen
Thank you very much for your generous review of my book, The Paradox of Tar Heel Politics, in the May 2008 issue. It means a great deal to me to have someone so knowledgeable as you give my book a favorable review.

Rob Christensen
Raleigh

CORRECTIONS


Bernie Reeves
Editor and Publisher

EDITORIAL
Rick Smith Senior Writer
Emily Keveryn Copy Editor
Dan Reeves Assistant Editor
Jennifer Hadra Assistant Editor

Contributing Editors
Arch T Allen Books
Barbara Ensrud Cork Report
Molly Fulghum Heintz Style
Diane Lea Design
Jim Leutze Editor-at-Large
Carroll Leggett Columnist
Moreton Neal Gourmet
Louis St. Lewis Art-at-Large
Art Taylor Fiction
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DESIGN
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Katie Reeves Vice President of Sales and Marketing
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Cyndi Harris Office Manager

INTERNS
Lindsey Briggs
Meagan O’Daniel

Metro Magazine LLC
1032 Oberlin Road, Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27605
Mailing address
P.O. Box 6190, Raleigh, NC 27628
Phone: 919-831-0999 Toll-free: 800-567-1841
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British Intelligence Magazine Praises Raleigh Spy Conference

Eye Spy, Great Britain's leading intelligence publication, praised the 5th Raleigh Spy Conference in its current issue, calling it "an unprecedented, bold effort" to dispel CIA myths and inform a lay audience about the intelligence community.

The two-page spread, entitled "Myths of Cold War Spy Cases Shattered in Raleigh Conference," gave a synopsis of the conference and noted that each speaker revealed "the best-hidden, most complex and least understood levels of counterespionage."

The theme of the 2008 conference, "CIA's Unsolved Mysteries: The Nosenko Defection and Angleton's Wilderness of Mirrors," attracted a noteworthy speaker line-up that included former CIA officer Tennent H. "Pete" Bagley, author of the recent book Spy Wars that contradicts CIA's approved history of the Yuri Nosenko defection in 1964. The book, which revisits Nosenko's information concerning Lee Harvey Oswald, has caused continuing controversy at CIA.

CIA chief historian David Robarge delivered newly declassified information about the infamous James Angleton's reign as chief of counterintelligence for CIA; former Time Magazine bureau chief Jerrold Schecter discussed the Penkovsky defection; and CIA counterintelligence veteran Brian Kelley, joined by Dan Mulvonna of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, covered six cases of defections and double agents, settling disagreements in the intelligence community lingering since the beginning of the Cold War.

The keynote address was delivered by Washington Post associate editor and foreign affairs and intelligence columnist David Ignatius. Ignatius offered a timeline with parallels comparing the failures and successes of the CIA to the publication of his five espionage novels. Ignatius exposed that a character in one of his books was based on the true story of the recruitment by CIA of Yasir Arafat's number two man who was later killed by the Israelis.

According to conference founder Bernie Reeves, "History is being rewritten hourly as newly declassified data emerges to correct the record of past events. The Raleigh Spy Conference recognized this trend five years ago and set the standard for intelligence conferences. I am amazed at the quality of speakers who come to Raleigh."

The Raleigh Spy Conference — an "annual and important event," as Eye Spy's editor noted — was founded by Raleigh Metro Magazine's editor and publisher Bernie Reeves. Reeves first conceived of the Conference on the premise that "intelligence is the calculus of history" after the exposure of Ultra Secret 35 years after the end of World War II when the British admitted they had deciphered the German code.

Adds Reeves: "After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the declassification of the Venona program in 1995 and the addition of dozens of new books a year on the Cold War, the Raleigh conference is committed to communicating to the public what actually transpired."

For details on the Raleigh Spy Conference and recaps of all five events, visit www.raleigh-spyconference.com.

Ballet Ends Season with Jamboree

Carolina Ballet will bring its 10th anniversary season to a close with performances of Carolina Jamboree, June 5-8 at Raleigh Memorial Auditorium.

The production pairs the dancers with Broadway choreographer Lynne Taylor-Corbett and the Tony Award-winning bluegrass string band The Red Clay Ramblers for the second time since 2004.

Taylor-Corbett is best known for directing and choreographing Broadway's Swing!, which earned her Tony Award nominations and two American Theatre Wing Star Awards. She also choreographed Chess and Titanic on Broad-
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way and the feature films *Footloose, My Blue Heaven* and *Vanilla Sky.*

The Red Clay Ramblers received a Special Tony Award in 1999 for their five-week performance of Broadway's *Fool Moon* at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. Now in their 35th year as a band, the Ramblers have performed with Randy Newman and Grammy Award-winner Shawn Colvin. In 1998, the band collaborated with the late Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Doug Marlette to produce *Kudzu: A Southern Musical.*

To purchase tickets for Carolina Jamboree, visit www.carolinaballet.com or call 919-719-0900. More information on The Red Clay Ramblers is available at www.redclayramblers.com.

**Fund Serves Local Heroes**

To "support our neighbors who defend our freedom," the North Carolina Heroes Fund has been established to provide aid to men and women or their families in the United States Armed Forces who are currently enduring hardships. The Fund — a 501©(3) charitable organization — is unique in targeting servicemen and women originally from North Carolina or currently stationed at a base in the state, offering grants to assist with medical and living expenses and educational scholarships.

According to chairman and founder Scott Stone, the Fund reinforces North Carolina's long history of supporting our troops. "There's a special connection between North Carolina and the military because our state has a larger number of troops than almost any other state," Stone says. "We started the organization in November 2007, and the response from individuals and corporations across the state has been impressive."

The Fund's advisory board includes former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. H. Hugh Shelton (ret.) and corporations including Stone's company, Arcadis, along with Duke Energy, United Healthcare, Piedmont Natural Gas and Cardinal Real Estate Partners. Donations from these companies coupled with individual donations have already provided aid to military families throughout the state.

"The challenge in the first few months was actually getting people to apply for the grants and scholarships," Stone says. "These men and women are strong and proud and often take the attitude that someone is always worse off than they are, so they don't feel right asking for help."

Stone says that the organization's goal is to become the military's "go-to" organization for support within the state. In addition, Stone hopes that the organization's Web site can serve as a portal of communication for people to post stories and pictures about their time in combat.

"They are doing so many good things over there, and we want to report as much of it as we can," Stone says.

To learn more about the North Carolina Heroes Fund or how to become a sponsor, visit www.ncheroes.org, e-mail info@ncheroes.org or call 704-619-5688.

**Handguns and Dancing Shoes**

*Handguns and Dancing Shoes,* the latest album from Triangle favorites The Proclivities, is yet another slice of musical talent and ceaseless effervescence that characterizes this amaz-
ing band.

Matt Douglas returns to the studio with a glowing spirit and a whole new inventory of trials and tribulations touching on adoration, love and doubt. The craftsman-like lyrics are beautifully written, complemented by solidarity from the machine of talent brimming from the work of the band.

Chris Boerner’s signature guitar style remains the tour de force behind the quintet, always conjuring the crispiest chords and most tempestuous solos. Still he always maintains his position as a master of moderation keeping everything short and sweet.

Anyone familiar with Boerner’s work is aware he has the ability to shred any piece of music any time anywhere — but The Proclivities’ fatherly secret weapon lies within the able and delicate hands of Douglas, also quite adept at guitar and saxophone, among other things.

Opening track “Handguns and Dancing Shoes” is the muffled starter pistol to a moving and emotional race through Douglas’ mind and experiences. His timbre ebbs and flows right alongside Nic Slaton’s slippery bass lines. Matt McCaughan’s buoyant drumming through the joyous “Red Faced Girl” goes directly through the up tempo, cautionary trip of “Charlatan.” “Move Around the Floor” is a truly moving song, slightly somber and clearly the product of amorous inspirations.

The crowning achievement of the album comes last in the nostalgic breeze of “Trickle Down.” Douglas professes his love singing “baby, you’re so cool,” in a way only matched in believability by Alabama Whirly in the film True Romance.

While sharing a commonality with Predispositions — the group’s first album — Handguns contains a refreshing texture and depth layered within the construct of each track. Clearly a great deal of thought went into every second of the recording process. Every song is well written, well produced and certainly worthy of major attention from a quality record label. The Proclivities will be performing at Tir Na Nog June 12, The Southern Rail in Carrboro June 14, and Pianos in New York City June 26. Find out more at www.theproclivities.com.

Players:
Matt Douglas – vocals, guitar, keyboards, woodwinds
Chris Boerner – guitar, vocals
Nic Slaton – bass, vocals
Matt McCaughan – drums, percussion, vocals

Guests include Jeanne Jolly, “Charlatan” and “Move Around the Floor”; Ryan Cavannaugh, banjo, “The Devil’s Best.”

Ladies of Liberty: More Than A Fresh Take on History

Ladies of Liberty is that rare book of history that tells not just a fresh story, but a new one altogether. The tales of early America’s most influential women — who they were, what they did, how they did it and in their own words — is not a story taught to school children or woven into our national consciousness.

Cokie Roberts has set out to change that with this new offering, which takes up where her last book, Founding Mothers, left off. Beginning with the inauguration of John Adams in 1797, and concluding with the inauguration of his son, John Quincy Adams, in 1825, Ladies of Liberty chronicles the lives of early America’s first ladies, pioneers, educators, groundbreakers and explorers. The stories of these early American women instruct and inspire in equal measure.

In the interest of full disclosure, Roberts is my mother-in-law, and I had the honor of helping to edit this book. Because I had the chance to read it as she wrote it, before it was blurbed, packaged or hard-covered, I found it constantly amazing when each new e-mailed installment offered still more unheard-of, incredible women to learn about.

Roberts plunges into fascinating detail about the lives of these women, many previously not widely known, or whom might occupy at most a figment of most readers’ historical knowledge — Sacajawea, Rebecca Gratz and Theodosia Burr are three particularly intriguing examples — but they burst from the page here with life, humanity and lasting significance.

Pioneers

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Meriwether Lewis and William Clark force the reader to question why that famous two-some isn't known as a triumvirate: Lewis and Clark and Sacajawea.

Gratz, a prominent Philadelphia beauty rumored to have inspired the Ivanhoe character Rebecca of York, plowed bold new ground with her establishment of orphanages and benevolent societies designed to help poor women and children. She became an educational pioneer by establishing the inaugural Hebrew Sunday School in America, marking the first time that Jewish women taught religion in public.

Many others of the standout women chronicled here had power of the "woman-behind-the-man" variety, but that power was real. Their views and counsel were heeded widely (and wisely) by the men in power they knew, wed or were related to.

Louisa Adams, wife of John Quincy, was an invaluable right hand to her husband; Margaret Bayard Smith and Rosalie Calvert supplied valuable reports from abroad; Aaron Burr's daughter, Theodosia, served as one of his closest advisers; Dolley Madison, with her savvy and irresistible personality, acted as the social and political glue that kept the national capital together, bringing both political parties under the White House roof on a regular basis. And everyone knows about Abigail Adams, who shines forth in this book as a force to be reckoned with by everyone at the dawn of the 19th century.

Their Own Words

In their own words—culled, in many cases, from countless near-illegible, hand-written letters Roberts found in libraries and historical societies—these women tell the stories of their often very difficult times with humor, thoughtfulness and humility. All but a handful of the quotes in this book are written by a woman, to a woman or about a woman.

As Roberts points out, their letters are very different from those left behind by the men at the time. Because they weren't written for posterity, unlike the words of the Founding Fathers (and self-consciously so), these letters are human, they are real and they are touching, much like the book itself.

— Liza Roberts

SAS And Staubach Recognized As "Breakthrough Companies"

Keith McFarland, author of the best-selling business book The Breakthrough Company, includes Cary-based SAS on his list of top performers. The firm is the world's largest privately held software company, producing more than $2 billion a year in sales.

McFarland, a former Silicon Valley chief executive, found that only nine of the more than 7000 companies he studied over five years made the list. And making the cut wasn't just based on revenues. Other factors include building company character, surviving tough times and breaking through the barrier of $250 million in sales—something that only one-tenth of US firms achieve.

McFarland came to the SAS campus recently to talk about his book and The Staubach Company, another breakthrough firm that has a major presence in the Triangle corporate real estate marketplace. And he touted the achievements of both Jim Goodnight, the chief executive officer and co-founder of SAS, along with Roger Staubach, the NFL Hall of Famer.

"It's not how you are wired; it's how you wire your organization," McFarland said in describing Staubach ("the super jock") and Goodnight ("the PhD").

He praised both men for having "identical views of hiring and retaining people." SAS certainly has an international reputation for employee treatment, from benefits to salaries to on-campus health care, daycare and education.

"Look at this campus," McFarland said at the event—sponsored by the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce to salute SAS and Staubach. "SAS is committed to its people, to its customers, to do really great things."

Goodnight took the praise in stride, noting that while he appreciated the honor, he had made some mistakes in his career.

"Ever heard of Midway Airlines," he asked.

Robert Ruark Essay Winners

Kitty Lynn, a fire safety inspector with UNC-Chapel Hill, won first place in the annual Ruark Award Competition sponsored by the Robert Ruark Society. Alan Kneidel of Charlotte—a biology major with a creative writing minor—received first runner-up. Second runner-up went to business major and creative writing minor Parker Woltz of Mount Airy. The Robert Ruark Society is dedicated to creating recognition of Tar Heel native Robert Ruark's contributions to literature through his novels and travel articles.

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Midsummer Eve Parties Benefit JC Raulston Arboretum

By Helen Yoest

A good way to celebrate summer is to have a garden party. An even better way is to have a garden party raising money for NC State University's JC Raulston Arboretum under the banner of its new Grass Roots Master Plan. Events are set for the evening of June 21, the longest day of the year, for friends to gather friends to host a party — many parties — from the Triangle to the coast and across the state to celebrate the Arboretum.

Dr. JC Raulston imagined and implemented the Arboretum we see today. And his legacy lives on, now under the direction of Dr. Dennis (Denny) Werner.

"We hope to have more than 50 parties throughout the region," Werner said. "The Summer Solstice Celebration will enable us to draw attention to, and raise money for, the Arboretum."

The gardens now have a Grass Roots Master Plan — created by Werner — in need of money to implement, causing the formation of the JCRA Community. These voices included input from the Arboretum's Advisory Board and staff, NCSU Horticulture Department faculty, staff and students, volunteers and members of the JCRA — as well as visitors and Friends of the Arboretum.

Led by Harriet Bellerjeau and Suzanne Edney, the JCRA core team included Jeff Evans, Robert L. Mackintosh and Matt Roberts. Beth Jimenez served as program developer and public relations coordinator. The committee incorporated over 1000 comments from the community and presented a final plan. The results emphasized accessible path systems, garden spaces and enhancing the visitor experience.

Not Too Late To Host A Party

It is not too late to sign up to host a party of your own with no restrictions. Each host will ask their friends for a donation to attend, the amount left up to the host.

Eliza Kraft Olander, Brian McHenry and Bob and Peggy Walters will host a party with an Art in the Garden theme. Work will include images and cards by landscape photographer Peggy Walters, newly commissioned museum-quality work by Thomas Sayer, the natural stone sculpture work of Phil Hathcock and the metal designs of Joel Haas.

Olander's mother is also an amazing gardener who served as vice president of the Garden Club of America. Olander trades seeds and plants with fellow gardeners, opining that a garden is really just a nursery for another garden.

Bob and Laura Bromhal of Raleigh will host a wine and cheese party in their home. According to Laura, "We are so fortunate the JC Raulston Arboretum is right here in our own back yards. The new master plan will also make it more enjoyable for everyone."

Ted Sampson and Elizabeth Galecke will host a party with a midsummer's eve wed-
GARDENING

After a moonrise wedding service in Las Vegas on April 20, they will host their wedding reception in Galecke's studio garden and ask guests for a donation to the Arboretum in lieu of wedding gifts. "I love the serenity of the JC Raulston Arboretum," said Galecke, a photographer. "It is always quiet and offers such diverse and beautiful backgrounds for my portraits. I appreciate so much having such a wonderful place in Raleigh."

Jill Kucera, who will help with Galecke and Sampson's celebration, was a long-time friend of Raulston and attributes much of her success to his mentoring. She remembers Raulston as "one of my first clients at Catering Works. He held so many events at his home, we had a key to his house. He was one of the kindest men I have ever met. His passion was an inspiration to me as a young businesswoman — to understand when you love what you do, it pays off." (Proceeds from this evening's festivities will go to the Arboretum — half will go to the JC Raulston Arboretum Endowment for Excellence and half will go to implementing the Arboretum's new master plan.)

If you would like to host a party and celebrate this year's midsummer's eve, call Barbara Kennedy at 919-513-7004 or e-mail barbara_kennedy@ncsu.edu. If you would like to attend a party, but don't know anyone hosting one, please contact Helen Yoest at helen@gardensgardens.com — we have some party options for you. To make a financial contribution, your tax-deductible donations can be made to the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University, Campus Box 7522, Raleigh, NC 27695-7522.

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Stewards of the Land:

Urquharts Create Garden Oasis in Raleigh  By Helen Yoest

The gravel path entering Richard and Barbara Urquhart’s property beckons forward; yet the side paths are too tempting causing visitors to slow their pace for a peek.

Journey farther and you realize you’re not entering a mere garden, but rather an oasis — the temperature actually lowers with each step. Soon the green moss lawns and large rock outcroppings become visible; calmness washes over you. You spy birds in flight, chirping as if to welcome visitors to their gardens. This is their safe haven. The Urquharts purchased this land 40 years ago, well aware of the uniqueness of the property. They felt they had a responsibility to become stewards of the land.

Dick and Barbara express deserving pride in the property: “We feed our birds and other wildlife daily, and are richly rewarded by the constant activity. It’s been a great joy in providing a welcoming and safe habitat for a variety of wildlife,” says Dick.

Many winding paths around the 2-acre parcel facilitate a gentle stroll, allowing the opportunity to admire the flora and fauna that abound. In the back gardens, you can hear the soothing sound of water running from each of the three inventive water features.

At the apex, you can see a 60-foot drop in elevation to Crabtree Creek, giving way to an immediate feeling of standing on a mountain top. According to Dick, “You’d never know this place could be right here in Raleigh.”

Admiring the native plants and the unique planting vignettes tucked in tree stumps and between the stones, visitors note his Mountain Laurels look better than the mountain varieties. You realize how fortunate we are that Dick and Barbara open their garden for fundraising events. Says Dick, “I am glad to have something right in my back yard that can raise awareness of nature and help support our horticultural heritage.”

The community is grateful.

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Beiza
The Sport of Leisure

Edited by Katie Reeves and Katie Poole

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Editorial Assistant: Jamie Arton

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This page:
BCBG — Blue Ruffle Bathing Suit

Opposite page:
Lilly Pulitzer — Michelle Sleeveless Polo
Lemon Sorbet
Palm Garden, Wilmington, NC
Lilly Pulitzer — Prussia Skort - Patch Multi
Palm Garden, Wilmington, NC
Tory Burch — Coconut Miller Shoe
Vermeu ver
Rhys Owen — Mustard Flower Shift Dress

Asha — Turquoise Chandelier Earrings
SOUTHERN STYLE

Michael Kors — Coral Scoopneck

Zac Posen — Dovetail Skirt in Army/Pearl and Grey/Bl
Fashion News

Join Liles Clothing Studio on June 12 from 4-8 p.m. for a Morgan Grays leather goods event. Company principals, Morgan Molthrop and Stewart Grays will make a personal appearance at the store to promote a new line. Liles Clothing Studio, North Hills. Call 919.510.5556 for more information.

Visit Uniquities in Cameron Village on June 14 for Race for the Cure Day and receive a Race for the Cure T-shirt with every purchase. Uniquities, Cameron Village. Call 919.832.1234 or visit www.uniquities.com for more information.

Uniquities Mix has extended store hours until 8 p.m. on Thursday evenings during the summer in celebration of North Hills' beach music festival. The store is also now offering free alterations on purchases. Uniquities Mix, North Hills. Call 919.785.3385 or visit www.uniquities.com for more information.

Stop by CT Weekends at Glenwood Village on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 4-6 p.m. for Wine and Fashion Tips from CT Weekends co-owner Kristi Hippie. CT Weekends, Raleigh. Call 919.787.9073 for more information.

continued p12
June events at Saks Fifth Avenue, Triangle Town Center, Raleigh:

In honor of Father’s Day, Saks Fifth Avenue is teaming up with Charity: Water, a nonprofit organization that builds freshwater wells in developing nations; and surfer/surfboard artist Scott MacDonough and Havaianas to celebrate water and surfing. A custom surfboard, featuring a portion of Saks’ signature logo and created by MacDonough, can be purchased for $6500 and a pair of Saks graphic flip-flops by Havaianas can be purchased for $22. Proceeds from select merchandise will also benefit Charity: Water. Saks customers can also give the gift of water in three simple ways: purchasing a $5 bracelet, buying a $20 e-card or contributing $5000 to build a well. One hundred percent of all donations directly fund water project costs in India, Central America and sub-Saharan Africa.

Lafite Jewelry Trunk Show, June 5-6. Featuring Lafite’s summer collection of semi-precious stones including coral, turquoise and pearls. To book an appointment, call 919.792.9100, ext. 5318.


Beauty Splash, June 8-22. Enter to win a six-day vacation at Raffles Resort Canouan Island in The Grenadines during this exclusive summer event to benefit Charity: Water. Limited edition Havaianas (Brazilian flip-flops) designed by celebrity makeup artists Bobbi Brown, Laura Mercier and Trish McEvoy will be available to purchase for $15 — with any two cosmetic or fragrance purchases at the following makeup counters (while supplies last):

- Kiehl’s Since 1851 Spa Event from June 10-18.
- Laura Mercier Summer Beauty Event on June 13 & 14.
- Bobbi Brown Summer Shimmer Shadows Beauty Event on June 20 & 21.
- Trish McEvoy Summer Color Event on June 20 & 21.
- Sisley Spa Treatment Event on June 20 & 21.
- La Mer Spa Treatment Event on June 26.

To reserve an appointment, call 919.792.9100.
Duke Chapel Celebrates 75 Years Of Weddings

by Sharon Swanson

Mollie Keel and Blanche Williams, wedding facilitators at Duke Chapel, attend as many as 90 weddings a year. Working behind the scenes, they spend nearly every weekend at the scenic heart of the Duke University campus striving to ensure that every couple has their perfect day.

“We are an active part of one of the happiest events of their lives,” said Williams.

Keel has been the event coordinator at Duke Chapel since 1994. Three years ago, she took on the additional responsibility of wedding director, bringing along her friend Blanche Williams as her assistant. That’s when she realized that the Chapel was coming up on a big anniversary — 75 years of weddings.

As Keel set about planning a celebration event, she noticed the lack of a visual record of weddings at Duke Chapel. So she extended a request to former brides and grooms: send us your wedding photos and we will create a scrapbook — a historical record for future generations.

On April 11, approximately 85 people, couples and singles, both divorced and widowed — spanning seven decades — came together again at Duke Chapel as the familiar strains of traditional wedding music — played by Chapel Organist Dr. David Arcus — filled a decorated sanctuary courtesy of four local florists, who also provided every attendee with a boutonniere or corsage. Millennium Hotel of Durham provided reception finger foods, photographer Michael Williams donated his time to capture the day, and guests thumbed through four completed archival scrapbooks chronicling Chapel nuptials from 1933 to 2008.

MEMORIES OF A BYGONE ERA

Changes in dress and hairstyles give a sense of time to the collection, a feel of bygone eras exemplified by young men in uniform. One groom graduated from Duke in the morning, was commissioned into the army and married all in the same day. Another bride sent a photo of her wedding party that included her childhood nurse, who insisted on the presumably antebellum custom of carrying the wedding dress train of her former charge.

Andy and Bobbie Cockrell, Jacksonville, FL, renew their vows nearly 50 years after being married at the Chapel on July 11, 1958.
church's memorial chapel.

"I was in nursing school here, and Andy was in marketing," said Bobbie. "He was on the baseball team at Duke."

The stories of earlier marriages at the Chapel reflect the religious underpinnings of Duke University. Ericka Richey, 93, looking the part of the traditional bride in a sheer organza-style blouse and a butter yellow skirt, married McMurry Richey in 1938 — a Duke student who later taught anthropology and "Christian nurture." When the two met, the future Mrs. Richey was a student at Salem College (in Winston-Salem). Until she came to the States to attend college, she had spent her entire life in Tibet where she was born to missionaries.

The couple, who had three children, would have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary this summer. Dr. Richey died three years ago.

The Wethingtons, L. Elbert and Lois, were married in 1945. She was a religion major, and he came to Duke for graduate divinity studies, completing his PhD in 1949. "We met at Durham High School," he said. "We both played in the high school orchestra," Lois added. "He played the French horn, but he liked to tune my violin."

Her husband chuckled at his bride's retelling of their courtship. "It always sounded worse afterward," he said.

The Wethingtons, who retired locally, attempt a visit to the Chapel on their anniversary every year, "when we are in town." They have renewed their vows at their 25th, 40th and 50th wedding anniversaries, according to the former professor, who once taught theology in the Philippines and at Duke.

The 75th wedding anniversary celebration at Duke Chapel highlighted the reality that styles may have changed, but the beauty of a wedding at the Chapel remains a constant memory. This is also true for Williams: "Sometimes, I walk down the side aisle after a wedding, when..."
the organ music is still filling the Chapel,” she said, “and I think: ‘This must be the best job in the world.’"

ABOUT DUKE CHAPEL:

Duke Chapel was the first building planned by James B. Duke for Duke University’s West Campus in 1925 but was the last building completed, according to Duke Chapel’s Web site. Construction on the Chapel was completed in 1935 and cost nearly $2.3 million.

Chapel architect Julian Abele, America’s first black architect of renown, was educated in France and the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to Duke Chapel, Duke’s West Campus and the Georgian buildings on the University’s East Campus, Abele is also known for his designs of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Harvard’s Widener Library and mansions for James B. Duke.

And despite what you may have heard, Duke Chapel is not a copy of any other specific European cathedral.

Duke Chapel weddings are held only Saturdays and Sundays and are limited to Duke graduates, children of graduates and Duke University staff. It isn’t true, according to Keel, that you “must book your wedding as soon as you’ve completed freshman orientation, even if you don’t yet have someone in mind.”

In fact, said Keel, “We won’t schedule weddings more than one year in advance.”

SOUTHERN STYLE
Stylish Wedding Attire
Fashionable But Always Appropriate
by Liza Roberts

The stylish wedding guest this summer has plenty of colorful, trendy options — ultramarine blue chiffon frocks paired with scarlet heels, halter-necked Pucci prints — but don’t allow fashion to get in the way of propriety, experts say.

“You want to be respectful,” says Paige Crowther, co-owner of Polished, a Raleigh personal shopping service. “We’ve gotten away from traditions, but weddings are sacred. You want to wear something that’s in good taste, but not over-the-top. It also has to fit the time of day, the location, as well as your personality and body type.”

Intimidated by that checklist? Don’t be. The truth is that some of the wedding-attire no-nos you may have grown up with have relaxed in recent years, most notably the acceptance of black as a suitable color for a wedding guest to wear.

TABOO NO MORE

“Black is so chic at any time of the year, and for a wedding can be very appropriate,” says Ashley Vermillion Harris, owner of the North Hills designer boutique Vermillion. “If you do wear black, dress it up with pretty colors — like the black Lanvin dress we have with a ruffled collar that would look wonderful with big turquoise earrings.”

Annie Godwin, an owner of Fleur in Cameron Village, suggests black as best worn to a wedding after 6 p.m. “When it becomes black tie, you’re fine in a black dress,” she says.

To be sure, there are those who still adhere to the no-black rule. “It’s a great reason for every woman to have a black-tie dress in a beautiful color,” says one frequent formal wedding guest. “A wedding is a celebratory occasion, and the guests should dress the part.”

This season, there’s no excuse not to follow that advice. Color is everywhere, from lemon yellows to bright mint greens, with every shade of pink, blue and jolts of orange as well. “Everything this season is so colorful,” says Fleur’s Godwin, “no matter what time of day, the trend this year is color.”

The newest way to wear all of this color is to mix it up, Godwin and other fashion experts say, combining hot colors with cool ones, or shoes of one color with a dress of another. Lisa Marie L. Ferrell of Polished says not everyone should be a slave to such trends. For many, a more subdued version works best. “We selected a Tiffany blue dress for a client recently, and the shoe we chose was periwinkle. It gave a little edge,” she says, “not too much.”

Etiquette experts say a wedding guest’s attire must be formal enough to show respect for the occasion — whatever type of occasion that may be — while remaining restrained enough not to draw undo attention. “You show respect by dressing up,” says Ferrell. Ami Wheeler, who coordinates stylish nuptials at Cary’s Umstead Hotel and Spa, noticed this season’s wedding guests have been notably formal, wearing “lots of satin, flowy dresses, really high heels.”

BARE: MAYBE; WHITE: NO

Like the color black, bare shoulders are no longer necessarily verboten in many churches. “All of the brides these days are wearing strapless,” points out Vermillion’s Harris. Still, a chiffon wrap, a bolero jacket or a pashmina is not only respectful for a church ceremony, but it often comes in handy once the sun goes down as well.

So, if it’s not wrong to wear a black, strapless dress to a wedding this summer, is there anything you simply cannot wear? The resounding, unequivocal answer: white. “It’s the number one rule,” says Polished’s Crowther. “It’s the bride’s day.”

Beyond the ban on white, experts agree that what not to wear to a wedding is a bit of you-know-it-when-you-see-it — sequins before dark, something too short or too revealing, something too plainly look-at-me. Kim Seymour, owner of the stylish maternity boutique Cravings in Raleigh’s North Hills, says her expecting clients are “less likely to wear a red dress to a wedding than a black one. They don’t want to be too attention-grabbing.”

Indeed, the bottom line in wedding guest attire, beyond fashion, is suitability. “It all depends on the wedding’s time and location,” says Fleur’s Godwin. A beach wedding may call for some spiffy flip-flops, but a church wedding in town is another matter altogether. A multi-colored print might look festive on an outdoor afternoon but garish in a ballroom.

Wherever you are, and whatever style or color you’re wearing, there’s one thing all of the fashionistas demand: “Your dress must fit your body type,” intones Polished’s Crowther.

So: If you’re dressed fittingly for the occasion, in a well-fitted, not too sparkly, not too white, not too revealing dress, possibly with something to cover your shoulders, and have even managed to embrace some au courant color, then get ready to raise your glass — not only to the happy couple, but also to yourself for navigating the what-to-wear wedding waters with good grace and aplomb!
University of North Carolina-Wilmington Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo and husband Fred Wharton live in one of Wilmington’s most elegantly designed and appointed residences, the neoclassical revival Emerson-Kenan House, constructed in 1911 for Thomas Emerson, president of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, now the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad Company. Designed by Coast Line Company architect Joseph F. Leitner, the home took two years to build and remained in the Emerson family until it was purchased in 1923 by the recently widowed Sarah Graham Kenan, the younger sister of Mary Lily Kenan, whose first husband was Henry Morrison Flagler — co-founder with John D. Rockefeller of the Standard Oil Company and the person responsible for the development of Palm Beach and other early towns in Florida. Sarah purchased the house, which she named “Sunny-side,” in order to be close to her other sister, Jessie Hargrave Kenan Wise, whose Wilmington residence was almost next door. (The house that stood between them was later removed.)

The Emerson-Kenan House, now the UNC-Wilmington chancellor’s residence, has a proud place in the city’s history.

Photography by Kinsley Dey
The home's most famous painting, by Bouguereau, is among the home's many fine art works.

TWO SISTERS

Today, both the Emerson-Kenan House and the 1908-1909 Wise House are surrounded by handsome walls with a connecting gate where the sisters are said to have met late every afternoon when they were in residence to chat, catch up on the day's events and enjoy their gardens. These two impressive homes are set well back from Wilmington's busy Market Street, at the corners of 17th and 18th Streets, framed by neatly shaped hedges and magnificent live oaks that drape over the public sidewalks. The façade of the three-story brick Emerson-Kenan House, as described by local architectural historian Edward Turberg, features a two-story, 30-foot-long portico with four colossal-order fluted Corinthian columns that "rise through two stories and terminate in a stuccoed pediment incorporating foliated modillions and dentil cornices, and a small, shield-like attic window surrounded by bas-relief swags."

Wow! No wonder this quintessential Southern house has served as the backdrop for several movies filmed in Wilmington, including Betsy's Wedding, The Margaret Mitchell Story and Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood. The Wise House, designed by local architect Burrett H. Stephens for Delgado Cotton Mills President Edwin C. Holt, is another variation on the neoclassical revival style. The three-story frame structure features an extensive portico supported by Ionic order columns set above with a Palladian windowed pediment. Jessie purchased the house from the Holts in 1916.

Much to the credit of the philanthropic Kenan family, the heirs of each sister, both of whom died in 1968, donated these gracious and much-loved homes to Wilmington College, which became UNCW in 1969. James Graham Kenan, Sarah's nephew, gave the Emerson-Kenan House to the University shortly after his aunt's death in May 1968. By July 1969, the University's new president, William H. Wagoner, his wife Madeline and their three children were in residence. Since then the Emerson-Kenan House has been occupied continuously by UNCW chancellors, with the main floor and gardens used as gathering spaces for university and...
community events. In 2003, at the recommendation of retiring Chancellor James R. Leutze (now a columnist for *Metro Magazine*), the UNCW Board of Trustees approved a complete structural renovation of the house with a budget of $1.2 million in non-state dollars. Chancellor Leutze suggested the restoration be complete before the house was to be occupied by incoming Chancellor DePaolo. At the same time, the Kenan family provided funding for an interior renovation and decorating. Chancellor DePaolo worked closely with Thomas S. Kenan III, Sarah's grandnephew, who headed up the project, and Chapel Hill-based interior designer Harvey Gunter.

**ELEGANCE ENHANCES INTERACTION**

DePaolo points out the 55-foot-long by 21-foot-wide great hall that terminates at French doors opening to an intimate enclosed “white” garden. Sixteen columns with Tower of the Winds capitals, some
freestanding, others on octagonal plinths, divide the room into nicely scaled spaces. The columns were faux painted by Chris Shupping of Chapel Hill, each requiring six coats of paint with marbleizing the last touch. Four free-standing columns frame the open-string staircase that leads to a gallery above. A Czechoslovakian crystal chandelier holds pride of place in this portion of the hall, a gift from Flagler, who had it shipped to Sarah after she admired it in his Mamaroneck, NY, residence.

“The great hall is the organizing element for the house, and it is where many of our most exciting events take place,” says DePaolo. “We place a huge tree in front of the French doors at Christmas and often have performances there throughout the year.”

DePaolo describes the effect that this grand and welcoming room seems to have on her guests, whether students at an informal get-together or friends and supporters from Wilmington and around the globe.

“We tend to talk about more serious topics in this beautiful hall,” she says, recalling wide-ranging discussions with student leaders.

The great hall is also home to many of the notable works of art and artifacts that came to the University from the Kenan family. To the right of the entrance hall...
hangs the home's most famous painting, the allegorical *Young Girl Defending Herself Against Eros*, ca. 1880, by William-Adolphe Bouguereau. Bouguereau was educated at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and studied four years in Italy before returning to France where in 1876 he was made a member of the Academy of Fine Arts. Directly across from the painting and two surrounding outsized tapestry-covered wing chairs, faces an Italian marble mantel in the Renaissance style that Jessie once used in her formal garden. At the other end of the great hall, a painting said to be from the 17th century School of Rubens is on loan to UNCW by Tom. It hangs above an Empire sofa in the same place when Sarah occupied Sunnyside.

Gunter says it is fortunate that many of the home's furnishings were included in the family's gift of the house and grounds to UNCW.

"The rugs we used in the hall are original to the house," says Gunter, "but they were in bad condition and had to be extensively repaired. Now they are placed just as they were when Mrs. Kenan lived here."

Gunter also drew upon Tom's fond memories of his frequent childhood visits to Aunt Sarah's house. A portrait of Sarah is displayed above an Empire chest in the living room.

"Tom remembered the house as being formal but not like a museum," says Gunter. "He especially remembered that Aunt Sarah's house had elaborate silk damask curtains. So we dressed the windows in the living room with a green silk with two-tones of fringe and used a raised pattern silk in bronze and gold in the parlor."

DePaolo and Gunter chose a bold floral fabric in reds and chocolate for the living room sofas. To ensure against a museum feeling, the pair stored away many of Sarah's bibelots, but brought down a collection of her hats to be displayed in a handsome accessory cabinet in the parlor.

In 1925, Sarah commissioned Thomas...
Hastings, a partner in the New York firm Carrere and Hastings, to add decorative paneling to the dining room and expand the room with a solarium, or plant room. He also designed a garage guest house for the rear of the property. The solarium features a deep red-brown Sienna marble wainscot and multiple-paned casement windows. The paneling is antique English pine. Shortly after Hastings' modifications were completed, a fire broke out in the attic of the Emerson-Kenan House. Though it caused extensive damage to the attic and upper floors, and ruined the wardrobe Sarah was assembling for an extended trip to Europe, the main level of the house remained relatively intact.

William Rand Kenan Jr., Sarah's brother, came to Wilmington from New York to oversee the reconstruction of the house by Leonard Schultze, a partner in the New York firm of Schultze and Weaver and the architect for The Breakers, the Kenan-owned Palm Beach hotel, built by Flagler in the early days of his Florida development plans. The workmen were instructed to save as much as possible of the original material and elements of the house. The Emerson-Kenan House was completely rebuilt within the exterior brick walls using concrete and steel to fireproof the home as much as possible.
ENTERTAINING IN STYLE

The Wise House was the principal residence of Jessie Kenan Wise for more than 50 years from the time she purchased it in 1916 until her death in 1968 — and like Sarah's "Sunnyside," it was much beloved by its owner. "Miss Jessie," as she was affectionately known, loved to entertain, and the house was the scene of many events for family and friends, including a wedding party for her daughter, Louise Wise Lewis. Louise's son and Miss Jessie's grandson, Lawrence Lewis Jr., gave the house to Wilmington College with the intent that it be used to further the college's charitable and educational programs. It remained unused for nearly 25 years due to local zoning that prohibited office and meeting space in a residential neighborhood. In 1994, several alumni spearheaded a fundraising campaign to have the house renovated for use as the University's alumni house. Now approaching its 100th birthday, and following its most recent renovation, the Wise House is restored to its former glory and in good use as the Wise Alumni House.

with space for alumni meetings and gatherings, as well as guest quarters for newly arrived faculty and other university-related visitors. The interior and exterior restoration, including a new slate roof, was funded by the University, the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust and private donations.

The interior renovation was another cooperative project of the Kenan family spearheaded by Tom Kenan and designer Harvey Gunter. Like the Emerson-Kenan House, the Wise Alumni House features a spacious center hall, featuring a paneled stained glass window as the focal point set at the stair landing. Its repair was made possible by a gift from Wilmington resident and UNCW alumna Janice Kingoff in memory of her late husband. The pale greens and yellows of the stained glass

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wilmington.durham.chapelhill
Robert McInturf, the new director of alumni relations, proudly displays the home's most magnificent space, the dining room.

"This room is not only beautifully refurbished and decorated," says McInturf, "the large dining table is suitable for black tie occasions or business lunches."

Featuring a black marble fireplace with a distinctive faux painted wood over-mantel and an elaborate inlaid floor, the dining room is much like it was when Miss Jessie lived in the home. A French hunting scene by Zuber covers one entire wall. The paper had to be carefully covered and protected when the house was used to film a scene in The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles television series.

The meticulous structural and interior restoration of these two magnificent homes, gifts of the family who loved them, preserves the importance of grace and beauty. Chancellor DePaolo says it best, "Without the example of the philanthropy and stewardship of the Kenan family, we would be less ready to meet our future as a world-class institution."
The Relationship
We Share With
Our Builders Is Built
On Our Mutual Admiration
For The Environment.

For years, Contentnea Creek Development
Company has been assembling an impressive
team of the area's most respected builders,
designed some of the finest communities
around, and developed a great relationship
with mother nature. We're proud of all these
things, especially the builders who share our
philosophy of environmental responsibility. It
just goes to show, that by working together
for a common goal, we can make a difference.
COASTAL NEWS

CUSTOM SURF BOARD DISPLAY
ArtCo Surf, a new Raleigh-based company that creates and produces one-of-a-kind and limited edition surfboards, skateboards, beach cruiser bicycles and its own apparel line, will present its third annual exhibit entitled "The Pursuit of Happiness: A Collection of Classic Modes of Coastal Transportation." The exhibit will be presented throughout the summer at Deluxe restaurant in downtown Wilmington. For directions to Deluxe, go to www.deluxenc.com. For more on ArtCo, go to www.artcosurf.com. [MM]

BEAUFORT HISTORIC TOUR
The 48th Annual Beaufort Old Homes and Gardens Tour in Beaufort, NC, set for June 27-28, is the recipient of the Southeast Tourism Society’s Top 20 Event for the seventh year in a row. The tour features nine private homes, including small cottages, large waterfront houses, as well as restored buildings on the Beaufort Historic Site: the John Davis House ca. 1829, the Clawson House ca. 1904, the McQueen Home, the Bradley House, the Mace House ca. 1903, the Lampros Home and the Ward-Hancock House ca. 1726. Visitors can peruse local gardens and enjoy art, photography and crafts from local artists during the event’s ArtWalk. The Tour is held in conjunction with the Antiques Show & Sale in Morehead City, June 27-29. Tickets for the Home Tour and the Antique Show & Sale can be purchased separately or as a special combination ticket. Proceeds benefit the Beaufort Historical Association. For more information, call 252-728-5225 or visit www.beauforthistoricsite.org. [MM]

TASTES FROM THE COAST IN NEW COOKBOOK
NC native and freelance writer Elizabeth Wiegand brings the tastes and tales of the North Carolina coast in The Outer Banks Cookbook: Recipes and Traditions from North Carolina’s Barrier Islands, a new cookbook containing favorite coastal recipes, as well as photographs and stories of shipwrecks and historical events from the barrier islands. Also included are family recipes, dishes from locals, specialty dishes from Outer Banks restaurants and useful tips on how to throw an oyster roast and prepare the local "catch of the day." Cost is $19.95; available May 2008 from Globe Pequot Press: www.globepequot.com/ www.elizabethwiegand.com. [MM]

COASTAL CALENDAR
By Lindsey Briggs
71st Anniversary Season of the Lost Colony: Through Aug. 18. An American original drama; experience a 423-year-old mystery performed under a canopy of stars. Performances are nightly at 8:30 p.m., Sunday-Friday (no performance on July 4). Waterside Theatre, Roanoke Island. For tickets, call 252-473-3400 or visit www.thelost-colony.org.

Cape Fear Blues Jam: Throughout June and July on Tuesday evenings. Novice, accomplished...
and professional musicians share the stage to present an evening full of enjoyable blues. Wilmington. Visit www.capeearlieblues.org.

Pleasure Island's Free Movies at the Lake: June. Free family movies every Sunday at the Carolina Beach Lake Park. All movies begin at 8:45 p.m. Carolina Beach. Call 910-458-8434 or visit www.pleasureislandchambernc.org.

Pleasure Island's Free Fireworks at the Beach: June. Free fireworks every Thursday at 9 p.m. in front of the Carolina Beach Boardwalk. Carolina Beach. Call 910-458-8434 or visit www.pleasureislandchambernc.org.

Kids Day: Every Tuesday in June. Kids will enjoy appearances by Wil-Bear Wright, kite making, face painting, rock wall and more. Fun for the whole family. Kitty Hawk. Call 252-453-3685 or 252-441-4124 or visit www.kittyhawk.com.

Mary Holloway Seasonal Interpreter Program: June 1-Aug. 12. Take a guided walking tour of Fort Fisher with a costumed interpreter at scheduled times during the day. Admission is free. Kure Beach. Call 910-458-5536 or visit www.nchistoric.org/fisher.


7th Annual "Evening Under the Stars": June 5. The North Carolina Symphony will perform at the Outdoor Pavilion at Roanoke Island Festival Park. This event is free and open to the public. Gates will open at 6 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m. Roanoke Island. Call 877-629-4386 or visit www.oceanbends.org.


Tennis Social: June 6. The evening will begin with a potluck dinner and then a "mixer" with informal tennis games or just hitting at the Community Tennis Courts. Emerald Isle. Call 252-354-6350.

Shakespeare on the Green Festival: June 6-7. The 16th season of live outdoor Shakespearean at the Greenfield Lake Amphitheater. This year's performance will be The Taming of the Shrew. Wilmington. Call 910-762-6393 or visit www.shakespeareonthegreen.us.

OcraFolk Festival: June 6-8. Listen to live music, local folklore and storytelling on one of North Carolina's barrier islands. Ocracoke. Call 252-928-3411 or visit www.ocrafolkfestival.org.

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Air Show: June 6-8. "A Symphony of Flight" is the 2008 show theme. Friday's Night Show features afterburners, rocket trucks, sky divers and fireworks. The Saturday and Sunday day shows feature military and civilian aerobatic demonstrations, historic and modern displays, the Blue Angels, F-18 Hornets, AV-8B Harrier demonstrations and flybys. Cherry Point. Call 252-466-4909.

Beaufort Women's Club Designer Show House: June 6-9. June 13-15, June 10-12 (by appointment only). Proceeds will raise funds to purchase the historic War-Hancock house to be donated to the NC Maritime Museum property for the Olde Beaufort Seaport on Gallants Channel. Tickets are $15 in advance or $20 at the door. Beaufort. Call 252-728-7571 or 252-728-7365.

33rd Annual Dare Day Festival: June 7. Music, food, crafts, entertainment and more. Manteo. Call 252-473-2133 or visit online at www.townofmanteo.com.

Beaufort Women's Club Designer Show House: June 6-9, June 13-15, June 10-12 (by appointment only). Proceeds will raise funds to purchase the historic War-Hancock house to be donated to the NC Maritime Museum property for the Olde Beaufort Seaport on Gallants Channel. Tickets are $15 in advance or $20 at the door. Beaufort. Call 252-728-7571 or 252-728-7365.

33rd Annual Beach Music Festival: June 7. Live music and shag dancing on the Ocean Front Beach Stage near the Boardwalk. Tickets are $15 in advance and $20 at the door. Carolina Beach. Call 910-458-8434 or visit www.pleasureislandchambernc.org.


Open Bass Fishing Tournament: June 7. Pembroke Fishing Center, Edenton. Call 252-482-5343 or visit www.pembrokefishingcenter.net.


3rd Annual Carolina Cup Regatta: June 7-8. This nonprofit community event brings boats from the 1940s and today's technology in a competition on the Pasquotank River. Elizabeth City. Call 252-932-1200 or 910-256-9880.

Big Rock Blue Marlin Fishing Tournament: June 7-14. For this 50th anniversary, more than 100 competitors fish in this Crystal Coast tournament for the chance to win cash prizes. Morehead City. Call 252-247-3575 or visit online at www.thebigrock.com.

Free Summer Concert Series: June 13. Held every year at Fort Fisher Military Recreation Area; bring chairs and blankets and enjoy music along the Cape Fear River. Kure Beach. Call 910-458-8434 or visit www.pleasureislandchambernc.org.


10th Annual Edenton Music & Water Fest-
Coastal Special Report

**24th Annual Lobster Fest:** June 14. Fresh Maine lobsters are available live, cooked or as a lobster pack. Orders may be placed by phone at 910-395-0616. **Wilmington.** Visit www.churchoftheservantwilmingtonnc.org.

**7th Annual Paw Jam:** June 14. Bring your dog for a day of fun and music to raise money for local shelters and rescue groups. Event includes food, vendors and contests. **Wilmington.** Visit www.pawjam.net.


**Volleyball Tournament:** June 14. This "open gender" series will take place at the Western Ocean Regional Access. Players must be at least 16 years old. Games begin at 9 a.m. and will continue until the last game. **Emerald Isle.** Call 252-354-6350.

**26th Annual Rogallo Kite Festival:** June 15-15. Kite flying on the dunes of Jockey's Ridge, as well as nightly entertainment celebrating the history of kiting. Exhibitions and demonstrations including stunt and power kite lessons, free children's games and activities. **Nags Head.** Call 252-441-4124. www.kittyhawk.com.

**US Air Force — Langley Winds Woodwind Quintet:** June 15. The US Air Force of America Band's Langley Winds will perform free to the public at the Film Theatre at Roanoke Island Festival Park. **Manteo.** Call 252-475-1500.

**Battleship Hootenanny:** June 17. The 8th annual concert brings a collaboration of folk and pop music favorites to the deck of the fantail. Tickets are $10, cash only, at the door. Refreshments available. **Wilmington.** Call 910-251-5797 or visit www.battleshipnc.com/events/events.php.

**“Under the Oaks” Art Festival:** June 18-19. The 7th annual outdoor art show on the grounds of Currituck Heritage Park with artists, local musicians, food, and children's activities. **Corolla.** Visit www.whaleheadclub.org.

**Music in the Streets:** June 20. Live music on the Pamlico River waterfront. Enjoy performances and games during this family-friendly street festival in downtown **Washington.** Call 252-946-2504 or visit www.visitwashingtonnc.com.

**Friday Flicks for Kids:** June 20. A movie night for the kids will be held on Friday evenings throughout June at the Tryon Place Visitor Center Auditorium. **New Bern.** Call 252-514-4900 or visit www.tyonplace.org.


**3rd Annual Festival of Life Gala; Brunswick Summer Days:** June 21. Gala festivities
include music by North Tower Band, heavy hors d'oeuvres, beverages, desserts and auctions. Cocktail attire preferred, tickets are $100 per person with proceeds benefiting Lower Cape Fear Hospice & LifeCare Center; Stone Chimney Place; Supply. Call 910-796-8099, ext. 443.

Country Music Festival: June 21. Located at Fort Fisher, live country music by a variety of country bands, local and national. Arts and crafts booths, as well as the assortment of food vendors. Kure Beach. Call 775-412-2722.

Jolly Mon King Classic: June 20-22. A captain's choice format allows participants to fish on either Saturday or Sunday. Ocean Isle Beach. Call 910-253-3474 or visit online at www.oifc.com.

Summer Breeze Concert: June 22. Listen to live music by a jazz quintet on the lawns of the historic Newbold-White House. Hertford.


Beaufort Old Homes & Gardens Tour: June 27-28. The 48th annual walking tour features the historic homes, gardens and churches of Beaufort. Narrated bus tours through the historic district will also be offered. Beaufort. Call 252-728-5225 for ticket information or visit www.beauforthistoricsite.org.

Antiques Show and Sale: June 27-29. Held in conjunction with the Beaufort Old Homes and Gardens Tour on the last weekend in June each year. Plenty of antiques, advance tickets are $5. Morehead City. Call 252-728-5225.

Kids All-American Fishing Derby: June 28. This event is open to all kids ages 5-12 who pre-register. Bring your own rod but bait will be provided. Derby will last from 9-11 a.m. Emerald Isle. Call 252-354-6350 or visit www.emeraldisle-nc.org/epid.

Harbor Arts Festival: June 28-29. A family-oriented outdoor juried show of artists, photographers and master craftsmen. Featuring artists at work and traditional craft demonstrations during the two days. Elizabeth City. Call 252-338-6455 or visit www.harborartsfestival.org.

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Discover Beaufort's beauty at the... Old Homes & Gardens Tour ANTIQUES SHOW & SALE June 27-29

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THE HUNLEY AND THE SEEWEE: EXCELLENT REASONS TO VISIT CHARLESTON

Ah, Charleston in the spring. Cool gardens, splashing fountains, colorful baskets made of sweet grass sold along the road, shrimp and grits in the restaurants, beautiful antebellum homes, street fairs in the park—all wrapped with distinctive southern charm. Then there is the history, Fort Sumter and all that. But first you have to get there, and if you choose to go down the coast on Route 17, you better bring blinders. The area from the South Carolina border to Georgetown may be the tackiest stretch of road in the Southeast. Even if you take the "bypass" around Myrtle Beach, your aesthetic senses will be under assault.

The one redeeming feature along Route 17, which badly needs redemption, is the SeeWee Restaurant. Located about 30 miles north of Charleston, the SeeWee is something special. It's an old general store reincarnated as southern fried food emporium. Creaking floors, old shelves lined with drinks and canned goods, drawling waitresses and really good Low Country food, which led RW Apple Jr. of The New York Times to wax rhapsodic about its fried specialties. He declared SeeWee's fried green tomatoes as the best he'd had in all his 71 years, followed closely by its fried shrimp. I took his lead and ordered fried okra, fried green tomatoes and fried catfish topped off with fried oysters. Yum!! Next time I'll go down Interstate 95 and Interstate 26 and then drive north out of Charleston to the SeeWee.

Our primary purpose in visiting Charleston was to see and tour the CSS H.L. Hunley. This sort-of submarine was the first submersible to sink an "enemy" ship, in this case the USS Housatonic, which was part of the Union fleet blockading Charleston Harbor during the Civil War. The attack occurred in the evening of Feb. 17, 1864, after which the Housatonic sank and the Hunley disappeared. The primitive submarine was located in 1995 and finally raised in 2000. (Although there is a claim that the Hunley was discovered as early as 1970.) Carefully handled by marine preservation professionals, the Hunley is slowly revealing its secrets. One thing quickly became evident, the remains of the eight-man crew were identified using DNA. Forensic evidence ruled out drowning as the cause of the boat's loss. (The bodies, by the way, were buried with full military honors in Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston.)

As a Civil War buff, I wanted to visit the Hunley, only to find that the model in front of the Charleston Museum (the logical location) was only a model and not a very good one at that. The real Hunley is lying in a tank of water at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center in North Charleston. (Go out I-26 N. until you reach Exit 216B after which you follow the signs onto the old US Naval Base.) Warning: It's only open to the public on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays from 12-5 p.m. (last tour time is 4:40 p.m.).

The water bath is intended to keep the
steel hull from deteriorating further. When the preservationists work on the Hunley, they drain the tank. The process is painstakingly slow, but the results thus far have been impressive. Though one of the first submarines built, it contained many modern innovations. For instance, snorkel tubes that allowed it to cruise just below water level and still have breathable air in the ship itself. The Germans incorporated this concept in their long-range U-boats during WWII, calling it the "snorkel."

There is still no clear answer why the Hunley settled to the bottom of Charleston Harbor 144 years ago. Flooding has been ruled out, so the boat apparently wasn't damaged when its spare torpedo tore a hole in the Housatonic. I think the most likely explanation is that the men, below the aid of their snorkels, ran out of air, first succumbing to carbon dioxide poisoning and then death. It was a sad, but not painful end.

It is well worth the short trip out of Charleston to see this technological marvel of the Civil War era. I was particularly interested because on May 3 we, here in Wilmington, commissioned the most recent in a long line of ships named North Carolina. In this case, it is a nuclear submarine incorporating 21st century armament and technology. I have been on nuclear submarines before and, believe me, they are stunning pieces of machinery. Not only are they amazingly lethal (in this case four 21-inch torpedo tubes, 12 Tomahawk missiles, Mk 48 heavyweight torpedoes, advanced mobile mines, plus unmanned undersea vehicles) but they also have amazingly comfortable creature comforts, if you don't mind bunking next to Tomahawk missiles and their 1000-pound warheads.

By the way, Charleston has its own set of really good restaurants if you bypass the SeeWee. We chose a new one this time and were duly rewarded. Mercato on 102 N. Market St. is a really popular spot, but don't be deterred; we sat at the bar and had excellent service. I recommend, among other things, the (can you believe it?) fried calamari, (Roper Hospital, 316 Calhoun St., has an excellent cardiac-care unit) which can be washed down with a glass of Masi Masianco, Pinot Grigio — Verduzzo Blend, an amusing little wine with pretensions!
JUNE IS BUZZING WITH SUMMER FUN

GALLERIES


POPI: New work by gallery artists including Brenda Behr, Jennifer Crowell, Mike Rooney and others; Carolina Creations Fine Art & Contemporary Craft Gallery, New Bern; Thru June 30. Contact 252-633-4369 or www.carolina creations.com.

INVITATION TO OPTIMISM — NEW PAINTINGS BY DUY HUYNH: Tyndall Galleries at University Mall, Chapel Hill; Thru July 5 (Opening Reception June 7). Contact 919-942-2290 or www.tyndallgalleries.com.

SMOKE & FIRE II RAKU SHOW: Featuring works by Carolyn Curran, Brian Evans, Chris Moses, Andrew Berends, Candace Young, Brenda Townsend and more; Carolina Creations Fine Art & Contemporary Craft Gallery, New Bern; Thru June 23. Contact 252-633-4369 or www.carolina creations.com.


IT'S A SMALL WORLD: Featuring an assortment of small paintings from gallery artists; ArtSource Five Points, Raleigh; June 1-July 1. Contact 919-833-0013 or www.artsource-raleigh.com.


FROM LILLIPUT TO BROBIDUNIA: Works by Owen Beckman, Art Hoover and Shaun Richards inspired by Gulliver’s Travels; Flanders Art Gallery, Raleigh; June 6-July 2 (Opening Reception June 6). Contact 919-834-5044 or www.flandersartgallery.com.


Owen Beckman, Revelation-Revolution, spray paint, acrylic and screenprint on panel, 84" x 216" is on view at Flanders Art Gallery in Raleigh, June 6-July 2.

EVENTS AT ARTSPACE: Raleigh; Contact 919-821-0383 or www.artspaceenc.org.

• ARTSPACE SUMMER ARTS PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR EXHIBITION: Gallery 2; Thru June 7 (Reception June 6).

• VERONICA’S VEILS — HERB JACKSON: Gallery 1; Thru June 28.

• NEW WORK — LINDA RUTH DICKINSON: Upfront Gallery; Thru June 28.

• CLEAR COLOR — LISA PEARCE: Lobby; Thru June 28.

CLASSICAL


TRIANGLE WIND ENSEMBLE: A Spring Sertoma Series event; Sertoma Amphitheatre at Bond Park, Cary; June 8. Contact 919-469-4063 or www.sertoma.org.


• REGINA BY MARC BLITZSTEIN: June 13 & 15

• MEDUSA BY WILLIAM BOLCOM AND THE MEDIUM BY GIAN CARLO HIDALGO: Two One-Act Operas; June 20 & 22.

• ORPHEUS & EURIDICE BY RICKY IAN GORDON: Featuring Doug Verone and Dancers; June 27 & 29.

• THE GLASS HAMMER BY JORGE MARTIN: June 28

FEST CONCERT SERIES: Koke Booth Amphitheatre, Cary; Contact 919-733-2750 or www.ncsymphony.org.

• FEEL THE BEAT: June 7

• CLASSICAL STORYTELLERS: June 14

• FORBIDDEN BROADWAY: June 21

• NORTHERN LIGHTS: June 28

POP MUSIC


EVENTS AT THE MIDTOWN MUSIC CONCERT SERIES: Commons Lawn at North Hills, Raleigh; Contact www.northhillsraleigh.com.

• THE ENTERTAINERS: June 5

• PART TIME PARTY TIME BAND: June 12

• SAMMY O’BANION AND MARDI GRAS: June 19

• THE ATTRACTIONS: June 26


• CRAVIN MELOON, PETE FRANCIS OF DISPATCH: June 14

• CARBON LEAF, COLOURSLIDE, BILL WEST & THE SUNSHINE KIDS: June 28

EVENTS AT THE STARLIGTH CONCERT SERIES: Page-Walker Arts & History Center Garden, Cary; Contact 919-460-4963 or www.townofcary.org.

• CHARLIE CHILIS AND THE MOONLIGHTERS: June 6

• MOMENT’S NOTICE: June 20


• DAVID WILCOX: June 13

• DURHAM JAZZ & DURHAM COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND: June 15

• YO MAMA’S BIG FAT BOOTY BAND: June 27

EVENTS AT THE TIME WARNER CABLE MUSIC PAVILION AT WALNUT CREEK: Raleigh; Contact 919-834-4000 or www.livenation.com.

• JIMMY BUFFETT & THE CORAL REEFER BAND: June 7

• R.E.M. / MODEST MOUSE & THE NATIONAL: June 10

• TOBY KEITH W/ MONTGOMERY GENTRY CARTER’S COUNTRY: June 14

• DAVE MATTHEWS BAND W/ MICHAEL FRANTI & SPEARHEAD: June 21

EVENTS AT THE STARLIGHT CONCERT SERIES: Memorial Park, Garner; Contact 919-990-1901 or www.pinecone.org.

• THE HOT CLUB OF COWTOWN: June 21

• OF THE HONKEY-TONK GODS W/ THUNDER ROAD: June 23

• KOKA BOOTH AMPHITHEATRE: June 27

• FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN OPERATIC WORKS AND MUSICAL DELIGHTS: Memorial Hall at UNC, Chapel Hill; June 12-29. Contact 919-240-8782 or www.longleafopera.org.

• REGINA BY MARC BLITZSTEIN: June 13 & 15

• MEDUSA BY WILLIAM BOLCOM AND THE MEDIUM BY GIAN CARLO HIDALGO: Two One-Act Operas; June 20 & 22.

• ORPHEUS & EURIDICE BY RICKY IAN GORDON: Featuring Doug Verone and Dancers; June 27 & 29.

• THE GLASS HAMMER BY JORGE MARTIN: June 28


EVENTS AT THE NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY SUMMER-
FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC AT CAPITAL CITY GROCERY: Free live music Friday evenings on the front porch sponsored by Carolina Brewing Co. and Big Boss Brewery; Capital City Grocery at Seaboard Station, Raleigh; Friday evenings. Contact 919-833-7096 or www.myspace.com/capitalcitygrocery.

STAGE & SCREEN

RADIO GALS: Book, music and lyrics by Mike Craver and Mark Hardwick; Cantey V. Sutton Theatre at Raleigh Little Theatre, Raleigh; Thru June 22. Contact www.raleighlittletheatre.org.

CAROLINA BALLET PRESENTS CAROLINA JAMBOREE: Choreographed by Lynne Taylor-Corbett, in collaboration with the Red Clay Ramblers, the performance will celebrate North Carolina’s Heritage; Memorial Auditorium at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, Raleigh; June 5-8. Contact 919-719-0900 or www.ticketmaster.com.


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EVENTS AT THE ACKLAND ART MUSEUM: UNC-Chapel Hill; Contact www.ackland.org.
• EXHIBITION — THE ART OF LOVE: May 9-Sept. 7
• EXHIBITION — FLOWING LIKE WATER — THE ART OF LIQUIDITY: June 8-Aug. 31
• SUMMER EXHIBITION RECEPTION: June 13
• DRAWING IN THE GALLERIES: June 14
• MUSIC IN THE GALLERIES: June 15
• ART & LITERATURE IN THE GALLERIES: June 18

Our thanks to Cyndi Harris for her assistance with MetroPreview.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please send events info and color images, slides or photos 6 weeks before publication date. Send to Mary Ward Boerner, Metro Magazine, 1033 Oberlin Rd. Suite 100, Raleigh, 27605 or e-mail: mary@metromagazine.net.
On the Town
by Katie Poole

ASID Designer Showhouse Kick-Off Party
The Women's Club of Raleigh
Ramblewood, North Hills
Raleigh, NC
May 9th, 2008

AIA Triangle Design Awards
Contemporary Art Museum
Raleigh, NC
April 29th, 2008

Hope Gala
Supporting Juvenile Diabetes
North Ridge Country Club
Raleigh, NC
April 19th, 2008
TIME KEEPS MARCHING

You might not believe this, but I am truly an early bird, up around 5:30 a.m. just about every day. I love the peace and quiet of those moments. I get my best work done then. If I am lucky enough to be at the coast, I am on the beach just before the sun rises. Walking along the shore in the fog is one of my favorite pastimes. You can only see a few yards ahead and a few yards behind. In these moments I feel that there is neither future nor past, just the moment at hand to think and reflect on life.

But time marches on — tempus fugit and all that stuff. The funny thing is it is so true. Trends come and go, styles and art go in and out of fashion, babies are born, empires crumble to dust, and yet for some strange reason, life and some sort of civilization seems to continue. Who knows what mark we leave in the wet sands of time?

For example, some institutions just seem to keep on going and going. The Durham Art Guild (www.durhamartguild.org) recently celebrated its 60th anniversary in great style with a Sally Bowen Prange Wainwright retrospective. Sally was a who’s who in the art world before many of us were even born. Her work is featured in over 17 museum collections, and many fans collect her incredible and innovative ceramics. Queen Noor of Jordan collected her, as did Princess Anne of Great Britain. Her work is on display in Japan, Italy, California, and many places you name a place and somebody there collected her work. Prange Wainwright is best known and respected by generations of ceramicists for her innovation and technique. It really takes talent to stick your hand in mud and pull out art. If you don’t believe me, try it yourself. Sally passed away a few years ago, and I truly miss her presence. She was friendly, lovely and always dignified. Whenever you saw her at an opening, she always had a smile and an opinion to share. She was a true Grand Dame of the art world if there ever was one.

FAMILY JOURNALS

While you are there in the Guild viewing the best of what was, take a few moments to view the installation by two very talented newcomers to the NC artistic landscape: Leah Sobsey and Lynn Bregman. This is the first collaborative work by these two artists, and I find the result mesmerizing. The creations are about life, loss and memory. Both of these talented ladies come from a Jewish background, and it’s easy to see how family history plays such an important and influential role in their work. Walls are covered with transferred and layered images taken from dusty family journals — all of the joy and pathos of family is right there before your eyes. Who are these people, these old faces, obscured by time and wax? A line of color here, a turn of the head, aunts and uncles forgotten, old love letters, children who never saw adulthood. The encaustic collage works are equally haunting, squares of images to be removed and rearranged according to the viewer’s desire. If you have ever wondered what to do with those old boxes of yellowing family photographs, commission these ladies and watch the magic they create.

SNAPSHOTS ON THE BEACH

Speaking of snapshots, make a bee-line to Wilmington for the exhibition “SNAPSHOTS: Small Works by Gallery and Guest Artists” held this month at Fountainside Gallery (www.fountainside-gallery.com). All the works are sized less than 12 inches by 16 inches, so you know you can buy one and take it right home with you. In addition to the regular roster of talented artists — including Rick McClure and Mary Rountree Moore — several guest artists have provided paintings, including Qiang Huang, Madeline Dukes and Rani Garner. There is a little bit of everything here in subject matter, from wildlife to beach scenes to portraits of children. The gallery is easy to find, located at Lumina Station right there on your way to Wrightsville Beach. What better place to stretch your legs, breathe in the salt air and view some quality art.

All of the works in this exhibition are intimate in scale but large on talent. I don’t care who you are, you know you have some corner or space beside the bed where a lovely painting would cheer your day. The gallery also features some great sculpture. I especially like the glass vessels by Chris Hawthorne. They glow with intelligence and creativity. I’m always very impressed when someone can take a dangerous blob of white hot glowing melted sand and turn it into something gorgeous or functional or both. Go see for yourself.
BIMMERS RALLY TO CURE PARKINSON'S

I have known Rich and Claire Broughton of Morehead City for less than a year, but during that time they have gone right to the top of my list of good folks.

I met them last fall at Concours de Graylyn, the charity auto rally in Winston-Salem at the old Bowman Gray estate — now a posh hotel and conference center owned by Wake Forest University. Joyce Stewart of Buies Creek will remember Graylyn as the place where we sipped Champagne and danced to tunes played by a $100 band when I was in law school and she was a student at UNC-Greensboro. At that time, the University allowed the legal fraternities to use the estate for "special events." Dunn lawyer Gerald Hayes and wife Linda were among the Graylyn revelers of the 1960s, and Elizabeth City attorney Herbert Mullen courted his future bride, the lovely Carolyn Shaw of Pittsboro, in that baronial setting. Visiting Graylyn today, it is hard to imagine that in the '60s we had the run of the place.

I was wandering about the grounds looking for auto rally participants from Eastern North Carolina and was directed to a majestic sycamore and a patch of shade on the far side of the meadow. It was a considerable hike, but I headed over and introduced myself to Rich and Claire Broughton and their son Tanner — representatives of the Eastern North Carolina BMW Car Club.

Since Concours de Graylyn is a benefit for children's charities, it had given them an idea — to organize an annual social event for BMW devotees in Eastern North Carolina. In the shade of that big sycamore, they were thinking about turning their annual "CruZ" ("Z" for the Z line of BMWs) into a fundraiser for Parkinson's. On the spot, I told Rich, Claire and Tanner that if they tackled the project, I would come and write a column for Metro. Later when they announced the event — OBX CruZ 2008 — via e-mail, I signed on immediately.

This would be a gathering of some 60 BMW Z class owners — about 120 people in all. The Z models are sleek, sporty, two-seat, highway-hugging convertibles. And what do I drive? A Ford 500, a perfectly serviceable vehicle but hardly an auto to be keeping company with the showstopper Z cars. The ugly duckling. That is what I would be. The ugly duckling. I could hear the roadside wags asking as we caravanned about the east, "How did that guy get invited to the party?"

Rich, a retired DEA special agent who thinks of every detail, recognized my plight and came to the rescue. He put me in touch with Lee Davis at Flow BMW here in Winston-Salem who transformed me into a beautiful swan. Lee sells BMWs and coordinates special events involving "Bimmers" — BMW enthusiasts who love to hang out together. Curiously, I discovered, their conversation is not dominated by car talk. That was a relief to me.

Lee and Flow BMW made a white Z4 available for the weekend — a great treat for me and my weekend companion, Carla Delia Valentina of Lexington. Now I understand the exhilaration my friend Courtney Mills of Spring Hope feels as she navigates the highways and byways Down East in her metallic blue Z3. Carla's father and siblings in Italy have BMWs, and after OBX CruZ 2008 and her Z4 experience, I expect Carla will give Lee a call.

Remember that this event, which was a joint effort of the Z Car Club of America (ZCCA) and the BMW Car Club of America (BMWCCA), was a fundraiser, and its success depended upon the support of sponsors. I met Dan Sale, owner/operator of Sale BMW in Kinston, who hosted the Friday evening pig picking served up by King's of Kinston. He's a great guy.

Claire Broughton, Rich Broughton and Dr. Mark A. Stacy

Duke Medicine Parkinson's Disease Research Fund

saleZ.jpeg

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Speaking of barbecue, Gregg Wilson, who was with Dan, said good things about Grady’s BBQ on Highway 111 South near Goldsboro. That’s a new one on me, but I plan to try it on Gregg’s recommendation. I also understand that Scott’s is open again in Goldsboro. Maybe I will catch both of them on my next trip to Wayne County.

Triangle BMW dealers did their part, also. Don Sigmon at Leith in Raleigh and Mark Moore, general manager at Performance BMW in Chapel Hill, signed on early. Truth is, it is hard to say, “No,” to Rich, especially when saying, “Yes” might put the doctors at Duke a step closer to finding a cure for Parkinson’s. Lonnie Pierce of Pierce Insurance in Farmville also contributed generously.

I am a sucker for a silent auction, and this was a particularly good one. Items included a diamond tennis bracelet — contributed by Wilson-native Robert Herring and wife Judy; and a signed Julius Peppers sweatshirt that brought top dollar — contributed by Wayne Sears, a captain on the Rocky Mount police force and a part of the Carolina Panthers’ security team. Peppers was a great sport by doing his part for Parkinson’s research. Doug and Sherry Deal of Roxboro and Oak Island are providing a happy home for the framed, signed pen-and-ink of Tryon Palace by Jerry Miller that I took to New Bern for the auction.

Law enforcement was well represented. I enjoyed getting reacquainted with former SBI agent Bill Godley, who now lives in Manteo, and meeting Danny Jones — another former agent living in Rocky Mount.

It is a rare occasion when I meet anyone who can talk as much as I can. But Tom Skinner, the WITN television personality, may have bested me. I count him a new friend. Tom was squirting Dr. Betty Harmon, the Greenville physician, who enjoyed her visit to the state aquarium almost as much as I did. It’s a real adventure for anyone — regardless of age — and well worth a day trip from the Triangle.

All in all, it was a great weekend with perfect weather. The folks at Fountain Powerboats in Washington wowed us with the yachts they are building. President George HW Bush’s famous “cigar boat” was built by Fountain, as well as extraordinary boats owned by NASCAR drivers Jimmy Johnson and Jeff Gordon, businesswoman Ross Perot, and hoops star Dennis Rodman.

River Dunes Club, the expansive Pamlico County riverfront development — what I would describe as classic Charleston-style homes in an idyllic setting — hosted us for lunch and gave us a look at the spectacular Coastal Living model home. My friend Carla was delighted to discover that the top-of-the-line drawer components used in the kitchen of the $2 million plus home were manufactured by her company, Valendrawers.

Oriental, NC’s sailing capital, proved to be a great place for shopping. Pat Cicconi, who owns the boutique Dragonfly, contributed generously to the silent auction. Our ladies spent a lot of time with her and at Marsh’s while I sampled the “Southern strawberry” ice cream at The Bean coffee house. Seeing the trawlers docked there reminded me of how important our coastal industries are and how we must work harder to preserve the wetlands and protect the waters where generations of North Carolinians have made their living.

Our final gathering, at Sanitary Fish Market in Morehead City, was emotional. Rich, along with Claire, put his heart and soul into this first OBX Cruz for the Cure. Parkinson’s steals sleep from its victims, and we all received numerous e-mails from Rich in the wee hours of the morning. One night Tanner found his father asleep with his face on the keyboard. A host of friends, such as best buddy Chuck Beasley and wife Sandee of Newport, responded magnificently, praying that their dollars would help find the elusive cure they so fervently desire for their friend. Two participants with Parkinson’s gave brief comments. Then Dr. Mark Stacy, director of Duke University’s Parkinson’s Disease Center, came forward to accept the check. The weekend of fun and camaraderie was a fruitful one. OBX Cruz for the Cure 2008 raised more than $12,000. Rich, while struggling with the progressive nature of Parkinson’s, has vowed to top this figure next year. Between you and me, I bet he does it. See www.obxcruz.com.
THE MINT'S CULINARY GOLD BRINGS MOLECULAR CUISINE TO DOWNTOWN RALEIGH

Unabashedly posh, The Mint raises endorphin levels at first sight. The gorgeous design of the dining room heralds a grand culinary adventure, the chic table appointments reinforce the anticipation and the classically formatted menu hints at delicious mysteries yet to unfold. A closer look at the menu exposes the chef's mischievous sense of humor. Under "Butter Poached Lobster" the small print reads: "popcorn, bourbon caramel, peanut."

Come again?

As soon as the server describes the dishes, the real fun begins. The menu's bold succinctness requires a knowledgeable waitperson to bring it to life, and more importantly in this case, to allay one's fears. Ours was up to the challenge. Clearly enthusiastic about the chef's deft touch with molecular gastronomic techniques, she spoke the language, explaining the mysteries of "sous vide" and making the chef's gelées and foams sound irresistible.

I'll confess to being skittish when it comes to molecular gastronomy, the trend initiated at El Bulli, the Catalan restaurant owned by Ferran Adrià popularized in this country by Grant Achatz's innovative Alinea in Chicago. My latest foray into this territory was at a highly touted restaurant here in the Triangle. There I was served a perfectly good cut of beef, deconstructed, then reconstructed to look like filet mignon. This illusion led to disappointment as the first bite revealed its texture to be foamy mush instead of tender muscle. More tricks of this ilk popped up as other courses were served. The chef's cleverness overpowered his good sense. I left the place not knowing whether I was impressed by his virtuosity or insulted.

So I was a bit leery as the server elaborated on the popcorn (pureed), the bourbon caramel (with a miso base) and the peanut (a glucose/isomalt/peanut butter combo). The lobster itself, she continued, is cooked "en sous vide" — cryovacked in plastic and then cooked at a very low temperature for a very long time.

Beyond bold, this dish sounded absolutely horrendous. So, naturally, we ordered it. The lobster turned out to be several notches above interesting — a tour de force of flavor and texture combinations. Other appetizers were just as fascinating. Shrimp vichyssoise (here an almost solid version of the classic leek and potato soup) supported what appeared to be a large dirty ice cube, actually a square of chilled puréed shrimp poached "en sous vide." The crab cakes were outrageously good — sweet jumbo lump crab held together with scallop mousse, served with a salad of lavender-scented caramelized fennel and a squirt of Tahitian vanilla syrup.

While the appetizers showcase the chef's technical knowledge and ingenuity, the main courses are his blue chips. They were simply superb, if the word can be used in a restaurant where nothing is simple. The freshest seared halibut ("We order it before it's caught.") curved gracefully over a smear of pea purée and whole English peas, celery root purée with juliennd celery root topped with a fragrant truffle foam. Flavors were delicate, subtle and harmonious. Oven roasted duck breast, sliced into thick medallions, was complemented by a delicious parsnip purée and a graceful poached pear artfully scooped to hold creamy warm gorgonzola lightly gelled with metocellulose.

After disappointing wine pairings with our appetizers (the sweetness of the dishes jarred with our chardonnay and prosecco), General Manager Doug Snyder guided us to wines that enhanced our choices — a subtly complex Kenneth Volk Chardonnay for the fish and a juicy Lafond Pinot Noir for the duck.

Our desserts, an intense molten chocolate cake and a coconut cake iced with buttercream, left us bullish about the talents of Executive Chef Jeremy Clayman, whose credentials include a stint at the renowned Peninsula Grill, and Chef de Cuisine Eric Foster from McGrady's, two of Charleston's best kitchens. Both these chefs apprenticed under Sean Brock at Nashville's Hermitage Hotel (Brock now presides over the kitchen at McGrady's) and credit him with teaching them to "think outside the box."

The Mint describes its cuisine as "contemporary fine Southern dining," yet traditionalists should be warned — the bar's mint julep is as close to familiar Southern fare as you'll find here. The other adjectives apply in spades: the kitchen's style is certainly contemporary and...
both cuisine and décor of this renovated bank building are beyond fine — they are stunning.

A rich addition to the Triangle dining scene, The Mint is an artful culinary experience. Like art, its fare is controversial, demanding attention and inviting debate. But one thing is certain — this is a restaurant adventure sophisticated food enthusiasts will not want to miss.

NIBBLES

Sitting next to our table at The Mint was a lone diner, savoring course after course of Chef Clayman’s creations. The passionate gastronome introduced himself as Jason Perlow, founder of www.eGullet.com, one of the foremost foodie blogs going. Perlow recently sold eGullet, now known as “The eGullet Society for Culinary Arts and Letters” and has started another blog, “Off the Broiler.” Perlow will be in the Triangle for a few months exploring the dining scene. Check out www.offthebroiler.com for his take on The Mint and other local eateries. Perlow also posts comments about the restaurant on VarmintBites, the Raleigh-based food blog written by the irrepressible Dean McCord.

Inquiring foodies who want to learn more about The Mint’s cuisine will enjoy Molecular Gastronomy: Exploring the Science of Flavor, part of a fascinating series of books edited by Albert Sonnenfeld named Arts and Traditions of the Table: Perspectives on Culinary History.

As the weather heats up, the food trend of the summer has to be Locopops, those yummy fresh fruit and ice cream popsicles handmade in Durham. Three new Locopops shops have opened just in time for the hot weather — on Hillsborough’s West Margaret Lane, on Raleigh’s Hillsborough Street and on Chapel Hill’s South Elliott. Banana lime and chili mango are delectable, but the outrageous Mexican chocolate with hints of cinnamon and clove is not to be missed. For other Triangle locations, go to www.i-love-locopops.com.

Herons at the Umstead has hired a new food and beverage director, Nick Pijerov from the Great Wolf Lodge in Williamsburg, VA. The restaurant is looking at hundreds of applications for the executive chef position, still open since Phil Evans left this spring with plans to open his own Triangle restaurant.

JK’s Restaurant left North Hills this winter but should reopen by summer’s end at Raleigh’s The Market Place at Lake Boone. Check www.jksraleigh.com for opening date.

Oyster lovers will enjoy The Ocean Grill, just opened at 4300 NW Cary Parkway. The new upscale restaurant will serve eight different kinds of oysters on the half shell, as well as other fresh seafood dishes.

When Kemp’s Seafood House closed a few months ago, thousands of Research Triangle fans grieved. The restaurant has now reopened at its old Page Point Circle home but without table service. The new counter service format, according to Kemp’s management, has allowed the eatery to lower menu prices.

The Original SoupMan will open on June 3 at 6325 Falls of Neuse Road in Raleigh. The store will feature the soups of Al Yeganeh, the man who inspired the “Soup Episode” on Seinfeld. The Original SoupMan showcases Yeganeh’s 50 varieties of soup, each presented with a piece of crusty baguette, fresh fruit and a piece of imported chocolate. Besides Yeganeh’s 50 varieties of soup, gourmet salads and sandwiches will be available for takeout.

The Ocean Grill

Created by the Chapel Hill Restaurant Group, owners of perennially outstanding eateries Squid’s, 411 West in Chapel Hill and 518 West in Raleigh, MEZ is now open on Page Road just off Interstate 40. The contemporary Mexican restaurant features traditional Mexican recipes with healthy, locally grown organic ingredients. Outside dining is available on MEZ’s attractive patio.

A new personal chef service in Raleigh specializes in organic and local food prepared in your own kitchen by twin sisters, Chefs Lori and Michelle Corso. Sample the twins’ fare at the Moore Square Farmers Market every Wednesday. For more information or to set up a free consultation, visit the Corsos, members of the United States Personal Chef Association, at www.twinskitchen.com or call 919-306-5304.

Hasta luego to Raleigh’s only Spanish restaurant, Tasca Brava, and one of its best Chinese eateries, Red Palace. Both anticipate reopening soon in other locations.

The Cameron Bar & Grill at 2018 Clark Avenue in Raleigh’s Cameron Village is now open offering steaks and chops and Italian specialties from owners Rudolfo and Richard Di Martino, owners of Cafe Tiramisu and the North Ridge Pub. The décor is designed around the history of Cameron Village with archival photos from the ‘40s and ‘50s. The terrazzo floors date back to 1957 from the old Village Pharmacy.

Urban Food Group executive chef Jeremy Sabo shared cooking tips and recipes at a promotional event at South restaurant in North Hills last month using Frank’s Red Hot, the sauce used to create the original Buffalo Wings in Buffalo, NY in 1964. Sabo used the sauce to create signature southern cuisine such as Carolina crab cakes with remoulade sauce, pulled chicken sandwiches with blue cheese and coleslaw, chicken gumbo, and spicy sautéed shrimp and cheese grits.

1705Prime, which opened last year in the original Michael Dean’s location on East Milbrook in Raleigh, will no longer operate as a steak restaurant. Owner Dean Ogan plans to use the facility exclusively for catering.

For the third year, the Triangle hosts “Diamonds are a Diner’s Best Friend” dinner series on five separate evenings from June to October. Each month, executive chefs from five of the area’s AAA Four Diamond award-winning restaurants will gather in each other’s kitchens to prepare a culinary masterpiece. On June 19 Chef Jimmy Reale will kick off the series at Carolina Crossroads (at the Carolina Inn) assisted by Jason Cunningham of Fairview, Oscar LaFuentes of Herons, Adam Rose of II Palio and Daniel Schurr of Second Empire. For reservations, call 919-918-2777.
RALEIGH/CARY

18 SEABOARD - 18 Seaboard Avenue, Suite 100 Raleigh. 919-861-4318. www.18seaboard.com. Chef-Proprietor Jason Smith welcomes you with sensibly inventive American Cuisine using North Carolina ingredients. From the downtown views of our open-air mezzanine to the staff's warm hospitality, 18 Seaboard is the place for casual dining or special occasions.

42ND STREET OYSTER BAR - 508 W. Jones St., Raleigh. 831-2811. Serving quality seafood, steaks and pasta in a casual atmosphere. Steamed oysters and clams available. Lunch M-F, Dinner seven nights a week. Proprietor Jason Smith welcomes you with sensibly, inventive American Cuisine using North Carolina ingredients. From the downtown views of our open-air mezzanine to the staff's warm hospitality, 18 Seaboard is the place for casual dining or special occasions.

THE ANGUS BARN - 9401 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh. 781-2444. www.angusbarn.com The Angus Barn, a Raleigh landmark offers Angus steaks, seafood, an extensive wine list, experienced and knowledgeable staff and much more in its eclectic barn setting. Since opening in the 1960s, the basic principals - hospitality, attractive atmosphere, and value have remained the same.


CAFÉ TIRAMISU - 6196-120 Falls of Neuse Rd., Raleigh. 981-3035. Northern Italian Cuisine: A family owned and operated restaurant originating from an old Raleigh favorite Piccolo Mondo restaurant. Slick and contemporary décor, will give fine dining at its best.


THE DUCK & DUMPLING - 222 S. Blount St., Raleigh. 919-638-0085. www.theduckanddumpling.com. Overlooking Moore Square, this contemporary Asian Bistro is home to Chef David Mac’s unique blend of Chinese and Vietnamese cuisine. Open for Lunch: 11:30am - 2:30pm, M-F; Dinner: 5pm - 10pm T-Th; 5pm - 11 pm Fri-Sat.

GIANNI & GAITANO'S - Towne North Shopping Center, 8311 Creedmoor Rd, Raleigh. 847-8223. Wakefield Shopping Center, 14460 Falls of Neuse, Raleigh. 256-8100. Presented by the Cinelli Family, the unique envi­ronment at these three locations offers a choice of family or adult dining and authentic family recipes. Guests can enjoy an inspiring wine list and only the finest and freshest ingredients. Open for Lunch: M-Sat 11am-4pm; Dinner: M-Th 4-10pm, F-Sat 4-11pm; Sun Noon-9pm.


GLOBE - 510 Glenwood Avenue Suite 103, Raleigh. 836-1811. Chefs Heath Holloman (co-owner) and Gray Modlin present a menu influenced by cuisines from all over the GLOBE, with their own twists. Choose a wine from the comprehensive list or have Henry Burgess (co-owner/sommelier) assist in a selection that will pair well with your food. "GLOBE...come taste a world of difference!"


JIBARRA - 7420 Six Forks Rd. Raleigh 27615. 919- 844-6330. www.jibarra.com. Offering some of the most creative and modern dishes in the Triangle. Chef Ricardo Quintero has cooked alongside some of Spain's greatest innovators, thus incorporating wande-garde techniques into his repertoire of traditional Mexican dishes. Lounge showcases premium tequilas, fresh-squeezed margaritas, and distinct wine list rich in Spanish and South American selections. T-Th. 5-10pm. Fri.-Sat. 5-11pm. Sun. brunch 11am-2:30.

MARGAUX'S RESTAURANT - 8111 Creedmoor Rd. Ste. 111, North Raleigh. [919] 846-9866. At Margaux's, every experience is new. It's the relentless pursuit of innovation. Chef Andy Pettifer prepares a new menu EVERY night including our 3 Course Prix Fixe menu at $27.95/pp. Check our website daily: www.margauxs-restaurant.com


NINA'S RISTORANTE - 8801 Leadmine Rd., Raleigh. 845-1122. www.ninasristorante.com. Vibrant flowers, paintings and hand-crafted sculptures are arranged throughout the terra cotta walls of the restaurant. The restaurant provides the ever-growing area with Tuscan Cuisine that is heavy on flavor and light on the ingredi­ents. Wine Spectator Award of Excellence 2000-2006. Hours of operation M-Sat. 5-10 pm.


THE RALEIGH TIMES BAR - 14 E. Hargett St., Raleigh. 833-0799. www.raleightimesbar.com. The beautifully restored 100-year-old Raleigh Times Building is now home to a timeless local watering hole in Downtown Raleigh. Featuring hand-crafted, creative takes on classic bar fare favorites, an inventive drink menu and extensive Belgian beer selection. Open 11:30am - 2am, Mon-Sat; Noon - Midnight Sun.


SECOND EMPIRE RESTAURANT & TAVERN - 330 Hillsborough St., Raleigh. 829-3663. www.second­empire.com. Located in the historic Dodd-Hinsdale House. Offering elegant upstairs dining, as well as the lighter fare menu and casual atmosphere of the tav­ern. Winner of the DiRoNA Award, AAA four Diamond Award & the Wine Spectator Award.

tion of the Mediterranean with the sophistication of the city. Enjoy dishes prepared using only the finest, fresh ingredients in an indulgent, casual atmosphere. Wine list and outdoor seating available. Open for Lunch and Dinner.

SONO JAPANESE RESTAURANT – 319 Fayetteville Street #101, Raleigh. 919-521-5328. www.sonoraleigh.com. This new and exciting Japanese restaurant is unlike any other in the Triangle area. From the chic/modern decor to exciting new fusion dishes, this restaurant will please any taste buds.

SULLIVAN’S STEAKHOUSE – 414 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh. 833-2888. The atmosphere at Sullivan’s resembles a 1940s steakhouse, featuring fine steaks and seafood. Enjoy the unparalleled martinis and live jazz played seven nights a week.


TAVERNA AGORA – 6101 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh 919-881-8333. www.TavernaAgora.com. Taverna Agora is the premier restaurant in the Triangle for authentic Greek cuisine. Enjoy the rustic ambiance of our dining room or our beautiful garden patio. Venue may be reserved for special events.


VINNIE’S STEAKHOUSE AND TAVERN – 7440 Six Forks Rd, Raleigh. 847-7319. Treat yourself to all the luxuries this classic New York style chophouse has to offer. Certified Angus Beef, the freshest seafood available and an extensive selection of wines from around the world.


DURHAM/APEX

CAFÉ PARIZADE – 2200 W. Main St., Durham. 286-9712. Renaissance-inspired murals, colorful surrealistic works of art and casually chic crowds feasting on Mediterranean dishes. Lunch M-F 11:30-2:30, Dinner M-Th 5:30-10, F and Sat. 5:30-11, Sun. 5:30-9.


GEORGE’S GARAGE – 737 Ninth St., Durham. 286-4131. Enjoy our casual upbeat atmosphere with the freshest seafood and authentic sushi bar. After-hour celebration and dancing and a fresh to-go market and bakery.

GLOFT – 737 Ninth St., Durham. 286-4131. For meeting friends after work, for after dinner drinks, or exciting late-night entertainment. Also available to host your private event where we can throw a party or a full sit-down dinner for a chosen few or a large gathering.

GRASSHOPPER – 2010 Hillsborough Rd., Durham. 286-1600. Experience the essence of pure Asian food – a balance of flavors with Chinese and Vietnamese influences that delight the senses while nourishing the body.


CHAPEL HILL/HILLSBOROUGH

BIN 54 – 1201-M Raleigh Rd., Chapel Hill. 949-1156. Chapel Hill’s high-end steakhouse has it all: delectable dishes, stellar service and an atmosphere rich in stylish romance.


SPICE STREET – 201 S. Estes Dr., Chapel Hill. 928-8200. A revolutionary experience in dining entertainment, Spice Street is a culinary experience created to nourish the soul and share flavors from around the world. Spice Street celebrates food and life.

BEYOND THE TRIANGLE


BLUE MOON BISTRO – 119 Queen Street, Beaufort. (252) 728-5800. Coastal cuisine in a casual historic setting. Offering innovative dishes that bring a welcomed departure from other coastal venues. Chef Swan’s eclectic menu includes references from Asia, France and America. For a balanced plate, enjoy a well-matched wine to accompany your entrée. Dinner Tues.-Sat.

CAFÉ ZITO – 105 South 11th St., Morehead City. 252-726-6676. www.cafezito.com. Be delighted by the creative cuisine at this neighborhood restaurant. Chef Baptist Knave offers a tantalizing menu of local favorites influenced by the Mediterranean. Located in a historic downtown home, enjoy dining inside or on the porch.


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CELEBRATE WITH CHAMPAGNE

With May rains having eased our water problems somewhat, June is literally bustin' out all over ... the month of brides, doted-on-dads, the summer solstice — a season for celebration and a little gift-giving.

If there's a wedding on your agenda this month and you're looking for a special gift for a special bride and groom, here's a suggestion. On a day of happy memory-making, give them a great bottle for just the two of them to share ... something new and unique: Mumm's prestige blend, Cuveé R. Lalou 1998, an elegant and delicious Champagne they're sure to enjoy.

There are dozens of prestige cuvées, those top of the line blends each Champagne house produces — Moët’s Dom Pérignon, Clicquot's La Grande Dame, Roederer Cristal, among others — that range in price from $125 to $400. Actually, the Cuveé R. Lalou at $160 isn’t quite “new” but it's making a comeback. Named for Mumm’s legendary winemaker of the 1940s and '50s René Lalou, the sparkler's last vintage was 1985. I remember it well and recommended it in my wine column in the New York Daily News. The 1998, made from 50 percent chardonnay and 50 percent pinot noir from top-rated Champagne vineyards, spent eight years on the yeasts before disgorgement (the last step in the traditional méthode champenoise process), adding depth to its grace and balance.

Some 70,000 bottles of the R. Lalou were produced. That may sound like a lot, but it's really a drop in the bucket. Britain alone imports over 30 million bottles of Champagne a year, the US 23 million, Germany 12 million, Japan 8 million, with several million going to some 35 other countries around the world. Demand for Champagne, in fact, exceeds what the region can supply. Like most of the Champagne producers, Mumm produces several styles of bubbly — including the non-vintage Cordon Rouge (which is consistently excellent), the lightly sparkling, all-chardonnay Mumm de Cramant, a Brut Rosé and, once again, the R. Lalou in its handsome slope-shouldered bottle — a traditional shape for fine Champagne.

Champagne makes a great gift for anyone and any occasion. But for Father's Day, Dad might like a bottle of fine Port. We

WINE BUY OF THE MONTH

Trefethen Dry Riesling 2007, Napa Valley, $22. Trefethen Family Vineyards has a long tradition with fine Riesling, but the 2007 is possibly its best ever. Made from grapes grown in Napa's cool southern region, the 2007 Riesling has appealing mineral accents, which give it a steely, zesty character that works beautifully with food. Dry enough to complement shellfish (shrimp and crab), it is also a superb choice with sushi.

Rodney Strong Vineyards Chalk Hill Chardonnay 2005, $20. I have long been a fan of this Chardonnay, admirable for its fine balance and the very judicious use of oak — as an accent rather than an enveloping cloak. The Chalk Hill district of Sonoma extends south from Alexander Valley on soil laced with limestone and ash, lending a distinctive mineral character to Chardonnay. Winemaker Rick Sayre well understands how to allow this subtle minerality to express itself in the Chalk Hill Chardonnay. The 2005 vintage was a coolish one, and harvest was later than usual — well into October. The wine has depth and richness but is still quite crisp and drinks extremely well now, as it should through summer and fall.
usually think of Port as a winter after-dinner drink — and for the fiery power of Vintage Port, this may be so. Summer is a wonderful time, however, for the wood-aged Port known as Tawny. It gets its name for the color, a burnished tawny, like the coat of a tiger, but as a young wine it is dark red. Aged in wood casks for 10, 20, 30 or even 40 years, it acquires a rich golden or amber hue. With time in wood, the texture mellows into a creamy smoothness with flavors of coffee, toasted almonds, citrus rind, caramel, and hints of dried plums, berries, apricot and other fruits.

I recently tasted Sandeman's Tawny Ports, aged 10 and 20 years. Both have delightful flavors, but the 20-year-old has developed a lovely creaminess with flavors reminiscent of crème brûlée, dried orange peel and toasted nuts. Slightly cooled, it makes an excellent apéritif before dinner, perhaps with a few marcona almonds and cubes of manchego cheese — but it is equally satisfying as the finish to a fine meal.

The leading Port houses in Oporto, Portugal each make Tawny Ports of various ages. I'm partial to 20-year-old Tawnies and, in addition to the Sandeman, particularly recommend these: Churchill's, Dow, Graham, Fonseca, Delaforce, Niepoort, and Taylor Fladgate, which range in price from $40 to $50 a bottle.

Angels, Thieves, and Winemakers by Joseph Mills (Press 53, $12)

Any wine lover will enjoy perusing this slender volume of wine poems penned by Joseph Mills, a wine buff and resident of North Carolina, co-author of the excellent A Guide to North Carolina's Wineries. While touring the state's wine houses, Mills, already a published poet, found inspiration beyond the tools of the trade and mundane facts of our young and growing wine industry.

Watching a winemaker draw wine from the barrel with the instrument known as a “thief” gave rise to the poem that reflects on things we create — art, children and wine — and how they move beyond us into the world.

“How do the angels get their share?” he asks, referring to the term winemakers use for the portion, however minute, of wine in oak barrels that disappears due to evaporation. He then muses wittily on the improbable prospect of “an angelic pub crawl from winery to winery until their wings are stained purple…”

Talk of wine and you talk of life ... as these poems do with wit and wisdom and a little wistfulness. They are poems to read aloud, best enjoyed with glass in hand and shared in the company of friends and fellow wine lovers.
DEADLY DOSE TRACES MILLER ARSENIC MURDER

by Art Taylor

Because Metro Magazine and WRAL-TV's coverage area overlap, readers here will likely already be familiar with the story behind Deadly Dose: The Untold Story of a Homicide Investigator's Crusade for Truth and Justice and the book's author, WRAL's Amanda Lamb.

Last year, Lamb published her first book, Smotherhood: Wickedly Funny Confessions from the Early Years, but this new offering is no laughing matter. For Deadly Dose, Lamb sat down with Raleigh homicide investigator Chris Morgan and discussed the case of Eric Miller, the medical researcher who died from arsenic poisoning. The investigators' story was covered widely nationally — including on the CBS news show 48 Hours — and most people in North Carolina know the gist of the story, just as most of us know about some of the state's other famed arsenic poisoners: Velma Barfield, Blanche Taylor Moore and Pamela Sanders Williams Lanier, the last woman to be convicted of this specific crime until Miller's case.

But as that long title promises, Lamb strives to offer the "untold story" here, and her conversation with Morgan takes readers behind-the-scenes of the Major Crimes Task Force and day-to-day police work that amassed a mountain of circumstantial evidence. There is also detail about the bureaucracy — both within the department and between the police, prosecutors, medical examiners and others — and interactions with the media. Especially revealing here is a phone call that ultimately led to the well-known NC Supreme Court hearing about whether or not Gammon could breach attorney-client privilege over a dead man's secrets.

Deadly Dose also takes us into the mind of Morgan, a man driven to discover the truth and to find justice. As he remarks at one point: "There has to be an advocate, there has to be somebody looking out for the dead. They can't speak for themselves and their families often are ill-equipped and unable to speak effectively for them." As a veteran policeman, Morgan knows murder too well, and after his first glimpse of Ann Miller in the interrogation room on the night of the murder, Dec. 2, 2000, he got "that funny little feeling" in the back of his mind. Even though the case wasn't technically his at that point, his interest and determination quickly turned into involvement. Interviews with friends and family were just the beginning of a case that would eventually find Morgan shadowing Ann after she moved to Wilmington, stealing her garbage and crouching for hours in an oleander bush outside of her lover's home. A crusade indeed — and that's hardly the end of the story.

Equally compelling is Morgan's involvement with the families of the victims — grieving with them, feeling responsible to them — and his complex relationship with the victims themselves, even if he didn't know them in life. Lamb points out that Morgan's approach is to "inhale the small details of their lives that made them into the people they were before they were killed." Through Morgan's efforts, a portrait of Eric and Ann Miller emerges: where each of them had been born, their family histories, their romance, marriage and first foray into parenthood — a brief one for Eric — and then the secret life behind that façade.

But if Deadly Dose has any serious flaws, it may well be connected with that very process — how the book remains largely embedded in Morgan's point-of-view. As WRAL's crime beat reporter, Lamb herself could likely stand as an expert on the case, and she writes here with authority. But though she pulls from e-mails, transcripts of phone calls, court transcripts and other similar sources, Lamb leans most heavily on Morgan for his accounts of interviews, interrogations, meetings and more — an account that is, no matter how affable and engaging, also inevitably one-sided.

The best true crime books — and I'm thinking here of classics like In Cold Blood or Beverly Lowry's Crossed Over: A Murder, A Memoir — succeed best because of the multiplicity of voices and perspectives. At times, I kept wanting to hear at least a little bit of the story directly from Assistant District Attorney Tom Ford, for example, or from medical examiner Dr. Thomas Clark, men who were at odds with one another and the police. Clark particularly comes across as contradictory in his two scenes — a contradiction that may confuse readers just as it confused me.

Despite the limited perspective, however, Deadly Dose makes good on its goals. Readers particularly interested in this case — or generally interested in the complicated interrelationships among the police, the justice system and the media — will find their time more than amply rewarded here. And for an even more up-close-and-personal look at the case, be sure and catch Lamb at various bookstores throughout the region in upcoming weeks. The book's...
launch party will take place at Raleigh's Quail Ridge Books on Tuesday evening, June 3, with Morgan himself on-hand to discuss the case and answer questions. Subsequent events include Tuesday evening, June 10, at Durham's Regulator Bookshop (also with Morgan); Tuesday evening, June 17, at Barnes & Noble in Cary; and next month, on Tuesday evening, July 22, at Barnes & Noble in Wilmington.

SHORT TRIPS SAVE GAS
Summer travel season is here, but is there plenty of gas (or money in the wallet) to take those trips?
A new guidebook from John F. Blair, Publisher offers some alternatives. Presented as a partnership effort from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, the North Carolina Cooperative Extension and the North Carolina Arts Council, Homegrown Handmade: Art Roads and Farm Trails offers short driving tours through the Piedmont and Eastern North Carolina with a focus on "arts and agriculture," which allows exposure to "art galleries, festivals, state historic sites, horse farms, produce stands and you-pick farming operations, parks and preserves, and locally owned restaurants and picturesque bed-and-breakfast inns." The book adheres to some pretty strict guidelines on those latter entries. For a restaurant to be included in the book, they have to meet at least five items on a list of criteria that includes local art on the walls, live music, locally grown produce, indigenous recipes or architectural significance.

Since my own travels take me down to Carteret County, I focused my attention to the listings there. Beaufort's entries include some well-known spots such as the North Carolina Maritime Museum, Clawson's and the Beaufort Grocery Company, but also some information on smaller venues including the Down East Gallery, Handscapes, Mattie King Davis Art Gallery and Miss Marie's Gallery.

Carteret County's listings are in a section called "Coastal Treasure Chest," and the book throughout proves a treasure chest of ideas for people on the go — but not wanting to go too far.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY
Among the many new books from authors this month, the debut novel from Nina de Gramont stands out. De Gramont has already established her credentials with short fiction — her collection Of Cats and Men was a Book Sense selection and an award winner from the New England Booksellers Association — and her new novel, Gossip of the Starlings, promises to up the ante even more. Inspired by a true story, the book traces the friendship of two girls at an elite New England boarding school who lead one another into more trouble than they bargained for. De Gramont will be reading from the book on Thursday evening, June 19, at McIntyre's Books at Fearrington Village.

AREA BOOK EVENTS
- Ann Wicker, editor of Making Notes: Music of the Carolinas, on Thursday evening, June 5, at Raleigh's Quail Ridge Books.
- Sara Addison Allen, author of The Sugar Queen, on Thursday evening, June 5, at McIntyre's Books at Fearrington Village; and on Friday afternoon, June 6, at the Country Bookshop in Southern Pines.
- Lawyer-turned-novelist Lauch Magruder, author of Without Regard, on Friday afternoon, June 6, at McIntyre's.
- Poets Alex Grant and Roy Jacobstein on Saturday morning, June 7, at McIntyre's.
- Diane Chamberlain, author of Before the Storm, on Tuesday evening, June 10, at Quail Ridge Books.
- Cary author Carolyn Booth, author of A Chosen Few, on Wednesday evening, June 11, at Quail Ridge Books; and on Wednesday evening, June 18, at Barnes & Noble in Cary.
- Nancy Horan, author of Loving Frank, on Thursday evening, June 12, at Quail Ridge Books.
- Karen Abbott, author of Sin in the Second City, on Thursday evening, June 12, at McIntyre's.
- NCSU professor Jeremy Packer, author of Mobility Without Mayhem: Safety, Cars and Citizenship, on Thursday evening, June 12, at the Regulator Bookshop.
- Andre Dubus III, author of The Garden of Last Days, on Friday afternoon, June 13, at McIntyre's, and later that evening at Quail Ridge Books.
- Jeffery Deaver, author of The Broken Window, on Friday evening, June 13, at Barnes & Noble, New Hope Commons, Durham; and on Monday evening, June 23, at Quail Ridge Books.
- Tobacco historian Billy Yeargin, author of North Carolina Tobacco: A History and Remembering North Carolina Tobacco, on Saturday evening, June 14, at the Regulator Bookshop.
- Christopher Cooper and H. Gibbs Knotts, editors of The New Politics of North Carolina, along with contributor Ferrel Guillory, on Tuesday evening, June 17, at Quail Ridge Books.
- Alan Furst, author of Spies of Warsaw, on Thursday evening, June 19, at Quail Ridge Books.
- Dawn Champ, author of On Account of Conspicuous Women, on Thursday afternoon, June 19, at the Country Bookshop; and on Saturday evening, June 28, at McIntyre’s.
- Alexandra Sokoloff, author of The Harrowing, on Monday evening, June 23, at Barnes & Noble in Cary.
- Dale Volberg Reed and John Shelton Reed, editors of Cornbread Nation: The Best of Southern Food Writing, along with contributors Marcie Ferris and Michael McFee, on Wednesday evening, June 25, at Quail Ridge Books.
- Novelist Carrie Brown, author of The Rope Walk, on Thursday evening, June 26, at Quail Ridge Books.
- Valerie Raleigh Yow, author of Betty Smith: Life of the Author of A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, on Thursday afternoon, June 26, at the Country Bookshop.
- Academy Award-winning actor Gene Hackman and Daniel Lenihan, authors of Escape from Andersonville, on Friday evening, June 27, at Quail Ridge Books.
IT'S SUMMERTIME AND THE LISTENING IS EASY

Here we are at the outset of another North Carolina summer. At this point, halfway through the year, it's a good time to check out some of the music that's been released in '08:

ELIANE ELIAS: SOMETHING FOR YOU: ELIANE ELIAS SINGS AND PLAYS BILL EVANS (BLUE NOTE)

This January release features Brazilian pianist-vocalist Eliane Elias laying down a superb tribute to pianist-composer Bill Evans. Elias tracked 16 songs for this project, delivering a good deal of sonic variety in the process. Some of the tunes are very fine trio instrumentals, including "Five" and "Blue In Green." Elias sings several numbers as well. Note her particularly sharp cover of the Brazilian tune "Minha" and her rendition of "Detour Ahead." Elias also works two solo piano pieces — "I Love My Wife" and "For Nenette." Both tracks serve to showcase her considerable keyboard virtuosity. This is one of the most appealing jazz releases of '08.

PATTY LARKIN: WATCH THE SKY (VANGUARD)

Singer-songwriter-virtuoso Patty Larkin has been one of the most consistently compelling artists cutting tracks during the past 20 years. Her terrific talent as a vocalist, songwriter and instrumentalist is firmly established at this point; she has essentially mastered her craft from every angle. It makes sense, then, that she would turn out a solo project that's genuinely a solo effort. She produced the album, played all the instruments and wrote all the songs. All she needed was someone to turn on the tape deck. The tunes on the disc run the gamut from the radio-friendly "Hallelujah" to the intriguing obscurity of "Hollywood" and the polished balladry of "Dear Heart." Larkin does it all, and does it exceedingly well, on Watch the Sky.

CHEB I SABBAH: DEVOTION (SIX DEGREES)

Cheb I Sabbah is an Indian who actually hasn't spent a lot of time in India, but he definitely got in touch with the subcontinent with this outstanding album project. In producing this piece, he referenced all three major traditions of religious music in India — Hinduism, Sikhism and Sufi Islam. The result is a mesmerizing collection of tunes. Anyone who mistakenly assumes that Asian religious music is short on groove need only spin "Qalanderi," a Sufi qawwali that rides a solid beat, nourishing Riffat Sultana's ethereal vocal. Also check out "Morey Pya Bassey," a form known as a bhajan, here sung beautifully by classical virtuoso Shubha Mudgal. Sabbah's arrangement is equally gorgeous.

VARIOUS ARTISTS: IN THE NAME OF LOVE: AFRICA CELEBRATES U2 (SHOUT FACTORY)

The concept here is pretty clearly articulated in the album title: Some of Africa's most well-known artists work the songs of the celebrated Irish rock band U2. This is one of those album ideas that will produce an awesome product if the right musicians are chosen, and the right musicians were chosen. Add to that the latitude given to the players to interpret U2 songs in their own styles, and the result is solid. We've got Malian guitarist Vieux Farka Touré laying down a wicked groove on "Bullet The Blue Sky" while singing in three languages. Angelique Kidjo provides a typically electrifying cover of "Mysterious Ways," and South Africa's Soweto Gospel Choir turns in a rendition of "In The Name Of Love" that's at least as found as U2's original. Another South African artist, Vusi Mahlasela, offers a beautifully emotive version of "Sometimes You Just Can't Make It On Your Own."

TOUMANI DIABATÉ: THE MANDÉ VARIATIONS (WORLD CIRCUIT/NONSEUCH)

The Mandé Variations is just Toumani Diabaté's second solo album in the past 20 years. Diabaté is a world-renowned kora player — arguably the best on the planet. When he takes the time to knock out a solo project, it's of major interest for fans of West African music. This is elemental stuff — simply Diabaté and his kora, no overdubs. His performance is purely elegant, his command of his instrument is absolute and his material is at once ancient and contemporary. Note the delicate interplay of "Kaouding Cissoko," the robust, asymmetric form of "El Nabiyouna" and Diabaté's tribute to another legendary Malian musician, "Ali Farka Touré."

KAT PARRA: AZUCAR DE AMOR (PATOIS)

California-based jazz singer Kat Parra has unleashed her passion for Latin jazz on Azucar de Amor. She knocks down a spicy salsa number on "Quitate La Queta" and handles the salsa/mambo tune "Sugar (Azucar de Amor)" with equal verve. She also wrote "Un Grito" with Wayne Wallace — a song in the Afro-Peruvian landó style, which is a pretty rare talent for a pair of gringos. And on the subject of rarities, cue up Parra's rendition of "Esta Montonya D'Enfrente," a mystic Sephardic ballad. She sings this arcane Judeo-Spanish music beautifully and with a comprehension that's remarkable, considering that this musical tradition is, to put it mildly, obscure. Parra is a jazz singer with a musical sensibility that's as...
distinctive as it is eclectic.

TAB BENOIT: NIGHT TRAIN TO NASHVILLE [TELARC]

Guitarist-vocalist Tab Benoit just snagged the Blues Foundation's Contemporary Male Blues Artist of the Year at the 2008 Blues Music Awards, and this live album offers a clear indication of why this happened. Benoit cut this live disc in Nashville with his backing band — Louisiana's LeRoux — and guests, including harp players Kim Wilson, Johnny Sansone, Jimmy Hall and Jim Lauderdale, and fiddler/washboard player Waylon Thibodeaux. The album opens with a rave-up blues number titled "Night Train." Benoit's first couple guitar solos of the album comes here, and it's classic Benoit — adroit, mighty tasty and melodic. Nothing too frantic or over-the-top. For those who have the sense to appreciate a slow blues joint, cue up "Darkness," a tune that simmers most righteously. Another number that simmers, but in a mid-tempo groove, is "Rendezvous With The Blues." Hall sings this one and works a deep harmonica. Benoit hits a nasty guitar solo on this track; it's relatively short, but so right. The album closes with a very lean cover of the classic joint "Stackolina." It's just Benoit, Wilson on harmonica and Thibodeaux on washboard, and it's an eminently satisfying, loose piece of work.

TAYLOR EIGSTI: LET IT COME TO YOU [CONCORD]

Most jazz fans who are keen on pianists are aware of the remarkable Eldar Djangirov, a true piano prodigy, born in Kyrgyzstan, who just turned 21 this past January. Djangirov is, indeed, an amazing jazz artist, but if you're impressed by his youthful virtuosity, then you'll find Taylor Eigsti just as compelling. Eigsti is just two-and-a-half years older than Djangirov, but he's a California native who studied at Stanford and USC, which isn't as quirky as being born in Kyrgyzstan. Let It Come To You is Eigsti's second album for Concord and his fourth album thus far (he cut his first jazz CD about the same time he graduated from high school). Eigsti is a fluid player, very much in the post-bop mode, and he's also an extremely promising composer. He wrote four of the 11 songs on the record, including the three songs that comprise his Fallback Plan Suite. Check out Eigsti's turn on the Jobim-Buarque number "Portrait In Black And White." He's performing here with guitarist Julian Lage, who also arranged the piece with Eigsti. This is an elegant piece of work; both Eigsti and Lage play with tremendous feeling. Eigsti's cover of Pat Metheny's "Timeline" — dedicated to the late, great Michael Brecker — features Joshua Redman on tenor sax. Having invited Redman along for the ride, Eigsti gives him plenty of space and Redman works it with vigor. Eigsti's piano solo is so fluent that it sounds effortless, and his interplay with Redman is truly conversational. His original tune, "Let It Come To You," is laid back as the title suggests. The song has a pensive quality that's ideal for a trio setting. Reuben Rogers is stellar on bass, providing a gentle, solid depth to Eigsti's ruminations. Jazz fans will do well to keep an eye on Eigsti — he's a major talent at the front end of what promises to be an important career.
Kiplinger's Personal Finance has named Raleigh number two behind Houston, TX, in its 2008 ranking of the top 10 US cities to live and work. The study highlights cities with the ingredients for future success, including "a healthy shot of people in the creative class that are catalysts of vitality and livability in a city." The listing states that Raleigh is "on the road to renaissance, bringing urban living to the city through its Livable Streets project. Top-notch research schools in the area fuel a skilled workforce, the main reason companies relocate to the area." The full list of this year's favorites is profiled at www.kiplinger.com/money/bestcities.

The 1000-acre Hasentree community's 18-hole, Tom Fazio-designed golf course has been nominated by Golf Digest and the North Carolina Golf Panel for best new course in North Carolina. The community's founders, Creedmoor Partners, recently won a third Developer of the Year award from the Home Builders Association of Raleigh and Wake County.

Soprano Emily Ezzie of Baltimore, MD, was awarded first prize in the second bi-annual Long Leaf Opera Vocal Competition held in April at the Paul Green Theatre on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill. Ezzie will be invited to perform in a future Long Leaf Opera production and received a $1000 cash prize. Soprano Krista Leigh Wilhelmsen, currently studying at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, was awarded $500 for second place. Third prize of $250 went to Jacqueline Novastak of New York City. Ten finalists all under the age of 35 were judged on their technical and musical interpretive abilities, stage presence and professional attitude by a panel of judges.

McConnell Golf LLC announced the first class of young golfers to receive the McConnell Golf High School Golf Scholarships. The winners, nominated by their high school golf coaches or golf professional based on their level of talent, need and commitment to the game include:

- Grayson Murray
  - Freshman, Leesville Road High
- Larry Han
  - Freshman, Leesville Road High
- Justin Thomas
  - Senior, Broughton High
- Meghan Moore
  - Senior, Northern Durham High
- Brian Denton
  - Senior, Knightdale High

Jung Yoon
Senior, Knightdale High

Raleigh Orthopaedic Clinic (ROC) filed a lawsuit against the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services asserting the healthcare Certificate of Need (CON) program, as currently constituted, is an unconstitutional delegation of the powers of the North Carolina Legislature. ROC believes that the current CON program lacks sufficient oversight for the enormous level of responsibility, to the detriment of Clinic patients and Triangle-area residents.

Friday Night Music at Capital City Grocery, located in Seaboard Station in downtown Raleigh, is presenting free live music every Friday evening on the store's front porch. Sponsored by Carolina Brewing Co. and Big Boss Brewery, the family-oriented concerts feature Americana, blues and zydeco. Go to www.myspace.com/capitalcitygrocery for more information.

APPOINTMENTS
Special events and development planner Amy Alicia Baldwin of Cary will direct the 2009 North Carolina Literary Festival, scheduled for Sept. 10-14, 2009, at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Sponsorship of the free public festival rotates among the libraries at UNC and Duke, North Carolina Central and North Carolina State Universities.

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PRINCE OBAMA

A scene in the film The Queen keeps coming back to me as Democrats scrum to choose a presidential candidate between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

The world, it seemed, had erupted in emotion over the death of Princess Diana in August 1997. Newly elected British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who engineered the removal of socialist clauses in the Labour Party constitution to win under the banner of New Labour, represented a political party steadfastly opposed to the monarchy. Yet Blair knew in his British bones — and to his everlasting credit — that the Queen, for her own good, must react in public to the tragedy. Blair understood she represented an element of DNA in the country's national psyche as "head of state," a fine differentiation for non-Brits, but essential to the self-identity of the kingdom.

Blair harried the Queen to respond to the grief her subjects felt while she was away from London, in residence in her Scottish redoubt at Balmoral. In circumstances weirdly reminiscent of the efforts of 19th century Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli to entreat Queen Victoria to remove herself from Balmoral — where she was hiding in her grief over the death of her husband Prince Albert — Blair peppered Elizabeth with reports of the reaction to Diana's death.

Blair told the Queen her subjects demanded that she make a gesture and come down to London to address her subjects to assuage their grief that he saw was reaching a fever pitch and undermining the efficacy of the royal family. The Queen was irritated and baffled. Diana and Prince Charles were divorced, and the former princess was not of royal blood. "Why," she seemed to ponder, "should I react to her unsavory death in a car accident with Dodi Al-Fayed, the son of an Arab novice riche parvenu who had the gall to purchase Harrods department store, a symbol of the British nation?"

The Queen also made it clear that she understood her subjects better than Blair. After all, following service in World War II, she had been on the job as Queen since 1953 in her early 20s at the death of her father King George VI, who reluctantly took the job at the abdication of his frivolous brother Edward VIII, who chose marriage to the divorced American Wallis Simpson over the duties of state. She emphasized to Blair that her subjects expected her to display detachment and a stiff upper lip — the credo of the British character the world knew and respected.

Another call from Blair caused her to think again. Walking with the Queen Mother along a pathway at Balmoral, she said she now sensed a change in her subjects, a "subtle shift" from the old values to a mode comprised of compassion, outward expression of emotion and kinship with a new breed of public figures defined by celebrity. The world had changed.

Immediately, her Daimler limousine burst through the gates of Balmoral. With her husband, the crusty Prince Philip at her side, the Queen viewed the enormous display of flowers and messages placed by Diana's mourners. She flew to London and addressed the nation as a grandmother sharing the grief of the loss of Diana — and as a reconstructed queen who understood the old values were gone.

Does Barack Obama then represent a "subtle shift" in the American public Elizabeth discerned in her subjects in the reaction to the death of Diana? Candidate Obama clearly personifies the vision of a New America prophesied and created by the social activists on campus, in politics, in the mass media — and, fittingly, Hollywood. Obama is a product of black and white heritage running more as a celebrity than a credible leader. He is an accomplished political actor who delivers his lines well, whether or not they contain substance. He manipulates platitudes like Laurence Olivier, calling for "unity" and the end of alleged divisions to create a better world defined by peace among nations and the end of class distinctions at home.

This brew of idealistic slogans — a modern version of the ideals of the utopians of the 19th century and the radicals of the 20th in a "voters of the world unite" manifesto — defies logic, as the outpouring of grief over Diana did to Queen Elizabeth. The question is, have Americans shifted from the volatile, yet grounded politics of the past and embraced the theatrics of a presidential candidate riding on the wings of race revenge and superficial emotion, lifted above the fray of scrutiny by a transfixed national media?

Or, as the frumpish old-line candidate Hillary Clinton hopes, is this Obama phenomenon another suicidal Democrat tempest in a primary teapot heated by a mentally enfeebled media that reports party news releases as truth? If so, Clinton could still pull it out at the Convention, or Obama will be whipped soundly by John McCain.

Or Obama wins. Either way this wind blows, you can still feel the subtle shift.

NOTES FROM LA-LA LAND

We have more to fear about the environment from government officials than Islamic terrorists if utterances from public officials are any indication. Raleigh's public utilities director Dale Crisp said we need to abandon two-car garages and decks on our houses to survive the Brave New World created by the recent drought. Still calling for water conservation after near-Biblical rainfalls filled the Falls Lake reservoir, Crisp and his numerous colleagues in the region are covering up the fact that citizens need to increase water consumption when the reservoir is full to prevent "tipping" excess water into the Neuse basin tributaries, creating the risk of flooding in towns below Raleigh. At least Crisp admitted that development didn't cause the drought, a tactic used by activists to combat "sprawl," what you and I call neighborhoods.

My recent columns on the murder of Eve Carson in the April and May issues elicited reaction from her hometown talk radio station. You can access my interview at www.metronc.com. Down in Athens, GA, they want to know just what goes in this pan...
Breast cancer is personal. Your treatment should be, too.

Julie McQueen, breast cancer survivor, Patient Navigator, and breast cancer support group leader at Duke Raleigh Cancer Center

Your loved ones know it best: there's no one quite like you. We at Duke Medicine understand that your treatment profile is unique, too. Our internationally renowned physicians and scientists are developing genomic tests that analyze the unique traits of a cancerous tumor to determine which type of chemotherapy will be most effective against it. We also provide extensive support services, including a survivorship center dedicated to helping patients and families at Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center and a Patient Navigator Program at Duke Raleigh Cancer Center, where caring staff guide patients through each step of diagnosis and treatment. Because whether it's tailored therapies or a helping hand along the journey, care is more powerful when it's personal. Learn more about our cancer services and support groups:

Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center
cancer.dukehealth.org
Duke Raleigh Cancer Center
dukeraleighhospital.org/cancer

Duke Medicine is the Presenting Sponsor of the 2008 Komen NC Triangle Race for the Cure on June 14.
We Have the Closest Beach to Glenwood South

That would be our beach volleyball court... just one of the casual living activities that you ordinarily wouldn't expect to find within five minutes of Downtown Raleigh. There's more, of course. Like our crystal clear Olympic size swimming pool. Tennis courts. Clubhouse with state-of-the-art fitness center. Not to mention all of the social and cultural activities — from museums and theaters to restaurants and parks — that only Downtown Raleigh can offer.


DIRECTIONS
Take Dawson St. heading away from Downtown. Continue on S. Saunders St. and merge onto S. Wilmington St. Continue for one mile. Turn right on Tryon Rd., then right on Junction Blvd.

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