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MORE THAN SKIN DEEP

"All that is beautiful will abide," goes the saying — and proof positive graces the cover of this October 2009 issue featuring the "gorgeous Georgia Carroll," better known to us as Georgia Kyser, wife of deceased band leader, radio host, movie star and Rocky Mount-native Kay Kyser. He and Georgia walked away from the glamorous life to settle in Chapel Hill — where Kay was a cheerleader in college — and raise their three girls. Louis St. Lewis visits with Georgia and brings you exclusive excerpts from her ongoing memoirs.

Golf is to North Carolina as potatoes are to Idaho — you can have it anyway you want: coastal, Sandhills, mountains and everywhere in between since soda fountain king Richard Tufts hired Scotsman Donald Ross to build courses in his Pinehurst resort in 1895. Noted golf writer Brad King investigates the current state of the game in a bad economy and comes back with two intriguing stories about change and opportunity — Balsam Mountain near Asheville and the Little River development in the sacred Sandhills.

Now this is interesting. In one of Wilson's nicest neighborhoods, a former Jewish Temple was transformed into an elegant residence. Diane Lea travels down to visit and talks with the first enterprising and creative owner and the current resident who has added touches of his own.

Autumn signals the season of activity in the area. Football is underway and Hurricanes ice hockey and basketball are coming soon. But more importantly, it is also the time to be active and support the charitable and nonprofit organizations that serve our community — especially this year in a very tough economy. That's why Metro's annual Social Calendar listing of fundraising events is more important than ever.

This useful special section — edited by Mary Ward Boerner and Cyndi Harris — and side-by-side with photo vignettes of the Triangle's lively charitable social life by Helen Wallace — provides event information into 2010: Please read carefully and help all you can.

And don't forget the cultural and entertainment events that kick off in the fall providing the region with a special dimension. Accompanying Metro's Social Calendar, our Cultural Calendar lists events throughout the remainder of the year, reminding us we live in a dynamic part of the world.

Jim Leutze serves double duty explaining the byzantine concept of sharing hazard insurance statewide; and, drawing on his experience as the former chancellor of UNC-Wilmington, the controversial decision to allow out-of-state athletic scholarship students to have in-state tuition to UNC-Chapel Hill.

Moreton Neal discovers La Farm Bakery in Cary where the French bread and bistro food rival the pâtisseries of Paris; and wine critic Barbara Ensrud says buying wine at auction is exhilarating — and can be done in the comfort of your own home.

Carroll Leggett discusses the time-honored ritual of family reunions; Godfrey Cheshire recognizes two new British period films; Arch T. Allen returns with reviews of two new works of non-fiction; Fashion News keeps you in the know; and online you can access Metro's complete calendar of events and Art Taylor's New & Noteworthy books at www.metronc.com.

Special Note: Beginning in November, writer Michael Welton will begin a new column dedicated to news and events in the architectural and design community to accompany the detailed design features by our own Diane Lea. Mike, who lives in Wake Forest, has written for Dwell magazine, The New York Times, Interior Design, and Travel & Leisure.

—Bernie Reeves, Editor & Publisher

Big Event

The international publishing event of the year is the new book Defend The Realm: The Authorized History of MI5 by our friend Chris Andrew of Cambridge to mark the 100th birthday of Britain's security service. Andrew was allowed complete access to all secret files, a first for any security agency.

We are honored Andrew will appear in Raleigh as a guest of Metro on the national tour for the US edition of Defend the Realm Saturday, Nov. 14, at Quail Ridge Books in Ridgewood Shopping Center.
We’re teaching tomorrow’s leaders.

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www.ecu.edu
Correspondence

BBC RESPONSE TO BANISHMENT

Good to read your piece about the BBC in the August-September 2009 issue. I'll confess, most of what you wrote about (the program that asks listeners to admit to environmental sins, the interview with the rain forest impresario, and the chat with the Maldives president) all comes from my show “One Planet.”

Having a fragile ego (so many of us in the media do) I've shed a tear into my recycled bamboo mug of fair-trade tea. However, you raise an important question — how the world's media should report on the issue of climate change, if at all.

If you fancy having a chat on the show about how the media is failing the public with its coverage, you're more than welcome (as long as you don't mind being sandwiched between a president and a mad scientist).

Steven Duke
Editor
“One Planet”
BBC World Service

Bernie Reeves responds: I recommend your program ask listeners if they actually believe in man-made global warming, rather than assuming it is true science — which it is not. That way, all your listeners are engaged in the debate, not just the faithful.

DEFENDING THE BBC

Regarding the column by Bernie Reeves in the August-September 2009 issue on banning the BBC, I for one like the BBC and enjoy their excellent documentaries, entertaining sitcoms and do not find their accents any more offensive than the local Southern ones we hear on TV here. It is a refreshing change from all the violence and trivial teenage romances that get dished up on most American channels or the puerile reality shows.

This is supposed to be the land of the free! Let us decide what we want for ourselves — after all, it is just his opinion and there are many that do not share it. Unfortunately, we get subjected to his opinion and biased views in Metro Magazine regularly.

AC Deall
Raleigh

(Editor’s note: Regarding accents, I was referring almost entirely to the views of the BBC World Service radio broadcasts — not BBC America, the TV entertainment network. Thirty years ago World Service presenters “read” the news in white tie and evening gowns in precise accents so the news was not trivialized with careless pronunciation. These standards are not required for the down-market sitcoms on BBC America.)

BANISH THE BBC

Regarding the column “Banish The BBC” by Bernie Reeves in the August-September 2009 issue, it’s because of intolerant, parochially

Metro
Call our subscription hotline: 1.800.567.1841 or visit our website at: www.metronc.com
USA-centric views like his that the world "needs" the BBC World Service.

Richard Cuff
Allentown, PA

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS
Good grief. I've just read the diatribe against the BBC by Bernie Reeves (My Usual Charming Self, August-September 2009 issue).
The only other person I've seen get so hot under the collar about "the Beeb" is Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who was ranting and raving claiming that the BBC was trying to undermine his regime post the Iranian elections.
What strange bedfellows Bernie and Ahmadinejad make.

Brendan Sweeney
Via the Internet

FLAG IMPROPERLY DISPLAYED
I have read the 10th Anniversary Collector's Edition of Metro, which I've enjoyed very much. I must, however, point out an error in one of your articles.

It is a photograph of Midway Plantation on page 20 in the "Plantations Real and Imagined" article. Being a patriotic citizen and a Vietnam Vet, it upsets me to see the improper display of the American Flag.
The US Code, Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 7(i) states: "When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right. ... When displayed in a window, the flag should be displayed in the same way, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street".

Ted Postenski
Wilmington, NC

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks for this valuable information. The US and NC flags were temporarily displayed on the front of Midway Plantation just before it was physically moved to another location. I urge you to see the film Moving Midway, written and directed by Metro Film Critic Godfrey Cheshire. Go to www.movingmidway.com for more.)

MOVING MIDWAY PRODUCER Responds: FLYING FLAGS ON "MOVING" HOUSE
In response to the letter about the placement of the US and NC flags at Midway Plantation, please see www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagetiq.html item 5. With a past life including Explorer Scouts, I thought about this when I saw the flags displayed and initially thought the same thing. Then, I realized that the flag was hung with the union facing north, which is correct in item 1, but possibly incorrect in items 5 and 8.

Of course, flags are not normally displayed the way they were on the Midway Plantation House, against the house rather than pointed away. Before the house was moved from its site facing the street, the union faced north, which is correct (item 1) until it did a 180 degree turn. I don't think proper allowances were made for "a southern plantation in transit."

After all, a plantation house on wheels is slightly out of the norm, and the rules for displaying a flag on a "moving" house are thereby subject to interpretation. What starts out as correct, can quickly become incorrect ... and in fact did as the union faced west, then south and so on.

Besides, to me, the flags speak to patriotism and "Union" — which reflect the racial reconciliation in the movie.

Jay Spain
Producer/Cinematographer
Moving Midway
(www.movingmidway.com)
Raleigh

HELLO METRO!
I thoroughly enjoyed reading the 10th Anniversary Collector's Edition. Great job on a decade run ... not an easy feat in print media these days.
I am certainly no photographer but thought this was fun enough to forward.

The glass is vintage, bearing the monogram SSP for Sabat Southerland Parham, grandson of Maria Parham (hospital namesake in Henderson, NC), great-great uncle to my husband John.
Keep up the great work!

Neill Legg
Fayetteville

THINKING ABOUT HEALTH CARE
I saw your fine article in American Thinker August 18 in which you mentioned your experience in evaluating healthcare plans. (The piece is posted on the Metro Magazine web site under Between Issues; go online to www.metronc.com).
Recently, I visited my dentist and told him my Congressional representative had said the night before that dentists won't be affected by the ObamaCare proposals. My dentist disagreed with me, saying that his malpractice insurance could rise. Since we spent most of the time with his hands in my mouth, I couldn't develop the economic/political conversation. As is, my background in this area is weak and obviously less informed than my dentist's understanding.
I was wondering if you could address this malpractice insurance potentially raising of rates under ObamaCare in print. I have never seen an article that directly addresses this issue.

Jack Kemp
Queens, New York (City)

BARBECUE GEM
I was reading your Barbecue winners in the MetroBravo Awards section in the July issue and noticed you missed Dickey's Barbecue Pit.

Dickey's was just selected by the readers of The Cary News as the Best New Restaurant. With two area locations and service at Koka Booth Amphitheatre, I think you missed a gem.

Greg Woloszczak
Cary

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Winners are selected by reader poll. The 2010 ballots will appear in the March, April and May issues. Be sure to vote for Dickey's.)

CORRECTION
The Standing Ovation winner for Art in MetroBravo Part II incorrectly lists the location of Somerhill Gallery. The gallery moved from Chapel Hill to Durham in 2008. The name of the gallery was misspelled. We apologize for the errors.
Retirement is a Medley of Shining Moments

Grant Llewellyn, Music Director
North Carolina Symphony

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THE CARDINAL AT NORTH HILLS
Features

19 Social Calendar
Helping You Help Others

27 Cultural Calendar
Listings of the Major Attractions on Tap

39 Fall Golf
Variety Vacationland Creates Great Golf Venues

42 Design
Wilson's Temple Transformed into a Spectacular Residence

DEPARTMENTS

6 Introduction More Than Skin Deep

8 Correspondence Reader Feedback

12 Secrets of State
Chris Andrew in Raleigh, Art of Gossip,
Lee Woodruff, DG Martin Steps Down, DPAC Architects,
Collectors Gallery Moves, Interact Consolidates,
BusterSports.com Launches, Arts Scholarships

16 Cheshire on Film
Two Period British Films Succeed

38 On the Town Social Event Coverage

48 Editor-at-Large
Sharing Costs for Coastal Insurance —
and Athletic Scholarships

49 Artist-at-Large
Memoirs of Georgia Kyser

51 Between You and Me
Family Reunions

53 Style Fashion News

54 Gourmet
A Touch of Paris in Cary

57 Restaurant Guide

59 Cork Report Wine at Auction Offers Excitement and Value

61 Books The Connected Age

64 My Usual Charming Self World Gone Mad
The biggest secrets of the 20th century will be revealed right here in Raleigh.

In an unprecedented publishing event, the British Security Service (MI5) has opened its secret archives to an independent historian, Dr. Christopher Andrew, who will appear Saturday, Nov. 14, from 12-2 p.m. as the special guest of Metro Magazine Editor and Publisher Bernie Reeves at Quail Ridge Books in North Ridge Shopping Center.

Andrew's new book, *Defend The Realm: The Authorized History of MI5*, released in October, reveals the precise role of MI5 from 1909 through two world wars, the Cold War and the war on terrorism.

Names will be named, along with the failures and triumphs of Britain's most secret security agency. No restrictions were placed on Andrew’s access to the closely guarded sensitive files, including the identities of previously unknown enemies and the truth behind notorious events over the past century affecting national security in the UK and the West.

Published by Alfred A. Knopf, *Defend The Realm* contains 32 pages of pictures, many never before published, and 25 documents illustrating the inner workings of MI5.

Andrew co-authored *KGB: The Inside Story* with Oleg Gordievsky and the two Mitrokhin Archive books: *The Sword And The Shield and The World Was Going Our Way* with Vasili Mitrokhin — considered the seminal texts for intelligence scholars. Andrew was the keynote speaker for the first Raleigh Spy Conference in 2003.

Plans are underway for a special dinner honoring Andrew and the publication of *Defend The Realm* Saturday evening, Nov. 14. Check www.raleighspyconference.com for details at a later date.

**The Art of Gossip**

As the author opines, eccentric people come from the art community. Great Britain and the American South, which explains the entertaining book *How To Gossip Nicely: A Southerner Ponders The Grapevine* that arrived in the Metro office postmarked Wilmington, NC, where Susan Taylor Block dissects the ancient art.

Block is to gossip as Marie Curie was to plutonium, thoroughly investigating each molecule, including mean versus nice gossip; special equipment now available for the avid gossip (i.e., the cell phone); close examination of the “host,” in this case the grapevine; precautions to avoid toxic gossip (no late night phone calls); and dozens of situational anecdotes at venues we all recognize as danger zones for loose talk: family reunions, walking groups and bridge clubs.

The book is nicely illustrated with art by AB Moore and includes recipes using grapevine variants by Betty Baird Rusher, with a little history thrown in concerning the first vines in the New World.


**Lee Woodruff To Address Brain Injury Association**

Author Lee Woodruff, wife of ABC correspondent Bob Woodruff who was injured during a roadside explosion in Iraq, is the special guest for the program *Brain Injury from the Athletic Field to the Battlefield* presented by the Brain Injury Association of North Carolina at the NC State University Alumni Club Oct. 22. Lee’s book, *In An Instant*, discusses the challenges families face after a traumatic brain injury.

Dr. James Kelly, director of the National Intrepid Center of Excellence, Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, one of America’s top experts on treating concussions, is scheduled to appear along with University of North Carolina Sport Concussion researcher Kevin Guskiewicz, PhD.

The Brain Injury Association is seeking sponsor organizations and donations to support victims of brain injuries in North Carolina. Go to www.ncbraininjury.net for more information.

**DG Martin Steps Down As Host Of NC Bookwatch**

After 10 years as host of UNC-TV’s *North Carolina Bookwatch* program, DG Martin is stepping down at the end of the new season that begins this month. The Davidson College, Yale Law graduate and former Green Beret will remain active in his public service career and continue his popular radio program, *One On One*, on WCHL-AM in Chapel Hill.

Martin’s successful stint as host of the widely admired television program can be explained by his sincerity, accessible demeanor and his interest in supporting the state’s famous literary tradition by introducing Tar Heel writers to the reading public.

As he said to Metro Magazine: “North Carolina Bookwatch is something special for North Carolina authors and readers. I don’t think any other state’s public television network gives its viewers nearly as much or anything nearly as good.

“It has been a great learning experience for me, and I will always be grateful to UNC-TV for letting me have a part in serving North Carolinians and connecting them with so many books and writers.”

**DPAC Architects Land Design Award**

Szostak Design Inc. of Chapel Hill received an American Institute of Architects North Carolina Honor Award for the design of the Durham Performing Arts Center (DPAC). The NCAIA Awards Program recognizes design excellence in the state of North Carolina.
The Durham Performing Arts Center, a 2800-seat proscenium theater with a project cost of $46 million, was created to accommodate touring theatrical companies, concerts and locally produced stage performances.

Collectors Gallery Moves To City Plaza

Rory Parnell and Megg Rader are moving their The Collectors Gallery from City Market in downtown Raleigh to The Pavilions at City Plaza Oct. 23 in conjunction with the Raleigh Wide Open Festival celebrating the opening of the city-financed plaza near the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts.

The Collectors Gallery (and online store) will feature North Carolina fine crafts, including pottery, glass, wood, sculpture and jewelry. The partners will be joined in the venture by Parnell's sister Shawn Brewster. Parnell and Rader also operate The Mahler Fine Art gallery on Fayetteville Street. Go to www.thecollectorsgallery.com for more information.

InterAct Consolidates Domestic Violence Services

InterAct wasn't about to let the Great Recession push them around.

Just a few months ago, the Wake County domestic violence resource agency was $1.2 million short of reaching its $5 million capital campaign goal — money it desperately needed to pay for the nation-
BusterSports.com Launches Fan-Defined Site

It takes one to know one, and Raleigh’s Ray Goodmon knows sports fans. After a careful development period, he has launched BusterSports.com, “a site branded for those that are a band of brothers that competes against other brothers who are wedded to their school ... a multimedia way for the sorriest team’s fan in the SEC to kick Alabama around.”

According to Goodmon, Buster Sports offers an insider and expert perspective on NCAA, Bowl Championship Series and associated basketball teams, “providing a tailgate-like online community where fans interact with those experts and with other fans rather than cover every team in the country.”

The site provides an environment that promotes rivalry-induced, fan-generated content — and a panel of leading coaches — in the form of videos, photos, message boards and more.

Suit up and go to www.bustersports.com to play.

leading Family Safety & Empowerment Center already opened with nine collaborative agencies on Raleigh’s Oberlin Road.

“For several months there, people froze,” says InterAct Executive Director Adam Hartzell, recalling the corporations, foundations and individual donors he was counting on to make up the difference.

But Hartzell, together with InterAct’s capital campaign volunteer co-chairs — State Sen. Josh Stein and First Citizens Bank Triangle area executive Chris Young — decided it was no time to throw up hands after raising $3.8 million of their goal, opening new doors to receive record-breaking numbers of families and successfully gathering under one roof — for the first time — the partners that could address the multitude of issues facing families victimized by domestic violence.

Buoyed by a $250,000 donation from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation of North Carolina, a matching $250,000 grant by The Stewards Fund, and many multi-year pledges by other large donors, the gap was closed — and then some, with in-kind contributions taking the total raised to $5.3 million.

In the end, the new building and its raft of services sold itself, Hartzell and Stein say.

In an innovative multi-agency collaboration — cited as a national model — InterAct’s new building houses the Raleigh Police Department’s family violence intervention unit; Legal Aid of North Carolina; SouthLight, which offers substance abuse counseling; Wake Health Services to provide primary medical care; Easter Seals UCP that coordinates mental health services; Inter-Faith Food Shuttle that operates a commercial kitchen that provides both meals and culinary skills training; KIRAN, an organization that addresses the particular needs of South Asian families in crisis; YMCA of the Triangle’s daycare and after-school programs; and YWCA of the Greater Triangle’s Women in Transition Program.

— Liza Roberts

Arts Scholarship Offered

The City of Raleigh Arts Commission will offer scholarships to high school seniors pursuing full-time higher educational study in the fields of dance, theater and mu-

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14
sical theater, literature, music, or visual arts. The scholarships will be funded solely through individual and business contributions.

The Artist of Tomorrow program is led by Honorary Chair Tift Merritt — the Raleigh-born musician and songwriter — and Raleigh Arts Commission member Jim Baldwin. Interested high school seniors must complete an application available on the City of Raleigh’s Web site at www.raleighnc.gov/arts. Scholarships will be paid directly to an accredited post-secondary institution and may be used to pay for student expenses, including tuition, fees, books, or room and board.

Local music and art stores will be raising funds for the scholarship program in September through participation in a “Dollar for Arts” campaign. Additionally, individuals interested in making a contribution may download a donation form at www.raleighnc.gov/arts.

For more information about the Artist of Tomorrow Scholarship Program, contact the City of Raleigh Arts Commission at 919-996-3610.

Unprecedented Publishing Event and Book Signing

Be on hand for this rare opportunity to meet Chris Andrew, author of Defend The Realm: The Authorized History of MI5

To mark the centenary of Britain’s secret security service (MI5), noted intelligence scholar Chris Andrew was allowed full access to the carefully guarded innermost files of UK’s most secret intelligence agency. Names are named and myths are either proven or verified in this historic publishing event.

Dr. Andrew’s special appearance made through arrangements with Bernie Reeves and Raleigh Metro Magazine.

Go to www.raleighspyconference.com for more information and additional events.

When: November 14, 2009
Where: Quail Ridge Books, Raleigh’s Ridgewood Shopping Center
Time: 12 noon to 2 PM
Bright Star and An Education: 
TWO PERIOD BRITISH FILMS SUCCEED

W hile England and its literary culture have been key ingredients in American art-house culture ever since there was such a thing, today they look more durable than ever. Not only does England have a bounteous complement of talented directors, writers and actors working in a long-established, state-supported film industry, but the nation's cultural treasures also offer an endless source of rich subject matter. Though on a different scale, in recent years Jane Austen alone has become a brand as dependable as Batman.

The trick in adapting the older material is to keep it feeling new and fresh. Interestingly, two current films about love and passion in earlier periods of English life evidence a kindred tactic, which I would call the double-outsider perspective. Both are from the viewpoints of female characters. And both are directed by female filmmakers who hail from countries other than England, seeming to rely more on sympathetic imagination than ingrained knowledge.

In the case of Bright Star, written and directed by Australia's Jane Campion, the subject is the love life of Romantic poet John Keats (Ben Whishaw), for whom imagination was a crucial concern. Campion, who hasn't made a film in several years, related that while reading Andrew Motion's biography of Keats, she was struck by the romance between the poet and Fanny Brawne (Abbie Cornish). Campion said she hadn't previously known of the relationship, and it ultimately moved her to tears.

The writer-director's key early decision was to tell the story from Brawne's viewpoint. This is similar to the narrative ploys of Campion's two masterpieces of the '90s, The Piano and The Portrait of a Lady, which together form a fascinating diptych on the mind/body, civilization/nature split: While The Piano celebrated sensuality breaking free of Western convention in the wild Down Under, The Portrait of a Lady offered a chilly appraisal of female intellect suffocated by the constraints of European society.

These dichotomies are central to Campion's art: She's both cerebral and sensual, a consummately civilized artist all too aware of civilization's corrosive limits. Given that such tensions also animated (and indeed were first defined by) the Romantic era, Bright Star would seem almost to be a continuation of those earlier works. And yet it's a much different film, in large part, I think, because it's based on fact.

In a sense, Campion didn't have a lot to work with, certainly not enough to mount any kind of grand romantic (or Romantic) epic. Where the vision of The Piano could be called symphonic, and Portrait richly novelistic, Campion herself has called Bright Star "a kind of ballad." Given that the love affair was relatively brief (and apparently unconsummated) and the evidence of it somewhat sparse, Campion understandably — perhaps inevitably — opted for a telling of evocative simplicity.

It's always interesting to ponder what artists decide not to use. In the case of Keats and Brawne, much of what history knows of their relationship comes from letters they wrote. Yet Campion, who has a knack for avoiding the obvious and clichéd, spurns the easy device of epistolary voice-overs.

Instead, she constructs a delicate drama, at once impressionistically anecdotal and insinuatingly atmospheric, about the attraction of two nominal opposites. Brawne, who sews her own clothes, is enough of a fashion victim for Keats to initially dismiss her as a "minx." For his part, the poet is poor, sickly and riotously unsuccessful:
hardly a catch. They start to know each other as neighbors in Hampstead (then an outlying suburb of London), and they hardly ever see each other apart from the company of friends and family. Yet a spark is kindled.

The resulting glow is conveyed through Campion’s luminous style. Faultlessly understated, Bright Star is a film of haunting moments, sidelong glances, walks on the heath, overheard laughter, arresting landscapes, natural light washing over the spare lines of Regency interiors and costumes. Campion said she studied the films of Robert Bresson to achieve this kind of transcendent purity, and it shows. Even Mark Bradshaw’s lovely score is used only minimally.

The film’s other great assets are the wonderful performances Campion draws from her leads. Ben Whishaw, an accomplished young Brit, brings a sallow, vulnerable beauty to Keats, who’s at once strong in spirit and doomed in body. Abbie Cornish, an Australian, matches him precisely in her charismatic turn as Brawne, an impetuous girl who grows up in the course of falling in love.

Campion made another interesting choice, in effect to triangulating this emotional pas de deux. The third party is Keats’ friend Charles Armitage Brown, a hirsute, loud-voiced young Scot swaddled in garish plaid trousers. Brown’s protectiveness at first buffers Keats from Brawne, but as the poet grows ill, his two admirers eventually make common cause. Brown is brilliantly played by Paul Schneider, an Asheville native who emerged from the NC School of the Arts with David Gordon Green; his work here well deserves Oscar attention.

Campion’s films always seem to depend on contraries, and in this film the older oppositions seem to give way to another: passion and mortality. We view the story knowing that Keats will die at 25 in Rome, his hopes of attending Oxford. But her real education begins when she meets David (Peter Sarsgaard), a suave and personable 30-year-old who quickly begins lavishing her with attentions that any schoolgirl would have trouble resisting.

A world that she’d previously seen only in magazines and movies is suddenly hers, and she takes instantly to the chic restaurants and grown-up hairdos. Though her dowdy suburban home initially seems impregnable, David’s charms deftly conquer her cautious mom and conservative dad. How can they object to their daughter being swept off to Oxford for a weekend when her handsome suitor promises to introduce her to his former don, CS Lewis?

In the film’s early sections we are like Jenny, intoxicated by her magical social ascent and wondering what it all means. On that weekend jaunt to Oxford, where they are joined by another couple, there’s a jolting hint. David, who says he’s in real estate, and his male friend take a look at a house that’s on the market, and come running out carrying an old map, which they shove into the car and speed away.

This unexpected moment is the first of several plot twists — I won’t reveal the others — that give an autobiographical tale the startling fascinations of fiction. Each turn has the effect of stripping away naïve assumptions to reveal certain more complex realities beneath. Needless to say, Jenny’s own disillusionment mirrors the world around her; indeed, the film’s suggested parallels between the personal and the historical are subtle but uncommonly resonant.

Director Scherfig, a Dane previously best known for the Dogma film Italian for Beginners, mounts this tale with extraordinary sureness and eloquence. Under her direction, both Carey Mulligan, a relative newcomer with only two previous features to her credit, and Peter Sarsgaard, an American who’s never been as good as he is here, give perfectly meshed performances, abetted by a fine supporting cast that includes Emma Thompson, Alfred Molina and Dominic Cooper.

Whether or not sex actually began in 1963, An Education captures both the erotic and the moral conundrums of its hectic era. In doing so, it emerges as one of the year’s most compelling and satisfying British films.
KEY TO THE CURE
Get the shirt. Shop the weekend. Show your support.

Join Saks Fifth Avenue in the drive to fight women's cancers. Get the shirt, designed by Michael Kors, exclusively at Saks Fifth Avenue this October. Then shop October 15 to 18, when Saks donates 2% of sales to local and national women's cancer charities.*

Special thanks to Heidi Klum, the 2009 Ambassador for Key To The Cure.

*Saks will donate 2% of sales Thursday to Sunday, October 15 to 18, up to $250,000. Saks Fifth Avenue will also make a donation of $500,000 to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation®. Visit saks.com/KTTC to learn more.
Social Calendar: Helping You Help Others

The mainstream media omit the massive contributions by citizens to worthy causes in America. Here in the Triangle, you can stay busy every day and night helping charities and nonprofits make this a better place. That’s why Metro began publishing a full list of social events keyed to giving to the community.

And even in this sour economy, people here still feel it is important to help others. So let us help you help others with our bi-annual listing of the major charity events on tap through March 2010.

— Bernie Reeves
October 3
BIG BAD BALL
For: Hospice of Wake County
A black-tie event open to the entire community. Tickets are $125 per person. The event includes a raffle drawing for a $10,000 cash prize. Capital City Club, Raleigh. To make reservations and purchase raffle tickets, please call Jodi Snelling at the Capital City Club at 919-832-5526 or visit www.bigbadball.com.

October 4
FUR BALL
For: SPCA of Wake County
Live jazz by Laura Ridgeway and friends, heavy hors d’oeuvres, beer and wine, and both live and silent auctions come together for SPCA of Wake County’s annual fundraiser. Tickets are $125 per person; The State Club, Raleigh. Call 919-532-2083 or visit online at www.spca-wake.org.

October 13
EVENING OF DINNER AND ART
For: Carteret County Domestic Violence Program
Enjoy a unique dining and wine experience with some of the area’s most talented artists, who will join patrons at tables for one of the four dinner courses. Wine pairings with each course and live auction. Artist tables and side table tickets available. Sharpies Grill and Bar, Beaufort. Call 252-808-2366 or visit www.carteretcountydomesticviolence.com.

October 15-18
KEY TO THE CURE
For: WakeMed Health & Hospitals
Saks Fifth Avenue offers the chance to show support while enjoying a charitable shopping initiative to fight women’s cancers. Events include a Physician Fashion Show, Ladies Luncheon and health screenings. Enjoy special savings with 2 percent of store sales and proceeds from limited edition tees designed by Michael Kors going to WakeMed; Saks Fifth Avenue, Triangle Town Center, Raleigh. Call 919-792-9100, ext 2505.

October 21-24
GUESS WHO’S COMING TO DINNER
For: United Arts
Who will it be? A writer, a singer, an actor? Enjoy fabulous cuisine with the state’s greatest artists in some of the most impressive homes in Wake County. It’s sure to be a unique evening that’s uniquely North Carolina. All proceeds go to United Arts to benefit the arts in Wake County. Call 919-839-1498 ext. 228 or visit http://guesswho.unitedarts.org.

October 22-25
25TH ANNUAL “A SHOPPING SPREE!”
For: Junior League of Raleigh
Shop more than 130 vendors and give back to the community at the same time. This four-day shopping extravaganza features vendors of clothing, art, home décor, jewelry and more. Admission is $10 for a four-day pass; Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh. Call 919-787-7480 or visit www.jlraleigh.org.

October 24
FALL FUNDRAISING PARTY
For: Beaufort Historical Association
The Beaufort Historical Association’s fall party will be held at the Front Street home of Worth and Ann Harris in Beaufort and will feature cuisine by Beaufort Grocery Company and live music by L Shape Lot. Tickets are $75 per person. Contact 252-728-5225 or visit www.beauforthistoricsite.org.

October 30
HAUNT 2009
For: The Cameron Art Museum
HAUNT at The Cameron Art Museum in Wilmington will feature costume contests, music and a raffle. Tickets are $50 per person and include beer and wine. Contact 910-395-5999 or visit www.cameronartmuseum.com.
behind-the-scenes look at horses and trainers. E-mail wood0024@mc.duke.edu, visit online at www.dukechildrens.org or call 919-667-2573.

November 5
WINE, WOMEN & SHOES
For: Make-A-Wish Foundation of Eastern North Carolina
Make it a girl's night out and sample wines, delicious food from nearby restaurants and accessories from local shops to help make wishes come true for local kids. Bay 7 at the American Tobacco Campus, Durham. Tickets are $75 in advance, $95 at the door. Call 919-821-7111 or visit www.eastncwish.org.

November 5
6TH ANNUAL A VINTAGE AFFAIR
For: Children's Flight of Hope
Journey back to the 1940s and dance to sounds from the Big Band era while enjoying an evening of carefully chosen wines paired with food from some of the Triangle's leading chefs. Tickets are $50; General Aviation Terminal, Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Call 919-466-8593 or visit online at www.childrens-flightofhope.org.

November 5
KIDSPEACE GOLF TOURNAMENT
For: KidsPeace Foster Care and Community Programs

November 7
WORKS OF HEART ART AUCTION
For: Alliance of AIDS Services - Carolina
Bid on fine art in both live and silent auctions to combat AIDS. This year's signature artist is Marriott Little. Tickets are $20; AJ Fletcher Opera Theater at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, Raleigh. Call 919-834-2437 or visit www.worksofheart.org.

November 7
BOATSHOP BASH
For: Friends of the NC Maritime Museum
This Halloween-themed event includes live music, good food, and live and silent auctions.

There's a new showroom in town!
It has bricks and stones and mortar and more.
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CUSTOM BRICK AND SUPPLY COMPANY
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1833 Capital Blvd, Raleigh
Phone 919-832-2804 | 1-800-543-1866

The Coolest Cocktail Party in Town
BRIMLEY on Ice
Saturday, November 14, 2009
8 – 11 p.m.
Chill out in our ultra cool Arctic Lounge, enjoy appetizers and desserts, order cocktails from an Ice Bar and heat up the dance floor to live music.

Don't be left out of the cold, visit naturalsciences.org or email Elizabeth.Laquinta@ncdenr.gov for more details or to order tickets.

NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES
Downtown Raleigh
November 10-15  
**13TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES**  
*For: Sandhills Children's Center*  
Daily admission is by donation and ticketed events are $75; The Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst. Call 910-692-3323 or visit online at www.festivaloftrees.org.

November 13  
**FESTIVAL OF TREES OF RALEIGH**  
*For: Assistance League of Raleigh*  
Beautiful Christmas trees decorate the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts for this holiday fundraiser. Food and wine will be offered along with a silent auction and music by the Ed Moon Jazz Trio; Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, Raleigh. Call 919-784-4424 or visit online at www.raleighassistanceleague.org.

November 14  
**BRIMLEY BALL**  
*For: NC Museum of Natural Sciences*  
This year’s Brimley on Ice features an arctic lounge, sumptuous appetizers, cocktails from an ice bar and live music by Whammy Fish. NC Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh. Call 919-733-7450, ext. 352, e-mail elizabeth.iaquinta@ncdenr.gov or visit www.naturalsciences.org.

November 14  
**REX GALA**  
*For: Rex Healthcare Foundation*  
Celebrate with Rex Healthcare Foundation to benefit Rex's cancer services. Event includes a four-course meal, wine and spirits, and sounds of jazz throughout the ages. Reservations for this black-tie event must be made in advance; Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh. Call 919-784-4424 or visit www.ncchildrenspromiseorg.org.

November 15  
**GATHERING AROUND OUR TABLE, A LOCAVORE WINE DINNER**  
*For: Learning Together*  
Five-course wine dinner and collaboration between Learning Together, Irregardless Cafe and Chatham Hill Winery to serve locally grown and produced delights benefiting the young children of Wake County served by Learning Together. The event will also feature a signature basket designed specifically with wines and foods served in the meal for raffle and sale; Irregardless Cafe, Raleigh. Call 919-856-5202, e-mail info@learningtogether.com or visit www.learningtogether.org.

November 19  
**NC CHILDREN'S PROMISE RADIOTHON/TELETHON**  
*For: NC Children's Hospital*  
This day-long event features live broadcasts by 17 Curtis Media Group stations and News 14 Carolina from the Children's Hospital lobby, as well as live musical performances. Call 919-834-4155 or visit www.ncchildrenspromise.org.

November 20  
**FINE ARTS BALL**  
*For: The Greenville Museum of Art*  

November 21  
**JLDOC HOLIDAY MARKET**  
*For: Junior League of Durham and Orange Counties*  
Shop for jewelry, purses, holiday items, baby gifts, clothing and more from over 50 local vendors. A raffle will also be held with prizes from local businesses. Admission is $5; Durham Marriott Convention Center, Durham. Call 919-682-0449 or visit www.jldoc.org for more information.
November 21
COLLECTORS GALA
For: Artspace
Rub elbows with your favorite local artists and enjoy live and silent auctions and dinner at Artspace's yearly fundraiser. Call 919-821-2787 or visit online at www.artspacenc.org.

November 21
CARY ART BALL
For: Cary Visual Art
Dine and dance at the annual Cary Art Ball. This night, themed Winds of Inspiration, will continue the tradition of honoring individuals who make meaningful contributions to the Cary community and will also be a celebration of the future of Cary Visual Art; Prestonwood Country Club, Cary. Call 919-531-2821 or visit online at www.caryvisualart.org.

November 22
HOME TOUR AND PARTY
For: Habitat for Humanity
See how contributions of time and money are invested in the community while enjoying music by Old Avenue and heavy hors d'oeuvres by After 300 Years, We Know A Thing Or Two About Hospitality.

Visitors have been drawn to New Bern for 300 years. Beautiful rivers, a royal governor's palace, spectacular gardens, historic homes, quaint shops, cozy restaurants and lively entertainment frame downtown streets. Enjoy Mumfest, the Havelock Chili Festival and the New Bern Ghost Walk. Experience the drama of the past in the North Carolina History Center on the waterfront in 2010. We have spent 300 years preparing for your visit!

www.VisitNewBern.com • 800-437-5767

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42nd Street Oyster Bar; Habitat Wake ReStore, Raleigh. Tickets $50 per person; call 919-533-1999 or visit www.habitatwake.org.

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Raleigh, NC 27609
Mon-Sat 11am-6pm

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Visit Our Exciting New Website www.ElaineMillerJewelryCollection.com
We have a reason to celebrate! Over $5 million has been raised to complete InterAct's Capital Campaign.

InterAct thanks the hundreds of corporations, civic and faith-based organizations and individuals who made our vision a reality.

We would like to acknowledge our volunteer leadership.

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“Children shouldn’t fear for their safety at home.”
- Susan Valauri, Nationwide

“Thank you for helping families live in peace without fear of violence in their homes. Thank you for believing in InterAct. Thank you for your generosity.”
- Josh Stein and Chris Young, Campaign Co-Chairs

www.interactofwake.org

December 5
20TH ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR BALL
For: Duke Children's Hospital
Take a look back at the history of Duke Children's Hospital and browse and bid on hundreds of items while enjoying the tastes of the holiday season. Call 919-667-2562 or visit online at www.dukechildrens.org.

December 10
16TH ANNUAL JINGLE BALL
For: Salvation Army
Eat, drink, dance and be merry in support of Wake County children in need. Guests are asked to bring an unwrapped toy valued at $20 or more or $30 by cash or check for entry into the event. Cocktail attire; Marbles Kids Museum, Raleigh. E-mail clcoffey21@aol.com or visit online at www.jingleball.org.

December 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE EXTRAVAGANZA
For: North Carolina Symphony
Join Grant Llewellyn for an evening of prodigious talent featuring musicians from North Carolina and beyond. Meymandi Concert Hall, Raleigh. Call 919-733-2550 or visit online at www.ncsymphony.org.

Vinnie's
A Tradition that keeps getting better...
Santa Claus is coming to town! Book Your Holiday Party Soon

2009 Metro Bravo Award for
Best Waitstaff
Vinnie's is now a smoke-free environment.
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7440 Six Forks Rd., Raleigh
www.vinniessteakhouse.com
January 17
TASTE OF HOPE
For: Inter-Faith Food Shuttle
Experience several gourmet courses by different celebrity chefs, a variety of fine wines, and both live and silent auctions in support of the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle; Renaissance Hotel, North Hills. Call 919-250-0043 or online at www.foodshuttle.org.

January 23
10TH ANNUAL FOUNDERS’ GALA
For: New Hanover Regional Medical Center
Support the new Betty H. Cameron Women's and Children's Hospital at Wilmington's premier black-tie event; Coastline Inn and Convention Center, Wilmington. Call 910-815-5002 or visit www.nhrmc.org.

February 4-6
TRIANGLE WINE EXPERIENCE
For: Frankie Lemmon Foundation
The Triangle's premier event including tastings, dinners and a Grand Gala with fine wine auction. Sample fine wine and food in restaurants across the Triangle, learn about wine from all over the world. Call 919-845-8880 or visit online at www.trianglewineexperience.org.

February 6
26TH ANNUAL ART AUCTION AND GALA
For: Visual Art Exchange
For the Love of Art. Enjoy food, wine, live music, live and silent auctions, and, of course, fine art; The Marriott, downtown Raleigh. Call 919-828-7834 or visit www.visualartexchange.org.

February 13
TRIANGLE HEART BALL
For: American Heart Association
The 25th Anniversary Triangle Heart Ball, a black-tie affair in celebration of life. Enjoy an evening of dining and dancing with friends in support of the fight against heart disease. $200 per person; Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh.

October 22-25, 2009
Raleigh Convention Center
Get your tickets today!

October 22-25, 2009
Raleigh Convention Center
Get your tickets today!

Impacting the lives of youth
PRESENTED BY
the Junior League of Raleigh
A shopping event you won’t want to miss!
$10 for a four-day pass; no charge for children under 5.
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FOR TWO EITHER FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, OR SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.
Includes:
• A bottle of champagne, and 6 chocolate covered strawberries waiting in your room upon arrival.
• Your choice of a five course dinner for two on Saturday night.
• Famous Blockade Runner breakfast for two each morning of your stay.

Two exciting romance packages to escape with in Wrightsville Beach.

ENJOY A TWO NIGHT STAY
FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY NIGHTS.
Includes:
• Your choice of a bottle of champagne and 6 chocolate covered strawberries OR a bottle of wine with cheese and cracker tray.
• Your choice of a five course dinner for two on Saturday night.
• Famous Blockade Runner breakfast for two each morning of your stay.
• Sunday Jazz Brunch for two.
• Complimentary late 1pm check-out.

Mention this Metro ad to receive 2 complimentary glasses of wine with dinner on Saturday.

There’s no better way to start the Fall season, but with a romantic get-away to Wrightsville Beach.

Be sure to check out next month’s Fall Flotilla Package information!!

275 Waynick Boulevard, Wrightsville Beach • 800.541.1161 • www.Blockade-Runner.com

Call 919-463-8315, e-mail michael.privette@heart.org or visit online at www.heart.org.

February 16
9TH ANNUAL FAT TUESDAY
ANNUAL BENEFIT
For: Meals on Wheels
The Triangle's premier Mardi Gras event featuring music by Zydecopious, live and silent auction, and a raffle for great prizes; Raleigh Convention Center. Call 919-833-1749 or visit www.wakemow.org.

February 20
NEW BERN HEART BALL
For: American Heart Association
Enjoy an evening of live and silent auctions, cocktails, gourmet food and entertainment at this black-tie affair. This year's theme is "Venetian Carnivale". New Bern Riverfront Convention Center; New Bern. Call 919-463-8307.

March 7
OSCAR NIGHT™ AMERICA
For: Theatre in the Park
Celebrate the Oscars with local stars and celebrities and a silent auction featuring Hollywood and sports memorabilia, as well as items and services from local businesses. Tickets include the auction, buffet and drinks and are $125 per person; Ira David Wood III Pullen Park Theatre; Raleigh. Call 919-831-6936 or visit www.theatreinthepark.com.

March 7
A TOAST TO THE TRIANGLE
For: Tammy Lynn Center for Developmental Disabilities
Join Honorary Chair Angela Hampton in support of children and adults with developmental disabilities. Enjoy the offerings of nearly 50 of the Triangle’s finest restaurants, caterers, and beer and wine purveyors, several raffles, and both live and silent auctions; NC State University McKimmon Center, Raleigh. Call 919-832-3909 or visit online at www.atoasttothetriangle.org.
Cultural Calendar

by Mary Ward Boerner and Cyndi Harris

Before the Triangle grew into a major metropolis, cultural activity was active and strong. Today, it remains a major force as the community grows and grows. To emphasize we are living in the cultural center of the South, Metro presents listings of the major attractions on tap to offer advance intelligence to our readers. Make your plans now to partake!

— Bernie Reeves
28

GALLERIES


RECENT PAINTINGS ON CANVAS BY EDWARD KELLOGG: Somerhill Gallery, Durham; Oct. 4-Nov. 6 (Opening Reception Oct. 4). Contact 919-688-8868 or www.somerhill.com.

ELMER GIBSON — TONAL VISIONS: An exhibition of six original paintings from the private collection of acclaimed Jazz pianist and Raleigh resident Elmer Gibson; Baja Burrito Restaurant in Mission Valley Mall, Raleigh; thru Oct. 21. Contact 919-833-5248 or online at www.myspace.com/elmergibson

THE COLLECTORS GALLERY OPEN HOUSE & GALLERY REOPENING: The Collectors Gallery will soon be moving from the city market to The Pavilions at City Plaza and will re-open in its new glass pavilion at 443 Fayetteville Street in Raleigh on October 23, 2009. The gallery will kick off the weekend with an Open House on October 23 from 7-9 p.m. and will be open Saturday October 24th in conjunction with Raleigh Wide Open Festival. A number of craft artists will be at gallery throughout the weekend to meet visitors and celebrate the gallery reopening. Contact 919-828-6500 or www.thecollectorsgallery.com.

ORANGE COUNTY ARTISTS GUILD OPEN STUDIO TOUR EXHIBITS: Exhibitions of work by participating artists in the Orange County Artists Guild Studio Tour; The ArtsCenter, Carrboro; Oct. 28-Nov. 16 (Opening Reception Oct. 30). Contact 919-929-2787.

15TH ANNUAL ORANGE COUNTY ARTISTS GUILD OPEN STUDIO TOUR: Seventy-eight members of OCAG open their studios to the public to exhibit and sell their works; Nov. 7-8 and 14-15; browse artworks and find a map of participating studio locations visit www.orangecountyartistsguild.com.

DURHAM ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS THE DURHAM ART WALK: Art sale and downtown business tour with work by over 200 visual artists, holiday musical performances, food and creative family fun; downtown Durham; Nov. 21-22. Contact 919-560-2719 or www.durhamartwalk.com.


NC STATE THROUGH A PINHOLE — PINHOLE

NCSU CENTER STAGE

EVENTS AT NCSU CENTER STAGE: Stewart Theatre at NC State University, Raleigh; Contact 919-515-1100 or www.ncsu.edu/arts.

• KIDSTUFF SERIES — SEUSSICAL: Oct. 25

• AMERICAN REVIVAL — CELEBRATING THE NEW STARS OF AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC: Oct. 29

• DANIEL BERNARD ROUMAIN — DARWIN'S MEDITATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF LINCOLN: Nov. 7

• JIGUI THUNDER DRUMS OF CHINA: Nov. 18


INSPIRED BY NATURE — MADE FROM THE ELEMENTS, FIVE LOCAL ARTISTS AND A GARDNER: Art and garden show and sale; Green Pony Garden at Finnabair Farm, Hillsborough; Oct. 3 & 4, 10 & 11; Contact 919-929-6009 or www.greenponygarden.com.

FALL PARTY ART OPENING AND SPONSOR PARTY: Meet the Fall Party featured artist Nancy Noel May and enjoy food and drinks, Beaufort Historic Site, Beaufort; Oct. 24. Contact 252-728-5225 or www.beauforthistoric society.org.


CELIA GRAY, ANDREW HAYES & KREH MELLICK: Rebus Works, Raleigh; Oct. 2-Nov. 28. Contact 919-754-8452 or www.rebusworks.us.


TO PREY OR NOT TO PREY: Art Pottery by Seagrove's Fred Johnston and Carol Gentilhes; Nature Art Gallery at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh; Oct. 2-Nov. 1. Contact 919-733-7450 or www.naturalsciences.org.


JIMMY CRAIG WOMBLE II — NEW OIL PAINTINGS: Gallery C at Ridgewood Shopping Center,
Raleigh; Oct. 9-Nov. 14 (Opening Reception Oct. 9). Contact 919-828-3165 or online at www.galleryc.net.


**DALI, IMAGES ON THE FRINGE:** Original works by the artist Salvador Dali; Animation & Fine Art Galleries at University Mall, Chapel Hill; Thru Oct. 8. Contact 919-968-8008 or www.animationandfineart.com.

**RICHARD FENNELL — A COLLECTION OF NEW WORKS:** City Art Gallery, Greenville; Oct. 15-Nov. 5. Contact 252-353-7000 or online at www.cityartgreenville.com.

**KIP FULBECK — PART ASIAN, 100% HAPA:** An exhibition of portraits organized by the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles; FedEx Global Education Center at UNC, Chapel Hill; Thru Oct. 31. Contact online at www.global.unc.edu.

**EVENTS AT THE DURHAM ARTS COUNCIL:** Durham; Contact 919-560-2719 or online at www.durhamarts.org.

• **NEW GIMMERS OF OLD GLAMOUR — PAINTING DURHAM:** Large-scale paintings of Historic Downtown Durham by Annemarie Gugelmann; Thru Nov. 1.

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METRO CULTURAL CALENDAR

NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART

The existing North Carolina Museum of Art building will temporarily close through April 2010, as Museum staff begins moving nearly 800 works of art into the new galleries and renovations to the existing lobby commence. For the safety of visitors and protection of the collection, the building cannot remain open during these critical operations.

During the transition phase, the Museum will host lectures, films and other events throughout the community.

- WATER FOR ELEPHANTS: New paintings by Brad Williams; Thru Nov. 1.

EVENTS AT ARTSPACE: Raleigh; Contact 919.821.0383 or www.artspacenc.org.
- IT'S ABOUT TO KILL ME — AARON LEE BENSON: Gallery One; Thru Nov. 6 (Opening Reception Oct. 2).
- DRAWING, AN INTIMATE VIEW — KAROL TUCKER: Upfront Gallery; Oct. 2-31 (Opening Reception Oct. 2).
- TOPOGRAPHIC RUMINATIONS — SCOTT HAZARD: Lobby; Oct. 2-31 (Opening Reception Oct. 2).

CLASSICAL

MUSIC ON THE HILL — TRAGICOMEDIA: Musicians Paul O’Dette, Steven Stubbs and Erin Headley perform with UNC students, faculty and staff; Memorial Hall at UNC, Chapel Hill; Oct. 15. Contact 919-843-3333.

SYMPHONY WINDS, MUSIC OF THE AMERICAS: A Sights and Sounds on Sundays Concert event; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Raleigh; Nov. 1. Contact 919-821-2030 or online at www.rcmg.org.

RALEIGH CHAMBER MUSIC GUILD MASTER SERIES CONCERT EVENTS: Fletcher Opera Theater at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, Raleigh Contact 919-821-2030 or www.rcmg.org.
- EROICA TRIO: Oct. 11

THE COLLECTORS GALLERY

The Collectors Gallery features the best in fine craft by North Carolina artists including glass, pottery, wood and jewelry.
- An essential shopping destination for home accessories, jewelry and gifts for all occasions.

Join us for our Grand Re-Opening Open House! Friday, October 23
7 - 9 pm

Hours
Tuesday - Saturday - 10am - 6pm
Sunday - 12pm - 4pm

The Pavilions at City Plaza
443 Fayetteville Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
Phone - 919.828.6500
www.thecollectorsgallery.com
info@thecollectorsgallery.com
Online Shopping Available!

Visit our sister gallery
THE MAHLER FINE ART

228 Fayetteville Street
www.themahlerfineart.com

STUART WEITZMAN

SOLMATE FEATURING ELMER GIBSON: With Baron Tymas, Aaron Tucker and Lori Barner; Prime Smokehouse, Garner; Fridays and Saturdays beginning at 9:30 p.m. Contact 919-779-6716 or www.primesmokehouse.com.

PINECONE PRESENTS THE TRAVELIN’ MCCOURYS: A Downhome Series Concert; Fletcher Opera Theater at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, Raleigh; Nov.13. Contact 919-664-8302 or online at www.pinecone.org.

CAROLINA SERIES CONCERTS

- STRING BAND MUSIC FROM THE CAROLINA PIEDMONT: Oct. 11
- MOSCOW NIGHTS: Nov. 8
- MAPPAMUNDI: Dec.13
- SONGS OF THE SOUL, FEATURING TERESA FERNANDEZ, ED STEPHENSON & THE PACO BAND: Jan. 10, 2010
- BIG MEDICINE: March 14, 2010
- THE HUCKLEBERRY BROTHERS: April 11, 2010

Durham Symphony Orchestra Concert Events: Durham; Contact 919-491-6576 or www.durhamsymphony.org.
- FALL CLASSICAL CONCERT — THE ROOTS OF AMERICAN MUSIC: Carolina Theatre; Oct. 25
- HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT: Durham Armory; Dec. 4

POP MUSIC


MAVELOUS MUSIC SERIES CONCERT EVENTS: Herb Young Community Center, Cary; Contact 919-469-4061 or www.townofcary.org.
- HUNT FAMILY: Award-winning family of Irish step dancers, fiddlers and singers; Nov. 7.
ARTS AND INNOVATION

SIX DAYS IN NOVEMBER — A CELEBRATION OF ARTS AND INNOVATION:
Event features performances in music, theater and dance, as well as the Piedmont Craftsmen’s Fair; A joint presentation of The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, visit Winston-Salem, Piedmont Craftsmen’s Fair and area arts and cultural organizations; Winston-Salem; Nov. 17-22. For detailed listings of all events, visit online at www.thecityofhearts.com or www.visitwinstonsalem.com.

EVENTS AT TIME WARNER CABLE MUSIC PAVILION: Raleigh; Contact 877-598-8698 or www.livenation.com.
• WIDESPREAD PANIC & THE ALLMAN BROTHERS BAND: Oct. 11

STAGE & SCREEN
ARTS NC STATE PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITIONS: NC State University, Raleigh; Contact 919-515-1100 or www.ncsu.edu/arts.
• UNIVERSITY THEATRE — RE: DESIGN: Kennedy-Mcllwee Studio Theatre, Thompson Hall; Nov. 4-8.
• 25TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFTS FAIR & SALE: The Crafts Center, Frank Thompson Hall; Nov. 21.
• UNIVERSITY THEATRE — IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE RADIO PLAY: Titmus Theatre, Thompson Hall; Nov. 18-22 & Dec. 2-6.

EVENTS AT SERTOMA AMPHITHEATRE: Fred G. Bond Metro Park, Cary; Contact 919-469-4061 or www.townofcary.org.
• A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: Presented by Cary Players; Oct. 2-4 & 8-10.
• BRASS AT BOND: NC brass ensembles perform; Oct. 10.
• DRACULA: Presented by Applause! Youth Theatre; Oct. 15-17.

EVENTS AT THE BURNING COAL THEATRE COMPANY: Meymandi Theatre at the Murphy School, Raleigh; Contact 919-834-4001 or www.burningcoal.org.
• MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING: Dec. 3-20
• THE SEAFARER: Feb. 4-21, 2010

IT'S ALL BULL MOCKUMENTARY FILM SERIES: Bay 7 Cinema at the American Tobacco Campus, Durham; Contact online at www.fullframefest.org/events.php.

• ZELIG: Oct. 14
• F FOR FAKE: Nov. 11

A REALLY SCARY CARY HALLOWEEN MOVIE SERIES EVENTS: Koka Booth Amphitheatre, Cary; Contact www.boothamphitheatre.com.
• PSYCHO: Oct. 26
• THE SHINING: Oct. 27
• NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD: Oct. 28
• CASPER: Oct. 29
• DOUBLE FEATURE — FRANKENSTEIN (1931) AND DRACULA (1979): Oct. 30


IRA DAVID WOOD'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL: All proceeds from the Dec. 9 performance benefit Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina; Memorial Auditorium at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, Raleigh; Dec. 8-16. Contact 919-831-6058 or online at www.theatreinthepark.com.

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- HAYDEN MEETS MOZART MEETS BEETHOVEN: Oct. 9-10
- FRENCH HORN SPECTACULAR: Oct. 16
- FANTASTIQUE: Oct. 23-24
- PHANTOM OF THE ORCHESTRA: Oct. 31
- TRUE CLASSICS: Nov. 6-7
- HOLLYWOOD EMIGRÉS AND PROTÉGÉS: Nov. 20-21
- HOLIDAY POPS FEATURING THE EMPIRE BRASS: Nov. 27-28
- ORGAN SYMPHONY: Dec 4-5
- NEW YEAR'S EVE EXTRAVAGANZA — AN EVENING OF PRODIGIOUS TALENT: Dec. 31

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MUSEUMS

EVENTS AT THE GREGG MUSEUM OF ART & DESIGN AT NCSU: Raleigh; Contact 919-515-1100 or www.ncsu.edu/arts.

- HANG IT UP! Oct. 22-Dec. 19
- RECENT GIFTS OF NATIVE AMERICAN ART FROM THE COLLECTION OF DRS. NORMAN AND GILDA GREENBERG: Oct. 22-Dec. 19
- PARTICIPANTS FROM HANG IT UP! EXHIBITION WILL SPEAK ABOUT THEIR WORK: Nov. 5
- DRS. NORMAN AND GILDA GREENBERG: Dec. 5

EVENTS AT THE NC MUSEUM OF HISTORY: Raleigh; Contact 919-807-7900 or online at www.ncmuseumofhistory.org.

- TIME FOR TOTS — DOWN IN THE PUMPKIN PATCH: Oct. 6 & 13
- HISTORY À LA CARTE — EARLY EXPLORATIONS: Oct. 14
- GOVERNMENT MATTERS: Oct. 17
- AN EVENING OF SPORTS HISTORY: Oct. 17
- OPENING RECEPTION — IN SEARCH OF A NEW DEAL: Oct. 29
- MAKE IT, TAKE IT — MAKE YOUR OWN FUN: Oct 31

EVENTS AT THE NASHER MUSEUM OF ART: Duke University, Durham; Contact online at www.nasher.duke.edu.

- FREE THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE NASHER: The Nasher Museum is free and open to all every Thursday night, 5-9 p.m.
- BEYOND BEAUTY, PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE
METRO CULTURAL CALENDAR

RBC CENTER EVENTS

EVENTS AT THE RBC CENTER: Raleigh; Contact 919-861-2300 or www.rbccenter.com.

- CASTING CROWNS: Nov. 5
- DANE COOK: Nov. 8
- TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA WINTER TOUR: Dec. 2
- DISNEY ON ICE PRESENTS — CELEBRATIONS: Dec. 9-13

DUKE UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY: Thru Oct. 18

- DAVID ROBERTS AND THE HOLY LAND: On view thru Nov. 29
- PICASSO AND THE ALLURE OF LANGUAGE: Thru Jan. 3, 2010
- AFRICA AND PICASSO: Thru Jan. 10, 2010

JOEL LANE MUSEUM HOUSE PRESENTS A COLONIAL CHRISTMAS: The house will be decorated with traditional greenery and will reflect the different ways in which colonists celebrated the Christmas holiday; Joel Lane Museum House, Raleigh; Dec. 5-6. Contact 919-833-3431 or www.joellane.org.

EVENTS AT THE RALEIGH CITY MUSEUM: Briggs Building at 220 Fayetteville St., Raleigh; Contact 919-832-3775 or www.raleighcitymuseum.org.

- SECOND SATURDAY IS KID'S DAY — FUN AT THE FAIR: Oct. 10
- ABSTRACTIONS — CAPITAL CITY INSPIRATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS: Oct. 2
- FAYETTEVILLE STREET FOLLIES: Featuring actors from Burning Coal Theatre Company and visit sites along Fayetteville Street; Oct. 16-18.

EVENTS AT THE ACKLAND MUSEUM OF ART: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Contact 919-966-5736 or www.ackland.org.

- ALMOST NOW — CUBAN ART, CINEMA, AND POLITICS IN THE 1960s AND 1970s: Thru Dec. 6
- SAGE IN THE BAMBOO GROVE — THE LEGACY OF SHERMAN E. LEE: Thru Nov. 29

EVENTS AT WILSON LIBRARY: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Contact www.lib.unc.edu.

- AUTHOR TO AUTHOR: An exhibit in conjunction with the 2009 NC Literary Festival; Wilson Library, fourth floor; Thru Jan. 11, 2010. Contact 919-962-1345.

CAROLINA PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

CAROLINA PERFORMING ARTS SERIES EVENTS: Memorial Hall at UNC, Chapel Hill; Contact 919-843-3333 or www.carolinaperformingarts.org.

- RAVI AND ANOUSHKA SHANKAR: Oct. 6
- BÉLA FLECK, EDGAR MEYER AND ZAKIR HUSSAIN: Oct. 11
- BRUCKNER ORCHESTRA LINZ WITH DENNIS RUSSELL DAVIES, CONDUCTOR: Nov. 11
- BANG ON A CAN ALL-STARS AND TRIO MEDIAEVAL-STEEL HAMMER: Nov. 17
- LEIF OVE ANDSNES, PIANO, AND ROBIN RHODE, VISUAL ARTIST: Nov. 18
- SOLEDAD BARRIO AND NOCHE FLAMENCA: Nov. 20
- NUTCRACKER — CAROLINA BALLET: Dec. 5-6

EVENTS AT THE CAMERON ART MUSEUM: Wilmington; Contact 910-395-5999 ext. 1005 or www.cameronartmuseum.com.


EVENTS AT WILSON LIBRARY: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Contact www.lib.unc.edu.

- AUTHOR TO AUTHOR: An exhibit in conjunction with the 2009 NC Literary Festival; Wilson Library, fourth floor; Thru Jan. 11, 2010. Contact 919-962-1345.

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EVENTS AT THE DURHAM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER: Durham; Contact 919-680-2787 or www.dpacnc.com.
• GREASE IS THE WORD: Starring American Idol winner Taylor Hicks; Oct. 6-11.
• ROBIN WILLIAMS — WEAPON OF SELF DESTRUCTION TOUR: Oct. 14
• IMAGINATION MOVERS: Oct. 15
• KATHY GRIFFIN: Oct. 16
• DAVID COPPERFIELD — AN INTIMATE EVENING OF GRAND ILLUSION: Oct. 20-21
• ROGER DALTREY: Oct. 28
• LEONARD COHEN: Nov. 3
• STEVE MILLER BAND: Nov. 13
• THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA: Nov. 26-Dec. 20
• MAMMA MIA: Jan. 26-31, 2010


MIDTOWN FARMERS MARKET @ NORTH HILLS: The Commons at North Hills, Raleigh; Saturdays from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.; Thru Nov. 28. Contact www.northhillsraleigh.com.

LIGHT THE NIGHT WALK TO SUPPORT CANCER RESEARCH AND THE LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY HONORING RALEIGH REALTOR SHIELDS PITTMAN: Food and entertainment beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Halifax Mall, located behind the Legislative building across from Peace College, followed by a 2-mile walk at 7 p.m., rain or shine; Oct. 17. Contact http://pages.lightthenight.org/nc/raleigh09/shieldsteam.

16TH ANNUAL PLEASURE ISLAND SEAFOOD, BLUES & JAZZ FESTIVAL: With music by Delbert McClinton; Fort Fisher Air Force Recreation Area, Kure Beach; Oct. 10-11. Contact 910-

CAROLINA BALLET
• PICASSO: Fletcher Opera Theater; Oct. 15-Nov. 1
• MESSIAH: Nov. 25-29; Memorial Auditorium
• NUTCRACKER: Dec. 18-27; Memorial Auditorium
JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DURHAM AND ORANGE COUNTIES PRESENTS THE 70TH ANNUAL BARGAIN SALE: Shop thousands of gently used items for a bargain price; The American Legion Post at 1700 Legion Road, Chapel Hill; Oct. 9-10. Contact 919-682-8999 or www.jldoc.org.

BRAIN INJURY FROM THE ATHLETIC FIELD TO THE BATTLEFIELD: Presented by the Brain Injury Association of North Carolina with special guest author Lee Woodruff and others will speak; NC State University Alumni Club, Raleigh; Oct. 22. Contact www.ncbraininjury.net.

ATLANTIC AVENUE ORCHID & GARDEN HOSTS HOLIDAY FESTIVAL WITH A HEART: Blue Star Mothers of America will be collecting items to send to our overseas military personnel and Hospice of Wake County will be on site to raise funds for the 14 gardens planned at their new facility; Atlantic Avenue Orchid & Garden Center, Raleigh; Nov. 8. Contact online at www.atlanticavenuegarden.com.

ALZHEIMER'S MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD FESTIVAL: An event for families and county officials to share information, and learn about community resources with entertainment from members of The North Carolina Songwriter's Co-op; Harry's Market at White Cross, Chapel Hill; Oct. 17. Contact 919-932-7025.


THE CAROLINA THEATRE OF DURHAM: Durham; Contact 919-560-3030 or www.carolinatheatre.org.

- DAVID CROSS, COMEDIAN: Oct. 7
- AILEY II: Oct. 8-9
- MOTHER/SON: Oct. 10
- 2009 ESCAPISM FILM FESTIVAL: Oct. 16-18
- JAZZ ATTACK: Oct. 18
- JEWEL: Oct. 29
- THE DEREK TRUCKS BAND: Oct. 30
- JOHN BERRY CHRISTMAS: Nov. 29
- ROCKAPPELLA HOLIDAY: Dec. 10

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CHAPEL HILL SERIES CONCERT
EVENTS: Memorial Hall at UNC, Chapel Hill; Contact 919-733-2750 or www.ncsymphony.org.
- HAYDEN MEETS MOZART
- MEETS BEETHOVEN: Oct 8
- HOLLYWOOD EMIGRÉS AND PROTÉGÉS: Nov. 24

GUIDED TOURS OF THE COKER ARBORETUM: Tours lead by experienced guides every third Saturday from March-November; Coker Arboretum at UNC, Chapel Hill. Contact 919-962-0533.

THE FOURTH HISTORIC BACK DOOR KITCHEN TOUR: A tour of nine historic downtown kitchens to raise funds for downtown civic projects by Residents of Old Wilmington Inc.; Various locations in downtown Wilmington; Oct. 3. Contact www.rowilmington.org

18TH ANNUAL SCUPPENONG RIVER FESTIVAL: Parade, arts, crafts, food, auctions, fireworks, a street dance, music and entertainment will fill the day; Columbia, NC; Oct. 10. Contact 252-796-2781 or online at www.visit-tyrellcounty.com.


CARY ACADEMY'S HOLIDAY SHOPPE: More than 100 vendors, free admission, proceeds support scholarships and community service; Sports and Education annex at Cary Academy, Cary; Dec. 3-5. Contact 919-228-4653.


- CAROL STEIN’S GARDENERS FORUM — GROWING HERBS FOR ALL SEASONS: Oct. 3
- HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: Door prizes, nursery specials, great food, live music and more; Nov. 7.

- CAROL STEIN’S GARDENERS FORUM — TIME TO PLANT FLOWERING BULBS: Nov 14
- CAROL STEIN’S GARDENERS FORUM — MAINTAINING HOLIDAY PLANTS: Dec. 12

EVENTS AT THE NC BOTANICAL GARDEN: Chapel Hill; Contact 919-962-0633 or online at www.ncbg.unc.edu.

- GUIDED TOURS OF THE PLANT COLLECTIONS: Oct. 3, 5, 17, 24
- CELEBRATING LIFE FORCES: Annual Sculpture in the Garden Exhibition; Thru Nov. 15.

EVENTS AT HISTORIC TRYON PALACE: New Bern; Contact 252-514-4900 or online at www.tryonpalace.org.

- TRYON PALACE THEATER: Visitors Center Auditorium; Oct. 3,17; Nov. 7, 21
- MUM’S THE WORD! GARDEN LOVERS WEEKEND: Free garden tours, Heritage Plant Sale and Fife & Drum Corps Concerts; Oct. 9-11
- HAUNTED EVENING TOUR: Attmore-Oliver House; Oct. 10, 31
- AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR: Oct. 18, Nov. 15
- SATURDAY SAMPLER: Oct. 24, Dec. 5
- PARLOR TALK: Commission House Parlor; Oct. 15, 17; Nov. 5
- AFRICAN AMERICAN LECTURE: Visitors Center Auditorium; Nov. 19
- FESTIVE HOLIDAY KICKOFF: Holiday tours, music and storytelling; Nov. 27-29
- CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT: Dec. 12,19

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On the Town
by Helen Wallace

Campbell Law School Opening
Downtown Raleigh
September 11, 2009

Joy Jones and Rebecca Cotton

Director's Preview Party for "Picasso and the Allure of Language"
Nasher Museum, Duke University
Durham, NC
August 19, 2009

Kimberly Rorschach, Pam Franks, Susan Greenberg Fisher, Jock Reynolds and Jill Westgard

Jaelyn Braddy, Sarah Schroth and Kelly Brady

Jimmy V Bowling Fundraiser
Benefiting The V Foundation for Cancer Research
The Alley
Raleigh, NC
August 13th, 2009

Jason & Alice Cunningham, Traci & Reagan Crabtree

Jamie McKaskell, Celia Stumm, Scott Dunnagan

Josh Powell (LA Lakers), Shawlik Randolph (NBA)

Will Roach, Webb Simpson, Jimmy Poole

Sherrie and Joe Mazur

Dean Melissa Essary, Professor Woody Woodruff and Shonagh McQuade
VERMILLION Autumn/Winter 2009-2010 Fashion Show
Raleigh, NC
September 17, 2009

Saks Fifth Avenue Want It! Event
Benefiting The Frankie Lemmon Foundation School
Raleigh, NC
September 8, 2009

Bike MS: Historic New Bern Ride 2009
Benefiting The National Multiple Sclerosis Society - Eastern North Carolina Chapter
Team: Scout & Molly's
September 12-13, 2009

On the Town
Variety Vacationland Creates Great Golf Venues

You don’t need to play golf to understand the game’s influence on North Carolina. Starting with Pinehurst, the name recognized worldwide as the “home of golf in America,” golf has spread in every direction, becoming a symbol for the Tar Heel state. And our “variety vacationland” topography offers any kind of golf you want, from coastal links to mountainside parks — and every other style imaginable from Murphy to Manteo.

For Metro’s fall golf report, noted golf journalist Brad King describes the allure of mountain golf at Balsam Mountain and the popularity of fractional ownership introduced by an international resort developer at Little River in the Pinehurst region. Get in the swing and enjoy.

— Bernie Reeves

MOUNTAIN GOLF: SURVIVING THE STORM

Balsam Mountain Preserve and other mountain golf course communities have braved an economic disaster.

Are better days ahead?

by Brad King

It is no big secret that residential golf course communities typically need to sell real estate to pay the bills. So, what happens when no one is buying?

In the northern portion of the Blue Ridge Mountains, near Boone, NC, for example, there are a handful of the more established golf real estate developments that manage to survive mostly due to support from their well-heeled membership. In Avery County alone, there are more world-class mountain golf course communities — Grandfather Mountain, Linville, Linville Ridge and Elk River — than traffic lights.

There is also Avery County’s newest gem, Diamond Creek, which is supplemented by the deep pockets of its founder, Wayne Huizenga, the billionaire entrepreneur — owner of the Miami Dolphins and former Blockbuster and Waste Management magnate.

In the more westerly part of the state, however, other than Biltmore Forest Country Club, very little in the way of high-end golf communities have been built around Asheville, NC, one of the qualities that ranks the relatively new Balsam Mountain Preserve in a class by itself.

Located 30 minutes west of Asheville, between Waynesville and Sylva, Balsam Mountain is being developed by the heralded Chaffin Light Associates team (CLA), previously best known for its environmentally friendly vision at Spring Island near Beaufort, SC, Spring Island’s sister golf club Chechessee Creek, and the Roaring Fork Club in Basalt, CO.

Combining elements of CLA’s previous work, Balsam Mountain opened for residential sales in the fall of 2001, and its jaw-dropping golf course, by Arnold Palmer and his late design partner Ed Seay, opened five years later — all of which, unfortunately, put Balsam Mountain’s infancy square in the eye of the world’s economic tsunami.

Jim Chaffin admits it has been a difficult 12 months, despite the fact that more than 200 of the Balsam Mountain’s 350 home sites have been sold, with about 100 both built, under construction or under design — but the sales team still finds...
itself well below projections.

"Relatively speaking, we're doing fine, we're doing much better than most," said Chaffin. "It's just that relativity doesn't always make principal and interest payments or cover cash calls."

The sales downturn is not due to the product. Palmer-Seay's stunning design effort, CLA's 23rd golf course collaboration since Chaffin and Jim Light earned their stripes as disciples of Charles Fraser in the earliest days of the Sea Pines Resort on Hilton Head Island, SC. And Chaffin optimistically points out that the best times CLA have enjoyed in their 41 years together have been the three following each of the last four recessions.

"There is no simple answer and no silver bullet," Chaffin said. "Just practice the fundamentals that have sustained us for four decades, work on your attitude as hard as you work on anything else, and do nothing to tarnish the brand because people will remember your integrity during the difficult times."

Chaffin said he sees positive signs of an upswing as prospective buyers emerge from off the sidelines. Balsam Mountain conducted more property tours in July 2009 than in the first six months of the year, and it had more by Aug. 20 than it had in July. "We're just trying to be poised for the turnaround," Chaffin said. "We sense it coming. People want to feel smart. They want to make sure that they are making an intelligent decision."

Originally, Chaffin and Light were attracted to the 4400 acres of land they eventually purchased due to a road system put in place by Champion Paper Company during its 40-year-plus stint harvesting and maintaining the property. Other than that, however, Palmer and Seay's design — Seay's final golf course — was the most difficult to build of the 23 golf courses in the CLA portfolio. ("They put a golf course where one could not go," said Bill Hensley, longtime head of the North Carolina golf course rater's panel.)

The finished product provides a memorable mountain experience and playing golf simply for the love of the game. It would be impossible to overstate the mesmerizing, incredibly long, exhilarating mountain golf in Pinehurst views at every turn as you play Balsam Mountain. Golfers may find the biggest hazard on the course is focusing on the golf.

You are not playing down a residential canyon; you are playing a golf course literally in the middle of a nature preserve. With no real estate on the course itself, it offers a classic golf experience, while also putting players in a relationship with nature. After a round, golfers are likely to find themselves sad it's over, which explains why Balsam Mountain has been elevated into the country's highest echelon of mountain golf courses.

The golf course sets the tone for the remainder of the Balsam Mountain community, featuring a fitness center and naturalists on the property who conduct educational trail walks for the community's nature center while tending to indigenous wildlife such as a bald eagle and a huge owl.

"Anything we do, we do in relationship with the surrounding nature to amplify the natural beauty that is there," said Chaffin. "Life is more than where the first tee is located."
bunker complexes, irrigation improvements and selective tree thinning implemented to provide additional sunlight for turf coverage and enhanced views.

After Little River hosted the North Carolina Golf Panel, the course immediately vaulted into the Top 100 in the state, causing longtime Pinehurst golf writer and panelist Howard Ward to write that he didn’t think making the state’s Top 50 “would be an insurmountable leap” for Little River.

In addition, Océânicos is bringing to Little River various real estate offerings and community amenities with 1100 home sites over 647 acres. Phase one offers 50 fractional and 50 whole ownership opportunities, including cottage homes and four-story condominiums with an elevator — something new in the Pinehurst area. The first model home opened this summer with the next cottage home opening this fall.

The Little River Golf & Resort property currently features a 20,000-square-foot clubhouse with a reception area, full-service restaurant and bar, golf shop, locker rooms, and an outdoor dining area with wrap-around porches. Little River also contains 64 two-bedroom condos, available through a rental pool, and 8000 square feet of banquet and conference space.

“Océânicos’s whole idea is to create a resort community,” said Little River sales manager Debbie Bureau. “You’re going to have fractional ownership, whole ownership, and people coming in who want to play golf and go to a spa who can access the other amenities, such as tennis courts, fitness facilities, swimming pools, and walking and biking trails.”

Go to www.littleriver.com for more information.

NOT YOUR PARENTS’ TIMESHARE ANYMORE

Fractional ownership and private residence clubs are catching on in the luxury real estate market

Private residence clubs date back as far as 1992, to the Deer Valley Club in Park City, Utah, that blazed a trail for their western mountain resort neighbors, later followed by developments in urban centers, beaches and golf communities around the world. Today, private residence clubs number more than 300 in North America alone, representing an excess of $2 billion per year average in sales. “Fractional” has become a buzz word in the European real estate market.

Private residence clubs have been embraced by hospitality behemoths such as Ritz Carlton and Four Seasons. Today, smaller development companies — including Chaffin Light Associates, which extends members at Balsam Mountain use of its “Cottage Partnership Program”; and Océânicos, a market leader in high-quality golf, beach and leisure property that offers its “Prestige Residence Club,” an ownership option for buyers who want the benefit of a property asset, but the flexibility to choose where and when they want to vacation.

Unlike a timeshare, a fractional purchase means ownership of a freehold equity share in a luxury property — which can be enjoyed, sold, willed, deeded or placed in trust like any other real estate purchase — and an asset, which may appreciate over time.

The fractional ownership is commonly sold in one-eighth shares, equating to six weeks out of the year. But owners are not locked in to fixed dates to use their property, as with a timeshare. Instead they are provided a combination of four weeks pre-planned and unlimited space available occupancy, effectively meaning that owners have use of a property at their home club, as well as Océânicos’s portfolio of Prestige Residence Clubs worldwide — including destinations in the US (near the Village of Pinehurst and a future Hilton Head location), Canada, Portugal and Ireland — whenever they are available.

“Most second home owners are looking for flexible occupancy in the use of their second home, and residence clubs provide an ideal solution,” said Simon Burgess, co-owner of Océânicos Group. “Owners experience the exclusivity of a private home with the services and amenities of a luxury hotel.”

Owners benefit from a range of lifestyle services, such as executive car transfer service, concierge service and golf course membership at the owner’s home property, as well as access to any of Océânicos’s courses worldwide. Resort amenities include tennis courts, fitness facilities, pools, spas and restaurants.

Future Océânicos plans will enable owners to take beach holidays at a range of locations around the Caribbean, safari experiences in South Africa and destinations as far flung as China and Dubai.
WILSON'S TEMPLE TRANSFORMED INTO A SPECTACULAR RESIDENCE

Follow US Highway 264 to Wilson, the lovely smallish city on the cusp between the Piedmont and the east. You will eventually meander through lovely older neighborhoods around the heart of the city. Follow the curvilinear streets that characterize the city's scenic enclaves, wending your way past elegant Colonial Revival houses until you cross a narrow bridge spanning a clear stream to a tree-shaded park. Continue on and you will see a nicely scaled temple-form structure occupying a lushly landscaped corner at an intersection. The rectilinear building sits slightly elevated on its site carrying on its front-facing gable the words “Temple Beth El” inscribed above the main entrance. You have arrived at the former home of Wilson's Reformed Jewish religious community.

Turn into the parking court edged in old brick, bordered by a veritable botanical garden of mature shrubs, blooming plants and a tiered fountain. This serene setting showcases the stepped back gable and the handsomely crafted brick with a contrasting band course. The soft taupe of the brick is accented by the cream trim on the boxed cornices; the colonnaded portico is topped by a vine-covered, wrought-iron balcony.

Neighborhood Renovation

The property was purchased in 1997 by Wilson native and across-the-street neighbor Romaine Woodard, who recalled Temple Beth El was built in 1953 when she was a little girl.

“I bought it for sentimental reasons,” says Woodard. “I was struck by its heritage, and I wanted to preserve it because it had been dearly loved and it was special to our neighborhood.”

Woodard initially thought she would adapt it as a duplex — until her friend and interior designer Robert Flippin walked inside. “The wheels started turning,” remembers Woodard: She decided to adapt it as her family's residence with a special emphasis on retaining elements from its life as a synagogue. She saw it as her special project. Woodard set to work with Badie Clark of Custom Residential Designs and contractor Jerry Williams.

To the 30-foot square main room with domed ceiling, Woodard added an entire wall of bookcases used to counter the room's focal point, the bimah, an elevated space framed by fluted pilasters where the Torah was read. Woodard redesigned the bimah to become a cozy fireplace sitting area. Beyond the bimah, to the right, the former social room became a master bedroom with his-and-her bathrooms. To accommodate additional family bedrooms and a guest suite, Woodard went up. She designed an upper level above the master bedroom, creating an interior staircase over the basement to access two new bedrooms, a playroom and a bath.

A wrought-iron staircase was added to the exterior of the home to provide a second entrance to the upper level. To gain a guest suite, Woodard built another upper level wing on the front transverse hall, refitted with a wet bar and a powder room refurnished with art by local artist Susan Harris. The addition of 200 lights around the domed ceiling and ceramic art by Elsa Temple from Glazed Art, Woodard's own studio, made the temple a very personal statement.

New Owner Adds His Own Touch

Shortly after completing the renovation for the new adaptive use, Woodard sold the temple to Jim Harrold, a dentist and entrepreneur who had relocated his family to North Carolina from Ohio and expanded his practice to include multiple offices throughout the state. Harrold's passion is collecting: fine art, furniture, fabrics, books, china, ceramics, porcelain — you name it and he's seen it, bought it and shipped it.

“The sweetest words are 'ship it,'” says this world traveler as he opens the temple door and waves a welcome into his remarkable home.

The immediate impact of the interior is of a gorgeous set piece. Tall windows bathe the domed salon in light and illuminate the myriad objets d'art and furnishings. Texture and color are used to great advantage, and the whole is, indeed, greater than the sum of the parts.
The intricate pedimented altar has been adapted to the fireplace overmantle.
Heavy moldings rim the blue painted ceiling and unify the salon, pulling together the wall of bookcases and the elevated sitting area with its pedimented altar overmantle. To complement the drama of the ceiling and the moldings, Harrold commissioned the installation of a spectacular floor of 36-inch walnut parquet in a design borrowed from a Vanderbilt mansion in New York City. It resembles one in the Palace of Versailles outside Paris.

Harrold's decorating theme is comfortable English country, and many of the salon's major furnishings have been selected at the local fine furniture and antique shops around Wilson with assistance from Margaret Nowell of Nowell Furniture and Tracey Davis of Davis Flooring. Harrold loves the look of dark wood and luxurious subtly textured fabrics, such as mohair and silk punctuated with bursts of color.

"I didn't have any blue in the room when I started furnishing it," says Harrold, "and then I chose the seafoam green for the upholstery on the dining table chairs, and covered two side chairs with an intense blue floral pattern."

A massive Jacobean sideboard chosen from Fulford's, a favorite local emporium, is convenient to the dining table, a double pedestal table of orange oak from Kentucky. The table is set with tall lamps, Versace china and an exquisite Chinese bowl.

"The table does double duty as a library table and a dining table," says Harrold. "We like dining among the books and plants."

The recently remodeled kitchen features granite countertops and distressed limestone floors.

Though Harrold's collections and furnishings are reminiscent of a 19th century world traveler with numerous touches of exotica — such as a French hooded chair and another chair covered with ostrich leather — there are many sentimental family pieces too. A Chickering grand piano, a special instrument, has been in Harrold's family for 35 years and owned for 50 years before by a local preacher. A portrait of his great-grandmother, once hidden away and forgotten, has been refurbished and now overlooks the piano. True to Woodard's goal, Harrold retained many special elements that speak of the temple's Jewish heritage. The altarpiece, now the fireplace overmantle, retains its symbolic open scroll, and a lovely Star of David glass window is a
prominent feature in the breakfast room adjoining the kitchen.

**Home And Garden**

“We’ve just completed the renovation of the kitchen and breakfast room,” says Harrold.

The kitchen cabinetry and granite countertops are of the neutral tones, which carry throughout the house, as are the distressed limestone floors. They provide the backdrop for Harrold’s curved back-brushed aluminum bar stools and his collection of glazed ceramic heads in psychedelic colors he found in Belize and Guatemala.

Adjoining the kitchen and breakfast area is the solarium, another Harrold project that features some of his favorite things. One of a pair of stained-glass panels with touches of brilliant blues, greens and yellow is used as a window and adds to the rustic character of the room with its 100-year-old wood and antique brick floor. A primitive corner cupboard and fanciful painted side table are among the room’s treasures. A side entrance...
from the solarium provides access for guests who love to wander in and around the house and garden.

"The gardens encircle the house," says Harrold, "and each one has something special to enjoy."

It could be a statue of an Asian goddess

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One of the many garden settings that surround the temple.

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Top: Opulent fabrics adorn the master bedroom.
Right: Harrold uses blue accents to advantage in his mostly neutral color scheme

in a fern-covered dell or a small water interest seeping quietly over a cascade of stones. Fountains abound, some shipped from Williamsburg or Charleston, and a series of green flies are rigged like sails to shelter a wrought-iron table and chairs in this favored resting spot. There is a second formal pedimented entrance to the home on the north elevation.

"The second entrance helps with the flow of guests," says Harrold, who enjoys hosting festive events.

Wilson's temple has been well loved by all its owners, from the small Reform congregation who built it in the 1950s to the two owners who have lovingly restored it and adapted it as a home. Seldom does such a unique structure find such a felicitous second life.
SHARING COSTS FOR COASTAL INSURANCE — AND ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

I have mentioned that something big happened regarding coastal insurance; now this isn’t going to be simple, but at the end I hope you’ll say, “I got it.” You may also say that the unusual statewide approach is a good one and might well be applied more broadly.

Several years ago insurance companies doing business in North Carolina decided to set up a Beach Plan to provide wind and hail coverage. The Plan was actually a pool contributed to by all insurance companies to be the “insurer of last resort” for coastal homeowners. If you couldn’t get wind and hail insurance through your homeowner’s policy — and you couldn’t — you bought it through the Beach Plan. This approach allowed insurers to share the risk in case of a catastrophic storm event. Eventually, the pool’s reserves for paying claims grew to $2 billion. But at the same time, the possible costs from a big storm went up as well. In the event that there was a $4 billion storm, all of the insurers would have to make up the missing $2 billion in proportion to their share of the total market. (If their share was 20 percent of the market, they would need to come up with $400 million.)

This didn’t sound good to the insurance industry, so they proposed raising rates on coastal homeowners by as much as 75 percent. This didn’t sound good to coastal homeowners who howled. The response was a threat by some of the insurance companies to simply stop doing business in North Carolina. If you couldn’t get wind and hail insurance through your homeowner’s policy — and you couldn’t — you bought it through the Beach Plan. This approach allowed insurers to share the risk in case of a catastrophic storm event. Eventually, the pool’s reserves for paying claims grew to $2 billion. But at the same time, the possible costs from a big storm went up as well. In the event that there was a $4 billion storm, all of the insurers would have to make up the missing $2 billion in proportion to their share of the total market. (If their share was 20 percent of the market, they would need to come up with $400 million.)

This didn’t sound good to the insurance industry, so they proposed raising rates on coastal homeowners by as much as 75 percent. This didn’t sound good to coastal homeowners who howled. The response was a threat by some of the insurance companies to simply stop doing business in North Carolina. This didn’t sound good to the General Assembly, which quickly (or as quickly as they do anything) got to work on a new approach.

The new approach has a new name — the Coastal Property Insurance Pool. Under this plan, all homeowners in the state will share in the cost of rebuilding the catastrophic storm event pool after the insurance companies have paid out more than $1 billion in claims. There will be other changes, like limiting coverage to $750,000 rather than $1.5 million, but the big thing is the novel concept that all North Carolinians should share in the cost of something happening in one part of North Carolina. It was former Gov. Mike Easley who made addressing the issue of the “Two North Carolinas” — one rich and one poor — a major theme during his first campaign. (Not much changed, but it was a catchy slogan.)

And it was current Gov. Beverly Perdue who pointed out that if the North Carolina counties east of Interstate 95 were a state, it'd be one of the poorest in the country. However, the idea never really caught on. Judge Howard Manning had pointed out that North Carolina was in violation of a constitutional provision that all our public school students should have “equal access” to education. Clearly, that isn’t the case when some urban counties can invest so much more in their schools than their poorer rural neighbors. To show he’s serious, Manning has now ordered the state to take over the management of the schools in Halifax County, one of our poorest.

Well, to me, the Coastal Property Insurance Pool is an equally dramatic step. We are, after all, one state. The air quality problems in our mountains are a state problem. The water problems in the Piedmont are a state problem. The beach renourishment problem is a state problem. Let’s begin looking at things this way for, as Ben Franklin once said, “We’d better all hang together or we’ll surely hang separately.”

TAXPAYERS BEAR COST FOR OUT-OF-STATE ATHLETES

You probably have heard about the nice gift the General Assembly is giving the athletic boosters at UNC schools. At this writing, the House has voted to suspend the program, but the Senate, where there is big support, still has not acted. I’m talking about the more than $8 million you and I are picking up for out-of-state athletes. That $8 million is the difference between the tuition that the booster clubs would have to pay if the out-of-state athletes paid out-of-state tuition rather than in-state tuition. Some people feel that this kind of largesse is particularly egregious when our public schools are in such financial difficulty. One legislator defended the practice in a News & Observer article by saying the program was particularly helpful to our Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Umm, let’s see — the HBCUs got 73 of the athletic grants; UNC-Chapel Hill, alone, got 111, Appalachian got 85; NC State got 114; Western Carolina got 65, almost as many as all the HBCUs.

Now, instead of wringing my hands like so many others, let me make a modest and hopefully conservative proposal. Why not require that those “public scholarships” carry a requirement for academic achievement? Maybe we could expect our out-of-state athletes to have a 3.0 high school grade point average, to maintain a 2.5 in college and take the courses required to graduate in 4.5 years (the current national average). We might also require that if they go professional before graduation, they pay the state back. And, if we really want to help the HBCUs, let’s give them the funds as merit scholarships so that they can attract more high-performing students.
Exclusive To Metro:

MEMOIRS OF CHAPEL HILL'S FORMER SUPERMODEL AND FILM STAR GEORGIA KYSER

There is an old saying, "pretty is as pretty does." But in some cases the saying should be gorgeous is as gorgeous does. That is certainly the case with The Grand Dame of Chapel Hill, the beautiful Georgia Kyser, who has made the "Village" her home for well over a half century after marrying famous band leader and radio and movie star Kay Kyser, a Rocky Mount native who retired to Chapel Hill.

Known as the first supermodel with a resume intimidating to lesser mortals, including appearances with husband Kay in films billed as the "gorgeous Georgia Carroll," she was swooned over by renowned photographers, such as Horst P. Horst and Edward Steichen. Georgia was the face of her generation and constantly in demand for the covers of *Vogue*, *Redbook* and *Cosmopolitan*. Even today I can't go anywhere without seeing Georgia's face, be it smiling at me from the frame section of TJ Maxx or the 70th anniversary cans of Spam. *The New York Times* recently used one of Georgias photos to illustrate a story on beauty and medicine. I even saw Georgia's face on a set of cocktail napkins that declared, "An attitude is a terrible thing to waste!"

I had always known Georgia was a model and film star in her salad days, but only when I started delving deeper into her past did I fall under the spell of her perfect features, charmed life and lovely cheekbones. She has seen it all in her day, rubbing shoulders with the likes of Greta Garbo and Marlene Dietrich and other names that resonate through the ages. Her close friends included Lucille Ball, Jimmy Stewart, Dinah Shore and Alan Ladd.

When the legendary modeling agent John Robert Powers first saw the beautiful young Georgia Carroll dressed all in white at his Manhattan office, he knew he had a star on his hands and signed her on the spot. Unlike the often ill-behaved models of our day, Georgia was always noted for her wholesomeness and modesty, making her one of the most sought after cover girls of her day.

Georgia and Chapel Hill discovered a lasting kinship. She was instrumental in helping to set the tone for the elegant Carolina Inn, pioneered appearance statutes in the Village and added her immaculate good taste to many of the most beautiful homes in our area. Georgia, along with Ida Friday, founded the Chapel Hill Preservation Society in the early '70s.

Even in her new digs at the Cedars at Meadowmont, her sophisticated eye shines through with its subtle palette and intimate folk art portraits and other treasures from her life and travels, including a wonderful gilded 18th century chandelier she held on her lap all the way from Florence, Italy, which doesn't surprise me in the least. After all, this is a woman who received her degree from UNC at age 50.

Georgia has been working on *Now and Then*, a memoir including her first days in New York City. Following is an excerpt:

**Now and Then**

What a relief it is to finally be on the East River Parkway speeding towards mid-town Manhattan, toward that safer, wonderful, familiar and unchanging area which is my destination: Central Park South. It's a miracle. It looks exactly the way it looked when I first saw it almost 60 years ago. In fact, it seems frozen in time. The sights fill me with the same sense of joy and expectancy that I felt as a 17-year-old when I first arrived here many years ago. But how different my approach to the city was then.

Getting into New York from La Guardia today is hell. I've approached that city so many times this way, and my experience has nearly always been the same — not very pleasant. The airport itself is shabby looking, too crowded, and always seems to be in a constant state of change.

The moment I find a cab, I look for a strap or handle to hold...
in order to keep my balance as the driver inevitably weaves at high speed in and out of traffic lanes. As I hold on for dear life, I notice that we are passing a familiar landmark — that vast cemetery that covers acres of rolling hillside with not a tree in sight. There are thousands of tombstones, sending me the gloomy message that my “days dwindle down to a precious few.” With this speed demon at the wheel, my time may be now.

But I see hope — that fantastic New York skyline in the distance is coming into focus.

Nothing could have been more magical than that first arrival in New York. I sailed into the harbor on a beautiful smog-free summer day, passing the Statue of Liberty, the unbelievable skyscrapers of lower and upper Manhattan, and finally docking beside the great transatlantic ocean liners of the day, so much larger than our small cruise ship. To me they seemed like floating palaces, able to carry more than a thousand passengers in great luxury.

After making our way through the crowded dock, we found a taxi with a friendly driver who took us on a short trip to the Barbizon Plaza Hotel on Central Park South. Sharing this experience with me were my best friend, Polly Hill, my innocent mother, and Aunt Edna, a life force.

It was all Aunt Edna’s idea for us to come to New York in the first place, and for her, cruising was the only way to go. We all had a round-trip ticket from Texas — go by water from Galveston, come back by train. Supposedly, it was a special treat for Polly and me because we had just graduated from Woodrow Wilson High in Dallas. But for Aunt Edna it was not just a pleasure trip. She had designs on my future.

Aunt Edna, mother’s sister, was between husbands, well-travelled, and had stayed at the Barbizon Plaza before. She had told us about the sophisticated continental breakfast left at your door each morning, and she had described the hotel’s chic “modernistic” décor. It really was and is a true art deco jewel.

Polly and I couldn’t wait to see the area we were in, but we were afraid to go too far because we might get lost. We started by walking across Sixth Avenue, heading towards Fifth Avenue, passing the St. Moritz Hotel, all the way to the end of the block, where we reached the exciting, old and grand Plaza Hotel. Across from the hotels was the vast, green Central Park where horse-drawn carriages waited for customers, just as they do today. On the other side of the Plaza was the beautiful piazza with statuary in the center and places for people to sit. We paused for a moment, and then found courage to go across Fifth Avenue.

At the corner of 59th and Fifth was a unique jewelry shop selling only treasures from Czarist Russia, as it still does today. Going up Fifth Avenue we passed the Sherry-Netherland Hotel, the Pierre, and then saw ahead lots of apartment house canopies extending over the sidewalks to the street, each with a uniformed doorman. Nothing has changed today — just the people are different. But I do miss the double-decker buses that used to go up and down Fifth Avenue.

After finding our way back to the hotel we saw that Aunt Edna had already bought a New York paper and had discovered an ad saying, Wanted: Models — $50 a week, a good salary then.

Aunt Edna was my stage mother and was already making plans for me. Since she never had children of her own, I became her surrogate child. She was aggressively ambitious for me to be either a movie star, a singer on the radio with a big band, or a John Robert Powers model. I was extremely shy, easily led, and very innocent. I would have been happy to spend the rest of my days in Texas, which I dearly loved. I must admit, though, after that first day, New York was beginning to look very exciting.

When I was a very young child Aunt Edna discovered I could sing and took me to the local Dallas radio station to be in children’s radio talent shows. Later, she took me to the Melba Theater to try out for a Kiddie Review. After a modest success there, I was given dancing lessons and taken to recital operettas, and concerts. When I was 12 years old Aunt Edna started taking me to the Baker Hotel roof luncheon fashion shows. There I learned of the glories of Neiman Marcus. As I grew, Aunt Edna took me with her to “Neiman’s,” to see if they needed an extra model, and, occasionally, they used me. Let’s not forget, too, that she took me to be seated, then asked where I was from. I could tell that there was something about me that he liked very much, because he didn’t sit down. He said, “You are exactly the person we have been looking for, for a Redbook cover. You are it. I am sure. I will call ahead and tell Ruzzle Green, the photographer, that you are coming for a test shot.”

Aunt Edna and I walked just two blocks to the photographer’s studio, and she watched while I was photographed. I was embarrassed that she talked too much about my talents and charms. Later, when I was called back to be on the cover, I was told to arrive “without your aunt.”

That first afternoon, still wearing my white dress and hat and gloves, I was sent to model. Most were very stylish and chic. Neatly all had a black hat box, and everyone was dressed in black.

Just as I was about to be seated, Mr. Powers opened the door to his office, saw me — dressed in white — and motioned for me to come into his office without Aunt Edna. He looked me over and asked me to be seated, then asked where I was from. I could tell that there was something about me that he liked very much, because he didn’t sit down. He said, “You are exactly the person we have been looking for, for a Redbook cover. You are it. I am sure. I will call ahead and tell Ruzzle Green, the photographer, that you are coming for a test shot.”

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That first afternoon, still wearing my white dress and hat and gloves, I was sent to another photographer for a test shot, which was later used as an ad in a magazine. In a few days, I had more work than I could handle.

My success was so sudden, so effortless on my part that they decided to write a special story for the issue of Redbook with my picture on the cover. The story was called “The Rise of Georgia.”

Only my friend Polly Hill used her return train ticket back to Dallas.
FAMILY REUNIONS

My folks have never been big on family reunions, but I love them. The Castellows on my mother's side used to gather back in Bucklesberry between Windsor and Edenton, NC. Bucklesberry is an area, not a town. If you've heard of Merry Hill and the new high-end residential development there, you can begin to get your bearings. It's close.

Mother always said, “back in Bucklesberry,” like it was miles off the main highway. We did drive a ways down a dirt road before we arrived at the homeplace of Uncle Willie and Aunt Rowena Castellow. On the way, Mother pointed out her Grandpa Jimmy's modest cabin — long since abandoned. It was a big family, and a reunion in the 1950s introduced me to a host of cousins, most of whom I have never seen again.

Uncle Willie was my mother's uncle, one of 10 children born to my great grandparents, James Edward (Grandpa Jimmy) and Margaret Pierce Castellow. I can only imagine how difficult it was shortly after the Civil War to scratch out a living for a house full of children in a low-country county divided the long way by the Cashie River. Malaria-carrying mosquitoes were as common as house flies. And so was malaria. The Castellows were not “planters,” and there were no high-country plantations to retreat to.

During the hot summer months when the mosquitoes were swarming, they worked the low grounds and fished the rivers.

You couldn't escape the malaria. In the 1940s, living on the Leggett side of the county near the Roanoke River and its countless square miles of cypress swamps, I, along with my brothers, contracted it. There were recurring chills and raging fevers and doses of bitter quinine. They say there is some good in everything, but that might not be true of mosquitoes.

Only a year ago, prior to the current Great Recession, cars from up north, steamer trunks strapped to the roof, were clogging rural roads Down East, their occupants looking to buy a piece of what is now branded North Carolina's “Inner Banks.” Land for the taking. A place on the Albemarle, the Alligator, the Roanoke,

had died and, as far as I know, so had the big Castellow reunions. I have heard that some Castellow descendants do gather occasionally, but I am not on the list. I would like to be, however.

On my daddy's side of the family, we often celebrated my grandfather's birthday with a cake and a small gathering of close kin, but those events never rose to the level of a full-fledged Leggett family reunion. As in so many southern families, there were personal issues going back decades that may have accounted for that.

It was love of family reunions and the role they play in Down East culture that took me to Kinston, NC, the third Sunday in August. For years I had admired the early 19th century Croom Meeting House on Highway 55 West. One day I happened by when the doors were open. I stopped, stuck my head in and found the patriarch of the Croom Family Meeting House, circa 1800, “where many weary souls have met and found their way to God.”
family, Jesse M. Croom, tidying up the place. It’s a one-room building with neither electricity nor plumbing but with hand-hewn pews, brown painted, wide-plank floors and lots of character. Jesse, who is 92 now, welcomed me and told me how the Croom family has been a part of the Sandy Bottom community since about 1740. He pointed to a spot on the floor near the pulpit and related how his ancestor had collapsed and died there while preaching. I was awed. He invited me to a reunion and gave me some pears from a tree behind the church.

Between you and me, I’m glad I finally got around to attending a Croom Family Reunion. I regret, though, that bad health prevented Jesse, the last of 16 children, from attending this year — one of only two times this has happened in the 79-year history of the Croom Family Reunion. However, his son, Steve, 44, one of seven children — this is a prolific clan — serves as president now and presided with ease over this family that he described as “founded on faith.” "In this wood and in these pews is the life of this family,” Steve said. Steve, who commutes to Zebulon to work each day for GlaxoSmithKline, lives within sight of the Meeting House where a marker declares "many weary souls have met and found their way to God.” His daughter was the youngest Croom in attendance. His mother, 88, was the oldest.

Some 75 Croom family members convened at 11 a.m. on the hot August Sunday. While there was a little breeze coming through the open doors, woven palm fans — with the logo of Edwards Funeral Home and Ambulance Service, Kinston — got a workout. I have never heard “How Great Thou Art” sung with more feeling. I even imagined that I was in good voice and singing in tune. There were reports of deaths, but there were also announcements of births. Travis Croom, from Durham, had his motorcycle helmet in hand. Other family members came from South Carolina and Florida. I recognized JD Croom from Raleigh. We both worked in state government in the 1970s. There were lots of hugs and words of encouragement.

The Crooms are from sturdy stock and many of the old folks are still around. They are also wonderful cooks. I wanted to attend a reunion where folks bring covered dishes, not dine on catered barbecue. I was in the right place. Home-fried chicken; a huge pot of chicken pastryp; deviled eggs; fresh butter beans and big old well-seasoned dried Fordham beans; country sausage; candied potatoes; mashed rutabagas with corn meal dumplings on the top; collards; coconut, pineapple and eight-layer chocolate cake and pecan pies. The family voted to capture the recipes by creating a cookbook as part of its 80th Reunion celebration in 2010. I recommended they contact the NCDOT about a historical marker to unveil next August.

The banner on the front of the Meeting House reads, “As are its families, so is a nation.” It takes work to keep a family together like the Crooms do. But it’s worth it, don’t you think? By the way, the gnats were pesky at the Croom reunion, but I didn’t see a single mosquito.

CT Weekends will host a Fall Fashion Show on Oct. 14, 12-1 p.m., at Saint Jacques Restaurant in North Ridge Shopping Center, Raleigh. For details, call 919.787.9073.

Liles Clothing Studio will host an Adrian Jules Trunk Show Oct. 16 and 17 featuring custom and made-to-measure men’s and women’s clothing; North Hills, Raleigh. 919.510.5556.

Oct. 20 and 21, Elaine Miller Collection will host a Mazza Trunk Show; The Lassiter at North Hills, Raleigh. 919.571.8888.

Vermillion will host a Lela Rose Trunk Show featuring her spring 2010 collection Oct. 20 and 21; North Hills, Raleigh. 919.787.9780.

Revolver Consignment Boutique will host a Trunk Show on Oct. 22 for Amanda deLeon, a clothing designer from Wilmington, and art by Kristin Matwiczyk; Glenwood South, Raleigh. 919.834.3053.

On Oct. 22, JM Edwards Fine Jewelry in Cary will host the Cary Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours with the theme, “A Night in Bombay” featuring a special jewelry selection on display with live music, food and spirits from 5:30-7:30 p.m. 919.460.1048.

Bold and bright St. John knits and cashmere pullovers, cardigans and sweater sets are just some of the new arrivals at Fine Feathers in University Square, Chapel Hill. 919.942.3151.

Scout & Molly’s would like to thank everyone who supported the Scout & Molly’s Team in the MS 150 Bike Race. The team raised over $41,000 for the National MS Society. Anyone interested in participating next year can e-mail owner Lisa Disbrow at lisa@scoutandmollys.com.

New from Benefit in October:
- Glitz Glam & Gloss - six-shade lip gloss set loaded with shine and perfectly paired.
- Celebutante - personal stylist makeup kit, a combination of lipsticks, eye shadows, cheek tints, highlighters, brushes and more all in one kit.
- BADgal Brown - deep brown mascara with slim brush to separate and define lashes. Available at Belk Department Stores and Sephora.

October Events at Saks Fifth Avenue:
- Kenneth Jay Lane Trunk Show; Oct. 4-14 featuring the “faux is fun” collection of costume jewelry. Call 919.792.9100, ext. 5318.
- Key to the Cure; Oct. 15-18. See Metro’s Social Calendar for details.
- David Harris Trunk Show; Oct. 16 featuring the collection of “simply beautiful” jewelry.
- Ippolita Trunk Show; Oct. 17 featuring collections for fall and Spring 2010 styles in 18K gold. Representative Adam Epstein will assist with selections. Call 919.792.9100, ext. 5318.

Main & Taylor will host a Stuart Weitzman Trunk Show Oct. 22-24 with an opportunity for customers to special order Spring 2010. Main & Taylor is proud to be the only store in NC to have this bi-annual show. Call 919.821.1556

Cameron Village will celebrate its 60th anniversary with an eight-day 1960s themed celebration, Oct. 4-11. Visit www.shopsocfcamerovillage.com.

Hertzberg Furs is having its annual pre-season sale through October 17th! Save 20% on Hertzberg Furs new collection of Boutique, Salon and Couture furs. Visit www.hertzbergfurs.com to view the line. Oak Park Shopping Center, Raleigh. 919-782-2165.
La Farm Bakery:

A TOUCH OF PARIS IN CARY

Don't tell Carrboro but Cary has reason to believe it's the real Paris of the Piedmont.

That reason is La Farm Bakery, a little taste of the Left Bank in Cary's pristinely manicured Preston residential development. The unexpected anchor of a neighborhood strip mall, La Farm is hard to miss. The toasty aroma of freshly baked bread grabs your attention before you notice sidewalk tables full of lip-smacking customers.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Lionel and Missy Vatinet's bakery in Preston Corners. La Farm has been so successful that the Vatinets celebrated the occasion by an extensive renovation, expanding the indoor seating area and adding outdoor dining. Now patrons can linger over sandwiches, salads, soups, pastries and even a glass of wine at their favorite bakery/café.

When the couple met, Missy lived in Richmond, VA, working as an executive with eatZi's, the large European-style market and bakery franchise. Lionel, originally from Paris, taught artisanal bread making at the San Francisco Baking Institute. Missy sought a consultation with Lionel for the artisan bread program at her company, fell in love and married.

Lionel is no ordinary baker. A member of one of France's most prestigious artisan guilds, Les Compagnons du Devoir, he began his career at age 16. After a seven-year apprenticeship, he earned the title Maître Boulangier (Master Baker). A passionate food-lover, Lionel's life is centered around preserving — and sharing — centuries-old techniques of artisan bread making. He has traveled all over the globe teaching and was a founder of the San Francisco Baking Institute, whose students include staff from many of this country's foremost bread makers including La Brea, Panera, and Zabar's.

With the winning combination of Missy's business expertise and Lionel's baking skills, the couple dreamed of creating a business together. Visiting a relative in Cary, the couple did some homework on the area. Demographics of the Research Triangle proved auspicious for a European-style bakery. International businesses here employed potential customers — Europeans and well-traveled locals who appreciated and longed for chewy-crusted European bread.

The Vatinets opened La Farm in 1999 in its present location and never looked back.

When asked about the choice of site, one regular customer said, "You would be surprised how many people in this neighborhood come back from a trip and yearn for that perfect croissant they had in Europe. At La Farm, they can find it."

However, you don't have to go to the Cary location to find La Farm bread. All Triangle Whole Foods Markets offer a selection of Lionel's most popular breads. Moore Square Farmers Market and Raleigh's State Farmers' Market carry La Farm products, including quick breads and granola. Herons Restaurant at The Umstead serves the bread with meals and for its spa sandwiches.

At La Farm, the baking staff is just as devoted to their craft as the boss. From
Lionel they learn the complexities of traditional breads (ciabatta, sourdough, baguettes), but they are encouraged to add their own innovations to the basics - creations like the white chocolate baguette or the fall harvest loaf with cranberries and nuts.

In the new café addition, customers can experience the Vatinets' passion for food right on the premises. At a recent visit I tasted Le Grand BLT — smoked applewood bacon and heirloom tomatoes moistened with chipotle mayonnaise on sesame Italian bread.

Another mouth-watering treat is the Prosciutto Asparagus Tartine, piled with roasted tomatoes, artichokes, tapenade and goat cheese. We sampled the Belgian chocolate brownies, lemon bars and the white chocolate baguette — all outrageously delicious.

The café opens at 7 a.m. with a breakfast menu, offering hearty choices, such as a Croque Madame and “Crème Brûlée” French Toast with strawberries. After 11 a.m., the lunch/dinner menu is available for the rest of the day.

With a successful bakery, as well as a thriving online business, the obvious question is why bother with a café and the attendant headaches of table service? Missy explained: “This is yet another way people can experience Lionel’s breads. We will always be first and foremost a bakery, but we also want to foster the art of enjoying eating, to live the philosophy that the French share with the world — it’s about the glory of good food.”

The Vatinets are now talking about leading tours to Paris, Lionel’s home town. With their track record, chances are good this dream will become a reality. And when it does, I hope to be the first to sign up.

NIBBLES

October classes with Lionel Vatinet at La Farm Bakery include Kids’ Pizza and Focaccia Class on Saturday, Oct. 3, Whole Grain Breads on Tuesday, Oct. 6, Mama Vatinet’s Rustic French Pastry Class on Wednesday, Oct. 7, and Fall Favorite Breads and Desserts on Thursday, Oct. 8.

After a long slow spell, Metro is delighted to see interesting new restaurants opening up all over the Triangle area:

Sansui Sushi Bar & Grill now occupies the former location of China One in the Research Triangle at 4325 NC 55. Owners, Tommy Wen and Mike Yeh, both master sushi chefs, fly most of their fish in from Hawaii — a broad selection of unusual choices rarely seen in our area. Call 919-361-8078 for information.

Charlie Deal, chef/owner of the popular Asian restaurant Jujube in Chapel Hill, has created Dos Perros, another unique Triangle eatery at 200 N. Mangum St. in downtown Durham. Executive Chef Josh DeCarolus uses the fresh local ingredients for his versions of classic Mexican regional dishes such as Mole Poblano and Pescado Veracruzano. Dos Perros is open for lunch and dinner. For reservations, call 919-956-2750 or see www.dosperrosrestaurant.com.

In the Damon’s Grill spot on Hurricane Alley Way near Raleigh’s RBC Center, the new Backyard Bistro offers steaks aged at the venerable Angus Barn, as well as dry-rubbed, St. Louis-style ribs and half-pound burgers. Call 919-851-6203 or see www.backyardbistro.com for information.

On Glenwood Avenue, Sauced Pizza opened in the Enoteca Vin spot, specializing in hand-tossed, thin-crust pies and traditional pizzas, as well as Southern innovations, including “the Wolfpack,” with barbecued chicken and red onion. Contact Sauced at 919-803-0670 or www.saucedpizza.com.

Vegetarians and vegans will be delighted with Butternut Squash in Chapel Hill’s University Square. Even committed carnivores are enthusiastic about Chef Andrew Gentry’s imaginative dishes. Open three
meals a day. Call 919-929-8199 or try www.butternutsquashrestaurant.com.

In downtown Raleigh, try Spize Café for tasty Pan-Asian fare available in the informal downtown space at 121 Fayetteville St. Take-out available. The menu specializes in baguette sandwiches, soups and noodle salads. Call 919-828-5000 or see www.spize-cafe.com.

October is prime time for food festivals in North Carolina, both in the Metro area and the mountains. Check www.visitnc.com for these culinary events and many more:

The 29th North Carolina Oyster Festival will be celebrated on Oct. 17-18. Join over 30,000 people for live entertainment, arts and crafts, a road race, kids area, North Carolina Oyster Shucking Championships, and an Oyster Stew Cook-off at Ocean Isle Beach — 2nd & 3rd Street, Shallotte, NC. E-mail events@brunswick-countychamber.org or phone 910-754-6644.


The 19th annual Oktoberfest celebration takes place Oct. 10 and 11 at Sugar Mountain, NC. Bavarian cuisine will be available starting at 11 a.m. both days, along with an ample supply of Spaten beer. Spaten Oktoberfest beer, created in 1872, is the world's first Oktoberfest beer. If you're planning to spend the weekend, take advantage of 25 percent discounts for on-mountain lodging. Lodging details and contact information can be found at www.skisugar.com/oktoberfest.

Closer to the Metro area, Carolina Brewery in Pittsboro will also celebrate Oktoberfest on Oct. 17 with German sausages, live music and beer. Tastings and tours at the Brewery take place at noon and 1 p.m. the second Saturday of each month. Reserve your tour by e-mailing Tara: info@carolinabrewery.com or calling 919-545-2330.

Cooking voyeurs will enjoy a new online show, Carolina Cookin', with Buck Buchanan (owner of delicious Lumpy's Ice Cream sold at Whole Foods and the Moore Square Farmers Market). The show can be seen on www.TriangleBlvd.tv, a WebTV network.


Celebrate Halloween at Watts Street Grocery in Durham. Free cupcakes will be given to diners in costume Oct. 31.


HERONS - 510 Glenwood Avenue Suite 103, Raleigh. 836-1811.

NOFO MARKET AND CAFE - 4241-115 Six Forks Road, Raleigh. 821-1240. Serving breakfast all day and hearty entrees, sandwiches and salads for lunch and dinner, this Cameron Village restaurant also boasts a full bar. Open 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily.


THE THREE SHACK - 4120-135 Main at North Hills St., Raleigh. (919) 742-0085. Home in historic Depot building in the warehouse district, this upscale Mexican restaurant offers the experience of a New Yorkistro and bar in the heart of Raleigh’s new midtown. Enjoy metropolitan cuisine and distinctive wines served by a professional wait staff. Lunch and Dinner Mon-Sat. Bar 115 open until midnight Thurs-Sat.

THE MINT RESTAURANT - 219 Fayetteville St. Raleigh. 821-0011. www.themintrestaurant.com Tues-Sat. 4 p.m.-10 p.m.. The Mint in downtown Raleigh offers contemporary fine southern dining with global influences. Executive Chef Jeremy Clayman presents new and exciting culinary combinations paired with The Mint’s unparalleled service standards.


THE TOT - 4241-115 Six Forks Road, Raleigh. 821-1240. Serving breakfast all day and hearty entrees, sandwiches and salads for lunch and dinner, this Cameron Village restaurant also boasts a full bar. Open 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily.

THE WHISKEY BAR - 4241-115 Six Forks Road, Raleigh. 821-1240. Serving breakfast all day and hearty entrees, sandwiches and salads for lunch and dinner, this Cameron Village restaurant also boasts a full bar. Open 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily.

THE WING BISCUIT CAFE - 2016 Clark Ave., Raleigh. 833-6974. www.flyingbiscuit.com. www.servingbreakfastalldayandheartyentrees,sandwichesand saladsforlunchanddinner;thisCameronVillage restaurantalsoboastsafullbar.7a.m.until10p.m.daily.

THE ROADHOUSE - 2016 Clark Ave., Raleigh. 833-6974. www.servingbreakfastalldayandheartyentrees,sandwichesand saladsforlunchanddinner;thisCameronVillage restaurantalsoboastsafullbar.7a.m.until10p.m.daily.

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**RESTAURANT GUIDE**

Ave, Raleigh. [919] 791-1103. New Orleans-inspired appetizers, aged USDA Prime steaks, fresh seafood, signature side dishes and homemade desserts served with genuine hospitality. Among the most distinctive dining destinations in the area.


**SECOND EMPIRE RESTAURANT & TAVERN** — 330 Hillsborough St., Raleigh. 829-3663. www.second-empire.com. Award winning cuisine in two dining atmospheres. Upstairs enjoy the ultimate dining experience in an elegantly relaxed atmosphere of charm and grace. Downstairs in the Tavern and Bistro enjoy a lighter fare menu and cozy atmosphere. AAA Four Diamond, DiRoNA Award, Wine Spectator Award.

**SHERATON RALEIGH HOTEL** — The Grove Cafe - 421 South Salisbury Street, Raleigh. 834-9900 Located on second floor of the Sheraton Raleigh Hotel, serving Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner in an open atrium atmosphere. The cuisine is American Continental, serving a daily Breakfast & Lunch Buffet, and a complete menu for all day dining. Also enjoy live entertainment on Wednesday nights in The Bar.

**SITTI** — 137 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh. 919-339-4070 www.sitti-raleigh.com. Authentic Lebanese cuisine by Chef Ghassan Jarrour honors hometowns home country and grandmothers, or sittis, with delicious food and endless hospitality. Made-fresh mezze, entrees and house-baked flatbreads. Bar and outdoor seating available. Lunch: 11 a.m.-5 p.m., M-Sat; Dinner: 5 p.m.-10 p.m., M-Th, 5 p.m.-Midnight, Fri-Sat.

**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. 881-6833. www.tavernaagora.com. Taverna Agora is the premier restaurant in Raleigh. Serving a daily Breakfast & Lunch Buffet, and a Continental, serving a daily Breakfast & Lunch Buffet, and a three-course Dinner in an open atrium atmosphere. The cuisine is American Continental, serving a daily Breakfast & Lunch Buffet, and a complete menu for all day dining. Also enjoy live entertainment on Wednesday nights in The Bar.

**BIN 54** — 1201-M Raleigh Rd., Chapel Hill. 969-1155. Chapel Hill's high-end steakhouse has it all: delectable dishes, stellar service and an atmosphere rich in stylish romance.


**SAFFRON INDIAN RESTAURANT** — 4121 Davis Drive, Morrisville. 469-5774. www.saffronnc.com. Offering fine dining in an elegantly modern ambiance. Ranked best Indian restaurant and top 20 in the state by the Spectator Award.

**VIROUGE** — 2010 Carolina Crossroads Rd., Durham. 416-0450. Virouge, a French cafe and wine bar, treats guests to provincial cooking at its finest in a chic, intimate setting. Dinner Tues.-Sun. 5:30-11 p.m., Brunch Sun. 10:30-2 p.m.


**MEZ** — 411 West Franklin Street, Chapel Hill. 968-4732. www.mezchapelhill.com. An Italian Cafe featuring fresh pasta, seafood, steaks, pizzas from a wood-fired oven, and homemade signature desserts in a Tuscan Villa setting. All bottles wines are 50% off on Monday nights. Private Room available for up to 50.

**IYER** — 1201-M Raleigh Rd., Chapel Hill. 969-1155. Chapel Hill's high-end steakhouse has it all: delectable dishes, stellar service and an atmosphere rich in stylish romance.

**THE CAROUna CROSSROADS RESTAURANT** — 118 Market Street, Wilmington. 910-251-0333. www.thecarolinas.co. Serving lunch and dinner daily. Featuring seafood, steaks and spirits. Come casual or dressy, enjoy the elegant atmosphere of this fine dining restaurant.

**ATSTILLWATER.COM** — Historic Waterfront Bistro showcasing New American cuisine in two dining atmospheres. Upstairs enjoy the ultimate dining experience created to nourish the soul and share flavors from around the world. Spice Street celebrates food and wine.

**SQUID'S** — 1201 Fordham Blvd., Chapel Hill. 942-8757. www.squidsrestaurant.com. This local institution features the finest seafood, steaks, and Chapel Hill's only raw bar. Named "2008 Best Seafood Restaurant in the Triangle" by the readers of the Independent, Squid's offers imaginative specials and fresh Maine lobster. Oyster Happy Hour daily from 4-6 p.m. Lobsters are Market price on Monday nights.

**BEYOND THE TRIANGLE**

**AQUA** — 214 Middle Lane, Beaufort, NC 28516. 252-728-7777. www.aquaeexperience.com. "Aqua's urban-chic decor whets the appetite for sophisticated, internationally inspired food... On all counts, Aqua was an exceptional dining experience." Moreton Neal in Metro Magazine June 2005. Open for dinner: Tues.-Thurs., from 5-9 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 5-10 p.m.

**BEAUFORT GROCERY CO** — 117 Queen St., Beaufort. 252-728-3911. www.beaufortgrocery.com. Chef's Portugal's oldest and continuously operating fine dining restaurant since 1991. Specializing in regional cuisine fused with global techniques and influences. Lunch M-W 11:30-3:30 p.m., Dinner M W-Sat. 5-10 p.m., and Sun brunch at 11:30 a.m. Closed Tues.

**QUAYSIDE** — 119 Queen St., Beaufort. 252-728-9000. 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-made wine to accompany your entrée. Dinner Tues-Sat.

**CAPIZ** — 105 South 11th St., Morehead City. 252-728-6676. www.cafezito.com. Be delighted by the creative cuisine at this neighborhood restaurant. Chef Baptiste Kaven offers a tantalizing menu of local favorites influenced by the Mediterranean. Located in a historic downtown home, enjoy dining inside or on the porch.

**CHIEF AND THE FARMER** — 120 W Gordon St., Kinston. 252-208-2433. www.chiefandthefarmer.com. A converted mule stable never looked so good. Blending old architecture and contemporary design with local ingredients and urban techniques makes this progressive eatery an epicurean oasis.


**PORT LAND GRILL** — 1908 Eastwood Road, Wilmington. 910-256-6056. www.portlandgrille.com. Chef/Owner Shawn Weidenschild's menu, featuring seafood, prime meats, and lots of flavor in a casually elegant atmosphere changing "slightly nightly" to reflect the season. Patio seating and private rooms available.


**SPANKY'S** — 6101 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh. 881-8333.
Going ... Going ... Sold!

WINE AT AUCTION OFFERS EXCITEMENT AND VALUE

Perhaps the most exciting wine event I ever attended was the first Napa Valley Wine Auction — pretty much the granddaddy of charity wine auctions in the US. It was 1981 and I was the only wine journalist from the East Coast to attend. Nobody thought it was going to be a big deal.

But I thought it might ... and it did, making headlines on newswires around the world when the first case of Opus One 1979 — not even in bottle yet — went for the unheard of price of $24,000. I was writing for the New York Daily News at the time, and the article about "auction fever" striking Napa Valley was picked up by dozens of major metropolitan newspapers across the country.

Since then, the Napa Valley Wine Auction has raised over $85 million for two local hospitals and medical services. Its success also spawned a host of wine auctions for good causes elsewhere — including our own turf, with the annual Triangle Wine Experience held in Raleigh each February and Corks for Kids, a September event in Chapel Hill.

If you haven't been to a live wine auction, you should try it sometime — just be sure to take your checkbook. And try, if you can, to keep your wits about you if you get swept up in the spirited bidding for special lots of wine. Watching a wine auction may be something like the tobacco crop auctions (which I've only seen clips of on TV), but there's more drama and a lot more fun. For one thing, it's usually held during or after an elaborate dinner, with plenty of good wine flowing to fuel the bidding. As bidding sums mount, you can feel the stirring of the crowd getting excited and hear the growing murmur suddenly erupt in cheers when it gets astronomical — as it tends to do, even now in a bad economy.

The slump has dampened proceeds a bit; this year's Napa auction grossed $5.7 million instead of $10 million two years ago when big spenders were flying high. In Chicago, however, the Lyric Opera raised $1.2 million, a record for this event. Commercial auctions are also doing well.

These are held by the wine departments of top auction houses (Sotheby's) or those devoted exclusively to wine, such as Hart Davis Hart or Winebid.com.

Some of the leading American wine shops also hold auctions, notably Zachys and Acker Merrall & Condit of New York. Acker Merrall & Condit has had huge success staging auctions in Hong Kong, garnering over $60 million in 2008, with bidders from all over the world but mostly from the Orient.

The top lot: 12 cases of red Burgundies from the Domaine de la Romanée-Conti (La Tâche, Richebourg, Grands Echezeaux, and RC itself), vintages 1990 to 2001, which went for just under $275,000. Some mighty good drinking for somebody.

In this economic climate, that's rare. But for excellent but less exalted bottles, prices can be quite reasonable. If you are looking for a special bottle — say, as a gift for the upcoming holidays or a special event, you can actually participate online at the public auctions, or by telephone. What to look for? Vintage Ports, rare vintages (1982, 1990, 2005), large format bottles such as magnums (equivalent of two bottles), jeroboams (six bottles), imperials (8 bottles). It's easy — all the sites guide you through the process.

Hart Davis Hart in Chicago ranks second among the top five wine auctioneers in the US. Partner Paul Hart has been a major presence at Raleigh's Triangle Wine Experience and is well-acquainted with North Carolina's cadre of wine collectors.

"It's a significant group," said Hart...
recently. "We see them bidding online and also by phone. And a number of Carolinians buy wine from our online store."

HDD’s next wine auction is in Oct. 24. Several other vendors have scheduled auctions between now and mid-December. Here are the online sites to check out:

Hart Davis Hart - www.hdhwine.com
Winebid.com - www.winebid.com
Zachys - www.zachys.com/auctions

COOL WEATHER MEANS REDS

Meanwhile, be sure to have a glass in hand as you explore auction possibilities. Now that we’re into fall and cooler weather, I’m drinking more reds. Recent forays around the Triangle have turned up some excellent buys. Here are some that I’ve seen at specific shops, but anything available at one can certainly be ordered by any wine merchant.

WINE BUYS OF THE MONTH

2007 Rhônes. The 2007 vintage in the Rhône Valley was a classic — perfect ripening of the grapes producing richness and warmth. It will be hard to go wrong with these wines, at any level in the southern Rhône — appellations such as Côtes du Rhône, Gigondas, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, even the lowly Côtes du Ventoux — all possess varying degrees of dark ripe berry flavors. All Triangle wine shops stock 2007 Rhônes so you’re not likely to be disappointed — just be sure the vintage is 2007.


Seaboard has several other terrific dry rosés, including Muga Rosado 2008 from Rioja, $12, and Elk Cove 2008 Rosé of Pinot Noir, $16. These are great transition wines.

Wine Authorities, Durham. Jacky Piret, Beaujolais “La Combe,” France, 2007, $14. Jacky Piret is one of the top producers of Beaujolais, which is made from the gamay grape. His Fleurie is nonpareil but more expensive. The “La Combe” is a terrific value, "friendly and affable."

Brandywine Cellars, Durham. Sassoregale Super Tuscan 2006, Tuscany, $17. Rare to find a Super Tuscan at this price. Super Tuscans are red wines made outside the official government designation for Chianti. They include the traditional sangiovese grape but may include other varieties, such as cabernet sauvignon, merlot or syrah. While the Sassoregale doesn’t have the depth and complexity of more expensive ones, appealing fruitiness makes it a great value.

Hillsborough Wine Co. Vinos Sin Ley Puntazo G 2007, Spain. $14.99. 100 per-cent Garnacha (Grenache) from Navarra in northeast Spain, a region that is producing some very tasty reds. This one has a lot of punch.

A Southern Season, Chapel Hill. Marquis Philips 2007 Shiraz, Australia, $12-$14. Oh boy — blackberry jam, hints of spice, rich texture. Rather amazing for such a bargain price, but Marquis Philips does it consistently.  

Puntazo G 2007, Spain. $14.99. 100 per-cent Garnacha (Grenache) from Navarra in northeast Spain, a region that is producing some very tasty reds. This one has a lot of punch.
Economics, unfairly ridiculed as the “dismal science” by philosopher Thomas Carlyle in the 19th century, enlightens on an aggregate basis about dynamic, individual decision-making — what goods and services we produce or purchase, how much we charge or pay for them, and where we get the money to buy them. Changes in that decision-making can occur quickly and surprisingly, especially under capitalism. This dynamism prompted 20th century economist Joseph Schumpeter to call capitalism “creative destruction” as new products and services, and the firms that provide them, are created, sometimes destroying older ones.

North Carolina experienced “creative destruction” in the last century, especially in its last three decades and is experiencing it in the first decade of the 21st century. A century ago, textile and furniture firms located here, and together with home-grown cigarette manufacturers became the “big three” of North Carolina industries. Although not destroyed, they have been displaced as industrial leaders by the “big five” of technology, pharmaceuticals, food processing, banking and vehicle parts. In 1977, the “big three” accounted for 22 percent of the state’s economy and 64 percent of the value of its manufacturing, while what became the “big five” accounted for less than 10 percent and 25 percent respectively. By 2005, the old “big three” were reduced to 7 percent of the economy and 32 percent of manufacturing, and the new “big five” accounted for 17 percent of the state’s economy and 43 percent of its manufacturing.

Those and other changes are explained by NC State University economist Michael L. Walden in North Carolina in the Connected Age. With a theme described by Walden as “the interaction of economies throughout the world resulting in freer flow of goods, services, money and workers,” the Connected Age spans three decades of worldwide changes in technology, trade and competition. Walden notes that in 1970, when the period of his study began, cell phones, personal computers and the Internet did not exist; but over three decades later the majority of American households have cell phones and personal computers and one third are connected to the Internet. Those changes occurred during the emergence of the state’s technology industry, after the founding of the Research Triangle Park in the mid-1950s, connecting North Carolina with the globalizing economy.

That story is dynamic and hardly “dismal,” and Walden writes it clearly and concisely. His text can be read easily for an overview, and his tables and appendices can be used for detailed study and reference sources. Walden explains the Connected Age, the macroeconomic forces that have changed North Carolina’s economy and the microeconomic changes in the state’s industries. He then examines the impacts those changes have had on the state’s people, places and policies. In sum, although many “big three” manufacturing jobs have been lost, better jobs have been created in new industries. Significantly, just before the Connected Age began, IBM announced its Research Triangle Park facility. During the Connected Age, Burroughs Wellcome and Glaxo, among other firms, located in the Park, and two NC State University professors formed SAS Institute.

With those and other changes, the Research Triangle Region helped drive the Connected Age.

Walden concludes with an analysis of North Carolina’s prospects. Some state government policies concern him, including the relative decline in state highway maintenance and construction and the significant increase in transfer payments within an expanding state budget. The state may have to change some policies — including its tax structure and rates that place us at a competitive disadvantage with neighboring states — if it is to continue to benefit from the Connected Age. Anxiety exists about the future, especially since the collapse of the housing bubble that nearly brought down the banking and financial systems. Walden addresses the anxiety realistically, but he is guardedly optimistic about our prospects for prospering in the continuing Connected Age.
Unprecedented Publishing Event and Book Signing

Be on hand for this rare opportunity to meet Chris Andrew, author of *Defend The Realm: The Authorized History of MI5*

To mark the centenary of Britain's secret security service (MI5), noted intelligence scholar Chris Andrew was allowed full access to the carefully guarded innermost files of UK's most secret intelligence agency. Names are named and myths are either proven or verified in this historic publishing event.

Dr. Andrew's special appearance made through arrangements with Bernie Reeves and Raleigh Metro Magazine.

Go to www.raleighspyconference.com for more information and additional events.

**When:** November 14, 2009  
**Where:** Quail Ridge Books, Raleigh's Ridgewood Shopping Center  
**Time:** 12 noon to 2 PM

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**BRIEFLY NOTED**

**The Biscuitville Model**

Author J. Phillips L. Johnston is an experienced entrepreneur and corporate CEO. Now living in High Point, NC, and the chairman and CEO of The Center for Board Evaluations, he has many Raleigh and Research Triangle Region connections. The son of a former NC State University chemistry professor, Johnston has four siblings living in Raleigh. He graduated from Duke and UNC Law School and served as CEO of a Triangle-area firm for nearly a decade. His earlier book, *Success In Small Business Is A Laughing Matter* (1978, 2007 edition), earned praise from *Esquire* magazine as "the best book ever written about small business." Known as Phil to his friends, he won their added admiration when a Scotch whisky maker featured him in its magazine advertisements as a "Dewar's Man."

In *Biscuitville: The Secret Recipe for Building a Sustainable Competitive Advantage* (2009), he focuses on the privately owned firm and uses it as a foundation for much broader commentary on business practices, policies and ethics — in short, as a model for sustainable success. *Biscuitville*, now in its fourth decade, has over 50 restaurants and nearly a thousand employees. It is managed from Greensboro, NC, by a father-and-son team, one the founder and now the chairman, and the other the successor and CEO. Entrepreneurs by nature, they eschew overly complicated and legalistic manuals and procedures, preferring instead to manage their business by the Golden Rule of treating customers and employees as they would want to be treated themselves. Their slogan reflects their attitude: "Fresh Biscuits. Friendly Folks." Johnston has high praise for them, and his account of their success makes the reader hungry for one of their golden egg and cheese biscuits.
Veteran fundraisers Mary Moss and Susan Ross have joined forces to form **Moss-Ross**, a strategic consulting firm providing services, including membership campaigns, executive search and coaching, special events, volunteer training, and communication strategies.

Moss developed and executed fundraising campaigns at three area schools: Durham Academy, Ravenscroft and Saint Mary’s. Ross served for 30 years as a fundraiser at Duke University, leading teams that raised over $500 million for endowment, facilities, annual giving and athletics.

For more information, go to www.mossandross.com.

**Kerr Drug**, the pharmacy credited with pioneering the training of clinical pharmacists to administer vaccines to patients, is making flu shots available to meet what is expected to be an unprecedented demand by assigning 115 immunizing pharmacists to its stores throughout North Carolina. The Department of Public Health has chosen Kerr Drug to be one of the first pharmacies to administer the H1N1 pandemic flu vaccine later this year. Visit www.kerrdrug.com for more.

**Aaron Shiver**, visual merchandiser and outdoor lifestyle designer for Monrovia Nursery, one of the nation’s largest nursery growers, will be on site at Atlantic Avenue Orchid & Garden center on Oct. 22 to create one of his signature custom landscape displays.

Shiver has been selected as head designer at the Garden Center of America’s National “Fashion in Bloom” event where he travels throughout the US demonstrating his designer talents. Go online to http://edemakersblog.com/?tag=igc-show and www.atlanticavenuegarden.com for more.

**Raleigh City Museum** presents “Abstractations: Capital City Inspirations and Observations,” Friday, Oct. 2, from 6-9 p.m., by area artists highlighting abstract interpretations of the capital city selected by a juried panel. Admission is free and open to the public.

Call 919-832-3775 ext. 11 or visit www.raleighcitymuseum.org for more information.

**Durham’s All About Beer Magazine** is celebrating 30 years of continuous coverage on beer. The special anniversary issue, **Beer:30**, includes essays by beer writers, a reprint of the feature on national prohibition, a timeline of the last three decades of brewing and beer, and a conversation with a panel of beer experts. To learn more or to subscribe, go to www.allaboutbeer.com.

Seventy-five members of the US military and their families became United States citizens during a ceremony Sept. 17 aboard the *Battleship North Carolina* in Wilmington, featuring Debra Rogers, deputy chief of domestic operations for US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as keynote speaker. For more information about this ceremony or the naturalization process, call USCIS Public Affairs Officer Ana Santiago at 305-793-9919.

**Firehouse Subs** has honored Durham firefighter Angelica Stroud in the chain’s 374 restaurants on its second series of Hero Cups recognizing five firefighters and a child for their bravery under pressure. Citizens and firefighters from across the country submitted nominations. Stroud is Durham’s first female African-American fire captain. Go to www.firehousesubs.com for more.

Of the 11 students and recent graduates from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to receive 2009-2010 Fulbright US Student Program awards, four are from the Triangle area: Allison Rodriguez and William Meyer of Chapel Hill; Stephen Milder of Carrboro; and Jennifer Carpenter of Raleigh. Go to http://cigi.unc.edu/funding/fulbright-recipients-2009-2010.html for more.

**KidsPeace Foster Care and Community Programs** will present their 1st Annual Golf Tournament at Crooked Creek Golf Club, on Nov. 5. The $75 entry fee includes lunch, gift bags, range balls, cart, unlimited drinks and a chance to win cash and prizes with proceeds going to foster care and family services to help kids develop the confidence and skills needed to overcome emotional, behavioral and psychological challenges. Visit www.kidspeace.org or www.playcrookedcreek.com for more information.

**Krista Bremer**, an essayist who lives in Carrboro, NC — where she is the associate publisher of *The Sun* — will receive a $25,000 2009 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer’s Award given annually for 15 years to six women writers who demonstrate excellence and promise in the early stages of their careers. Go to www.ronajaffefoundation.org for more information.

**The Light the Night Walk** to support cancer research and The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society honoring Raleigh realtor Shields Pittman, who is fighting leukemia, is set for Saturday, Oct. 17, with food and entertainment beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Halifax Mall, located behind the Legislative Building across from Peace College, followed by the 2-mile walk at 7 p.m. — rain or shine. Go online to http://pages.lightthenight.org/nc/nc/raleigh09/shields team for information on registration and donations.

The $180 million, 315,000-square-foot **NC Cancer Hospital** was dedicated Sept. 15 on the UNC Health Care’s Chapel Hill campus — part of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center — by UNC President Esakine Bowles, Gov. Beverly Perdue and Dr. William Roper, CEO of the UNC Health Care System and dean of the School of Medicine. Go to http://unclineberger.org for more.

Smokers are not completely ostracized. **SmokeStixx** is selling exotic decals for cigarette packs. Go to www.youtube.com/user/SmokeStixxVideo.

**The Triangle Association of Black Journalists’** annual scholarship gala will be held Oct. 10 at the Marriott City Center in downtown Raleigh, featuring *News & Observer* President and Publisher Orage Quarles as keynote speaker. For tickets and information, go to or e-mail nctabj@yahoo.com, or contact Gayle Hurd at gayle@ballemmedia.com. Proceeds go to the TABJ Scholarship Fund.

**Theatre In The Park** is seeking donations to sponsor the third world tour of Ira David Wood’s production of *A Christmas Carol*, returning to Compiègne, France during Thanksgiving week 2009. The show, celebrating its 35th year as a holiday tradition, is scheduled for its annual run in Raleigh Dec. 8-16 at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts. Contact brent@theatreinthepark.com.

**George Smart**, founder and director of Triangle Modern Archives Inc. and TriangleModernistHouses.com, will serve on a panel addressing the preservation of modern resources during the National Trust of Historic Preservation’s National Conference in Nashville, TN, from Oct. 13-17.

Southern humorist and writer **Roy Blount Jr.** will receive UNC’s 2009 Thomas Wolfe Prize and deliver the free annual Thomas Wolfe Lecture at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 6. in Carroll Hall auditorium.

**The Moderate**, the hot DC band led by Raleigh singer Jim Dempsey, has released its first full-length album, *The Rest is Up to You*, available through CDBaby and iTunes. The CD release party is set for The Four House Music Hall in downtown Raleigh Saturday, Oct. 17.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Bearta Powell** of Raleigh, the Lebanese-born author of the book *Orphans of War*, has been recognized as an Honorary Ambassador by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). Powell is donating a substantial portion of her book’s proceeds to SOS Children, the orphan and abandoned children’s charity.
My Usual Charming Self

by Bernie Reeves

WORLD GONE MAD

ill we look back in amazement at world events today and wonder how nations are capable of entering into delusional behavior - as we now regard the lunacy that launched World War I? The alliances and attitudes that colluded to kill 15 million servicemen are considered so bizarre historians draw a line in history from 1914-1918, as if to say it's too difficult to explain to the modern mind what happened to plunge the Western world into homicidal chaos.

I fear we too will be pondering years hence how we abandoned sanity in 2009 when the consequences of our actions today trigger nuclear events and economic chaos. Led by America's president in a speech to the UN Security Council, the strongest nations voted unanimously to terminate nuclear deterrence - even if they don't really mean it. But this sort of malarkey leaves the field wide open for extremist Muslim states to build their arsenals, laughing at us all the way to paradise.

Not 24 hours after Obama's UN speech, new data indicate Iran has yet another nuclear facility churning away to produce weapons of mass destruction intended for use against the infidel, a revelation that arrived days after Obama canceled the missile screen we planned in Eastern Europe to deter Persian nuclear threats. To add to the insanity, the Attorney General is undertaking to impanel war tribunals against our very own American intelligence operatives who have succeeded in keeping us safe from terrorism since 9-11.

Trying to "jaw-jaw rather than war-war" as Churchill put it, contradicts the very real war in Afghanistan. I enjoy seeing our military at work when needed as much as anyone, but nowhere can I find a good reason to remain in this ungovernable and inhospitable land. The Taliban did not strike the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and we beat the main forces of al-Qaeda in Iraq. Could it be Obama clings to Afghanistan because the Democrat party line disaback, I asked what was "our" war, and the answer came back Afghanistan. So Obama is risking our fighting men and women to maintain a political charade?

The madness continues. The global economic crash has continued to erode the core of small business capitalism, the very essence of productivity that produces the jobs and tax collections that make the engine of state run. Obama, listening to advice from macro-economists, has placed his trust in the national and international banking system to rebuild the economy, the very same miscreants who got us in this mess to start with. At least George W. Bush and his team understood the urgency to stimulate the consumer segment - accounting for 80% of the GDP in the US - with tax cuts to beef up retail spending.

But Obama is not only retarding recovery, he is assuring it will never happen by loading up the federal deficit with trillions of dollars of red ink while ignoring the dicey state of the economy. The main priorities emanating from the White House are drastically increasing public spending on health care reform and forcing the US to capitulate to zany schemes to curtail productive output to save the planet.

Granted, working to create order out of the health care maze is an admirable goal, but the Obama cadre chooses to depict Americans as cruel and heartless by refusing to communicate that all citizens can receive free care at any hospital anywhere. This thin edge of the axe is calculated to humiliate the United States on a false premise, causing other nations to think our citizens are lying prostrate on streets and back alleys from lack of medical care. To sell this new health care scheme, the left-liberal phalanx bellows that 40 million Americans are without health insurance, but that does not mean they are left to languish and die. High premiums help provide this care, yet the people who pay them are ignored in the march to establish the government to run health care in a nation with the most advanced medical outcomes imaginable.

The global warming scam, the Mother of all dangerous doctrines (pace the infamous Saddam Hussein) is diverting policy-making attention away from bolstering the economy to bludgeoning free market capitalism with more big lies. The deep environmental movement has been infiltrated by utopian socialists seeking a home after the collapse of the USSR, the last great hope for world socialism. The forces behind saving the planet are dedicated to destroying individual initiative and enterprise for idealistic, unattainable and undesirable goals: to halt productivity and implant one-world governance. Like their Bolshevik forbears, the green activists peddle junk science and saccharine platitudes to lure the well-meaning into a doctrinaire trap. What do you say to people who desire "equal rights for the atmosphere"?

Replacing a strong nuclear and conventional defense with cheap talk of the goodness of man; not making the economy strong again with sensible policies; bankrupting the government with socialistic spending schemes on health care; and assuring the demise of capitalism with loony policies on global warming, Obama has set the stage for unintended consequences that can spell disaster for national and global tranquility. And if you don't agree, you're a racist according to Democrat has-beens Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, culprits in an organized propaganda program to legislate and rule by guilt.

NOTES FROM LA-LA LAND

As Artie would say in the old Larry Sanders Show, "I thought I killed her in the war". I am speaking of CNBC's Rachel Maddow whom I endured for the first time trying to find news on the news channels - a fruitless task I soon discovered. She reminded me of Agnes Smedley, the American communist who taught Mao ballroom dancing. Maddow, who thinks Americans are "simply having a tantrum" as they become accustomed to the raptures of socialism, trotted out documentary filmmaker Ken Burns to plug his latest PBS offering on the National Park system. Says Burns: "the role of government is building human happiness", like FDR and Obama. I'd say government today is piling on human misery. Happiness is a possibility if government leaves us alone as the founders intended.

I have no dog in the fight over whether or not Durham novelist Michael Peterson killed his wife as the jury decided. But the evidence presented was dramatically undermining, which brought into play the theory that Kathleen Peterson was killed by an owl, a supposition that had everyone howling - until Metro presented convincing photographs that indeed it could have happened. (go to www.metronc.com and enter "owl theory in the search box). Since our article, people aren't laughing anymore. It has been proved that owls do indeed attack people; the murder weapon, a fireplace blow poke hypothesized by the prosecution, has not been produced; and the wounds don't match the instrument anyway. The latest news is the filing of a Motion of Appropriate Relief by Peterson's lawyer pointing to "new and compelling evidence" - the presence of bird feathers in Kathleen's hands.

(Read commentary by Bernie Reeves in his Between Issues column at www.metronc.com.)
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Of course it tastes better than other beers. We've had over 600 years to get the recipe right. Our esteemed brewery has been producing beer in Leuven since 1366. Which means we've been around a bit longer than most. Mind you, over the years our beer has witnessed the odd change or two. For instance, our customers no longer drink it to ward off the Plague, as they used to in medieval times. However, one thing has stayed the same after all these years. Stella Artois is still painstakingly brewed in a time-honored tradition with the choicest ingredients. Which is why our customers have kept coming back for more, even after 600 years.