



PHOTO BY VALARIE SCHWARTZ  
Valerie Yow holds the biography she wrote about Betty Smith while standing in front of the painting she created depicting *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. The child in the painting, Francie, represents Smith in the near-autobiography she wrote while living in Chapel Hill.

Smith's life would shine the spotlight on her adopted hometown, bring a movie premiere to Franklin Street on May 5, 1965, when *Joy in the Morning* (adapted from her fourth book) opened, and provide fodder for gossips.

It was another Betty — Betty Hodges — former literary editor for the *Durham Herald*, who suggested that Yow write about Smith. Hodges had also suggested the first book Yow wrote about a woman writer, a book published in 1999 about Bernice Kelly Harris. "I loved the research and writing that biography," Yow said.

And so it became with the seven-year Smith experience.

"I was reluctant at first to write about this feisty, black-haired novelist," Yow said. "But I read her three novels and read *Tree* again." The resonance led Yow to research, where she found plenty of documents in the Wilson Library and many people who knew Smith and wanted to talk about her.

"She wrote *Tree* in Chapel Hill," Yow said. "I think she needed the ambience of Chapel Hill."

Meet Yow and hear readings from the book at 7 p.m., Jan. 17 at Market Street Books in Southern Village. She will also read at McIntyre's Fine Books at 7 p.m. Jan. 31.

Contact Valarie Schwartz at 923-3746 or valariekays@mac.com

**RECENTLY... FROM PAGE 1**

Yow's book about Smith paints a fresh picture of Chapel Hill from 1936 through the early 1970s (Smith died Nov. 7, 1973). Smith knew about Chapel Hill because Frederick Koch, then chair of the dramatic arts program at the university, had been an early student of the Yale professor she had learned under. Koch's department had earned national acclaim for the statewide people's theater movement he created. She also knew that Paul Green, a philosophy professor who had won a Pulitzer in 1927 for *Abraham's Bosom*, taught in the drama program. While touring with a Federal Theater group that performed in Raleigh, she took the bus to Chapel Hill and brazenly (for the day) approached Koch, who called Green into the meeting, where both men agreed to pursue grants that would allow Smith to work for the Federal Theater Project at the University of North Carolina.

A few months later, Smith returned from New York by train with her youngest daughter, Mary, who asked her mother how long they would stay here.

Yow writes, "Betty replied, 'Forever.' And so she did: this was the town where Betty Smith lived the second half of her life."

**Community Calendar**

Got an event you'd like to see in our calendars?

email us at: calendar@carrborocitizen.com or drop us a line: P.O. Box 248, Carrboro NC 27510. Please send calendar items no later than one week prior to publication.

**Special Events**

**Orange County Bill of Rights Defense Committee** will show a 54-minute DVD of a recent keynote talk, "Marisol Jimenez-McGee Addresses Current Situation Facing Undocumented Immigrants," at the Chapel Hill Public Library. Thu, Jan 17, 7pm. Call 942-2535 for more info.

**Umstead State Park** will host "A Walk in a Ranger's Shoes," a 1.5-mile hike with a ranger who will discuss natural processes and park management. Sat, Jan 12, 3pm. Reservations required. Call 571-4170. Umstead State Park will host "Basic Land Navigation," and will teach skills in using a map and compass. Sun, Jan 20, 2pm.

**Kids**

**Toddler Time** — At the Carrboro Branch Library. Every Thursday at 4pm. For more info, call 969-3006.

**Preschool Story Time** — At the Carrboro Branch Library. Every Saturday at 10:30am. All preschoolers are invited to this free program. For more info, call 969-3006.

**ComedySportz 4 Kidz** - Games & improv for the 12 & under crowd. Saturdays, 5pm. \$10, students \$8, kids under 5 \$5. DSI Comedy Theater, 200 N Greensboro St, Ste B-11, Carr Mill Mall, Carrboro, 338-8150, www.dsicomedytheater.com.

**Express Yourself** - Art program for ages 3-8 & their caregivers. Weekly art projects for children & adults to explore their own creative paths; registration requested. Saturdays, 10:45-11:15 & 11:30am-noon. \$2. Kidzu Children's Museum, 105 E Franklin St, Chapel Hill. 933-1455, www.kidzuchildrensmuseum.org

**Volunteers**

**Meals on Wheels** — Seeks volunteers to deliver meals and/or bake

simple desserts for recipients in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro area. For more info, call 942-2948.

**Goathouse Cat Refuge** — Seeks volunteers to help with rescued cats & kittens. For more info, call Bonny at 545-2825 or email her at brooze@embarqmail.com.

**Orange County Literacy Council** is looking for Adult Basic Education/GED tutors. To become a tutor, volunteers must attend one orientation and one training session. Orientations: Fri, Jan 25, 10am to noon; Mon, Jan 28, 6-8pm; or Wed, Jan 30, 1-3pm. Training sessions: Fri, Feb 8, 9:30am to 1pm; Mon, Feb 11, 5:30-9pm. Call 933-2151 or 732-0868 for more details.

**English as a Second Language Conversation Club** seeks volunteers to talk with groups of international students on Fridays (beginning Jan 25). 11:30am to 1:30 pm. University Methodist Church on Franklin Street. Call 967-1448 or email harwellja@bellsouth.net.

**Health**

**Living with Advanced/Metastatic Cancer** — A biweekly support group. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month, 3:30-5pm. Drop-in, no charge. Cornucopia House Cancer Support Center, Chapel Hill. 401-9333, www.cornucopiahouse.org.

**Museums**

**Planetarium & Digital Theater Shows** - Science LIVE Demos. Ongoing. Morehead Planetarium, 250 E Franklin St, Chapel Hill. Info hotline 549-6863, office 962-1236, tickets 843-7997. Thu-Sat 10am-5pm, 6:30-9:15pm. Tickets \$5.25; \$4.25 seniors, students & children. For more info, visit www.moreheadplanetarium.org.

**Wilson Library** — A *Nursery of Patriotism: The University at War, 1861-1945*. Exhibit on war's

historic impact on UNC-Chapel Hill. In the Manuscripts Dept (4th floor) at Wilson Library, UNC Campus, through Feb. www.lib.unc.edu/spotlight/universityatwar.html.

**Terry Seymour**, author of *A Guide to Collecting Everyman's Library*, will give the lecture "The Adventures of a Collector" to celebrate the opening of the exhibit "The ABC of Collecting Everyman's Library." Thu, Jan 17, 5:45pm. Pleasants Family Assembly Room, Wilson Library, UNC Campus. Free and open to the public. Call 962-4207 or visit www.lib.unc.edu/spotlight/2008/everymans.html for more info.

**Theater**

**PlayMakers Repertory Company** will present playwright Lisa Kron in the one-woman play *2.5 Minute Ride*. Kron weaves the story of a pilgrimage with her father to Auschwitz with a tale about visiting the roller coaster capital of the world in Ohio. Jan 9-13, 8pm nightly and 2pm on Jan. 13. \$24 to \$32. Tickets available at www.playmakersrep.org or (919) 962-PLAY.

**Dance**

**Havana Nights** — Cuban Salsa. 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 10pm. Mansion 462, 462 W Franklin St, Chapel Hill, 967-7913, www.mansion462.net.

**Salsa/Mambo** - 3rd Saturdays, lesson 8pm, dance 8:30-11pm. \$7, 358-4201, salsa\_4u2@yahoo.com. Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 4702 Garrett Rd, Durham (Hillsborough).

**Ballroom** - Dancing. 4th & 5th Thursdays, 7-9:30pm, \$2. 933-8982. Seymour Senior Center, 2551 Homestead Rd, Chapel Hill, 968-2070.

**Studio A Dancers** present a dance theater performance of "The Last of the Really Great

Whangdoodles," adapted from the book by Julie Andrews Edwards. Performances Saturday Jan. 19 at 2pm and 6pm. East Chapel Hill High Auditorium. \$5. Tickets are available at Dancentre (967-4100/www.dancentre.net) and at the door. The performance will be narrated and is appropriate for young audiences.

**NC Squares** will host a Square Dance on Saturday Jan. 12 at Pleasant Green Community Center. Lessons 7:30pm, dance 8pm to 11pm. Partner nor experience necessary. Real live old-time music with the Carolina Cut-Ups & caller Aaron Ratcliffe. \$7 general, \$5 students. Contact 732-8259, or visit www.ncsquares.com for more info.

**Triangle Swing Dance Society** will host Swing Dancing with Bill Newton & BBQ at the Carrboro Century Center. Sat, Jan 12. Lesson 7:30pm, dance 8-11pm. \$5 to \$11. No partner needed. Visit www.TriangleSwingDance.org for more info.

**The Carolina Song & Dance Association** will present a contra dance at the Carrboro Century Center, with a live caller and music by the Carolina Cut-Ups. Fri, Jan 18. Lesson 7:30pm, dance 8pm. \$8 donation requested. Please bring clean, soft-soled, smooth-soled shoes. Call 967-9948 or visit www.csda-dance.org.

**Comedy**

**Literary Discussion/Open Mic** - For poetry, music & short fiction. Tuesdays at 7pm, Market Street Books & Maps, Southern Village, 610 Market St, Chapel Hill. 933-5111, www.marketstreetbooks.com.

**Other**

**VITA**, a free tax assistance program for low- to middle-income clients, begins Feb 1. Visit www.co.orange.nc.us/aging/VITA.asp for requirements and more info.

**Got a Community Event you'd like us to know about?**  
Send your suggestions to editor@carrborocitizen.com

**Community Briefs**

**Arts workshops**

A free workshop on textile art will be part of an exhibit of textiles curated by local artists Anita Wolfenden, Linda Carmel and Nerys Levy at the Carrboro Branch Library.

The exhibition features 21 local textile artists and is designed to present the range of possibilities in fiber art — from wool and felt to silk, paper and soft sculptures.

At the January 20 reception from 2 to 4:30 p.m., demonstrations of some of the processes involved in the production of textile art will be given. During the life of the exhibition, the library will hold a free art workshop led by one of the show's participating

artists. The exhibit is made possible by the Friends of the Carrboro Branch Library and the Fowler Foundation. For more information, call 969-3006.

On Saturday, Jan. 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the library will feature a workshop based on the library's current art exhibit, "Water, our most precious resource." Artist Sudie Rakusin will teach a free art workshop on the theme "Underwater animals and plants," based on her altered book techniques.

Spaces at the workshop are limited. Children under 10 must be accompanied by adults. To enroll, please call the library at 969-3006. Supplies list given on enrollment.

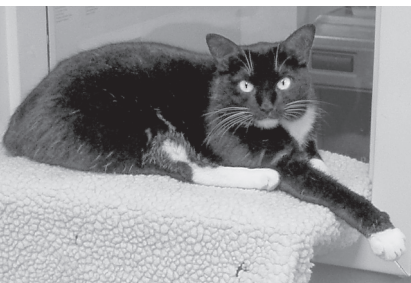
**PETS OF THE WEEK**

**ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES** — This sweet boy may be named Mystery, but he isn't hiding anything! He's around a year old, knows how to sit, loves people and wants to find a new family as soon as possible! Mystery has been waiting a very long time to find a new home, and wants so much to make you happy! Come check this handsome guy out. Stop by Orange County's Animal Shelter, 1081 MLK Jr. Blvd, Chapel Hill, or call 967-7383. You can also see him online at www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp.



**PAPS OF ORANGE COUNTY** — Meet Bunny! She's a 2-year-old Japanese Bobtail. Her **Purrrrrrrsonality Profile**: I am an alert and inquisitive young lady. I accept loving from anyone and everyone. I do well with other cats, yet wouldn't mind being the sole Queen of my new abode.

Stop by Orange County's Animal Shelter, 1081 MLK Jr. Blvd, Chapel Hill, or call 967-7383. You can also see her online at www.co.orange.nc.us/animalservices/adoption.asp.



**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY EVENTS**

to First Baptist at 106 N. Roberson Street for the annual service commemorating King's life. The Rev. Curtis Gatewood, former president of the Durham Chapter of the NAACP, is the featured speaker at the 11 a.m. service.

**CARRBORO/CHAPEL HILL**

**JAN 13**  
The Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist will hold a commemoration for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. entitled "The spirit of power and love" on Sunday, January 13, 2008, 9:30 and 11:15 am. With Rev. Curtis Gatewood, Associate Pastor, First Baptist Church in Oxford and 2nd VP of NAACP, at The Community Church of Chapel Hill, Unitarian Universalist, 106 Purefoy Rd, Chapel Hill, NC. For further information, contact Lлевis2001@earthlink.net or call Lori Hoyt at 968-1888.

**CHATHAM COUNTY**

The annual Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast will be held Saturday, Jan. 19 at 8am at the Holy Trinity Church in Siler City. Donation is \$8 For more information, contact Alma Taylor at 774-8492.

**TRIANGLE WIDE**

The 27th annual Triangle Interfaith Prayer breakfast will be held Monday, Jan. 21 at 8 a.m. at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Research Triangle Park. The event is free nd open to the public. Information is available on the web at www.king-raleigh.org. Dorrs open at 7:15am

**ON CAMPUS**

**JAN 20**  
6pm — 23rd Annual University/Community Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet, William & Ida B. Friday Center for Continuing Education, Keynote Speaker: Rev. Chancy R. Edwards, Pastor Emeritus, First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC and senior advisor to

the governor of North Carolina. To purchase tickets, please contact 962-6962 or visit unc.edu/diversity/mlk/schedule

**JAN 21**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Observance  
• Day for Service, 8:30 a.m., Meet at Great Hall, Carolina Union  
• MLK Youth Leadership Program, 9:30 am www.unc.edu/rocto.

• He Was a Poem: A Gathering in the Tradition, 7 pm Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum, The Sonja Haynes Stone Center

This event will explore King's legacy through music, poetry and spoken word with musician Bradley Simmons of the Duke University Djembe Ensemble, poets Michael and Lita Simanga and spoken word artist Kim Arrington.

**JAN 22**

• Candlelight Vigil, 6:30pm, Mc-Corkle Place, around the Old Well  
• MLK Keynote Lecture: Ruby Dee and Presentation of 26th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship, 7pm, Memorial Hall, Ruby Dee UNC Students: free tickets available, Jan 10, General Public: free tickets available Jan 16. Limit 2 tickets per person. Memorial Hall Box Office Information: 843-3333

**JAN 23**

• Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest, 7:30pm, Caberet, Carolina Union, Oratorical contest participants will address "From Dreams to Reality: The Illusion of Full Inclusion."

**JAN 24**

• Screening and Discussion, 5pm, Auditorium, Fedex Global Education Center, Join filmmaker Michele Stephenson for the North Carolina debut of "Faces of Change," an award-winning docu-

mentary following the stories of five activists working to eradicate racism in New Orleans, Mauritania, India, Brazil and Bulgaria. A discussion with the filmmaker will follow the screening.

• Unity Dinner, 7:30pm, Seminar Rooms and Gallery, Campus Y Carolina students from an array of organizations will come together to share dinner and make new connections. Registration is limited.

**JAN 25**

• The Lived Experience of Race: Reflections on "A Class Divided" and MLK's Dream of a Better Tomorrow, 12:15pm, 1:15pm and 2:15pm, Great Hall, Carolina Union

In this experiential screening, participants will be seated based on eye color to view selections of the PBS documentary "A Class Divided," which recounts school teacher Jane Elliot's "blue eye, brown eye" exercise, and Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech.

• "I, Too, Sing America": The New Frontier, 7pm, Great Hall, Student Union,



**puzzle solutions**

AMIDST SPOCK SLAP SAO  
POTATO TERRA AONE TUX  
EVERYWHERE IS LAYASIDE  
DEMEAT HEAD COLLIN  
FARM REAMED NOLTE  
VAPORS MUSLIN DUCT  
AWARE PAMPER WALKING  
MAR SWARM JOWL ELM  
PITT ENVY SPOON ELWES  
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DISTANCEIFY YOUHAVE  
FAWLTY HALF PLATEAU  
CHILI TWILL OPTS DLVI  
CAT BOOT WOREA AUG  
THETIME TERESA MENLO  
CAKE MALONE PINDAR  
WALDO GABLES VENDR  
CHEAPLEDA POE ITTS  
HISTORIC STEVENWRIGHT  
ONO LINK CARET ENDORA  
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