

RECENTLY  
FROM PAGE 1

“I knew that just the art of the people who worked for me would fill the restaurant,” Neal said, realizing a show there would further uphold women and, thus, the mission of the center.

She offered the suggestion, and in 1984 an art show was inaugurated with ice cream replaced by hors d’oeuvres and wine.

It was a hit. “They raised \$5,000,” Neal said. It was much better than the \$500 scooped from ice cream.

The late Didi Dunphey, a dedicated feminist, artist and huge supporter of the center, named the annual exhibit “Through Women’s Eyes,” and a few years later, when crafts by women were included, “By Women’s Hands” was added to the title.

In 1989, the Women’s Center opened in its present location at 210 Henderson St. and the show moved there, with Neal and Dunphey continuing to hang the art, in an event so popular that it became a juried show with artists donating a portion of sales to the center.

A new hanging partner entered the picture for the 1994 show, after Perry Deane Young moved into the basement of the Women’s Center in. He proves that the organization that impacts more than 4,000 women, girls and their families each year also helps men.

An author and journalist, Young returned to Chapel Hill to complete his degree. “I put an ad in the paper saying, ‘Expert gardener and handyman will exchange work for place to live.’ One of the carpenters of the remodel when the Women’s Center moved in had put an apartment down there,” Young explained.

Raised on his family’s plant nursery, Young (who is an uncle of the beleaguered Andrew Young, the former aide to John Edwards) has made it his business to always have something

blooming on the grounds of the center, where financial and legal education are provided, adolescent-empowerment programs are held and support groups meet, among other services.

The annual fundraiser grew into a weeklong series of events held at the George Watts Hill Alumni Center, then later at the Chapel Hill Sheraton. Last year, with the need to increase profits during a slow economy, the art show returned to its home base with a tent erected in the parking lot.

“It was magical,” Young said. “There was a disc jockey and dancing until 2 a.m.! It was the most fun I’ve ever had at a fundraiser.”

But it wasn’t Young’s first time experiencing magic from the organization.

“The Women’s Center for me was a lifesaver,” he said. Last year when Young underwent eight weeks of radiation for prostate cancer, he was well cared for by the staff. “They were like family,” Young said. “They were there when I needed them. Anne Gerhardt, the executive director, is really wonderful, and we became very close.”

This year, the main event of Through Women’s Eyes, By Women’s Hands will be a cocktail reception held on March 5 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Women’s Center, that will feature signature dishes prepared by local women chefs. The art, which will be hung in the house (and may be previewed at womenspace.org), will be exhibited through April 9. Tickets are \$75.

Neal and Young look forward to the parts they play in the show, and Neal looks forward to the opportunity to add another piece of art to her wonderful collection.

“Almost all of the art in my home has been bought at the Orange County Women’s Center shows,” she said. “These pictures bring back happy memories of the show over the years, and their beauty blesses my home.”

Call 968-4610 for more information.

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OBITUARIES

Mary Haynes Spence Wilson

The earthly life of Mary Haynes Spence Wilson came to an end on the morning of Feb. 11, 2010, at the Pavilion in Croasdaile Village in Durham, N.C. For the decade leading up to her 90th birthday, New Year’s Day 2009, Mrs. Wilson lived independently in the Abbotswood at Irving Park retirement community in Greensboro. Soon after turning 90, her health declined rapidly and she was moved to a skilled-nursing facility in Durham to be close to her younger son and his family.

Harry and Olive Haynes were thrilled to welcome Somerville, N.J.’s first baby of 1919, a daughter they named Mary. In 1939, Mary married Thomas Brand Spence Jr. Together they had two sons, Harry Haynes Spence, retired from the United States Army in Washington, D.C., and David Alexander Spence, a resident of Durham. The Spence family moved south to Greensboro in 1952, just in time to become charter members of the new Star-mountain Presbyterian Church. Sadly, that marriage ended two years later. By 1956, Mary had fallen in love again and married Paul James Wilson (co-owner of the C.H. Slater Realty and Mortgage Company), thereby adding three stepchildren to her home, Patricia Wilson Riddle, now deceased; Catherine Wilson Kimel, wife of Greensboro attorney Jim Kimel, and Paul James Wilson Jr., now residing with his wife, Joline, in Mililani, Hawaii.

With five children to raise, Mary Wilson focused on being a homemaker, but she also found time to faithfully serve as a community volunteer. For more than three decades, she was a regular with the Wesley Long Hospital Auxiliary, thoroughly enjoying her weekly assignments. She also volunteered for many years at Greensboro Urban Ministry. In later life, she especially enjoyed needlework, her favorite game shows, Carolina basketball and

weekend NASCAR on television. She would have been thrilled with the news that her personal friend Mark Martin had the pole position last weekend at Daytona.

Mary Wilson is survived by her children, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Funeral arrangements are through Walker’s Funeral Home in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Jesse Satia

Jessie Satia, Ph.D., died at her home in Chapel Hill, N.C. on Feb. 4, 2010, after a long illness. Dr. Satia was associate professor of nutrition and epidemiology at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. She also was special assistant to the dean for diversity. Born in the state of Washington, Dr. Satia grew up in Cameroun. She returned to the U.S. and earned a bachelor of science degree in microbiology, a master of science degree in laboratory medicine, a master of public health degree in epidemiology and a doctorate in nutritional epidemiology, all from the University of Washington at Seattle.

Dr. Satia was a postdoctoral fellow and later a research assistant professor at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. She joined the UNC nutrition department faculty in 2002 as an assistant professor. She also became a member of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center in 2002. For two years, Dr. Satia worked in the department of global epidemiology at Amgen Inc. in Thousand Oaks, Calif. She returned to UNC in late 2005 as an assistant professor of nutrition and epidemiology and special assistant to the dean for diversity. In 2007, she was promoted to associate professor, tenured in the departments of nutrition and epidemiology. She was passionate about reducing health disparities and understanding the nature of those disparities, especially in cancer. She also was helping

the school increase recruitment of diverse faculty members. During her career, Dr. Satia published more than 65 papers and authored two book chapters. Her numerous awards and honors include the Graduate Student Fellowship Award from the University of Washington and the New Investigator Award from the American Society of Preventive Oncology in 1999. In 2001, she won the Dannon Leadership Institute’s Nutrition Leadership Institute Award. She has been a three-time recipient, in 1999, 2001 and 2003, of the Minority Research Scholar Award given by the American Association for Cancer Research.

The overarching focus of Dr. Satia’s research was the association of nutrition- and diet-related factors with chronic diseases, particularly human cancers. Her primary research interests were cancer etiology, nutritional epidemiology (dietary assessment), minority participation in research studies and cancer survivorship. She conducted research to study relationships between various dietary factors (including dietary supplements) and colorectal, lung, bladder and prostate cancer risk, with an emphasis on racial and ethnic disparities. She also helped develop simple and practical dietary assessment tools that are adaptable to diverse ethnic and racial populations and in the use of nutrient biomarkers in diet and cancer research.

Dr. Satia explored various methods and strategies to recruit African-Americans into research studies for cancer prevention and control. She also assessed and monitored trends in health-related behaviors among colon- and prostate-cancer survivors and examined whether health behaviors impact cancer prognosis and survival. She served on a number of external committees that address cancer and disparity issues at the local, state and national levels. She was involved with the National Institutes of Health in the Integrative Nutrition and Metabolic Processes Program, the Health Disparity Research in Prostate Cancer Program and the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program. At UNC, she was a member of the Campus Partnerships for Health Committee on Recruitment and Retention of Minority Faculty of Color and the Campus Partnerships for Health Working Group on addressing health disparities.

In addition to her university and community service, Dr. Satia was a member of a number of national societies that are prominent in the cancer and public-health field, including the American College of Epidemiology, American Association for Cancer Research and the Association of Schools of Public Health’s diversity committee.

She is survived by her parents, Drs. Benedict and Philomena Satia, of Bothell, Washington and two younger sisters.

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