

## The Woods

From our western windows we now look out on woods that are nearly bare. Many of us have noticed that the colors this fall were particularly splendid. One sugar maple outside my window became a glorious Burning Bush. All that was missing to make late autumn complete (your editor speaking for herself here) was the rhythmic scraping of bamboo rakes and the smell of smoke rising from burning leaves.



## Local Flora

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Trees such as sugar maples that produce large amounts of glucose, (*maple syrup in their specialty!*) often have red leaves in the autumn because of the red pigment that develops from the sugar. When a maple tree doesn't get enough sunlight, the trees will show only orange and yellow leaves, which are the other two pigments available. When red pigments do develop, they usually conceal the lighter colors. Bright sunlight and cool temperatures at night are

essential to having the leaves change color. This is why maples are so wonderful in our part of the world.

*Betty Graham*

## A Note About Common Time From Your Social Committee

Common Time, each Friday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., continues to be the most popular of the social events shared by University Commons residents. Its success depends, of course, on the active participation of many Commoners. The Social Committee estimates that to ensure that there are always weekly Common Time "hosts," each resident should agree to sign up for that responsibility once every three months. Sign up schedules are posted on the mailroom bulletin board.

The Committee also reminds residents that *each attendee* at Common Time may bring either an hors d'oeuvre to share or a bottle of wine, or a six pack of beer or pop, or contribute \$5 to the "kitty" jar, placed at the entrance to the Brass Rail Café, beside the box of name tags. This means that two people would bring two hors d'oeuvres, or two bottles of wine or two six packs of beer or

pop, or \$10. The cash is used to pay for the plates, napkins, cutlery, or trash bags, or occasionally to fund edibles for a special event. The Committee thanks you for your participation and cooperation

*The Social Committee*

## News from the Revived Program Committee

An enthusiastic response from nine residents launched the first meeting with Claire T. and Alisande to discuss ideas for resident collaboration in future program planning. Some ideas have already been put in motion. Don Smith is seeing to it that we have movies! We want to resume Sunday evening gatherings, also led by residents. Bob Fleming is the convener. Yi-tsi Feuerwerker suggested a session on women students and faculty during the '50's and '60's. This will take place on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Other ideas being considered are current events discussions, play-reading, and a literature study group. We welcome ideas from EVERYONE.

We also plan to take charge of hosting the refreshments after our evening and Sunday afternoon happenings (such as the UM student recitals) and

will have a budget to cover wine, refreshments, etc. We are looking for **hosts** and **Concert Cookie Bakers** for these occasions (cookie batches to be frozen). To volunteer for either task, please contact Elizabeth Dexter or Bette Michael (Note: there are other members of the committee but the editor does not have a complete roster). We are off to a good start and will post a list of scheduled events after the first of the year. Please join us at our next meeting, Tuesday, December 9, at 3:00 PM in the private dining room.

*The Program Committee*



### **Favorite Events**

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, we had the pleasure of hearing a lecture delivered by one of our own residents. Dr. Fan Parker, retired professor of Russian literature at City University of New York, lectured to the community and guests on aspects of Vladimir Nabokov's Lolita. Dr. Parker presented several of the protagonists and analyzed the pathological nature of their relationships. She emphasized the victimization of the child Lolita at the hands of a rejecting mother and predatory stepfather. We found Dr.

Parker's knowledge and enthusiasm for her subject extraordinary. Two members of the University of Michigan library staff joined Dr. Parker, adding comments on the life of Nabokov and the library's special collections. Dr. Parker displayed copies of Lolita in a multitude of languages.

### **Local Art**

The art committee continues to receive gifts and works on loan. Several new residents have offered a large number of fine works, for which we are immensely grateful. You still have a chance to take a docent-led tour on several floors: on November 21st, tour Woodbridge South floor 4; December 5<sup>th</sup>, Woodbridge South floor 2; December 19<sup>th</sup>, Woodbridge North floor 2. These start at 4:00 and end just before Common Time begins at 4:30.

### **Giving Time to the Community**

Please consider serving as a mentor for the UM International Students Office, which, in collaboration with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Washtenaw County, brings locals in contact with newcomers from abroad. You will help a foreign student adapt to our ways and improve conversational skills. To explore further, call Bimal Chaudhry at 712-3625.

### **Security Alert (Replay)**

We are reprinting part of the message from Lydia Bates from our last newsletter: **PLEASE DO NOT LET ANYONE IN** after hours unless they are visiting **YOU**. Even if someone tells you they are expected, you must ask them to use the keypad outside the doors to call the person they are visiting, who can then choose to let them in or not. It would also be a good idea, if you have visitors who are leaving, to remind them not to let anyone else in the door when they leave. Thank you for your helping to maintain the safety of our residents.

*Lydia Bates*

**A post-script:** Some of us might need to be reminded of the way to use the phone to let folks in. When you get a call from a guest in the foyer, you release the inner doors in Woodbridge North and South by **pressing the number 6 on your phone keypad and hanging up**. This opens the door for about 10 seconds.

### **SEND IN YOUR NEWS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!**

Write on a topic of your choice. How about reporting on a great trip, memorable feast, or special concert; a superb joke, even!! Send your ideas and articles to:

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