

# *The Confederate Home and College*

62 BROAD STREET • CHARLESTON • SOUTH CAROLINA 29401

WWW.CONFEDERATEHOMEANDCOLLEGE.ORG

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

Dear Friends,

Almost the end of another wonderful year with still more to look forward to! The Confederate Home has enjoyed some excellent lectures by College of Charleston President Glenn McConnell and Abraham Lincoln researcher John Cribb and raised a nice amount from the wonderful evening of Celebrating Charleston Cooking with Matt Lee and Jo Humphreys.

The next time you visit, be sure to look at the lovely new stucco finish and paint job on the first-floor walls. It really dresses up the eastern side of the building.

Two members of the Board of Control retired this year after many years of service to the Home: Treasurer Ettaray Simons and recording secretary Ann Rhett. They will be greatly missed.

But the year isn't over yet. Put Nov. 15 at 4 p.m. on your calendars for the annual Silver Tea. Carl Borick, director of the Charleston Museum and a student of the American Revolution, will speak to us on the archaeology of the Revolution in Charleston. Afterward, enjoy the delicious refreshments.

We are now halfway through our second century. The Confederate Home has had different missions to meet the needs of the times. Today, we are concentrating on three goals: affordable housing, preservation of our historic



*Food Historian Matt Lee*

property, and our connections through our studios to the cultural community of Charleston.

Many of our friends may not be aware of the diverse talents and expertise of our studio community and its members' integral part in the mission of the Home.

Along with your gifts, the rental income from the apartments and studios makes it possible for the Home to continue to offer affordable homes and to finance the maintenance of our beautiful buildings.

But the studio occupants bring so much more to the Home than just financial stability. They add energy and enthusiasm to the life of the Home, which in turn becomes a source of inspiration to them.

The 15 studios are home to novelists and food writers, artists, designers and crafters, painting and document conservers, an architect and a collector of antique locks. Some have been here for 20 years and more, while others are newcomers. Something creative is always going on, and yet the Home maintains its treasured quiet.

We asked our studio friends to tell us what the Home means to them. Matt Lee, who with his brother Ted explores the ins and outs of Southern cooking, expressed it this way: "Ted and I have been a part of the studio community since



*Paper Conservator Marion Hunter*

1995, and cherish the peacefulness of the Home, as well as the sense that interesting things are always being invented, reinvented or repaired behind all those doors.” But those doors aren’t closed all the time. The studio tenants value the interactions and the friendships among themselves and with the residents.

“The Confederate Home to me is about relationships,” said Marion Hunter, a photo and paper conservator for 24 years. Jo Humphreys, who wrote three novels in her 25 years at the Home (or is it 30? So long she can’t remember, she says) agreed: “I’m especially grateful, not just for the light-filled studio and beautiful garden, but also for the people I’ve known here over the years, including artists, residents, staff and board members. It’s been an energetic and encouraging community.”

And artist Sally Smith, who has found that it’s about both giving and receiving: “In the 20 years that I have had my painting studio, I have learned that The Confederate Home is all about giving. How has it given? It was founded to give widows and orphans of the Confederacy a place to live and an education when their circumstances and their lives were so tragically shattered during the Civil War. Since then, it has given affordable apartments to a community of residents, and for me, getting to know these residents over the years is another gift of spending time here.”

Geno Kollar, a locksmith for almost 40 years, worked on the locks and doors of the Confederate Home for many of those. Six years ago he moved into one of the apartments. (Yes, we do have a gentleman resident!) “The best part of being a member of the Confederate Home community is, while Charleston is changing so rapidly and with it the Old World charm it exuded, the Home maintains that charm. It will always be a reminder of the history of Charleston.

Bernard Mansheim, a retired physician, has found the Home a perfect place for his second career – writing two biographical novels about physicians and a guide to the ancient Italian town of Todi for English-speaking visitors. “It is a remarkable historic building and provides a peaceful, quiet place to do my writing while listening to the bells of St. Michael’s.”

Visitors who step off the busy street into the Confederate Home garden often say they feel as if they’ve stepped into another world. Many studio occupants treasure their spaces for the same reason.

“My one-room studio with windows looking onto Chalmers Street has been a haven for me,” mused Jo Humphreys. “I’ve written three novels here and helped produce a fourth, when the Home’s gardener brought me a young woman

## OUR STUDIO COMMUNITY

West Fraser: Artist

Carol Gardner: Artist

Hart Hagerty: Designer

Jo Humphreys: Writer

Marion Hunter: Paper Conservator

Geno Kollar: Antique Locks

Matt Lee: Southern Cooking

Bernard Mansheim: Writer

Bill Matalene: Artist

Carol Perkins: Crafter

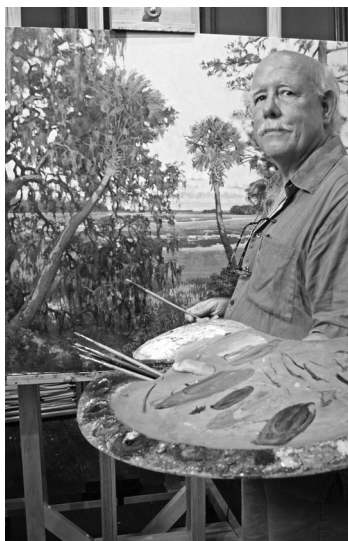
Mary Ann Reames: Artist

Catherine Rogers: Art Conservator

Sally Smith: Artist

Skip Wallace: Architect

Helen Warren: Artist



*Artist West Fraser*



*Artist Helen Warren*



*Architect Skip Wallace*



*Art Conservator Catherine Rogers*

who wanted to write the story of her life. Writing has been easier for me in the Home, without the distractions of my actual home. I can't express how grateful I've been to have this special place."

Sally Smith said of her fourth-floor eyrie: "The high windows are my breezy cooling system and Saint Michael's steeple is my clock. I enter a different world when I come inside this peaceful place. It offers a tranquil atmosphere for painting, writing and creative pursuits. I thank the Board of Control for making a conscious decision over time to keep this place both authentic and affordable. They are offering a unique and important setting for the art spirit of our city."



*Designer Hart Hagerty*



*Writer Josephine Humphreys*



*Writer Bernard Mannsheim.*

It's not taking long for the newest studio occupants to discover what the long-time people already know.

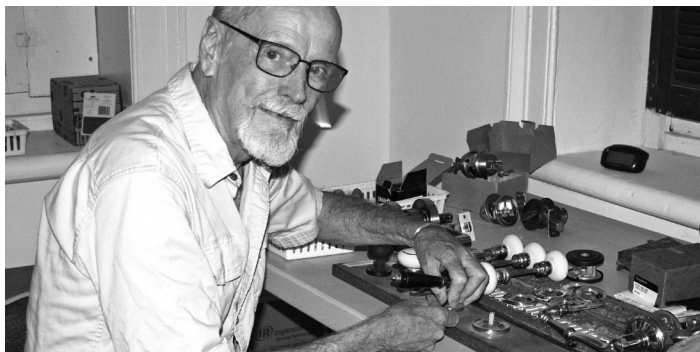
Hart Hagerty has been designing jewelry and jackets in her studio since April 2017. "I feel so lucky to be a part of this incredible community of creative, inspiring Charlestonians. It truly does feel like a second home to me, not just a workspace. I have so many fond memories of my mother's own poetry studio on the Chalmers Street side. Occasionally, I will come in on the weekends and read books about art, business and design. It's my little oasis."

Carol Perkins agrees. "I'm a crafter. I love creating ideas for things and then making them. Especially things for dogs! During the year-and-a-half that I've been at the Home, I find that the beauty and tranquility of the environment combined with the congeniality of the Confederate Home community make this an ideal 'home' for me."

The creative people inside the Confederate Home aren't always visible, but their presence is such a gift. They wouldn't be the same without their studios here, and the Home wouldn't be the same without them!



*Artist Sally Smith*



*Locksmith Geno Kollar*

Sincerely,

*Barbara H. Zimmerman*

Barbara H. Zimmerman, President  
Margaret W. Garrett, Archivist

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