



THE COVENANT

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM COVENANT WOODS, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Capturing life at Covenant Woods, and the wonderful story behind it

Guests at the October 23rd Annual Donor Reception were treated to the first viewing of a new video about life at Covenant Woods. As they watched the world premiere, laughter and applause erupted as residents saw themselves and their friends in a creative combination of still photography and video images.

The video was produced by Joanna Pinneo, who is not only a long-time friend of Covenant Woods, but is also a world-renowned still photographer. Over the course of her career, she's worked for *US News & World Report* and the *National Geographic*, where she earned an international reputation for her images. She's captured photographs in 65 countries, been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, and is included in *National Geographic's 100 Best Photographs*.



Ann Huff, Covenant Woods resident's photo taken by Joanna fall of 2010.

Many residents know Joanna, and remember her mother who lived in the community from 2001 to 2006. Joanna's mother and stepfather were among the first residents to move into the cottages when they opened, and Joanna paid a visit to them shortly thereafter. As they were

catching up, Joanna's mother asked her, "Do you know who the Marketing Director here is?"

Joanna didn't know, but that person was Beth Richardson, who was a close friend of Joanna's during their college years. They became acquainted when Joanna was studying at The University of Mary Washington and Beth was enrolled at Randolph-Macon. Their friendship grew close that they served as bridesmaids for each other after college, but had not seen one another after their busy adult lives diverged.

Joanna said, "Our getting together was just a really great find, and I feel like we just picked up where we left off 22 years earlier ...

it renewed our friendship, and we've kept up with one another since then." Beth subsequently commissioned Joanna to do some community photography several years ago, and then turned to her again to produce this film, which will be used primarily to introduce prospective residents to life at Covenant Woods.

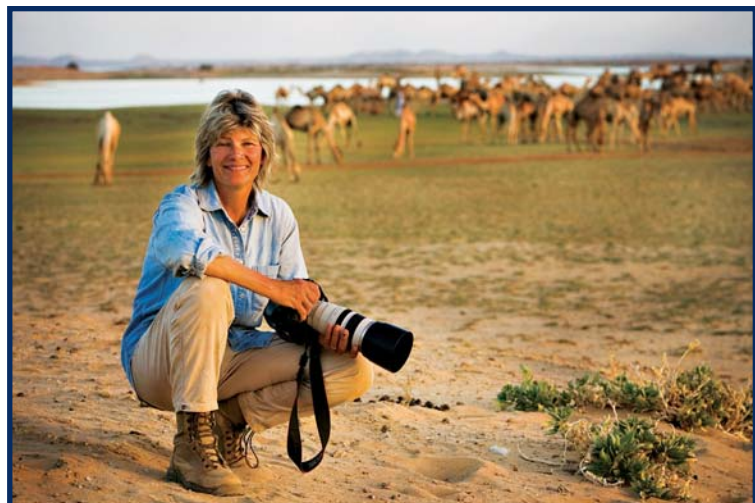
Joanna collaborated with videographer Sonya Doctorian on the project, and both thoroughly enjoyed the experience. "The idea was to use stills and video to really capture the heart and soul of Covenant

Woods. We were so well-received by residents, and everyone was so gracious and helpful.

It was just a joy to be working there," she said. She also used the occasion of the two-day shoot in September to reconnect with residents she had known through her mother. Joanna came to learn that the parents of her freshman-year roommate at Mary Washington are now Covenant Woods' residents. Through that connection, the two women reunited for the first time since the 1970s.

Joanna was born in Richmond, and after college began working as a professional photographer ... initially for the Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and then for *US News & World Report*, and finally for *National Geographic*. After years of extensive travel abroad, she has shifted the focus of her work and now lives in Denver, CO.

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Joanna Pinneo, world-renowned still photographer, in Sudan during 2006.



Photographed by Joanna Pinneo in Canadian Arctic.



Image taken in Mali by Joanna.

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Masthead photo of the Covenant Woods' nature trail in the winter taken by resident, Bob Peace.



Resident's Corner:



Mrs. Foes surrounded by her lovely paintings.

Helen Foes' life in painting

"He was helping my older son put together a dinosaur model because he was crazy about dinosaurs," she said. With him relaxed in an easy chair with the model kit spread out on his lap, Helen wanted to capture the moment. She immediately made a sketch from life, and later painted the portrait in watercolors. Beyond being a lovely piece of work, the painting clearly has a lot of personal connection for her. As she gazed at the painting, she remarked, "We had hooked rugs on the floor, and I made those slipcovers."

When Helen and Eddie moved to Covenant Woods three years ago, she went after her hobby with renewed passion. "I started taking watercolor classes from Libby Taylor on Wednesday mornings. I enjoyed that so very much." With encouragement from her husband and from Libby, she began to try new things. In one of her paintings, Helen, created a lovely, almost monochromatic tree-filled landscape. "That was Libby's suggestion one day," Helen said. "She said, 'I want you to pick a color and paint a whole picture in three different tones,' so that's what I did."

With six decades of work behind her, Helen has no intention of quitting. "I've found it's very good therapy, and I enjoy doing it very much," she said. She pointed to one of her most recent works, a striking watercolor of a brightly-feathered rooster. "I just love that rooster. I kind of feel like he's the best thing

I've done. I was able to get the exact colors that the picture had," she said.

Bringing together the gallery collection occupied much of her time recently. When asked where her hobby will be taking her from here, Helen said "I'm not sure what I'm going to do next. But I've got a piece of paper out and I'm gathering ideas!"

Helen Foes began painting seriously when she was in high school in Boulder, Colorado and continues to this day. She was invited to host a one man show in October at the Windermere Gallery in Mechanicsville. Subjects ranged from landscapes and still lives to portraits, and were rendered in oils, acrylics and watercolor. With a lifetime's worth of work on the gallery walls, she took the opportunity to talk about her decades-long passion.

"When I was young, I knew that I really liked to paint, and I took every art class that I could," said Helen. Though her priorities shifted when she was raising her three children, she never stopped. "I painted a few things during the years the children were growing up, but it sort of got in the way of raising children." One of the paintings from those years is a lovely portrait of her late husband, Eddie, which dominated one wall of the gallery.



Watercolor portrait of Helen's late husband, Eddie, helping his son with a dinosaur model.



Helen's striking watercolor painting of a rooster.

Staff profile: Covenant Woods' Executive Chef, Jeff Barry

If you love to eat, it's very difficult having a conversation with Jeff Barry without getting hungry in the process. When Covenant Woods' Executive Chef talks about his work, his love for it clearly shows, and the descriptions of menu selections he's prepared for residents here instantly make your mouth water.



Jeff Barry, Executive Chef at Covenant Woods

Jeff has been in the kitchen since he was 14. He has trained with talented chefs, and even owned a successful Richmond restaurant called The Blue Quarry. There, he fused the Southwestern flavors he grew up enjoying in Texas with Mediterranean influences, and he won many accolades and awards.

Jeff's self-described mission here is very clear. "What we've tried to do is make it so that residents are talking about it ... 'I wonder what's going to be served tonight?' We're trying to generate some excitement about the dining room," he says.

He fulfills that mission by regularly serving up "surprise" offerings. He says, "At least once or maybe twice a month, unannounced, we'll have a special dinner. No one will know about it unless they come to dinner that night. In fact, we just did one two or three nights ago where we made a veal scaloppini dish. When residents walk into the dining room and see something that they weren't expecting, it goes really far."

For these surprise offerings, he often turns to proven favorites from The Blue Quarry. "We've done Filet Portobello with balsamic sauce, which was really enjoyed. We've done veal scaloppini, and different pasta dishes with lobster and crab. The grilled shrimp with lobster sauce was a hit," he says. Are you getting hungry?

And the surprise offerings aren't limited to entrees, by any means. Jeff says, "I'll put an extra dish on the menu that wasn't advertised, or maybe a new dessert. Last weekend, we did a dessert buffet that nobody knew about. It's just little things like that."

The special attention Jeff brings is certainly noticed by residents. Dawn Rohrs is a fan, and said, "He has a lot of variety in his offerings. They are both delicious and beautifully presented. He's very creative that way, and it's just a pleasure having him."

When asked about life outside the Covenant Woods kitchen, Jeff said, "Believe it

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Annual Donor Reception

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts provides a gorgeous setting for celebration

The warmth and grandeur of the new VMFA Marble Hall was a marked contrast to the damaging storm front that had just passed over Richmond on October 23rd. And the 180 guests who had made their way to the museum through the deluge were greeted by Development Officer, Christie Jones, and rewarded with a lovely evening of dining and celebration.

This was the 7th annual recognition of those whose donations make Covenant Woods the unique and successful community it is. As servers moved through the crowd with trays of hors d'oeuvres, guests enjoyed pre-dinner cocktails and marveled at the stunning architecture and walls of pink Italian marble for which the room is named.

Beth Richardson, Director of Development and Marketing, welcomed guests to the event. In her remarks, she announced the inauguration of The Raymond T. Holmes, Jr. Community Services Fund, which had just been approved by the Development Committee the previous week. Beth said, "The Community Services Fund will be raising money to support efforts such as continuing education for seniors in Hanover County through programs like our Open University relationship with the



Emily Elmore, Development Committee Chair

Shepherd's Center. It will also support things like respite scholarships, transportation for seniors and other services that are needed by seniors in Hanover County." This new fund joins the Alex Armour Covenant and the J. Edwin Givens Scholarship Funds as part of our community's benevolent mission.

Beth then introduced Development Committee Chair Emily Elmore, who compared the museum's magnificent renovation to Covenant Woods, saying, "It took a lot of creative planning, hard work, leadership and the generosity of its patrons to make it a reality." Then she added, "This is true of Covenant Woods. It, too, has had excellent architects, good planning, dedicated leadership and a wonderful staff. But over the years, it is patrons like you who have made many excellent and varied programs possible as well as strengthening its endowment."

After a delicious dinner, the guests were treated to a "world premiere" video highlighting the beauty of our community and the lifestyle of its active and engaged residents. Guests acknowledged seeing themselves and their neighbors with laughter and applause, bringing the evening to a warm conclusion.

Raymond T. Holmes, Jr. New community - fund honors his life and service

When Raymond T. Holmes Jr. passed away in September of 2010, he left behind a long and valuable legacy of service to The Richmond Home for Ladies, Covenant Woods, and the community at large. To honor his contributions, the Covenant Woods' Board voted shortly thereafter to establish a new benevolent fund focused on the community, and to name it after Ray.

When Beth Richardson, Director of Development and Marketing, announced The Raymond T. Holmes, Jr. Community Services Fund at the recent Donor Reception, she noted that the mission of the fund will be to support such efforts as education, respite scholarships, transportation, and other senior needs in Hanover County. It's a fitting tribute to a man who gave fully of himself to his church and community while compiling a distinguished career as a businessman and educator.

Mr. Holmes was a decorated veteran of WWII, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Richmond, and went on to get a Master's degree and CPA. He was Vice-President for Finance for the newly-created Virginia Commonwealth University as it was being established. He contributed his skills and experience as a board member for The Richmond Home for Ladies during the years when the home grew to become Covenant Woods.

Long-time board member Steve Moore was recruited onto the board by Mr. Holmes during that time, and eventually served as building committee chairman after the expansion decision was made. "Ray Holmes was a leading visionary in that ... and provided some outstanding leadership to get there," Steve said. "That was an interesting time. We had the Richmond Home for Ladies — a small, well-funded organization — getting ready to become a full continuing care retirement community, so it was quite a change."

Don Tindall, who also served on the board during those years recalled, "We were trying to learn about this whole new world of continuing care, and managing the money and the foundation." Though it was a complex change and a challenging period, Don said, "No matter what the issue was, Ray never seemed to be rattled by it. He had a stability that was impressive to me." And this past

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Executive Chef, Jeff Barry,

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or not, my wife and I do a lot of cooking. We experiment with a lot of different things. In the summertime we love to get out the grill. Right now, we're playing around with making different types of candies. Before candies, we were working on flatbreads."

After a year-and-a-half of cooking at Covenant Woods, he feels very much at home. When he owned and operated The Blue Quarry, he says, "I wasn't seeing my family at all. Now, for the most part, on nights and weekends I can spend time with them."

"I love it here, and especially love the residents. They're so appreciative ... and it's personally very rewarding for me," Jeff said.

"He has a lot of variety in his offerings. They are both delicious and beautifully presented. He's very creative that way, and it's just a pleasure having him."

Covenant Woods' resident, Dawn Rohrs

Capturing Life at Covenant Woods,

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Seeing her work for *National Geographic*, it's easy to understand how she was able to capture life at Covenant Woods so well. She said, "I photographed a lot of activity, but I also tried to capture a nice portrait of each person we encountered, doing whatever they were doing."

Joanna admits that the project was something of a labor of love. She said, "I just know how much my mother loved Covenant Woods, and was really happy there." If you'd like to view the video, it's available now at www.covenantwoods.com. And you can see other stunning work from Joanna's career at www.joannabpinneo.com.



Foofie in her late 80's in Arizona.

New benevolent fund honors Raymond T. Holmes, Jr.

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fall, when the board was considering establishing a community service fund, Don immediately thought of Mr. Holmes and suggested naming the fund to honor him. Don said, "I'm delighted ... I can't think of anything more appropriate to honor Ray than something like this."

Evelyn Holmes, Ray's wife, received a call from Covenant Woods' President Tim Johnson shortly thereafter. She said recently, "He asked me if I thought it was appropriate, and I was very pleased. Ray never really sought attention, but I think he would be pleased to know that they wanted to do that. I think the idea of the fund being of service to the community would be a good thing for him."

Steve Moore agrees. "If the fund has anything to do with honesty, integrity, com-

petence, charity, or any of those kinds of concepts, that's what Ray Holmes was about. That's what his name means to many, many people, and if it would hold to that, then that fund could do wonders, because he was a wonderful man," Steve said.

"If the fund has anything to do with honesty, integrity, competence, charity, or any of those kinds of concepts, that's what Ray Holmes was about.

*Covenant Woods' Former Board Member,
Steve Moore*



Grand Illumination



Luminaries



Jim and Audrey Duval's home was part of the evenings Tour of Homes.



A day trip to Barboursville Winery



On tour at the Federal Reserve



Enjoying a stroll downtown



Lunch with friends at Comfort



Guests enjoy a horse and carriage ride at the Open House



Tom Howie character



"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" adapted by resident, Sue A. Sheaffer



Afternoon hors d'oeuvres at the Winter Men's Social

Alzheimer's Speaker Series

Please join us this spring for a series on Alzheimer's presented by the Richmond Alzheimer's Association. The programs will be held in the Covenant Woods' Community Center at 6:30 p.m.

April 13 - HBO: *The Alzheimer's Project*

May 11 - A conversation with a Pharmacist: *Medications & Dementia*

June 8 - CareFinder: *Finding the Care that's Right for You*

For more information or to register to attend please contact Elizabeth Pace at 804-569-8007.

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