

## Intriguing *People* of the Lowcountry

*Make an investment in the community and become an integral part of it."*

# Carole *Klein*

## A Friend Indeed

Carole's calm exterior belies her strong inner drive to give of herself, her strength coupled with empathy, for the benefit of the sick, needy and helpless, especially children. She also exudes the enthusiasm that attracts others to her efforts to improve the situation of those unable to help themselves.

A product of a happy childhood in the Northeast, she credits her family with her positive outlook on life, declaring, "If you are lucky enough to have the background of a loving, supportive family, it sets you up for life with optimistic expectations about people and their gifts."

She graduated from high school in Washington, DC, attended George Washington University, then the University of Michigan where she met and married fellow student Paul Klein. They moved to Cleveland and finished at Case-Western Reserve, Carole in "something soft like sociology," Paul in law. The family grew with the births of Jonathan and Lisa, and as soon as they were comfortably along in school Carole returned to Case-Western for her master's degree in child development; soon after she joined the faculty of their School of Medicine and School of Nursing. During this period she experienced the thrill of conferring on daughter Lisa her law degree. Thus continues the tradition established by Lisa's grandfather, father and brother Jonathan, who specializes in arbitration.

Carole soon began counseling the local community regarding day care centers, which were just becoming established. At the same time she became ever more interested in improving the situation of children who were hospitalized, recalling some unhappy experiences of her own. This led to an interview with the renowned Dr. Benjamin Spock, who referred her to Emma Plank, a disciple of Maria Montessori and a pioneer in helping children deal with hospitalization. Carole worked with her for a year, dealing especially with children who were to undergo a frightening procedure. Thence she became director of the program called Child Life, which operated in three hospitals in Cleveland, including the top pediatric hospital of that time, Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. Here she continued for ten years as assistant director of pediatric nursing. Throughout, she had the benefit of highly skilled and exceptional mentors, whom she credits with inspiring and sustaining her.

Having visited Hilton Head as early as 1970, the Kleins bought their first home in Sea Pines in 1979 and retired here permanently in February



PHOTO BY NEIL HODGES

of 1985. Carole's first community involvement soon came with a visit to Betty Barbieri, director of the recently formed hospice organization, who invited her back to give a talk about the dying child. Upon the retirement of Mrs. Barbieri in June 1986, Carole accepted the job of executive director which she held for 13 years. Her first challenge was to sell the idea of hospice to people who knew nothing about it. She spoke at meetings throughout the island to spread the news and her efforts attracted, in her words, "a stellar group of people" to volunteer with hospice and to serve on its board. Among these, Annalou Thomas, Anna Painter, Sid Sweet and Carole continue as board members emeritus.

But it is not all work and no play. Almost 20 years ago, Carole, with Porter Thompson and Nini Fanelli, initiated the Second Sunday film series to bring non-commercial films to Hilton Head on the second Sunday of each month from October to March. They cobbled together a list of 90 subscribers by word of mouth for the first season, starting with one showing at the Main Street Theater. Before long, demand outgrew the space and they now present three showings at the Coligny Theater accommodating over 400 subscribers. Eight films are shown per season including a bonus film in January and February. This valuable gift to the community exacts no little effort to achieve.

Carole's other pleasures include gardening, reading, cooking and traveling, especially to England to visit daughter Lisa, who is head of the investigative department of the Department of Ethics for the British government. Lately the Kleins have acquired a 1920's farmhouse in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina and are looking forward to spending some quality time relaxing, exploring the area and enjoying the view of Mount Mitchell from their back yard. Their only neighbor is a sculptor and teacher at the nearby Penland Art Center.

However, she is not abandoning her primary interest in children's welfare as she serves as guardian ad litem for neglected and abused children. The program requires training which qualifies her to appear in court to uphold the best interests of such children by speaking on their behalf.

Finally, she expresses her hope for those who settle on Hilton Head, "People moving here have to become part of the community, make an investment in the community and become an integral part of it."

— Barbara Hodges