



Harriet and Kimball King

Harriet and James “Kimball” King arrived in Chapel Hill with their three young children on a hot August day in 1964. The Kings were married in Chevy Chase, Maryland in 1955. They have lived in the same downtown neighborhood near Bolin Creek for the past 48 years, enjoying walks to campus

and town while still living on the edge of the woods and the creek where their children played and their eight grandchildren now explore.

Kimball King was born in Trenton, New Jersey in 1934. He attended Yale University and received his degree in 1956 from Johns Hopkins University. He holds an MA from Wesleyan University in Connecticut and a PhD in English from the University of Wisconsin. Kimball was a fixture in the UNC-CH Department of English for forty years. He has received three teaching awards, and authored and edited thirteen books. Kimball is now Professor Emeritus of English at UNC-CH and adjunct Professor of Dramatic Arts. He still teaches a few classes online through the Friday Center and is frequently asked to give lectures on the dramatic arts.

Harriet King was born in Berkeley, California, in 1933. She graduated from the National Cathedral School and Vassar College, and briefly studied archaeology at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece. She received an MA in Classics from Johns Hopkins University and a PhD from the UNC-CH School of Education in 1978. Harriet taught Latin and English at Durham Academy for thirty-two years. Upon retiring, she took a position teaching English for three years at UNC-CH. She tutored for the Augustine Project and substituted in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School system for several years.

The Kings are involved in many organizations in Chapel Hill and Carrboro that are dedicated to preserving history and culture. Kimball is former president of the Chapel Hill Historical Society and has served on the Playmakers Advisory Board for more than ten years. Harriet was a trustee of the Chapel Hill Preservation Society and participated in the Society's popular Christmas House Tour. The Kings are also active members of The Chapel of the Cross, where their children were confirmed, two had weddings and, recently, a granddaughter was baptized.

- The Kings are proudest of their quiet contributions that helped Chapel Hill maintain its small town atmosphere, particularly their active support of local organizations dedicated to preserving the history and culture of the community.
- Harriet and Kimball both note the growth of Chapel Hill as the most significant change since their arrival almost fifty years ago. Kimball identified the creation of Research Triangle Park as a particular catalyst for bringing people from all over the world to Chapel Hill and Carrboro. The Kings are both pleased that the community still has a welcoming and friendly environment despite rapid growth.
- When asked about their favorite memories, Harriet and Kimball realized that some of their fondest recollections are associated with the natural beauty of Chapel Hill and the generous nature of its residents. Harriet fondly remembers the time that her neighbors opened their hearts and homes during their daughter's wedding. When the groom's friends and family arrived from overseas, the neighbors offered lodging, food and entertainment for the out-of-

town guests. For Harriet, these generous and neighborly acts epitomize the “small town feel” of Chapel Hill.

- Both Harriet and Kimball would like to see the Chapel Hill and Carrboro communities continue to be friendly and welcoming. They hope as the town grows it will make an effort to offer more services within walking distance of residential neighborhoods and continue protecting local green-space. That would promote the “small town atmosphere” that Chapel Hill and Carrboro are known for, while allowing others to enjoy the natural beauty of the community that the Kings continue to cherish.