



# Medford Leas **LIFE**

SPECIAL EDITION

AUGUST 2000

## CELEBRATION OF VOLUNTEERISM

by Lois Forrest

This issue of *Medford Leas Life* celebrates the extraordinary spirit of volunteerism that exists at Medford Leas as residents volunteer within our small community but also in the larger community of which we are a part. The Social Accountability Committee of the MLRA was created not only to celebrate volunteer endeavors, but also to facilitate community involvement.

Medford Leas was founded and is governed by volunteers and thousands of volunteer hours are contributed by residents every month out of their deep sense of community. The entire Medford Leas community is a rich resource of talents, experience and interest in civic life. The special character of Medford Leas is a product of these shared resources.

We are all the fortunate recipients of countless volunteer hours spent by others, throughout our lives, on concerns that might be: educational, environmental, moral, religious, humanitarian, charitable, cultural or governmental. There is a natural flow that we experience as human beings of giving and receiving. This sharing of time and talents could be compared to a bank to which we all contribute and from which we make withdrawals. The more that is deposited, the more the assets grow.

As we age, it is essential that we continue to exercise our bodies, and it is just as essential that we continue to be actively contributing to the critical imperatives of a good and great society. Our contributions can be as simple as a small act of kindness or as demanding as the leadership of a major committee. The possibilities for service are ever-present and offer new opportunities for personal growth, satisfaction and fulfillment. If we have a choice, we would want to live in a society where people will respond in a caring and helpful manner to a personal emergency or need. We are the creators of such a society.

## AN ODE TO VOLUNTEERS

by Barbara Ballou

At Medford Leas the staff does well  
 In continuing care providing,  
 But hundreds of meaningful deeds are done  
 By those who are residing  
 In the main building's many courts  
 Or in independent living.  
 They live full and independent lives,  
 Enriched by active giving  
 Of talent, time and creative thought  
 For weeks, for months, for years,  
 To enrich the lives of all of us.  
 We call them volunteers.

One of the biggest volunteer jobs  
 Which can befall a resident  
 Is leading meetings large and small  
 As the MLRA president.  
 Volunteers work on committees  
 (I can't name every one.)  
 And gain personal satisfaction  
 When a job has been well done.

We've a friendly well-run library  
 For those who like to read.  
 The librarians are volunteers  
 Who serve our every need.  
 Two shops afford conveniences  
 One of them's known as "thrift."  
 At t'other, near the office,  
 We can purchase many a gift.  
 Several committees do service  
 By broadening our visions --  
 Year-round Leas Forum lectures  
 And eight thoughtful Great Decisions.

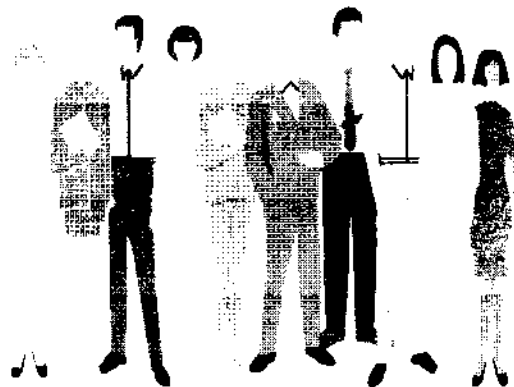
At Sports Days and other times,  
 We all can bear strong witness,  
 Beverly's volunteers do much  
 To enhance the residents' fitness.  
 Music holds a strong appeal.  
 Volunteers at Medford Leas  
 Arrange concerts here, and also trips  
 To Philly concerts which please.

Many residents are nature-involved.  
 Their contributions vary.  
 They watch the birds, they tag the trees,  
 And have a nature-centered library.  
 Duplicate bridge and progressive  
 Attract many an avid fan.  
 Volunteers run these games well.  
 (They play, too, when they can.)

There are wood shop, a camera club,  
 And a studio for art.  
 Creating clothes for children small,  
 Knitters and sewers do their part.  
 Various themes do come and go  
 In the lobby's display case.  
 Volunteers arrange fine flowers  
 To brighten many a place.

At Medford Leas the staff does well  
 In continuing care providing,  
 But hundreds of meaningful deeds are done  
 By those who are residing  
 In the main building's many courts  
 Or in independent living.  
 They lead full and varied lives,  
 Enriched by active giving  
 Of talent, time, and creative thought,  
 For weeks, for months, for years,  
 To enrich the lives of all of us.  
 We call them

**VOLUNTEERS!**



## SUMMARY RESULTS OF VOLUNTEER SURVEY

by Kay Cooley

Residents' responses to the survey on volunteerism conducted in June revealed an extraordinary range of activities. From pushing wheelchairs in the Health Center to Japanese- American translating in the Asian department of the Philadelphia Art Museum, the more than 500 engagements listed by the 180 respondents cover a wide range of internal and external pursuits. To simplify reporting, these have been grouped into eight external and seven internal categories. (Percentages do not total 100 since volunteers participate in an average of 2.8 activities.)

### Internal

**Services** (Thrift, Gift, Library, Auditorium, Woodworking, Computers, Voice, etc.) -- **64%**

**Personal/Social Life Enhancement**

(Fitness, Mental Health, Friendly Visitors, Religion, Teas, Hospitality, etc.) -- **40%**

**Intellectual/Cultural/Leisure Enhancement**

(Forum, Gallery, *Medford Leas Life*, Ballet, Orchestra, Bridge, Concerts, etc.) -- **31%**

**Assistance to the Sick/Physically Challenged**

(Wheelchair pushing, Coffee Socials, Visiting, Mail Distribution, Flower Care, etc.) -- **20%**

**Social Responsibility** (Citizens, Diversity, Health Care Issues, Social Accountability, etc.) -- **20%**

**Environmental Enhancement** (Arboretum, Tree-Tagging, Greenhouses, Plant Sale, etc.) -- **18%**

**Organizational** (MLRA Board, Lumberton Leas and Woolman Commons Committees, Budget & Finance, etc.) -- **14%**

### External

**Church** (all church-related work) -- **28%**

**Service** (Red Cross, Day Care Center, Lenape Tutoring, etc. & anything not elsewhere classified) -- **20%**

**Social Services** (Homeless, Hungry, Blind, Prisoners, etc.) -- **14%**

**Cultural Organizations** (Museums, Libraries, Universities, etc.) -- **13%**

**Historical Societies/Preservation** -- **6%**

**Hospital/Hospice** -- **3%**

**Environment** -- **3%**

**Legal** -- **3%**

Residents' volunteer work supports and sustains many activities and organizations within and without Medford Leas. The figures above show the data reported in the survey. Other residents, unable to return their forms in time, also do volunteer work. We can be proud of the contributions we make to our various communities.

## HOW MEDFORD LEAS RESIDENTS WORK TOGETHER

Over 25 years ago, the pioneer residents agreed that they would decide themselves what activities they would sponsor on the campus, and they created the Medford Leas Residents Association to carry out and administer the wishes of the residents in a democratic manner. During the 2000/2001 program year, there will be almost 80 committees under the MLRA umbrella carrying on an amazing diversity of programs and activities.

In this special Volunteer issue, we cannot do more than give the essence of these endeavors, and we cannot describe in detail the important work done by all these groups. Most of the 80 committees fall into the following three categories:

1. Committees with many volunteers who provide services for other residents. We will describe **some** of them.
2. Committees composed of volunteer members who come together to develop policies and communications in particular subject areas for residents. We will tell you briefly what they do.
3. Programs or activities carried out by a single resident, sometimes with a co-chair. These solo performers are listed on the complete Committee roster on page 14..

The complete list of MLRA Committees, with their chairs and sponsors for the year 2000/2001, appears at the end of this issue.

### **The Arboretum**

Chairperson: **Tina Mecray**

"When I was running the Planned Parenthood Center and wasn't paid, I was a *volunteer*. When I'm working in the arboretum or on some other MLRA activity, I'm doing something in my home and community where I couldn't just sit and do nothing." -- **Tina Mecray**

If you've ever seen a group of strangers being herded around the grounds of Medford Leas by residents in green T-shirts, you may realize that our campus is host to many outside groups including women's and garden clubs, adult daycare centers, professional landscapers, horticulture organizations, graduate students, and schoolchildren. In recent weeks, the arboretum guides have entertained several hundred visitors, most of whom arrange tours in conjunction with their formal meetings in our Auditorium or a luncheon in one of our dining rooms or in area restaurants. Because one of the functions of an arboretum is to educate the public about plant identification and garden design, the nucleus of Medford Leas guides is the Tree Tagging Committee and the Woodland Trails Committee.

Probably the most visible recent tour group was a couple of busloads of second graders from

Mantua, NJ, who spent four hours here and subsequently wrote thank-you letters that were posted on the bulletin board next to the bank. Several residents lectured to the children on birds, Indians, the Pinelands, and woodlands. Their picnic lunch was followed by a nature walk through our grounds.

Here, verbatim, is one of the many thank-you notes:

"June 15, 2000. Dear Friends, Thank you for our visit. That was my first time seeing a Jack in the Pulpit and seeing a Sweet Gum tree. My favorite things were the trail in the forest. I lerned that they maded baseball bats oat of the Hickory tree and that there was a plant that made poison ivy go away and a plant that was like a bndade. Your friend, Krysta Aliberti. P.S. the cookies were delicious."

Through the years, our reputation as the only arboretum in South Jersey has encouraged more and more visitors to the campus, many of whom are attracted by our unique landscape setting. These tours, of course, have the incidental effect of advertising our continuing care community. If you want to participate in our activities, contact the chairpersons listed on the last page.

### **The Friendly Visitors**

Chairpersons: **Irmgard Allen, Jim Muir**

"She invited me to cocktails and dinner and stopped in many times to ask what she could do for me." -- **Mimi Siersema**

"She is the loveliest person I ever met, and she arranged a Court party where I met all my neighbors." -- **Grace Garcia**

Do you remember when you first moved in, boxes all over the place, you didn't know any of your neighbors, and you didn't know what time to go to dinner or where? Someone brought you a fruit basket and a big red handbook, but you didn't have time to read it.

In the midst of all this confusion and frustration, there was a knock on the door and you met a smiling person who said she was your "friendly visitor" and her job was to welcome you, answer all your questions, and help you get oriented and start feeling like you belong here. "What a Godsend," you felt and you meant it.

It would be difficult to get along without the Friendly Visitors. All of them are volunteers. Each court has its own Friendly Visitor, and there are Friendly Visitors for designated areas of Rushmore, Bridlington, Woolman Commons, and Lumberton Leas. In the courts, there are also area chairpersons who cover a number of courts. There is always a need for more volunteers, and if you like to meet new people and enjoy social interaction, this might be something you'd like to do.

### The Hospitality Committee

Chairperson: **Evert Bartholomew**

This is a new committee started in 1999 in order to reinforce welcoming and orientation procedures for new residents. This committee started the "buddy system" as an addition to the Friendly Visitors, to provide a more wide-ranging and on-going orientation for newcomers who request a "buddy." It also established the hospitality tables in the dining rooms, where any resident without specific dinner plans can find friendly company for the evening meal. Volunteers are needed to serve as hosts for the hospitality table in the Colonial Dining Room. (If interested, call **Berenice Finkelstone, 3134.**) Another innovation sponsored by this committee is Game Night on Tuesdays after dinner, where residents get together on the third floor of Haddon for informal word, skill, and card games. If you've been at Medford Leas for a while and want to help new residents find their way around inside and outside Medford Leas, ask about being a "buddy" to someone by calling **Don Knapp (3184).**

### The Gift Shop

Chairpersons: **Gary Raven, Len Kahn**



The Gift Shop is the largest committee of the MLRA. In a way, it's like a business, run by resident volunteers for the benefit of residents and staff.

It takes 70 volunteers to handle all the different jobs and functions in the shop. A volunteer coordinator has to make sure that the shop is staffed by two salespeople for one or two 1½ hour periods on every day the shop is open, as posted on the door. The coordinator's phone goes non-stop when volunteers have to cancel for various reasons and substitutes must be found. There are separate buyers for the various categories of merchandise, a treasurer, someone to prepare the tax returns, and two managers.

From the annual profits shown on the books, the shop has been donating \$8,000 toward the annual sums that must be raised for the Activities Fund and the Appreciation Fund. Because of illness and for many other reasons, there is a natural turnover of personnel, and new volunteers are always welcome.

### The Health Volunteers

by **Ginny Coe**, Chairperson

"What is most rewarding for me is when I do a very minor thing for a resident in Haddon or Estaugh, such as getting them an afghan, and they will often say "I love you," or "you're so nice." -- **Ginny Coe**

When I originally joined the health volunteers, we were just a small group starting out. Now we have grown to about 45 members. Meanwhile, Medford Leas has grown also with the addition of outlying communities, so more volunteers are needed. Our volunteers push wheelchairs, visit and read to residents, help with regular recreational activities such as the Sing-Along, the Coffee Hour, and special events in the Auditorium. Some of us water plants in Woolman, help serve meals, accompany trips, play the piano and organ, and help out when there is a picnic or special sports day, shuffleboard, croquet, etc. in the Activities Room. I know I receive more than I can give. Please join us; we need you.



Some of the Health Volunteers

### The Thrift Shop

Chairperson: **Betty Macpherson**

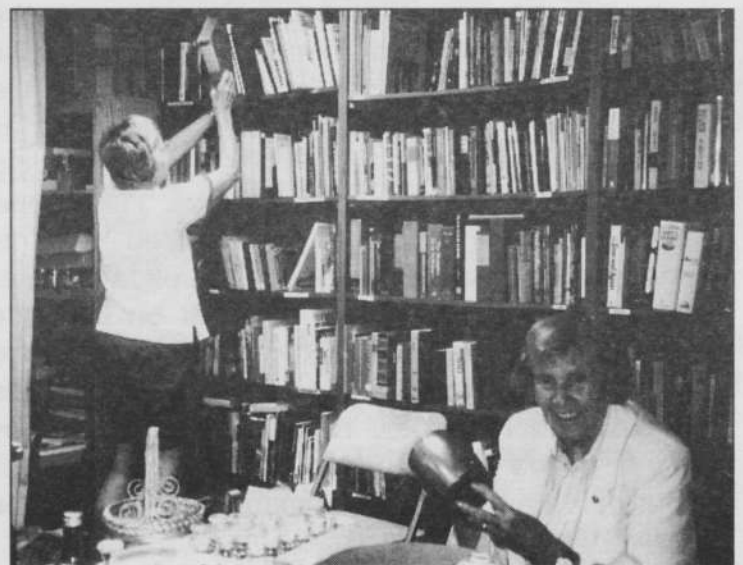
"Working at the Thrift Shop is a labor of love. Our efforts quietly and happily touch many lives -- sometimes in large, and often in small, ways." **Betty Macpherson**

Who and what makes the Thrift Shop tick? Forty-four volunteers who sort, launder, check electric appliances, and sell men's and women's

clothing and accessories, linens, books, household furnishings, small electric appliances, small furniture and lamps, and so many more miscellaneous items in four rooms at the end of the hallway past the greenhouse on the ground floor of Haddon. If you need something to wear or something for your home, chances are you'll find it in the Thrift Shop. And if you no longer need some clothing or other items, all you have to do is drop them into the big bin that's there all the time or bring them down on Monday mornings from 9 to 11. The shop is open Tuesdays from 10:30 to 12:30 and every other Wednesday evening from 8 to 9 pm.

Many of us have admired a resident's new outfit only to learn that she "got it in the Thrift Shop." Almost every resident has a story about a fabulous buy. One told of finding a food processor for \$5 after her Cuisinart stopped functioning. Another found a blouse in a perfect combination of colors to match a pant set. Just before a big party, a woman located the exact set of beads to complement her costume.

Items not sold are taken by volunteers to the American Friends Service Committee, Goodwill Industries, the Extended Hand Ministries, Old Saint Joseph's Church in Philadelphia, and the Burlington County Interfaith Hospitality Network. Proceeds from the Thrift Shop are contributed annually to the Employee Scholarship Fund.



The "best sale" of the year occurred during an auction of a small desk. One resident wanted it desperately and placed a high bid, but was trumped by a higher one from another resident. The desk was taken away -- to the original bidder's apartment. The higher bidder, it turned out, was a friend who wanted to make sure that she got her prize, and he, in turn, received a larger desk no longer needed by the happy recipient of the small desk.

### The Woodworking Shop

Chairperson: Jerry Pidcock



Most of us have heard of this shop out near the Employee Parking Lot behind the Health Center. But probably few of us are aware of the incredible range of skills and talents represented in the eight residents who regularly work there Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 11. You'd have to walk for miles in a city to find the expertise of this crew, which can repair, patch, fix, and even build from scratch almost anything that needs fixing in your home.

Each of the eight volunteers has his or her own specialty in addition to a general knowledge of woodworking. They build shelves or simple cabinets in your apartment, rewire lamps, glue together broken china, refinish table tops, make simple jewelry repairs, replace vacuum cleaner belts, repair battery-operated clocks, and much, much more. They're creative and imaginative and devise unusual solutions for myriad new problems.

Here are some of the more unusual jobs they've done: Patched a 40-year-old straw bag to look better than new; punched holes in belts; reglued shoe soles; replaced a torn-out hook in a hiking boot; installed a catch on the doors of a plastic cabinet; repainted a 6-pane window frame which the hardware store said couldn't be painted. One of the men is a specialist in repairing Colonial Room dining chairs; another made a special quilting table for a resident. Sometimes residents bring in a lamp to fix only to find that it just needs a new bulb! All work is done at the rate of \$2 per hour, plus cost of materials. The shop usually contributes \$2,000 a year toward one of the MLRA funds.

### Committees that Develop Policies and Communications

MLRA Board of Directors

Budget & Finance Committee, develops MLRA budgets and guidelines

Citizens Committee, keeps us informed on local and national issues

Computer Committee, allows residents to learn and use computers

Diversity Committee, devises programs and strategies to sensitize residents to the goal of eventually having a diversified resident population

Food Committee, an advocate for better food and dining services

Great Decisions, presents eight programs on hot-button issues

Hearing Committee, presents experts on latest hearing technology

Health Care Issues Committee, no description needed

Leas Lit, publishes residents' manuscripts once or twice a year

Medford Leas Life, publishes 10 monthly issues of Medford Leas community news

Mental Health Committee, takes up issues relating to residents' mental health

Social Accountability Committee, encourages involvement of residents with community activities and concerns

## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY AT WOOLMAN COMMONS

by Nancy Darling

At Woolman Commons, as at Medford Leas, residents have volunteer involvement in mainly three areas: Within their own community, participating in committee work at the main campus, and doing volunteer work for community, civic, or religious organizations. More than half of Woolman Commons residents report being active in their religious affiliations, from singing in the choir to serving on local and regional councils and committees.

Within the Woolman Commons community, we are organized along the following lines: **Carolyn Terrell** is our present Coordinador, functioning as chair of our monthly business meetings and as liaison with the Medford Leas campus. **Elizabeth Parnell** chairs the hospitality committee, which plans special events such as picnics and potluck suppers; she also takes care of get-well cards and flowers for residents who are ill. **Nickie Stevenson** plans monthly Out-to-Lunch/Brunch expeditions. **Helen Louise Liversidge** schedules monthly movies in the Commons Room. **Howard McKinney** is chair of the Garden Committee which reports any problems to Medford Leas; he also keeps our photograph albums up to date for our archives. **Teddy Raup, Joy Cronk, and Pat Lowe** take care of our bulletin board displays, and **Gene Raup** monitors the recycling bin and pickups. Several residents share the job of picking up mail from Medford Leas daily and delivering it to each apartment. A number of people do the much-needed chore of setting up the Commons Room for our weekly teas and other scheduled activities.

Woolman Commons residents' volunteer jobs for outside community organizations, to the extent that they were reported on the Survey or to **Nancy Darling**, are included in the general list of Medford Leas residents' community service activities on page 3.

We feel very lucky to have each other and to be a part of the whole Medford Leas community.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT LUMBERTON LEAS

by Helen Vukasin

Lumberton Leas differs from the other Medford Leas campuses in that there are several common areas that need to be managed and there will be no staff permanently on the site. That means a lot of opportunities for residents to participate -- and a lot of responsibility.

Lumberton Leas residents have been enthusiastic and cooperative in volunteering to help. Residents from Woolman Commons, Bridlington, Rushmore, and the courts are invited to join us, especially after the Community Center and the Pool are completed. Volunteers will be needed to manage the Fitness Center, Pool, Tennis Courts, and Community Center.

The LL Residents Committee is organized through an elected Council with subcommittees for each area. Following are the people to contact for information about volunteering for any of the areas:

### Lumberton Leas Residents Council

**Helen Vukasin**, Chair / Pool

**Barbara Zimmerman**, Secretary / Resident Relations

**Don Kocher**, Community Center

**Charles Morrow**, Resident Relations

**Ben Paradee**, Tennis Courts

**Milt Zimmerman**, Trails and Site

The LL Resident Council has decided that Lumberton Leas will not have any separate committees that would duplicate activities already organized at the Medford campus and will encourage interested residents to join existing committees, which some residents have done already.



### WHAT RESIDENTS ARE DOING OUTSIDE MEDFORD LEAS



"Working with a bright young mind is a rewarding experience and a tonic for a senior. Together we learned, laughed, and developed an interesting friendship." **Jane Hunter**, about tutoring at Lenape High School (Social Accountability Committee)

"We have a particular interest in this work -- transporting unsold clothing and other materials from the Thrift Shop to the American Friends Service Committee, because we were recipients of the Committee's assistance when our daughter was born while I was in conscientious objector camp in 1944." **Sam & Jane Burgess**



**Rev. Barbara Davis,**  
director of Extended Hand Ministries

"Concern about unavoidable excess food in the Medford Leas kitchen led us to discover the Extended Hand whose mission is to care for the homeless. We have become friends and facilitators for their regular collection of that food, plus clothing, furniture, and occasional special items." **Mary-Glen Morin & Jean Henderson**

### What Some Other Residents Are Doing Outside Medford Leas

Hospice Care at Virtua Memorial Hospital --  
**Fran Werrell**

Law Clerk at Camden Regional Legal Services  
in Mt. Holly -- **Nickie Stevenson**

Reviews cases for Child Placement Review  
Board -- **Bea Smolens**

Organize sales of donated books at Burlington  
County Library -- **Teddy & Gene Raup**

Serve breakfast to homeless people -- **Ben &  
Shirley Paradee**

Delivers mail, transports patients at Memorial  
Hospital -- **Stuart Palmer**

Interpret colonial history in elementary school --  
**Dorothy Kriebel, Laura Farr**

Help out in archeological collection of U. of PA  
Museum -- **Warren & Euseba Kamensky**

Assists residents in Moorestown Lutheran Home  
-- **Ruth Huysman**

Provides supportive care for hospice patients --  
**Lin House**

Help at St. Vincent De Paul Society -- **Mary  
Frances Denworth, Katharine Church, Miriam  
Angle**

Help children at risk in Moorestown elementary  
schools -- **Ken & "Cis" Cooper**

Participates in singing group performing in  
nursing homes -- **Jane Burgess**

Helps with clean-up, renovation of Camp Dark  
Waters -- **Barbara Ballou**

Arbitrates fee disputes between lawyers and  
clients -- **Gary Raven**

Mediate Small Claims Court disputes -- **Jean  
Henderson, Ellen Stimler**

Mediates custody and Municipal Court disputes  
-- **Elwood Cronk**

Mediates disputes in Burlington, Cape May  
Counties -- **Barbara Zimmerman**

Chair of Mohawk Consultations -- **Helen Vukasin**

Medford Meeting activities involvement -- **Grace  
Schaffel**

Eucharistic ministry at hospital and church --  
**Ruth Hayes**

Research, fund-raising, editing, auditing for  
various groups -- **Oz Cresson**

Archival work for Burlington County Historical  
Society -- **Katharine Church**

Transports handicapped residents to outside  
appointments -- **Betty Matlack**

Remedial reading with children -- **Barbara Gilles**

Senior consultant to Helen Keller Worldwide --  
**Susan Pettiss**

Volunteer coordinator for Burlington County  
Historical Society -- **Teddy Raup**

Makes mass vestments for Episcopal chaplains  
in U.S. Army -- **Katharine Church**

Daily telephone reassurance for Contact --  
**Margo & Herb Hinman, Pat Lowe**

Archivists for Oakwood Friends School in New  
York -- **Alson & Irene Van Wagner**

Lectures and writes about Camden County  
history -- **Bill Farr**

Spanish-language facilitator in anti-violence  
program in prisons -- **Toby Riley**

Mapping hiking trails for Cedar Run Wildlife  
Refuge -- **Saul Stimler**

Teaches courses at Learning Institute for Elders  
-- **Ellen Stimler**

The list above includes only information given on  
the recent Volunteer Survey. Because of the  
deadline for preparation of material for this Special  
Volunteer issue of *Medford Leas Life*, surveys  
received after the deadline could not be included.  
In addition, there are undoubtedly many other  
residents involved in outside volunteer activity who  
were unable to answer the Survey and therefore  
could not be included in this particular list.

### AN MLRA NIGHTMARE

by **Ellen Stimler**

One morning I woke in a cold sweat after a  
nightmare. It was all so real, I had to look outside  
my door to see if my neighbors had taken in their  
washcloths to signal that they were up and about.  
Then I dialed "2". Hearing a familiar voice reciting  
the day's events and menus convinced me that I  
had been dreaming.

My dream stayed with me all through breakfast, so  
I decided to write it down. In my dream, I

encountered a new resident who had recently moved in, and we chatted as we walked together to the Community Building. She told me she had been welcomed the day before by the Director of Residency Planning who had delivered a beautiful fruit basket, and that representatives of Resident Services and Housekeeping had visited and given her orientation. When she had asked how she could meet her neighbors, they had assured her that the Friendly Visitor of her court would soon contact her, but nobody had. She had been so busy unpacking and organizing her apartment that she hadn't read through the "Red Book" to find out about meal times. Around 6:30 p.m. she had wandered into the Atrium and the receptionist had directed her to the Colonial Room, where she was placed at a table by herself. As she looked around, she noticed that most of the other people were finishing their main course and were talking animatedly.

On her way back through the Atrium, she told me, she noticed that the Display Case was empty and the Gift Shop was closed and seemed not to have anything in it. The Bulletin Board was also bare, except for some Administration notices and a calendar with only one entry, the Executive Director's monthly Open Forum. No dates for lectures, concerts, movies, theater trips, bridge, nature walks -- nothing. There wasn't even the Committee List that she had seen on the bulletin board on her earlier visits. And there were no flowers anywhere. In the Library, she had seen stacks of cards from books that had been signed out, and returned books were all over the place. She asked me what had happened since her visit to Medford Leas three months before, because this wasn't the place she had signed up for and she knew she was entitled to a refund of her deposit if she decided to leave within 90 days.

I had to tell her that no one had been willing to serve on the Board of the Medford Leas Residents Association when nominations were sought, so the MLRA had been dissolved. As a result, the 80 or so activities that had always been organized, run, and maintained by MLRA had been discontinued, at

least for the present. From what I had heard, I told her, I understood that emergency plans were being made to hire people to run the Gift Shop, Wood Shop, and Thrift Shop, since they produced some income. As to the other MLRA activities, a very limited number were expected to be selected to be staffed, based on budgetary considerations. Salaries and benefit packages for employees to perform the various functions would run to hundreds of thousands of dollars and would, of course, result in significant increases in residents' monthly fees.

My new-found friend shrieked when she heard all this news, and her screams wakened me from my nightmare.

### A VOLUNTEER AWARD FOR MEDFORD LEAS

At its 1999 award ceremonies, the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging honored Medford Leas with its National Organization on Disability Award. The citation read as follows:

Medford Leas is recognized for making its resources available to the greater community, particularly to people with special needs. Its extensive gardens have wheelchair accessible paths; resident volunteers often host tours for disabled visitors from adult day care centers and special schools. A low-vision center, equipped with magnifiers, reading machines, talking calculators and other instruments, serves both residents and the public. Center volunteers help people with bill-paying, reading and writing letters, ordering from catalogs and selecting books on tape. Two other vision centers modeled after this one have opened elsewhere. In addition, Medford Leas makes its indoor pool available to the public for therapeutic swimming. Residents provide one-on-one assistance to children with disabilities who use the pool regularly, as do adults disabled by strokes and arthritis.

## APPRECIATION FOR LENAPE HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Eighteen Medford Leas residents, who had been volunteer tutors at Lenape High school during the 1999-2000 school year, received Certificates of Appreciation at a party on the last tutoring day, arranged by the school administration. **John Furgione**, principal, and **Ray Snyder**, Guidance Director, talked to residents individually and expressed thanks for residents' participation in the program, even though some of the volunteers couldn't always be matched with students.

Several residents were able to develop a close relationship with their students, with whom they worked regularly every Monday afternoon during the year. Several students reported an improvement in their grades. The greatest need was for tutors in Algebra, Geometry, and the physical sciences. Residents who had studied or taught those subjects 40 or 50 years ago found that, with the help of current textbooks, they were able to catch on and stay a jump ahead of their students. For English, there were more tutors than students.

Plans are in the works to continue the program starting in the Fall of 2000, and a new flyer will invite residents to sign up for it. Participants in last year's program were: **Barbara Ballou, Alice Black, Dorothy Clayton, Isabel Daly, Neil Hartman, Ruth Hayes, Elaine Heinzelmann, Ed House, Sam Howarth, Jane Hunter, Mary-Lou Mullen, Charles Peck, Grace Schaffel, David Sleeper, Bea Smolens, Ellen Stimler, Saul Stimler, and Dorothy Tillman.**

## FINANCIAL AID AWARDS FOR MEDFORD LEAS EMPLOYEES

The 38 employees who applied for financial aid from the Employee Educational Advancement Scholarship Committee received awards which ranged from a few hundred dollars up to \$2000. Amounts depended on various factors, including overall length of service and number of working hours at Medford Leas in the previous year.

The awards were made in June to help employees finance educational goals described in their applications. The money for the awards comes from a special fund established and maintained by money earned by the Thrift Shop. This year's awards totalled \$32,900, made up from a Thrift Shop donation of \$23,614, together with interest earned.

The financial aid is available for any kind of educational program intended to advance employees' knowledge or skill and would be expected to lead to a better job at higher pay, not necessarily at Medford Leas. As part of the application, each employee completes a 2-page form giving biographical data, educational experience, goals, basis of financial need, and other information. Each application is reviewed anonymously and in great detail, taking into account the individual circumstances of each case.

One applicant started as a waiter, was promoted to work as an aide in the Controller's Office, then studied for a degree in accounting. Another made this statement in her application: "I have a desire to enter into teaching, because I want to make a difference." An employee in the kitchen received money to help him complete his senior year in a general business course.

The Committee is chaired by **Kate Kwiecinski**, Assistant Director. Residents serving with her are **Peggy Fine, Joe Rich, Jerry Pidcock, and Sumi Kobayashi.**

## **Medford Leas Volunteer Day September 29, 2000**

This is a very special day for everyone in the Medford Leas community -- a day when we all come out to express our heart-felt thanks and appreciation to the hundreds of volunteers who make this place and our surrounding communities such a uniquely vital, stimulating, and caring home for us. It is also a day for us to look outside ourselves and take note of the many service opportunities all around us.

### **Program For The Day**

**10:00 AM**      **Public Meeting in Auditorium**  
**"CCRC's, Playpens for The Rich or Hotbeds of Service"**  
**An Address by Warren Witte, Executive Director,**  
**Friends Service for the Aging**

Following Mr. Witte's address, there will be a response by a Panel of three residents and then time for general questions and discussion.

### **Recognition of Volunteers**

**Remarks by Mike Peasley, Executive Director**

**11:30 AM**      **Volunteer Fair in the Garden Room**

**Major MLRA Committees looking for volunteers as well as outside agencies and community organizations using volunteers will host tables and displays explaining opportunities for service**

That day, the usual lunch will be served in the Colonial Room and Coffee Shop

**MLRA COMMITTEES 2000-2001**

(as of July 15, 2000)

<b><u>COMMITTEES</u></b>	<b><u>SPONSORS</u></b>	<b><u>CHAIRPERSONS</u></b>
Auditing	<b>B. Stebbins</b>	TBA
Auditorium	<b>S. Howarth</b>	<b>Bill Stoll</b>
Budget & Finance	<b>K. Cooley</b>	<b>Dave Wilder, Joe Rich</b>
CCRC External Committee	<b>K. Cooley</b>	<b>Kay Cooley</b>
Citizens Committee	<b>W. Britten</b>	<b>Evert Bartholomew</b>
Communications	<b>H. Harrison</b>	
Bulletin Boards		<b>Barbara Bennett, Bernice Ahlquist</b>
Copier		<b>Mary Middleton, Jerry Pidcock</b>
Mailbox In-house Distribution		<b>Margaret Lawson</b>
Master Calendar		<b>Florence Brudon</b>
Voice		<b>Fran Werrell</b>
Display Case	<b>S. Howarth</b>	<b>Todd Butler, Cynthia Mott</b>
Diversity	<b>G. Schaffel</b>	<b>Doris Shamleffer; Howard McKinney</b>
Estaugh Finance	<b>K. Cooley</b>	<b>Matt Rodermund</b>
Fire & Safety	<b>W. Britten</b>	<b>Allyn Rickett</b>
Fitness	<b>W. Britten</b>	<b>Colette Bartholomew</b>
Game Room		<b>Thurber Swain</b>
Swimming Pool		<b>Lois Rickett, Ruth Yordon</b>
Flowers	<b>A. Pennypacker</b>	
Cutting Garden		<b>Connie Bomtraeger</b>
Flower Show		<b>Lois Rickett, Aya Endo</b>
Memorials		<b>Harriet Young</b>
Plant Sale		<b>Dorothy Kriebel</b>
Wildflowers		<b>Don Horton</b>
Food & Dining Rooms	<b>H. Haskins</b>	<b>Barbara Britten</b>
Friendly Visitors	<b>E. Stimler</b>	<b>Irmgard Allen, Jim Muir</b>
Gallery	<b>E. Stimler</b>	<b>Anna Hibshman, Anne Farr</b>
Gift Shop	<b>E. Stimler</b>	<b>Gary Raven, Len Kahn</b>
Great Decisions	<b>E. Young</b>	<b>Gary Raven, Chuck Woodard</b>
Greenhouses	<b>H. Haskins</b>	
Haddon		<b>Arabelle Pennypacker</b>
Nature Center		<b>Dorothy Test</b>
Health	<b>B. Stebbins</b>	<b>Lew Coriell</b>
Volunteers		<b>Ginny Coe</b>
U.S. Mail Room Delivery		<b>Bernice Ahlquist</b>
Health Care Issues	<b>E. Young</b>	<b>Lew Coriell</b>
Hearing	<b>E. Young</b>	<b>Lew Coriell</b>
Hospitality	<b>E. Stimler</b>	<b>Evert Bartholomew</b>
Leas Forum	<b>E. Young</b>	<b>Bob Stebbins</b>
Library & Magazines	<b>B. Macpherson</b>	<b>Becky Monego</b>
Low Vision	<b>A. Pennypacker</b>	<b>Chuck Woodard</b>
Mental Health	<b>G. Schaffel</b>	<b>Beth Wray</b>

**COMMITTEES**

Movies  
 Saturday afternoon  
 Monday evening  
 Music  
 Friday Classical Music  
 Leas Singers  
 Nature Coordinating  
 Bulletin Board  
 Nature Center Library  
 Bird Watching  
 Tree Tagging  
 Woodlands  
 Nominating  
 Publications  
 Medford Leas Life  
 Leas Lit  
 Religion  
 Friends Worship  
 Vespers  
 Social Accountability  
 Special Events  
 Orchestra  
 Ballet  
 Opera  
 Rotary Adventure  
 Chamber Music  
 Theater  
 Sports Days  
 Teas  
 Thrift Shop  
 Winter Holiday Decorations  
 Woodworking

**SPONSORS**

**A Pennypacker**

**W. Britten**

**H. Haskins**

**K. Cooley**

**S. Howarth**

**B. Macpherson**

**E. Stimler**

**K. Cooley**

**W. Britten**

**B. Macpherson**

**G. Schaffel**

**G. Schaffel**

**H. Harrison**

**CHAIRPERSONS**

**Jack Allen**

**Helen Bliss**

**Chuck Woodard**

**Ed Young**

**Marion Burk**

Rotating

**Charlotte Peck**

**Wayne Marshall**

**Ray Katzell**

**John Caughey**

**Arabelle Pennypacker**

**Kitty Katzell**

**Barbra Britten**

**Ruth Bonner**

**Bob & June Medaugh**

**Evert Bartholomew**

**Karl Mendel**

**Katherine Aliminosa**

**Gene Link**

**Stuart Palmer**

**Ellen Stimler**

**Sam & Jane Burgess**

Rotating

**Ada Foulkes**

**Betty Macpherson**

**Lin House**

**Jerry Pidcock**

**ACTIVITIES**

Armoire  
 Art Studio  
 Bridge  
 Duplicate  
 Progressive  
 Computer  
 Farm  
 Large Print Library & Vid-U

**SPONSOR**

**A. Pennypacker**

**S. Howarth**

**B. Stebbins**

**B. Stebbins**

**H. Haskins**

**B. Macpherson**

**CHAIRPERSONS**

**Dorothy Clayton**

**Anne Wood; Alice Culbreth**

**Russell Hill**

**Kackie Anders**

**Walter Zwarg**

**Jack Rudolph**

**Ruth Hayes, Elsie Lisovitch**

<u>ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>CHAIRPERSONS</u>
Records	H. Harrison	Ruth Huysman
Albums		Doris Salati
Archives		TBA
Historical Photographs		
Special Interests	H. Harrison	Rotating
Camera Club		Mary Valiant
Jigsaw Puzzles		Joy Cronk, Grace Schaffel
Knitting & Sewing		Betty & Caroline Heyl
Trips (Omni Tours)	W. Britten	

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