



# Medford Leas LIFE

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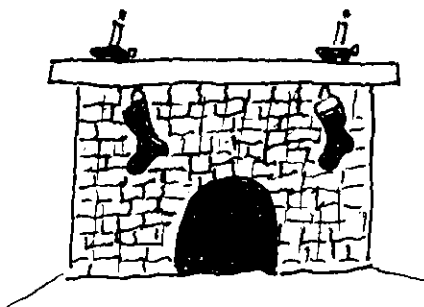
DECEMBER 2002

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

Written and illustrated by Wil Britten



Here we are at the Holiday season  
 It really doesn't stand to reason,  
 Why, July Fourth was just weeks ago –  
 and surely it's not time for snow!  
 But in years gone by we were less mature,  
 and the clock moved slower – that's for sure!  
 So, we're ready at the Leas to wish all sorts  
 of Holiday greetings to the Courts.  
 And to those in Woolman, Estaugh and Haddon –  
 May your hearts lighten and humors gladden.  
 In Bridlington and Rushmore, too,  
 The best of Holiday cheer to you!  
 And over at Woolman in Mount Holly,  
 Enjoy a season bright and jolly.  
 In Lumberton, friends, enjoy your trees,  
 and raise a toast to your home at the Leas.  
 Our spirits rise this time of year,  
 and we thank our stars that we are here!  
 A perfect place? Good Heavens, No;  
 That's where we later hope to go.  
 But for now, be it home or employment,  
 MERRY CHRISTMAS!! – and a new year of enjoyment!



## THE STORY OF HANNUKAH

by Ray Katzell

This year, the eight-day Hannukah celebration starts on November 29. Because Hannukah and Christmas fall close together on the calendar, it is understandable that some people think they are connected. But they are not. Hannukah is a minor Jewish holiday that is not even mentioned in the Torah (Pentateuch). It celebrates an incident recounted in the Apocrypha (Maccabees I and II) that is more political and military than religious.

In 165 B.C., the Syrian conquerors of Israel sought to destroy the Jewish state and its religion. The Maccabee brothers gathered a small force of fellow refugees and drove out the occupiers. Seeking to rekindle the lights in the Temple, the Jews found that there remained only a one-day supply of sacramental oil. However, that miraculously served for eight days until a fresh supply could be obtained. A special candelabrum ("menorah") is used, with nine branches to accommodate the eight candles plus a ninth used to light the others.

As Hannukah is a happy occasion, it has increasingly become centered on children, much as Christmas. As gifts, children are given a few coins commemorating the re-establishment of the mint in ancient Jerusalem. The coins are used by children to play a game somewhat like Put-and-Take, in which the outcome is determined by the fall of a top ("dreidel"), whose four sides bear the initial letters of a sentence meaning "A great miracle happened there." In the U.S., the coins are usually replaced by chocolate wafers wrapped in gold foil, molded to look like money.

The holiday decorations that Medford Leas displays include examples of the traditional Hannukah menorah, dreidel, and chocolate "coins."



## NEW DINING CHOICES

by Ellen Stimler

The Medford Leas Dining Department has a pre-Christmas surprise gift for residents. About the middle of December, they will introduce a number of new menu choices inside an elegant new green cover displaying the Medford Leas logo and tree symbol.

**Lorraine LaPollo**, Director of Dining Services, explained that the new menu additions and other innovations are based on a study and review of residents' requests and comments expressed in the Satisfaction Survey, responses from a resident-staff focus group, and the positive reactions from the MLRA Food Committee. "We want the residents to know that their voices were heard and acted on," Lorraine said.

On the left side inside the new green menu folder will be a friendly welcoming greeting to diners, plus a listing of the dining room hours and information on how to make table reservations.

On the right side of the folder is a new permanent page which lists, in separate paragraphs, all the special items which may be ordered in addition to the day's regular menu. These special items have been expanded to include hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, filet mignon, and several other new menu items. At the bottom of this page is a reminder that residents on special diets may contact Dining Services for assistance.

The regular daily menu will be a loose-page insert in the cover. The big change here is that, in addition to the two standard choices and the daily low-fat selection, there will now be two low-fat additions: A daily featured eggbeater omelet and a fresh fish entrée. At the bottom of this page will be a daily "Chef's Recommendation" which lists a full menu of "healthy choices" and gives the calorie, fat, and sodium counts for the whole meal. Lorraine is pleased to point out that, as a result of these innovations, 50 percent of all main menu choices are low-fat. Now it's up to the residents to utilize these heart-healthy dishes.

## TO WASHINGTON D.C. FOR PEACE

by Kent Larrabee

A bus load of concerned people left Moorestown at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, October 26. We were deeply concerned not only that a war would break out between Iraq and the U.S., but also that it would spread with the use of nuclear weapons on two sides. By the time we arrived at 23<sup>rd</sup> and Constitution Avenue in D.C. at 11 A.M., there were tens of thousands of protesters crowded in front of the raised platform, which was about half way between the Capitol building and the Lincoln Memorial. By 1:00 P.M. it was announced that 100,000 citizens had arrived. The streets were so crowded by scores of buses and thousands of cars that the city was shut down, and many thousands could not get close to the center of activity.

So that I could see the speakers up close, I was determined to get to the raised platform. It took me a whole hour to work my way through the dense mass of people. Thousands of peace signs made it difficult to see the speakers, who were each given about five minutes to express their thoughts. The crowd responded with united roars of approval at every expression of hope.

I wrote down the expressions of concern that were on high poles all around me. There were many thousands of them. Here is what a few of them said: MONEY FOR JOBS – NOT WAR. STOP THE WAR AGAINST IRAQ. END THE SANCTIONS. GIVE PEACE A CHANCE. THE IRAQIS ARE PEOPLE, TOO. WAR IS THE ENEMY OF THE POOR' (Martin Luther King, Jr). 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE MAKES THE WHOLE WORLD BLIND" (Gandhi).

It was very unusual to find a sign in favor of war. One read "SUPPORT OUR TROOPS TO WIN." Also, some of us were shocked to hear the well-known Jesse Jackson say from the podium, "Some wars are necessary," with the implication that this proposed war may be necessary also. The demonstration was topped off by a remarkable effort to move tens of thousands to the White House to complete our witness. By then the sun was shining brightly.

Based on computer-enhanced aerial photographs taken of the demonstration, the official count was 175,000 to 195,000 anti-war protesters.

## EVERY VOTE COUNTS

By Ellen Stimler

After they moved to Medford Leas from Philadelphia, **Joyce and Walter Haase** mailed in their New Jersey voting registrations, and in due course Walter got his registration card but Joyce did not. She waited for her card until October 5, the last day for registering. After getting from **Colette Bartholomew** the phone number to call, she was told by the County Registration Commission that her name was not on the list and that all registrations had to be postmarked by midnight that day. She was directed to get a form off their Internet site, which she managed to do, but by that time it was close to 5 p.m. A clerk at the Medford Post Office told her they were closing in a few minutes. When Joyce explained her urgent mission, the clerk offered to accept her letter after 5 if she would bring it to the back door promptly, which she did; and shortly thereafter she received her registration card and was then eligible to vote on November 5 and thereafter.

Residents moving to Medford Leas from outside New Jersey have the double problem of having to obtain both new car and voting registrations. The law requires motor vehicle registration places to have voter registration forms available. "**Bart**" **Bartholomew**, Apt. 638, Chair of the Citizens Committee, has voting registration information for those who don't get it from the Motor Vehicle Agency conveniently located in the nearby ACME shopping center on Route 70 West.

## IN MEMORIAM

<b>Eleanor Cross</b>	<b>October 19</b>
<b>Florence Ristine-Wasson</b>	<b>October 29</b>
<b>Albert B. Thorp</b>	<b>November 5</b>
<b>Beulah Link</b>	<b>November 9</b>
<b>Patricia Stratton</b>	<b>November 12</b>

## MY LETTER TO THE WORLD

With introduction by Emily Dickinson

by Helen Vukasin

"This is my letter to the World  
That never wrote to Me -  
The simple News that Nature told -  
With tender Majesty," said Emily.

So I am 80,  
What a pistol!

I say the word eighty,  
But it does not resonate.  
I don't really believe it.

I look in the mirror,  
And see a face that doesn't look familiar.

I wrap myself in activities to hide from the  
passing of time,  
And then I visit my friends in Medford.

Here's one with a walker,  
Here's one with a motorized vehicle,  
Here's one who can't get up out of the chair,  
Here's one to whom I say, "Hi, it's me," because  
she can't see,  
Here's one who looks vague and I know she's  
Not quite with it!

So I go to the gym and perform all the tricks,  
And I take on another committee,  
Determined that I shall long be the one who  
helps others.  
Not the one that needs help.

So when I am 90,  
I will say the word ninety,  
And it won't resonate, I won't really believe it!

## RESIDENTS, STAFF IN THE NEWS

**Coles Roberts and Elmer Rowley** participated in a Rotary Club trash pick-up project along Route 70, held on Saturday, September 28, which was described and illustrated in the *Central Record* of October 17, 02.

A groundbreaking ceremony for a new Medford Township school was attended by residents **Arabelle Pennypacker, Sam and Louise Howarth, and Evert Bartholomew**, together with **Jane Weston**, Director of Community Relations, and **Jackie Pacheco**, one of our receptionists, who is First Vice President of the Medford Home and School Executive Board. The assembled crowd applauded the Medford Leas contingent when Susan Mintz, Superintendent of Schools, asked them to stand while she thanked the Medford Leas community for consistently approving their school budgets.

*Waterways of Camden County*, a book 40 years in the making, by Woolman Commons resident **William R. Farr**, is being published by the Camden County Historical Society in December. The 220-page volume documents the history of over 250 waterways, based on the study and research of deeds, wills, maps, and surveys in libraries, courthouses, and historical societies. It is the first of a planned three-volume series; the second one, which is almost complete, deals with water mills in Camden County.

**Jeannie Roland**, a physical therapist, received an award for clinical excellence in wound care from Genesis Rehab Services, the parent company of our Therapy Department staff. The award was given in recognition of her willingness to go beyond routine and use all modalities in the treatment of wounds, plus teach staff and caregivers to improve the daily care of patients' wounds.

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## AASHA UP CLOSE

by Kay Cooley

On October 28, a Medford Leas SUV left the front door at 6:30 AM, headed for the American Association of Services and Housing for the Aging (AASHA) annual convention in Baltimore. **Nancy Barclay, Colette Bartholomew, Kay Cooley, Lorraine LaPollo, Miriam Ward,** and **Jim Wolosin** wanted to attend workshops and visit supplier exhibits that would educate them on the newest developments in the arena of older-person care.

As the largest national trade association for CCRC's, assisted-living facilities, non-profit nursing homes, and community service organizations, AASHA assists its members to provide "healthy, affordable, ethical services for America." Among the many forms of such assistance are various educational endeavors; legislative advocacy; publication of member "best practices;" evaluation and accreditation activities; and the dissemination of critical information through quality publications, national and regional/interest group meetings, and consulting services. Its newest program is "Quality First," the mission of which is to "achieve excellence in aging services and establish public trust in aging services providers."

After a keynote address, the morning began with two-hour workshops in the areas of design, marketing, governance, finance, and others. Providers and members teamed up for presentations on scenarios, experiences, research and other information relevant to the convention audience. Jim and I attended the "Art of Creating Community...Before Construction Begins." Two professionals explained how groups planning new CCRC's, who need to enroll residents and keep them loyal during the long period of construction, can do this by creating a virtual community.

A box lunch in the exhibit hall ensured that hungry registrants connected with suppliers. Lorraine and I strolled the aisles together, amazed at the variety and competitiveness of the enterprises spawned by the elder-care industry. We even climbed into the model bus parked at the rear.

Another workshop in the afternoon brought more insights into improving older person care. I attended "Best Practices," presentations by representatives of the five member organizations that had been chosen by AASHA's Continuing Care Accreditation Commission (CCAC) as tops in their field for a particular practice during the past year.

Conversation on the return trip revealed the stimulation, education and inspiration the day had brought each of us. When AASHA's convention comes to Philadelphia in 2008, we hope many residents and staff will join us there.

## ART GALLERY NEWS

by Helen Vukasin

The November showing of the water colors and pastels of Patricia d'Annunzio Mahoney was dramatic, exciting and very different from many of our other exhibits. We are grateful to Ms. Mahoney for sharing her beautiful work with us.

December will have the traditional exhibit of the colleagues and students of **Harry Forest**. Most Medford Leas residents who have been here at least a year know we are in for a treat. Judging from years past, it will be a smashing show with creative and innovative uses of calligraphy. The opening reception will be held on Tuesday, December 10 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Please join us for this traditional holiday art exhibit.

## TRAVEL NOTES

For travel on the Greyhound line from Mount Laurel to New York, Philadelphia, and other Greyhound destinations, seniors can obtain a 10% fare discount by requesting a Greyhound Senior Pass at the Greyhound Terminal for \$5.00. A schedule of transportation options to New York and Philadelphia, including airport limousines, is available at the front desk. The white sheet has a complete listing; the yellow an abbreviated one. Fares may have changed since their publication, so phone for the latest information.

## RESIDENT-RECOMMENDED ELDERHOSTELS

by Maggie Woodard

Many residents responded to our request for Elderhostel recommendations. Some wrote about several programs; the majority of reports described U.S. programs. Excerpts from four of those appear in this issue; the remaining reports, excluding programs no longer offered, will be covered in later issues.

Many of the resident recommendations evaluated the training and expertise of the instructors as well as their ability to communicate—important considerations when making choices.

If one's idea of Elderhostels is college dorm rooms, with food in a college cafeteria and bathrooms down the hall, one needs to know that times have changed! Most programs take place in nearby motels and hotels, and many offer gourmet food.

**Bob Hambleton** wrote that the program he and Isabel rated first of the 13 they attended was held in the Airfield Conference Center/Southeast 4-H Education Center near Wakefield, Virginia. The facilities were excellent: large motel-like rooms, with daily maid service, located in a wooded area beside a picturesque 105-acre lake. Delicious food was served in a dining room with tablecloths and waitress service. There were three receptions. The program offered two fine courses (nearby Civil War sites and battles and Big Band jazz), taught by enthusiastic and knowledgeable instructors. (The Airfield Conference Center is known as the Hilton of 4-H camps; it was financed by contributions from a millionaire and is quite luxurious.)

**Jean Henderson** speaks very enthusiastically about a program offered at Hamilton College/White Eagle Conference Center in New York: "Another Day, Another Scholar." She and **Curt** went three years in a row. Faculty members from Hamilton College, a liberal arts college, share their interests with hostellers, one each day. The Hendersons kept returning year after year because they found each day of the program intellectually stimulating and exciting. The

Conference Center is located on Lake Moraine, near Hamilton, N.Y. halfway between Syracuse and Cooperstown. The accommodations included private bath, and the food was fine.

**Barbara Zimmerman** strongly recommends an intergenerational program she attended, entitled "Living in the 1800's," at Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts, with her twelve-year old granddaughter. Old Sturbridge Village is the largest living history museum in the Northeast and is located about one hour from Boston. The children in the program were 11 to 13 years of age and there were about 15 families in the group. The accommodations were hotel-like and very nice. The food was very adequate. Barbara reports that the leadership was "fantastic." The man in charge was the Education Director for Old Sturbridge Village. There were lectures and outside speakers, but the emphasis was on the active participation of the children, and they loved it! For example, before they visited the school house in the village, they had a lesson in which an actor played the part of a very strict teacher. They learned that school was very different in the 1800's. They were fitted with costumes if they agreed to keep them intact while they browsed in the mills, shops, etcetera.

**Dorothy Garver**, on the Medford Leas waiting list, also wrote about an Intergenerational Elderhostel in Ocean City, Maryland, that she attended with her 10-year-old grandson. They learned about the history of Assateague Island and vicinity, saw the "ponies," flew kites, went swimming in the surf, learned about beach reclamation, and so forth. She reported, however, that the best part of this vacation was the bonding between grandparent and grandchild.

**Ruth Quackenbush** has enjoyed two Service Elderhostels which involved doing volunteer work. In Williamsburg, VA she helped the master gardeners replant the gardens with summer annuals. There was time to visit the historic area and hear lectures on plants, insects, and so forth. Housing was provided in a motel within walking distance of the historic area and meals were superb. She also participated in a Service Elderhostel in Assateague, MD, where she

cleared the beach of debris and helped set up the nature center for the summer campers. She enjoyed being outdoors doing something physical and liked the ocean-front hotel in Ocean City, near the boardwalk. An extra bonus for these programs is a tax deduction for part of the fee for the service "work."

Anyone inspired to try an Elderhostel will find catalogues available on the magazine table in the Lounge. To secure a catalogue or to inquire about a program, call the Elderhostel headquarters in Boston, Monday to Friday 8 A.M. to 9 P.M. eastern time: 1-877-426-8056. The address is: Elderhostel Inc., 11 Avenue de Lafayette, Boston, MA 02111-1746.

## WHO'S NEW AT WOOLMAN COMMONS

**Emilie "Louise" (Moorehouse) Evaul**, 49 Brainerd Street, Mt. Holly (518-9575) grew up in Riverton, New Jersey. She attended Temple University for her undergraduate work and then obtained a B.Sc.N. degree at New York University's Bellevue School of Nursing. She also has a degree in nursing education and is a certified psychiatric nurse. After serving in the Navy Nurse Corps during WW II, she worked at the Payne Whitney Clinic in New York City and later at Friends Hospital in Philadelphia, where she was nursing supervisor and Director of In-Service Education. After moving to Florida in 1983, she worked at another psychiatric facility until her retirement and also did volunteer work for a county Aids coalition.

Louise was married and divorced and has a son and daughter in this area, six grandchildren, and three greats who are "the joy of her life." Louise loves to cook, is an avid reader, and is very active in the Cherry Hill Unitarian Church. She says she is delighted with her new home at Woolman Commons.

by Nancy Darling



## NEWS FROM LUMBERTON LEAS

by Helen Vukasin

The leaves are turning bright red and apricot on the trees surrounding the Lumberton Leas campus. The meadow is being mowed to bed down for winter. Many residents are going off for trips before the holiday season starts.

The Activities Committee has made plans for December celebrations. December 3 is the date for decorating the Community Center. A cocktail party will be held in mid-December. The highlight of the season is a tour of several houses in Lumberton Leas with a lighting of the luminary candles in front of all the houses on December 15 from 3 to 5 P.M.. We hope to welcome friends from Medford Leas and Woolman Commons. Transportation from the main campus will be arranged. Details of the event will be available after December 1.

Repeating last year's party for the grandchildren and their grandparents, **Warren Reeves**, our resident professional magician, will astound us with his tricks on December 26 in the Community Center. Grandparents from all campuses with or without their little ones are cordially invited to join in the fun.

Again this year Lumberton Leas is planning a sale of poinsettias. Watch for a notice in your mail box. Last year every one of the poinsettias was healthy and fully bloomed. We expect the same this year.

## CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

by Kitty Katzell

The annual Christmas Eve Carol Service will be held in the Auditorium on Tuesday, December 24, at 7:30 p.m. Starting at 6:45 p.m., taped music from Handel's *Messiah* will be played. In the course of the service, several residents will read from scripture the familiar passages that relate to the birth of Jesus. The readings will be interspersed with carols, for which song sheets will be provided. The service lasts about an hour. Residents, staff, families, and guests are invited to attend.

**NEW BOOKS IN LIBRARY**by **Becky Monego**Fiction

- Bach, R. *Air Ferret Aloft v.1 (p)*  
 Bach, R. *Rescue Ferrets at Sea v.2 (p)*  
 Clancy, T. *Red Rabbit*  
 Delinsky, B. *The Accidental Woman*  
 Delinsky, B. *The Woman Next Door*  
 Faber, M. *The Crimson Petal and the White*  
 Farra, H. *The Early Days of the Little Monk*  
 Patchett, A. *Bel Canto*  
 Plain, B. *Her Father's House*  
 Quindlen, A. *Blessings*  
 Shreve, A. *Sea Glass*

Mystery

- Coulter, C. *Eleventh Hour*  
 Grimes, M. *The Grave Maurice*  
 Parker, R. *Shrink Rap*  
 Rendell, R. *Harm Done*  
 Santlofer, J. *The Death Artist*

Non fiction

- La Hay, T. *Mind Siege*  
 Magnum Photographers: *New York, September 11*  
 Ramsay, D. *Lusitania*  
 Simmons, P. *Learning to Fall*  
 Thatcher, M. *Statecraft*  
 Vaillant, G. *Aging Well*  
                   *World Trade Center*

Biography

- Ford, M. *Father Mychal Judge*  
 Jordan, H. *No Such Thing as a Bad Day*  
 Koppel, T. *Off Camera*  
 Lander, D. *Fall Down. Laughing*  
 Taylor, K. *Sometimes Madness is Wisdom:*  
                   *The Fitzgeralds*

**NEW TALKING BOOKS**by **Myra Binstock**Non-fiction

- Friedman, Thomas *Longitudes and Latitudes*  
 Kotlowitz, Alex *There are No Children Here\**  
 Morris, Edmund *Rise of Theodore Roosevelt\**  
 Schiller, Lawrence *Cape May Court House*  
 Wills, Gary *James Madison*

Fiction

- Alcott, Louisa M. *The Chase\**

- Asher, Jane *The Longing\**  
 Evanovich, Janet *Full House*  
 Oates, Joyce Carol *We were the Mulvaney's*  
 Shields, Carol *The Stone Diaries\**  
 Waugh, Evelyn *Brides Head Revisited\**

Mystery and Suspense

- Aird, Catherine *Stiff News\**  
 Barr, Nevada *Blood Lure\**  
 Buffa, D.W. *The Legacy*  
 Clark, Mary Jane *Nobody Knows*  
 Cornwell, Patricia *Body of Evidence\**  
 Davidson, Diane *Dying for Chocolate*  
 Evanovich, Janet *Hard 8*  
 Grippando, James *The Informant*  
 Grippando, James *Found Money*  
 Hillerman, Tony *The Wailing Wind\**  
 Hoag, Tami *A Thin Dark Line\**  
 Parker, Robert *Shrink Rap*  
 Patterson, James *Beach House*  
 Peters, Ellis *A Rare Benediction\**  
 Scottoline, Lisa *Mistaken Identity*  
 Scottoline, Lisa *Running from the Law*  
 Tanenbaum, Robert *True Justice*

\* Indicates the tape was donated

**WHO'S NEW**

**Gladys (Howard) Wynkoop**, Apt. 215, grew up in Collingswood, went to area schools, and majored in math at Ursinus College. During the school year she taught algebra in middle schools in Camden and Cherry Hill, and during summer vacations she waitressed at Simms in Ocean City, where she met Warren Wynkoop, who worked in a Philadelphia advertising agency. They married in 1950, settled in Cherry Hill, and raised a boy and a girl. When the children were in their early teens, Gladys went back to teaching in Cherry Hill until her retirement in 1987. Weekends were spent initially on a motor cruiser in Barnegat Bay and later on a 32-ft. sailboat on the Chesapeake. Following the death of her husband in '83, she sold the sailboat and the Cherry Hill home and moved to Haddonfield. Gladys looks forward to her annual winter vacation on Siesta Key, Florida, where she spends all of February with a friend. For recreation, Gladys enjoys reading, bridge, and painting with water colors.

by **Ellen Stimler**

## INFORMATION ON FRAUDS AND SCAMS

by Helen Vukasin

On October 30 Leas Forum presented a program on *Unveiling the Frauds and Scams on Seniors*. Mr. Paul Longo, of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, emphasized that the state Consumer Division exists to serve New Jersey consumers. Anyone with any suspicions should call one of the following numbers for assistance: the Burlington County Division of Consumer Affairs at 609/265-5054 or the New Jersey State Office in Camden at 856/614-3113 or 856-614-3100.

Mr. Longo talked about the three areas most relevant for Medford Leas residents and left the following helpful hints:

### 1. Telemarketing

- Don't stay on the line with telemarketers
- Don't give out financial information or social security numbers
- Never pay cash
- Always ask for materials to be mailed

### 2. Charity Solicitations

- Ask for the New Jersey Charity registration number
- Request information by mail
- Check with the Division of Consumer Affairs to find out what percent of the donation goes to overhead (973/504-6215).

### 3. Savings and Securities

- Never buy securities or bonds from a stranger
- Obtain a formal written offer
- Check the broker's credentials with the Bureau of Securities (973/504-3600)
- Report suspected fraud to the above number and also to the Branch Manager of the securities firm

Note: Helpful detailed literature from the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs is available in **Trudy DeLacy's** office.

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## WHO'S NEW

**Charles and Ruth (Evans) Kutteroff, Apt. 665**, are the parents of **Jane Weston**, Director of Community Relations. They both have life-long associations with the Medford area. Charles was a member of the Medford Township Planning Board at the time when The Estaugh submitted its original plans for the construction of Medford Leas. And he participated in the negotiations which eventually led to the approval of those plans and the signing of an agreement containing the basic terms of the future relationship between the township and the new CCRC. He also served for many years on the Medford Township Board of Education, together with **Albert (Andy) Andrews**.

Charles grew up in Philadelphia and went to Friends Select there, but summers were spent at the family's home in Medford Lakes. He served in the Navy during WWII and survived a kamikaze attack which nearly sank their ship. After finding out that he wasn't cut out to be a dentist, he went to work for a builder in Medford Lakes and liked the work so much that he went into the contracting business for himself. His wife, Ruth, was trying to count all the houses he built during his professional career, and she counted up to 70, but there were more, including the Birchwood Lakes development and the former home of **Elmer and Thelma Rowley**. In 1988 he accepted an offer from the Dietz and Watson Company in Philadelphia to do construction for them, and he is still doing it two days a week. For relaxation, he likes to read and watch baseball.

Charles and Ruth met on a blind date, got married in the Medford Meeting, and raised their two children in the various homes they built in the area. Ruth comes from a Quaker family in Medford, went to Rancocas Valley High School, and studied fashion design and art at the Spring Garden Institute in Philadelphia. She wants to get back into art, particularly painting with oils.

by Ellen Stimler

## WINTER IN PRAGUE

by Hana Stranska

Prague winters tend to be cold. I remember letters my mother wrote to me when I was a 19-year-old refugee in England, insisting: "Don't forget to wear your longjohns and warm vests." (How could my mother know that England's foggy, damp and slushy weather only seldom called for warm underwear, since temperatures hardly ever got down as low as they often did in Prague?)

As a child, I would delight in the many open-air market stands put up in December, with their displays of cotton candy, gingerbread hearts covered with colorful icing, and other seasonal goodies. Not until I had seen the giant Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center, New York did I grant first place to it, over the tree I had greeted in Prague, season after season, and which then seemed "the greatest." Gift packages would be placed under it by passers-by, to be distributed to orphanages and charitable institutions. The mood was quiet, and snow fell often, allowing the crisp crunchy sound of footsteps to blend into the stillness.

But in well-trafficked Wenceslas Square and other main streets, the whiteness of the snow was soon obliterated by traces of human and animal activity. It all turned to slush before very long and made walking difficult.

Unlike the United States and England, Czechoslovakia has its main celebration on Christmas eve, December 24. Gifts are put under the tree, and the food eaten consists of several versions of carp—fish soup with carp-roe, steamed, grilled, or fried carp, carp in aspic, followed by fruit, nuts or more substantial desserts. (In my young days, carp would be purchased live and put in the bathtub to swim around, until the cook killed it with a well-aimed blow, and immediately thereafter prepared it for the festive meal.)

Prior to Christmas, on the eve of December 5, there was a kind of "mini-Christmas." It was the

St. Nicholas celebration, when parents and other family members dressed up as St. Nicholas, an Angel all in white with huge wings, and a nasty creature in red-and-black costume with a long hairy tail which, of course, was the Devil. The children would then be confronted, forced to confess to their misdeeds (such as hiding candy from their friends so as to have a larger share, and similar terrible crimes), and if they showed proper remorse, they were rewarded with a transparent stocking or tree-branches full of the most delicate chocolates.

Teenagers enjoyed the many ballroom activities, dancing until well into the small hours, accompanied by parents or other chaperones.

Winter-sports—skiing, skating and ice hockey were very popular. For skiing, one went to the various mountains; skating and ice-hockey were practiced right in Prague. Spectator sports are chiefly ice-hockey and figure skating, where the Czech Republic still achieves a respectable standing. I shall never forget the ice-hockey championship, when I took up my standing-room position in Prague's ice stadium at 1 p.m. to watch our team defeat the Germans, and then stayed, standing, until 10 p.m. when the next match U.S.A. versus Canada, ended (Canada won). I could do it then, not now!

Recently, I saw a TV program showing Prague, "the city of a hundred spires," as it is called, in all its glory, with many cupolas and steeples of palaces and churches covered with the green patina of verdigris. Now, those same roofs will be covered with snow, and winter's sun caressing the white crystals. And with that enchanting vista I bid goodbye to wintry Prague and extend to her the greetings of the season!

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### OOPS!

In November's U.N. trip article ("A Long Trip for Lunch), the South Street Seaport was incorrectly located on the Hudson River. It is, of course, on the East River.

## BIRDING TRIP TO ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK

by Miriam O. Swartz

It was a gray day on October 22 when 14 residents from Lumberton Leas and Medford Leas set out for Island Beach State Park in search of migrating birds. Our first stop was on the ocean side of the island. There we saw Sanderlings scampering in and out of the water, hunting for food as the waves receded. Greater Black Back Gulls and Herring Gulls were evident along the sandy beach. Overhead hundreds of Tree Swallows fluttered in the breeze congregating for flights south.

As we walked down the path toward the bay, we had a wonderful view of a little olive-gray bird with a bright yellow head. It hopped along just in front of us all puffed up looking larger than we thought it should. Thinking it was a warbler, when we identified it in our Peterson Field Guides, we found it to be a migrating, female Golden-Crowned Kinglet.

At the duck blind at the end of one of the paths we saw Brants, Egrets, Double-Crested Comorants and Buffle Head Ducks. A Great Blue Heron was standing in a salt marsh waiting for its meal to pass by. It was a striking sight to see only its belly and face looking directly toward us. It was feathered white with a few black stripes; no bluish-gray feathers were seen.

Along the road we saw a Merlin (a small Falcon) sitting on a sign eating its lunch of a small bird. We watched it eating, a leg of its prey dangled over the edge of the sign.

We identified 27 different species of birds that day and enjoyed the fall goldenrod in bloom, the red leaves of the wild blueberries, golden maple tree, and the varied vegetation in the dunes and along the paths.

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## SCARECROW WALK

by George Rubin

Start with dry hay and plenty of old clothes. Then add volunteers who are willing to do the stuffing that will evolve into folksy, funny, scary, and colorful scarecrows.

On Tuesday, October 22, all the fun began in the Activities Room. There were about a dozen preschool children under the direction of **Bea Chawla** (Director of Child Care), **Renee Jerome-Schwarz** (Assistant Director of Child Care), and a number of adult residents supervised by **Pamela Fake** (Recreational Therapist), all involved in stuffing straw into the clothes and assembling the scarecrows.

On October 24, the finished figures were put into place on the campus by the Maintenance Department. **Jim Wolosin** (Director of Maintenance) said, "We try to make them life-like and, though we started this two years ago, it's always great to have the residents help. I must say I'm partial to the scarecrows in the canoe, since I like to fish. This pageant shows us all the brighter side of our campus and how we are all one family."

On a stroll down "Scarecrow Walk" there is the headless Director of Operations, Dolly Parton playing her guitar, and favorite monsters among others. As the residents of Medford Leas and others view these creations, they are bound to smile and feel a warm glow inside on these cold autumn days.



Looking for "Head" of Operations Photo by M. Rubin

## ONE MORE WISH

by Maggie Woodard

The Assisted Living staff, headed by **Gerry Stride**, tries to help their residents find pleasure in life, despite age-related restrictions. **Vina Cooper**, at age 104, expressed a wish to see the ocean one more time. **Kim Herndon** and **Peggy Giles** took her and others to Atlantic City in the small Medford Leas van. After going to a casino, they pushed her to the end of the boardwalk to give her a good view of the ocean. She loved it! (Others not in wheel-chairs, walked to the water's edge and put their feet in the water!)

As it turned out, she lived another year and voiced a yearning to ride in a boat one more time. Kim and Peggy arranged for her and others to be aboard the "Spirit of '76" as it sailed on the Delaware River. While luncheon was being served on the boat, a band and master of ceremonies provided entertainment. After learning that it was Vina's 105<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, the MC arranged for her to be brought forward and he introduced her. Smiling happily, she waved to the crowd and they cheered. What a birthday!

To me, this story is heartwarming: it is a marvel that Vina still possessed such a zest for life at age 104 and 105, and it is a marvel that our wonderful staff finds ways to help our residents have "one more wish."

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## YOUNG PEOPLE AT MEDFORD LEAS

By Gertrude Marshall

Our campus has always been a place attractive to school children and young people. In the past, we have had a visit from fourth graders at Thomas Paine Elementary School in Cherry Hill to learn about birds. Children from Rancocas Friends Academy have enjoyed our outdoors on Grandparents Day. Recently, on October 23, children from the Milton H. Allen School in Medford came to learn about composting through an actual project taught by Debbie Lux, a member of our landscaping staff. It is planned for the children to return in January and April to see what happens and to use the compost as they plant seedlings.

On November 3, Cub Scouts aged six and seven from Troop 54, Den 4 of Tabernacle came for an afternoon nature walk led by **Wayne Marshall**. These children saw some birds, identified trees in our woods, and left, each with several acorns from an oak tree, to be planted and tended in hopes of growing a tree. All of these contacts enrich the lives of the children in our locality and advertise Medford Leas as a friendly place.

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## NEWS FROM WOOLMAN COMMONS

by Nickie Stevenson

Fall has come and with it one of the advantages of living at Woolman Commons. Every time we drive over to the main campus we are treated to the beauty of fall colors by the side of the road. We were told that moisture produces the best colors, but the foliage is perfect in spite of the drought.

We are back in the routine of regular social occasions. Our November birthday party tea was a huge success, with five celebrants. **Sumi Kobayashi** asked us to tell about learning how to drive. No one had anything to say about learning, but there were some funny escapades in the early driving years.

**Teddy Raup** always has a treat for us on movie night. *Shakespeare in Love* was a real crowd pleaser. Fifteen residents formed the Out-to-Lunch bunch for a trip to Charley's Other Brother in Westampton. We all enjoy the chance to chat with our neighbors over a delicious lunch.



## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

**Marsha Whitworth** was November's Employee of the Month. Marsha has worked at Medford Leas for almost 22 years. She has been the unit secretary on Assisted Living since its inception in 1994. Congratulations, Marsha, and many thanks for your good work at Medford Leas!

**AN "ALARMING" INCIDENT**

by James W. Muir

The other day I was scheduled for my annual physical exam in the Health Center. Upon arriving there I was put in an examination room and told to don one of those tie-in-the back hospital gowns which both look and feel awful. Almost immediately after I had put on this marvelous piece of wearing apparel, the fire alarm bell went off and I was told to go outside. "Not me," said I. "No way am I leaving the Health Center in this outfit. If you want me to go outside, I will put my clothes back on and go, but **not** in this thing!" In but a few minutes the alarm stopped ringing, so evacuating the building was no longer necessary.

However, so that other resident patients do not have to be faced with the embarrassment of fleeing the Health Center dressed in those unappealing robes when the fire alarm bell rings, I submitted a PIW suggesting that Medford Leas acquire several conservative bathrobe-type garments (in multiple sizes) which could be put on over the examination robes when the fire alarm bell rings. This would save embarrassment for the person wearing the examination robes and possibly for those who have to witness this person as he/she flees the building in those weird, inadequate outfits to the accompaniment of the fire alarm bell.



**WHERE'S THE MONTHLY CALENDAR?**

With four opportunities to learn what is going on-- by the month (monthly calendar), by the week, (*This Week*), and by the day (the *Voice* and Channel 2)-- "Calendar Highlights" will no longer appear in *Medford Leas Life*. Instead, in the future, the monthly cryptogram will usually occupy the last page, allowing fans to attack it immediately, without losing any seconds leafing through the issue in search of it.

**CRYPTOGRAM**

by Russell Hill

Here is the solution to the November cryptogram:

**FAREWELL, O WARBLER! TILL TOMORROW  
EVE...SWEET NIGHTINGALE! ONCE MORE,  
MY FRIENDS! FAREWELL.**

**COLERIDGE**

Those who solved it correctly are: **Mary Barth, Ruth Blattenberger, Mort Bregman, Don Davis, Betty Donahue, Lorretta Elkin, Louise Evaul, Herb Heineman, Barbara Heizman, Euseba Kamensky, Helen Peterson, Doris Salati, Florence Sawyer, and Marie Winton.**

Here is the December cryptogram:

**YHJ NPW JUWLW TK YE JHLPK  
VTGWP HM**

**JN LTYZRXLE, GWFZJTNP,  
WPJUHKTZKQ, ZPVWL, ZPX  
WRZJTNP.**

**U.Q.SNPWK**

Put solutions in Box 45 by Dec. 10.

## KIRBY'S MILL: AS IT WAS AND WILL BE

by Bob Minter

Ever since it was built in 1773, Kirby's Mill has been a local family-connected operation; first the Haines family, then the Kirby family, and now an extended family—the Medford Historical Society.

During the pioneering period, Jonathan Haines and Samuel Philips built the mill in 1773 on the south branch of Rancocas Creek. It was powered by water, and the dam established Lake Cotoxen, which lies close to Medford Leas. The Haines family involvement lasted until 1861, when Charles Haines, Jonathan's grandson, died and his sons sold the mill.

Between 1862 and 1875 there were three owners, none of whom was successful, and the mill became rundown and needed repairs.

Enter the Kirby family in 1775. William Kirby purchased the mill and added a cider mill and a wool-carding mill. By 1915, production reached 50 barrels of wheat, rye, or buckwheat per day, marketed in Philadelphia and New York. The sawmill turned out 18-20,000 board feet of lumber per week, and the shingle mill supplied the local market and shipped out almost as much.

In 1920, Albert and Charles Kirby joined businessman Frederick R. Boyd, who had a store in Medford Village near the railroad. In 1924 they bought out Boyd's share and began operating as Kirby Brothers, with the mill on Lake Cotoxen and the store on Main Street selling livestock feed, fertilizer, and feed-store goods.

By 1926, flour production was down to 12 barrels a day, and the sawmill and blacksmith shop had to be closed. The water wheel was replaced by a water turbine. In 1961, the mill converted to electric power. In 1969, Charles' son Engle Kirby (who is the brother of **Lois Rickett**), together with his brother-in-law William Stiles were managing the business. They decided that milling at Lake Cotoxen was impractical and shifted entirely to electric-powered hammer mills at their Medford

store.

Enter the third Medford area "family" to become involved with Kirby's Mill. On the basis that it was "too good to be lost" and was the last commercial water-powered mill in the state, the Medford Historical Society purchased the mill along with the blacksmith shop and the bar across the road. Medford Township bought Lake Cotoxen's "drowned lands" for park use. The goal was to restore the mill to water-powered use as a museum. Gradually and patiently the members of the Society have worked and raised funds to restore the building and its milling equipment. The second floor museum is like a journey back into the past. Visitors will see rooms reminiscent of a general store and the miller's office. There are historical photographs supplied by **Jack Allen**. In 1972, Kirby's Mill was entered on the National Register of Historic Places. At various times during the year, the Society sponsors festivals and exhibits at the mill, subject to availability of volunteers and funding.

In 1998 there was a setback. The dam was destroyed by floodwaters from a tropical storm. Partially financed by the New Jersey Historic Trust, a new dam is just being completed. This one is of concrete and has electrically operated metal floodgates. The cost of replacing the dam was \$830,000, and operation of the mill is expected to resume by the end of the year. If and when this happens, Lake Cotoxen will again power the mill, canoeing on placid water will again be possible, and Medford Leas will again draw irrigation water from the lake. As a museum, the mill will enable visitors to imagine it as a going concern, with farmers dropping off grain and picking up flour, getting tools made or repaired by the blacksmith, or pausing to "hear the latest" about prices, markets, the water, crop management, and politics. All of that was possible at Kirby's Mill when life was perhaps simpler, more primitive, more exhausting, and shorter.

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## WHO'S NEW

**Jean (Broadbelt) Scattergood**, Apt. 647 Rushmore, got her start and education in Pennsylvania but then spent 56 years on a farm in South Jersey. Shortly after graduating with a degree in biology from the University of Pennsylvania, she married Norman Scattergood and moved to his farm in Bordentown. Jean says she really enjoyed farm life, and the couple raised two sons and two daughters, none of whom now live in this area. In the early 60's, Jean went to night school at Trenton State College to get a teaching certificate and then taught second and third grade in the Bordentown Regional School District. Jean continued the farm operation with hired help after Norman died in 1991. In 1994 she married Pete Grady who became an important part of her later life. Pete died in May of this year. She sold the farm under the Farmlands Preservation program just before moving to Medford Leas. In her new home, Jean wants to pursue her interests in bridge, sewing, reading, and travel.

by Ellen Stimler

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## BUS ETIQUETTE

by Maggie Woodard

Recently my husband and I arrived too late to find seats together on a charter bus headed for the Walnut Theater in Philadelphia. He sat next to a woman he did not know and they were silent all the way to and from the city. As we arrived back at Medford Leas, she turned to him and said, "You're good. You don't talk!"

**The staff of Medford Leas Life wishes all our readers happy holidays and peace in the New Year.**

## CAMELS IN THE DISPLAY CASE

by Hana Stranska

**Beverly Brush** of Lumberton Leas, who generously supplied the glass case in the Atrium with camels from her collection, started the venture at age 16, when she was a student at Woodstock High School in the northern part of India. To anybody who'll ask, "Why camels?" she'll reply, "Because everybody else was collecting elephants, and I wanted to do something different."

Over the years, the collection grew into some 230 pieces from several countries: camels of all shapes and sizes--single-humped; double-humped; made of wood, metal, cloth, plastic, stone, ivory, brass, silver. Also, fuzzy toy camels, picture postcards of camels shown standing or kneeling, as well as wood-framed hand-painted camels and camels painted on silk.

In her home, Beverly's display occupies a five-shelf cabinet, with the picture postcards arranged around the camel figures. **Todd Butler**, as always, has done justice to a remarkable exhibit.

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There's healing from the heavens,  
Beyond canopy of cloud,  
Beyond the circling stars,  
Where pools of prayer for healing  
Are collected.

SJB



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