



# Medford Leas LIFE

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## EARLY TIMES AT MEDFORD LEAS

by Gertrude Marshall

Editor's Note: Much of the information in this article appeared in stories written by the late **Ruth Bonner**, a retired professor of speech and elocution at Kutztown University, during the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Medford Leas.

Relatively new residents of Medford Leas may not be aware that it had a parent, or more accurately, a foster parent; it was the Estaugh, which opened in 1911 as a Friends boarding home in Haddonfield, located at 104 Center Street. Its name came from John Estaugh, an eighteenth-century Friend and the husband of Elizabeth Haddon, founder of Haddonfield. The Estaugh moved 12 years later to 56 Haddon Avenue, the former home of Beulah Rhoads, who left it as a new home for the 15 women boarders and three staff persons. The Haddonfield Estaugh thrived for 50-odd years, but in the 60's it was clear that there were new ideas about providing for elderly persons. The property was something of a fire trap and did not conform to state regulations.

In the meantime, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting members had become increasingly aware of the needs of "confused elderly Friends," and in the 50's the Yearly Meeting received several large bequests to cope with these needs. The Estaugh Board of Trustees, spurred on by Lewis Barton and Gloria Bregman, began to consider alternatives, including a possible larger institution to provide independent living as well as more sheltered care. They were encouraged by the advent of Foulkeways, the first Quaker

continuing care retirement community established in the late 60's.

The Estaugh Board began to look for suitable sites, and almost bought one in Moorestown; but the zoning board turned them down. It was just as well because the site would have had to build its own sewer plant. Funds were available from the sale of 56 Haddon Avenue, as well as a \$300,000 grant from the Margaret Thomas Fund. But the Board members realized they would have to borrow and put up some of their own money.

In early 1969, Ephraim Tomlinson, a lawyer and mayor of Medford, approached **Lewis Barton** about the Mickle farm, which had been nearly sold twice before, but the sales had fallen through. Lew and the Board considered this, were impressed with the site, and the Mickle farm, consisting of about 90 acres, was bought, as well as two smaller adjacent parcels. The total cost was nearly \$400,000. Settlement was in June 1970. The original farmhouse stood near the holly tree which (Roy Mickle recalled) was planted around 1934.

McVaugh Construction Company built the buildings. The needed funds were raised through bank loans. In late 1970 Building #1 was finished. The executive director, William Martin, and his assistant, Garry Trombauer, had their offices in #15 and #16; Helga Ayres, the receptionist also used #16. When the Community Building was completed in late 1970, The staff moved into it, #15 and #16 became the medical center. The first resident *continued*

Gladys Fleming, a former teacher at Westtown, moved in on March 2, 1971.

Of course, Medford Leas did not look as it does now. There was much mud and building activity as the various courts were completed. The Estaugh, Haddon, and Woolman buildings were added in 1973, 1975, and 1976, respectively. But the woods and the creek were the same then as now.

Rushmore was built in 1984 and Bridlington in 1988. For Bridlington, the Estaugh Board purchased the Henisee Farm for \$1,050,000, built the apartments on the east side of Wilkins Station Road and then resold the rest to a developer for \$1 million. Rushmore was named for a 20<sup>th</sup> century Friend, Jane Rushmore, Bridlington was named for a town on the east coast of England (often pronounced "Burlington") from which many "non-conformists" (Friends) emigrated.

In the early 90's, when **Tak Moriuchi** was president of the Estaugh Board, there was a party on the lawn near the putting green to celebrate the burning of the mortgage.

In 1980, in a ceremony in Room 7 with **Lew Barton** present, the whole campus was designated as the Lewis W. Barton Arboretum. This followed an award by the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for the excellence of our campus landscaping.

Not only did the landscape change over our 32-year history, but so did some customs. One in particular is dress. It was much more formal 15 years ago, but the Leas has simply changed as has the general population. The original meeting room was where the library is now, the original library having been in the basement. The auditorium was built in 1987. Other additions have been the coffee shop, the nature center, the low vision center, the computer room, the pool, and the woodshop. The gift and thrift shops were both early activities, as well as MLRA and MEDFORD LEAS LIFE. The Day

Care Center started in 1987 to the considerable concern of some residents. which is hard to believe now. (For details, see ML LIFE, April '03, pg. 15.)

Much has changed in these last 32 years, but Medford Leas has always been a very beautiful, caring community, and it is hoped that it will stay that way.

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## NEW MLRA BOARD 2003/04

by Kitty Katzell

The new MLRA Board members were elected by acclamation at the general membership meeting on April 21. The next day, a "retreat" was held at which the six newly elected members and the five hold-over members, ably facilitated by **Dave Lewis**, met to get acquainted, to focus on the tasks ahead, and to elect officers for the coming year starting July 1.

At the start of the two-hour session, each member recorded how he or she would complete three incomplete statements: "MLRA is ...."; "To improve MLRA ...."; and "I have the greatest satisfaction on Boards and Committees when ...." While Dave Lewis recorded the members' responses on flip sheets, members were paired, interviewed each other, and reported what they had learned to the rest of the group. There followed discussion of the recorded responses.

Dave Lewis was then replaced by **Beth Wray**, outgoing President of MLRA, who presided over the election of **Kitty Katzell** as President and **Milton Zimmerman** as Vice President. The other officers, without vote, are **Doris Shamleffer**, Treasurer, and **Fran Stoll**, Recording Secretary. Still to be appointed is a Corresponding Secretary. The other Board Members are **Colette Bartholomew**, **Grace Blackburn**, **Barbara Britten**, **Don Kocher**, **Eleanor Merrick**, **Jim Muir**, **Teddy Raup**, **Allyn Rickett**, and **Bud Stratton**.

## CONCEPT DESIGN COMMITTEE REPORT

by Kitty Katzell

The CDC is continuing to work on plans for the future of Medford Leas. It has met every week, with the resident members holding occasional interim meetings. The feeling is that real progress is being made. Agreement has been reached on the goals and objectives of the project itself, as follows:

- To retain and enhance the values and characteristics that make Medford Leas special and to be prepared to meet the future needs of our current residents and those of the next generation of residents.
- To provide private rooms in Skilled Nursing (SN) and to provide apartment, home-like settings in Assisted Living (AL).
- To enlarge fitness and wellness facilities with enhanced aquatic and physical therapy services.
- To expand and modernize the Health Center to handle medical needs of Medford Leas residents.
- To improve infrastructure, Dining Services, food transport, and the use of information technology.
- To strengthen human resources and encourage social responsibility and public relations.

The number of Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living beds in CCRC's averages 22% of the total population. At present, Medford Leas has only 14%, and there are residents living in full-service apartments who would benefit from care in Skilled or Assisted units, if they were available. If Medford Leas had 160 Skilled or Assisted units and residents moved from independent living to more appropriate levels of care, their vacated units would be occupied by new residents, thus increasing the total resident population, even though there was no increase in the total number of residents in independent living units. Of the proposed 160 units, 64 would be social model AL; 24, dementia care AL; 48 long-term SN, and 24 sub-acute SN.

During CDC discussions, residents have stressed the importance of maintaining the current size of Medford Leas, its charm and uniqueness, its economic diversity, and the need to preserve the woods, and to retain guest rooms.

Various alternative proposals have been presented and considered, such as using Estaugh as a Skilled Nursing unit, reducing the size of various spaces, bringing construction closer to the Community Center, doing the project in phases, building structures that are four or five stories high, adding more courts.

The current focus in CDC is on "programming needs", which means specifying what we MUST have and how much space it will require. With those things specified, the design team can be asked to figure out how it can be done.

Along the way, the term "Community Spaces" has replaced "Main Street". A sub-committee looking at this topic includes residents **Bart Bartholomew, Ed Ferraro, Allyn Rickett, Doris Shamleffer, and John Sommi**. Their focus is on identifying sites that need to be adjacent or easily accessible to one another in order for efficiency, effectiveness, and safety to prevail.

Throughout the CDC deliberations, the need for constant communication with residents is recognized. The Meeting Minutes continue to be placed in accessible places. A synopsis of each meeting is now being placed on the CDC bulletin board, between the Front Office and the Library. Occasional "white papers" are published to clarify questions on specific subjects. At each MLRA Business Meeting and Executive Director's Open Forum, residents are updated on CDC status. Letters addressed to CDC are acknowledged, and questions they raise are being summarized to be sure that answers emerge in CDC deliberations.

It is appropriate to reiterate here that a Developer's Agreement with Medford Township is in process. The three major areas of the Agreement are that Medford Leas will develop Affordable Housing, Medford Township will provide additional sewer capacity to Medford

Medford Leas as a Planned CCRC. There is no timetable for this agreement, and no specific construction plans are included in it.

And all the time, questions are raised in CDC about costs, today and in the future. Compared with competitors, Medford Leas' current fee structure is the only one that includes all costs of pharmaceuticals in monthly fees; many others exclude them entirely, and others pay only part of the cost. In addition, only Medford Leas employs a full-time Medical Director.

CDC members are fully conscious of the need to move forward toward decisions, but with all deliberate speed. The process cannot be rushed. Channels of communication are open, so that residents' questions, comments, and suggestions can be transmitted directly to CDC, or they can be given to any of the CDC members. Residents should be mindful that the immediate focus is on identifying programming needs, from which will be derived designs and financial plans to pay for them.

### STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

As a health care employer, Medford Leas management decided to have a single Appreciation Day on May 7 for all its employees during the week which is nationally recognized as National Hospital Week and also contains Nurse Appreciation Day.

**Mike Peasley**, Executive Director, sent a special memo to all employees thanking them, on behalf of the Estaugh Board and management, for their dedication and commitment. He added: "The special contributions that each of you makes within your department, combined with your personal interactions with residents, visitors, and other staff, are key to resident, visitor, and employee satisfaction and the outstanding reputation Medford Leas enjoys."

On the employees' special day, they were all treated to complimentary meals and desserts in the Coffee Shop and appetizer trays delivered to their departments. The Annual Employee Picnic will be held on June 27.

### FROM THE MLRA PRESIDENT

by Beth Wray

Recently I was thinking about the word "community" and consulted my old friend Noah Webster. He says that it has a Latin root "*communitat*," and its primary meaning is "a unified body of individuals" (with many variations). For some reason, I have long been attracted to the idea of living in an "intentional" community like Medford Leas. When we lived in Massachusetts, I spent one month living in a Hindu ashram located near our home in Brookline. Although my days were spent at my job with Hewlett-Packard, my evenings, nights, and mornings were spent in the tranquil environment of the ashram, with daily meditation in the early morning and evening, communal chanting after the evening meal, and "seva," meaning daily or weekly household chores. I loved it!

So I came to Medford Leas with high expectations of community life, some of which have been fulfilled. As you may have heard me say, I love the people here, almost without exception. Although it has been a stressful year, I feel privileged to have been able to serve the Residents Association to the best of my ability.

But to come back to my idea of community. Many of us recently viewed a marketing video made by Friends Services for the Aging, which presented Quaker CCRC's as some sort of Paradise. What it neglected to present was a more complete view of the work of the various Residents' Associations that provide much of the labor, enthusiasm, and vitality of these communities. Each community consists of the people who live there, their network of relationships, communication, and organization. These residents devote many hours and much effort to the services they provide their community. For me, the reward is a profound sense of connectedness with the other individuals who inhabit this place, both residents and staff, a sense of the beauty of the evolving life (and death) that we share, the glory of the natural world that surrounds us. So I continue to count my blessings! Hail *Communitas*!

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## RESIDENTS IN THE NEWS

**Alice Skidmore Culbreth** won a coveted Juror's award for the second year in a row at the 2003 Works on Paper Show at Perkins Center for the Arts in Moorestown. Her prize-winning entry, "Pink Gerber," is a watercolor rendering of three blooms in front of a red sofa in her living room, painted on Yupo paper, a non-absorbent Japanese archival paper. "Painting on Yupo paper," Alice said, "you never know what will happen." The show attracted 250 artists who submitted over 600 pieces. A total of 10 awards was given. The exhibit closed on May 25.

**Olga Clement** received the Key Award from The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International "for distinguished service and accomplishments." The award certificate, dated April 5, 2003, stated that Olga, 99 years old, has been a member since 1960, served as membership chair for seven years, as chapter president for two years, and "wrote and published her life story, *Our European Ancestors and Us*."

**Stuart Palmer** was honored by Virtua Memorial Hospital with their 2002 Volunteer of the Year Service Award. The attractive plaque he received states that he was selected because of his "dedication and commitment to both the patients and staff" of the hospital. Stuart has been at the hospital since 1996, spending four days or 20 hours a week transporting patients from day surgery to their cars and delivering hospital supplies and mail.

At the May 8 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner of the Burlington County Superior Court, held at the Indian Springs Country Club, **Bea Smolens** received a Certificate of Recognition for her many years of "dedication and valuable contributions made to the Child Placement Review Board." Other Medford Leas volunteers who attended the dinner were **Herbert Heineman**, **Jean Henderson**, and **Ellen Stimler**.

At a banquet of the Union Fire Company on May 3, **Reece Haines** was awarded an attractive pin in recognition of his 55 years of service on

behalf of the organization. Reece became a volunteer member in 1946, when the Union Fire House was located next to his office, and he drove the fire trucks for about 30 years and then continued his membership and served as chairman of the trustees for a period of time. The Union Fire Company is part of the Medford Township Fire Department.

## BOOKS WE ENJOYED READING

*The Pact* by Drs. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt, with Lisa Page, Riverhead Books, 239pp.

This is the true story of three teenagers who grew up in Newark, NJ, all with absent fathers and poor mothers, but with enough drive and ambition to want to escape their surroundings. The three made a pact with each other that they would not give up but finish their education and help each other over rough times. Their experiences, near failures, clashes with the law, and ultimate success, provide good reading. Today Davis and Hunt are physicians, and Jenkins is a dentist. The three have stayed in their community, thus providing role models for other ambitious youngsters. The three believe their pact was the chief factor in helping them achieve the education that led to their success in becoming responsible and productive citizens.

by Gertrude Marshall

## KATIE HENRY TO GIVE SUMMER LECTURES

by Kay Cooley

Katie Henry, daughter of **Peg Caruthers**, will deliver Medford University's summer lecture series this year. Under the umbrella of "American Italy" – the significance of Italy in the nineteenth century American literary imagination -- she will discuss the short stories of three American writers: Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Rappacini's Daughter" on July 23, Henry James's "The Aspern Papers" on July 30, and Edith Wharton's "A Glimpse" on August 6. A course description and enrollment forms will be sent out about mid-June.

## MEET OUR NONAGENARIANS

by Maggie Woodard

**Katharine Church**, Apt. 161, projects serenity and gentle happiness. After leading an active life as a liturgical artist with her own studio, designing and making Mass vestments for bishops and priests, parishes and cathedrals, she now tries to lead a quiet life.

What enables her to live a contented independent life? She says she has inherited her mother's cheerful disposition, and her religion means much to her. As a member of a Benedictine Abbey in Michigan, she and all the lay members receive monthly letters from the Abbot who is very supportive.

People are important to her as is helping them. She doesn't "do" anything but listen, and she tries to "be there" for them; and as an undoubtedly unintended result on her part, they are happily there for her too. Although she has no living relatives, she has many old friends across the country with whom she corresponds regularly and often. Katharine likes to read, especially histories and biographies.

On her living room walls are many photographs and paintings which hold memories for her: mother, mother-in-law, a wedding picture of her with her first husband, as well as a framed Christmas 1975 cover of *Newsweek Magazine*, picturing a bishop wearing a cope and mitre she designed.

Katharine finds life in the 90's rewarding, for she feels she has been greatly blessed.

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Medford Leas will host a blood drive  
on Tuesday, June 10, 1:30-7:00  
in the Activities Room.  
To schedule an appointment  
call Jane Weston at ext. 3007.

## SUMMARY OF VOLUNTEER SURVEY

by George Rubin

It took only a very simple survey to find out how involved Medford Leas residents are in a wide-ranging and demanding variety of community service outside Medford Leas. Fifty residents described how they are volunteering their time and skills, thus making a difference in the lives of others.

In this article, we propose to provide only a brief overview of the reported activities. In future issues, we will let some of the residents tell in more detail about the kinds of "work" or service they are providing, often while building new relationships and deriving positive emotional and physical benefits.

In general, the volunteer activities fall into three different categories. The first consists of volunteers who are doing very specific tasks for a variety of organizations, including the teaching of Braille, working with the Philippine Community of Southern New Jersey, counseling clients released from prison, cooking breakfast for the homeless, running Alternatives to Violence workshops in prisons, tutoring foreign students, serving in the Burlington County Court system, doing pastoral care, or helping in hospitals.

The second category includes docents at the Barnegat Lighthouse, the Kimmel Center, and a historic Quaker Meeting House; and many types of assignments in churches, thrift shops, and archives.

A third category is made up of residents who volunteer in libraries, museums, and on boards or committees of many organizations covering a wide spectrum from camps, educational organizations, nature preserves, and churches, to Quaker-related groups.

This most recent survey establishes conclusively that Medford Leas residents are still as committed to community service as they were when a similar survey was taken about three years ago.

## NEWS FROM LUMBERTON LEAS

by Helen L. Vukasin

The big excitement at the Community Center in Lumberton Leas in May was the opportunity to welcome over 75 residents from Medford Leas, Woolman Commons and Lumberton Leas on May 8. The occasion was the opening of the first Staff Art Exhibit. The visitors crowded into the small gallery and toured the Great Room and Conference Room to see the resident paintings in those spaces. They spilled over into the Fitness Center where, thanks to the gracious permission of the Fitness staff, they were served cookies and punch.

The exhibit though modest in size was enthusiastically received. It included the following: Water colors and sculpture, by **Judith Braddy**, water colors by **Howard Dodson**, photographs by **Dr. Keith Quinton**, oils by **Leonard Oman** and photographs by **Dr. Christine Torigian**. The works can be seen during the months of May, June and July.

Bright colors characterized the Spring Fling held at the Community Center on April 29 and 30. As usual the two nights were fully subscribed and the excellent meal was provided by Medford Leas food service.

The Lumberton Leas pool is now open. Residents from the other campuses are welcome to participate in the classes, water volleyball, lap swimming and recreational enjoyment of the pool. A key to access the dressing rooms can be borrowed from the Reception Desk in the Atrium.

## NEWS FROM WOOLMAN COMMONS

by Nickie Stevenson

On Saturday, May 3, Mount Holly was host to the seventh Annual American Antique, Classic Car, Muscle Car, and Truck Show. It was a beautiful day and there was a happy, carefree crowd wandering on High Street to inspect and admire all the cars. The oldest one I saw was a 1929 Ford, with a rumble seat. This was a stroll down memory lane for me.

Some of the crowd were real car buffs, who asked intelligent questions of the proud owners. Some were children who came for the fair-like atmosphere. In addition to the cars there were vendors (food and T-shirts), plus two clowns doing clever things with balloons. Many of the children and teenagers had interesting headgear fashioned from balloons.

And then there were sentimental senior citizens recalling their wild youth when the classic 1934 Chevy was the newest model on the street.

There was some added excitement in the evening. We did not see it, but we heard it. It sounded like gunfire, but was only a jet-powered Ford Ranger. It is said to "hold track records worldwide". If they keep records of noise level, I expect it would hold a world's record for noise also.

At dusk there were fireworks followed by a grand finale: the cruise down High Street by all the cars. I missed that. It was past my bedtime, but I did enjoy being part of the crowd in the afternoon.

## GOURD ART IN GLASS CASE

By Hana Stranska

The current display of gourds in the Atrium Glass Case, from mid-May throughout the summer, has been made available by Lumberton Leas resident **Ed Grafenstine**, artist and recipient of multiple awards for his creations. He has painted, decorated, and assembled many intriguing artifacts made from this plant, whose use extends back through the ages. Gourds are found in the southern parts of the United States, Africa, and other continents. They have been used not only as vessels to store liquids and solids, but also as musical instruments. Ed and his daughter Keri Oldfield decorate and show their work at craft fairs.

**Cynthia Mott**, the exhibit's organizer, has written a gourd fact sheet that will be available next to the glass case. **Todd Butler** has arranged the display for residents' delight during the summer.

## WHO'S NEW

Friends introduced **Julia (Judy) Leidy** and **Robert (Bob) Thode**, Apt. 291, at Rossmoor where Judy had lived several years before Bob arrived. After a year they decided to be a couple and remained at Rossmoor from 1998 until their move to Medford Leas.

Bob grew up on Long Island, and sailing was an important part of his life. He attended the N.Y. State Maritime College and received a BS degree, a license in the Merchant Marine, and a reserve commission in the Navy. His career was in insurance, in the marine end of the business. For 27 years he commuted from Long Island and Connecticut to Union Carbide, where he retired as Corporate Insurance Manager. He and his wife had four children and ten grandchildren. After her death Bob moved to Rossmoor to be near his family.

Judy grew up in upstate New York and Radburn, New Jersey, where she and **Alice Culbreth** were Ridgewood High School friends. Judy attended Cornell as did her mother, father, three brothers and other family members. Living in Manhattan, her career began in retailing at Bamberger/Macy's, but she later worked for the English Speaking Union, where she met her husband. They moved to Morristown, New Jersey, and lived there for 26 years with their two sons. After her divorce, Judy returned to retailing, but later commuted to telecommunications companies in Manhattan. She retired as a major account manager and moved to Rossmoor.

Bob and Judy love sailing and jazz, especially Dixieland. They are involved with their children and 13 grandchildren. They "absolutely" love Medford Leas.

by Margaret Melstrom

Storm-wracked trees  
like sea-torqued weeds  
embrace strong waves of wind.

S.J.B.

## WHO'S NEW

**Andrew (Andy)** and **Joy Kaiser Moll** are making their new home in Apt. 101 but will continue to spend four or more summer months in their year-round log home which they and their children have built on a lake in Norway, Maine. Because that house is at the end of a half-mile dirt lane which is often blocked in winter, the Molls spent the last three winters in rented quarters in Boothbay Harbor, just to enjoy the varied outdoor activities of a winter season in Maine. Joy kept busy with writing, knitting, needlework, and exercise; and Andy played indoor tennis and volunteered at the Maine Maritime Museum.

Joy majored in Spanish at Rutgers and spent a graduate year at the University of San Marcos in Lima, Peru. She served as secretary of the initial study committee that led to the founding of Burlington County College. Later Joy earned a library science degree from Drexel and worked for seven years as media specialist in the Moorestown Middle School. Returning to Rutgers, she earned a PhD. in Information Science and taught for 16 years at Stockton College, retiring as a full professor.

During their professional lives, the couple lived in Moorestown for 35 years until their three children were living on their own. They then enjoyed an "empty nest" in Cherry Hill for another 12 years before moving to Maine. At Medford Leas, they are looking forward to participating in activities, renewing old friendships, and seeing children and grandchildren more frequently.

by Ellen Stimler



Birds call up sunrise,  
pluck seed from feeder.  
Fledglings test wingspread,  
dive bravely down space.

S.J.B.

## RECOMMENDED ELDERHOSTELS

by Maggie Woodard

Two residents enjoyed Elderhostels in Canada. **Debbie Troemner** enthusiastically described a program in Stratford, Ontario, which was centered on the Shakespeare Festival Theatre (not at the same time as the festival). Two Shakespeare plays were included in the tuition; additional plays were available, and she attended two more. In one course, she learned about all the behind-the-scenes activities; in the other course, she learned about the town, its history, etc. The hotel where she stayed and ate most meals was within walking distance of the Avon River. She was impressed with the excellent instructors and the organization of the program. The catalogue advises attendees to be prepared for lots of walking.

**Barbara Degler** highly recommends a two-week train trip she took from Toronto to Vancouver, Canada, with two-day stops in Winnipeg and Edmonton and five days in Jasper Park. There were three overnights on the train. Courses covered the history of early exploration, fur trading, and development westward. The program was very well organized, the accommodations good, the lectures entertaining, and the traveling on the observation car was exciting. Because it is popular, she advises early application. A course description can be found in the International catalogue, under "Train Trips."

**Joyce Haase** "loved it all" at an Elderhostel she and **Walter** attended in New Orleans. The lecturers were all college professors—very learned and very funny. Lectures were given in the morning on history, architecture (with walking tours), jazz, and literature. In one course Joyce felt as if she had walked into a play—a Tennessee Williams play: where the professor was a small, delicate-looking woman dressed in a white, gauzy dress, her hair tied up with wisps escaping. She described literature from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present, reading bits and pieces, reciting some poetry. They learned later that she was a part-time actress.

**Gladys** and **Bob O'Brien** thoroughly enjoyed their Elderhostels at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. The lecturers were excellent, and there were delightful evening concerts by advanced students. Jazz was the theme of their first Peabody; musical theatre was the focus of their second program. Housed in a charming historic townhouse on the Institute campus, this Elderhostel is located in the heart of the Mount Vernon historic district of Baltimore. There are also courses on classical music, musicians, and opera. **Barbara Britten** attends once yearly, as do **Maggie** and **Chuck Woodard**.

**Dorothy Pierce** reported on an unusual week she spent at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York. This is a community of Episcopalian monks, located on the west bank of the Hudson River, 80 miles north of New York City. Elderhostelers live in rooms that were originally monks' cells, eat with the brothers, and attend the daily round of services sung by a monastic choir known for its Gregorian chants. Subjects include the Psalms, the religious history of the Hudson River, and sacred dance.

This concludes the series of Elderhostel recommendations.

## PROM NIGHT IN COLONIAL ROOM

The Colonial Room was unusually crowded on Friday evening, May 2, but very few wait staff were seen, and the hostess and dining room supervisor were scurrying around helping to fill water glasses and pass bread baskets. Suddenly there was loud applause, every head turned, and in came **Brittney Neff**, a senior at Shawnee, on the arm of **Frank Lepore**, who already has graduated but is still working at Medford Leas part-time. They were greeting their friends among staff and residents on their way to the Shawnee prom, Brittney in a sleeveless off-white gown and Frank in a black and white tux. Brittney has been a waitress since November 2001; Frank has worked as an expediter in the kitchen for almost four years. He hopes to go to a college of pharmacy in the fall.

## BIRD CLUB TRIP TO SANDY HOOK

by Lucia LeConey

On Friday, May 2, ten eager birders from Medford Leas and Lumberton Leas traveled to Sandy Hook, on the northern tip of the New Jersey shore. The group included four from Medford Leas: **Arthur Steitz, Barbara Heizman, Doris Curley, and Gil Goering**, and six from Lumberton Leas: **Miriam Swartz, Louise Tompkins, Jean and Joe Jordan, Sue Thorp, and Lucia LeConey**. It was a beautiful but cool day. At the Sandy Hook Visitors' Center, we were treated to our first sighting—a Baltimore Oriole. From there we proceeded on a boardwalk to Spermaceti Cove where we saw Great Egrets, Laughing Gulls, Ospreys, Brants, and Canada Geese, then on a beach dune trail to see Black and White Warblers, a Solitary Vireo, Catbirds, Cardinals, House Wrens and a Towhee.

Next, at the New Jersey Audubon Visitors' Center, we learned more about the area and were given the chance to go on a treasure hunt—to visit other birding centers and guess the mystery bird! We proceeded north to the end of the peninsula where there is an observation deck overlooking ponds and marshes, and where there is someone actually keeping count of the hawks and other birds passing by. As we approached the platform, we were met by an excited young man who informed us that he had sighted a Scissor Tail Flycatcher, quite an exotic and unusual bird. Hoping to catch a glimpse of this bird, we mounted the steps in anticipation. Unfortunately for us, the bird had left the area, much to our disappointment. However, we had a great time enjoying other sightings of Hawks, Warblers, and Herons and eating our lunch. We had good views of a Wood Duck paddling around with some Mallards. On the way back, we stopped at an area where we saw Ospreys nesting and fishing for their dinner.

A great day was had by all. We had seen and/or heard at least 34 species of birds. Many thanks go to **Louise Tompkins** for planning and making arrangements for this trip.

## IT'S A SMALL WORLD

by Sam Howarth

In our former life in Chatham, New Jersey, we had a special friend who was both charming and competent. She had a flare for style and, at the same time, could single-handedly prepare a church supper for the entire congregation with seemingly no effort at all. Her name was Janet Foord. Soon after our arrival at Medford Leas, I discovered on the tennis court that there was another charming and competent Janet with the same double "o" spelling of her last name. Each Janet Foord was interested to learn of the other, and some swapping of family histories followed, but no close connection was discovered.

One night during the past winter I fielded a phone call from John Foord, who with his wife Janet, had moved from Chatham to another town. He said that they were curious about an overseas envelope with a German stamp that had been forwarded to them in Boonton Township. It was addressed:

Mrs. Janet Foord  
Quaker Home for the Elderly  
Chatham, NJ 07928 USA

Our **Janet Foord** was now in Florida, so I telephoned her there to find out if she had any German connections from whom a letter could be intended for her. She acknowledged having an exchange student "daughter" in Germany, so the mysterious envelope was passed along to its rightful destination.

Astrid had been an exchange student from the Rudolph Steiner School (Quaker) in Nurnberg to Moorestown Friends. Apparently, she had misplaced the address of her American "Mum" but knew that she had moved to a retirement community run by the Quakers. She tried to find the address on the Internet, where the other Janet Foord was listed. Coincidence upon coincidence aided the postal authorities in delivering this important piece of mail, and my knowing both Janet Foords was probably the main catalyst. It's a small world!

## WHO'S NEW

**William and Eleanor Tashjian Elmendorf**, Apt. 652, met while they both worked at Merck's Rahwah, NJ facility. Bill spent his whole professional career there as a research chemist developing new drugs, and Eleanor worked for a few years until childcare became her priority.

Bill has a chemistry degree from Evansville College and an MBA from Rutgers. He also did graduate work at Cornell. Eleanor graduated from Radcliffe College in a pre-med program but then took the job at Merck for about five years. After keeping house in Westfield and raising a daughter and three sons for 18 years, Eleanor upgraded her skills at Union College and took a teaching job at the Hartridge School in Plainfield, where she met **Ann Hibshman**, the late **Barbara Hitchings**, **Alice Johnson**, and **Elsie Nelson**. Making yet another career change, Eleanor then became certified in medical records-keeping and worked in that field for some time.

Before coming to Medford Leas, both Bill and Eleanor were busy volunteers in their retirement. Bill helped out at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside, while Eleanor taught Sunday School and assisted children in an after-school program in the Westfield Community Center.

The both enjoy gardening, tennis, fitness activities, and bridge. Eleanor also likes to sew.

by **Ellen Stimler**

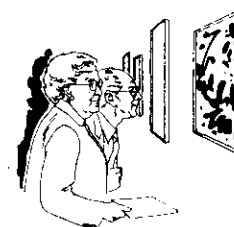
## ART GALLERY NEWS

by **Helen L. Vukasin**

For the month of June the Medford Leas Art Gallery will feature a group show of artists connected with the Accessibilities Program of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The artists whose work will be hung include Eiko Fan Takahira and Vaughan Stubbs, Instructors in the Program, and Carol Wisker, recently retired Director.

The Accessibilities Program enables those who are challenged physically or mentally to experience art at the Philadelphia Museum Art as well as through outreach programs. Medford Leas most recently was treated to one of the outreach programs on "Degas and the Dance."

The opening reception for the Group Exhibit will be held Monday afternoon, June 2, 3:00 to 4:30 pm.



## WHO'S NEW

**Ida Shimanouchi**, Apt. 246, grew up in California, from Pasadena and Fresno to San Francisco. Her father was editor of a Japanese-American newspaper and encouraged Ida's interest in the arts. She graduated from Mills College in Oakland in 1938, and followed it with a secretarial course.

In 1942, when the Japanese were being relocated, Ida, through the efforts of the president of Mills College, was allowed to do graduate work at Smith College. There she earned a Master's Degree and later worked in the college library. Ida began to teach English at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School in Riverdale, New York, in 1946, and taught there for 37 years. She lived in Manhattan. In the 60's, on a sabbatical, she took a "trip around the world" for 354 days. She traveled alone and spent time in Japan, Southeast Asia, India, Pakistan, Iran, Egypt, Lebanon, Greece, and Western European countries.

Ida has been retired for 20 years and has continued to travel—often to Britain or Japan. She loves music and goes to many concerts. Her friends, **Tak** and **Yuriko Moriuchi**, encouraged Ida to come to Medford Leas.

by **Margaret Melstrom**

## EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP

by Wil Britten

The traditional Medford Leas Clean-Up Day was held on Tuesday, April 29. After a rousing sendoff by Operations Director Murphy, staff from Maintenance and Landscaping and an eager group from Child Day Care joined a handful of residents to spend a beautiful morning removing a year's collection of trash of various descriptions from the campus. No notable treasures were found, although cigarette butts and candy wraps were much in evidence throughout the area. A few articles of clothing, several discarded pens, and a number of mysterious but unreadable notes were discovered. Resident participation was at a new low this year, perhaps caused by two weather-related postponements. Because of this, the event will be held in early May next year. Keep it in mind; it's a great way to get some exercise outdoors and to keep our campus beautiful.

## THE ADVENTUROUS TURTLE

by Maggie Woodard

**Wendy Moore** recently went to the Atrium to buy guest dinner tickets for her niece and her niece's husband. She parked her electric cart by the Atrium garden while she went to the desk. On the way back to her apartment, the cart kept bumping and making thumping sounds. When her relatives arrived the next day, she asked her nephew to investigate. He looked and saw the head of a turtle peering out from the bottom of the cart! He picked up the turtle, carried it to the Atrium and handed it to the two young women working in the garden. As soon as it was on the ground, the turtle stood up on its legs and rapidly went to ground cover; it hasn't been seen since! Undoubtedly the glass door had been left open the day the turtle decided to go for a ride. The turtle had spent the night in Assisted Living. Gerry Stride's comment: "Did that turtle have medical coverage?"

## A GIFT OF A 'SWEET' RABBIT

by Ellen Stimler

Kim Barr, a fifth-grade student at Haines Elementary School in Medford, won a three-foot tall chocolate Easter bunny in a raffle at Riley's Chocolates in Medford. Kim was a little overwhelmed by the size of it and didn't think she could eat it all, even with the help of her family and friends. Her Dad had an idea that there were a lot of chocolate lovers at Medford Leas, and he suggested that Kim might want to donate it to them. Her Dad is Joe Barr, who was recently reelected to the Medford School Board and was very impressed with Medford Leas when he appeared there on Candidates Night. The Barrs also learned about Medford Leas from **Marianne Steely**, Director of Residency Planning, who lived next door to the Barrs when they lived in Winslow Township before moving to Medford.

A phone call to Medford Leas confirmed that the chocolate rabbit would be very welcome indeed. So Kim personally delivered the bunny, wrapped in heavy cellophane. It was turned over to Dining Services, which displayed it first in the Colonial Room, then in the Garden Room, with a message about its donor, and a question about how to "carve it up." This difficult decision was finally made by **Lorraine LaPollo**, Director of Dining Services. A large part of the bunny was cut up and packaged in small bags for chocolate-loving residents, and the remaining part was melted into chocolate sauce for additional sweet treats. Kim, all of us residents thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness.



*Drawing by Ann Wood*

## WHAT'S NEW IN MAGAZINES

by Ellen Stimler

In an astonishingly revealing "Letter from Baghdad" in *The New Yorker*, reporter John Lee Anderson discloses a long-term relationship with an unusual Iraqi professional who was both a plastic surgeon on Saddam Hussein's personal medical team and an artist whose paintings and sculptures were highly valued by Saddam and displayed in Iraqi museums and public places.

Based on meetings going back to 2000 between Anderson and Dr. Ala Bashir, the surgeon-artist, Anderson was able to visit with the doctor before, during, and after the war, meet the doctor's relatives, and talk with some of the doctor's friends and associates in and out of the toppled government. He learned that the doctor was summoned to Saddam's private clinic the day after U.S. troops took over the airport, but this time Bashir did not follow orders. Instead he went to hide out at his sister's house, where Anderson found him eventually.

During their many visits, the doctor gave vivid descriptions of his many meetings with Saddam and leading Iraqi officials. He speculated that Saddam may have had a multiple-personality disorder which might explain his extreme cruelty alternating with calm and controlled behavior. But none of the high-level Iraqis mentioned in the article would talk about Saddam's whereabouts.

## TOWN TOUR STOPS AT MEDFORD LEAS

by Ellen Stimler

The Nature Center and Arboretum at Medford Leas were an official stop on the "Tour Your Town" program organized by the Township of Medford on May 10 to showcase lesser-known local sites for visitors and township residents. The tour included stops at Kirby's mill, Johnson's Corner Farm, Township parks, the Air Victory Museum, and Woodford Wildlife Refuge. At Medford Leas, the visitors were welcomed by **Jane Weston**, Director of Community Relations,

who was accompanied by **Susan Cunningham**, a member of the Estaugh Board and a Master Gardener. **Lucile Reeves** lined up volunteers to help with short visits of the Arboretum, and master gardener were on hand to answer questions.

## MEDFORD LEAS DOG SHOW

by Maggie Woodard

There was standing room only in the Activities Room on Friday morning, April 25, for the first annual dog show. Attending were residents from Assisted Living, Estaugh, 25 toddlers and pre-schoolers from Child Day Care, plus residents from all three campuses. The event was organized by **Linda Schultz** and **Pam Fake** of the Therapeutic Recreation Department, and was modeled after the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Of 21 dogs registered, most belonged to staff, but four dogs owned by residents also participated.

As each dog was led into the Activities Room, Pam Fake announced its name and owner. First and second prize ribbons were given in three categories: Best Costume, Best Trick, and Size of Dog. Staff who did not show dogs were judges and wish to remain anonymous! All entrants received a doggy bag filled with treats.

The dogs were well behaved. At the end, the dogs were walked around the room again and "visited" with members of the audience. Everyone present enjoyed the show and urged that it become an annual event.



First Annual Dog Show

photo by Charity Riley

MLRA COMMITTEES, 2003 - 2004 (May 9, 2003)

COMMITTEES	SUB-COMMITTEES	SPONSORS	CHAIRPERSON	CO-CHAIRS or ASSISTANTS
Auditing		Merrick, Eleanor	Salati, Doris	Cronin, Jean
Auditorium		Kocher, Don	Anderson, Wendel	Anderson, Lillias
Budget & Finance		Rickett, Allyn	Morrow, Charlie	Rickett, Allyn
Building		Rickett, Allyn	Alleback, Doris	McElhinney, Joan
Citizens		Rickett, Allyn	Wray, Beth (9/1/03)	
Communications		Zimmerman, Milt		
	Bulletin Boards		Ahluquist, Bernice	
	Copier		Middleton, Mary	Pidcock, Jerry
	Inhouse Mail Distribution		Lawson, Margaret	
	Master Calendar			
	Voice			
Computer		Don Kocher	Anders, Kackie	
Display Case		Bartholomew, Colette	Zwarg, Walter	
Diversity		Muir, Jim	Butler, Todd	Mott, Cynthia
Financial Review		Katzell, Kitty	McKinney, Howard	Shamleffer, Doris
Fire & Safety		Rickett, Allyn	Ferraro, Ed	
Fitness		Batholomew, Colette	Britten, Wil	
Flowers		Raup, Teddy	Howarth, Sam	
	Atrium Flower Arrangement			
	Flower Show		Salati, Doris	
	Memorials		Rickett, Lois	Endo, Aya
	Plant Sale		Hamilton, Helen	
Food & Dining Rooms		Britten, Barbara	Kriebel, Dottie	Wiener, Ellen
Friendly Visitors		Kocher, Don	Mullen, Mary Lou	
Gallery		Britten, Barbara	Allen, Irmgard	Werrell, Fran
Gift Shop		Zimmerman, Milt	Cronin, Jean	
Great Decisions		Bartholomew, Colette	Kahn, Len	Lawson, Margaret
Haddon Greenhouse		Zimmerman, Milt	Brush, Stan	
Health		Merrick, Eleanor	Walker, Ann	Robbins, Jean
	Volunteers		Stratton, Bud	Wray, Joe
	US Mail Room Delivery		Robbins, Jean & Walker, Ann	Curley, Doris
Health Care Issues		Kocher, Don	Ahluquist, Bernice	
Hospitality		Muir, Jim	House, Ed	
Interior Design		Muir, Jim	Bartholomew, Evert	
Knitting & Sewing		Stratton, Bud	Zimmerman, Barbara	
Leas Forum		Merrick, Eleanor	Cronk, Joy	Schaffel, Grace
Large Print Library		Blackburn, Grace	Vukasin, Helen	
Library & Magazines		Raup, Teddy	Bedeil, Muriel	
Low Vision		Stratton, Bud	Monego, Becky	McMichael, Virginia
MasterPlanAdvComm		Rickett, Allyn	Toda, Mary	House, Ed
Medford University		Merrick, Eleanor	Taylor, David	
Mental Health		Katzell, Kitty	Cooley, Kay	Rich, Marion
Movies		Britten, Barbara		
	Saturday Afternoon		Allen, Jack	
	Monday Evening		Goldenberg, Lillian	Tamarin, Lily
Music		Merrick, Eleanor	Woodard, Chuck	

MLRA COMMITTEES, 2003 - 2004 (May 9, 2003)

COMMITTEES	SUB-COMMITTEES	SPONSORS	CHAIRPERSON	CO-CHAIRS or ASSISTANTS
Nature Coordinating		Stratton, Bud	Kriebel, Howard	
	Bird Club		Swartz, Miriam	Swartz, Dave
	Bulletin Board		Brush, Stanley	
	Guided Tours		Reeves, Lucille	
	Farm		Denham, Dunbar	Denham, Steve
	Mapping Courtyards		Pennink, Betsy	
	Mapping Natural Areas		Clift, Gordon	
	Nature Library		Peck, Charlotte	
	Poster Display		Lewis, Barbara	Lewis, Allen
	Wildflower Group		Borntraeger, Connie	Salati, Rudy
	Woodlands		Caughey, John	
Nominating		Katzell, Kitty		
Publications	Medford Leas Life	Britten, Barbara	Stimler, Ellie	
	Leas Lit		Sawyer, Florence	
Religion	Friends Worship	Katzell, Kitty	Knapp, Don	Caldwell, Jane
	Vespers		Stoll, Fran	Stoll, Wilbur
Scholarship		Katzell, Kitty	Cooley, Kay	
Special Events		Blackburn, Grace		
	Orchestra		Mendel, Karl	
	Ballet		Scattergood, Jean	
	Opera		Lobo, Philetta	Woodward, Esther
	Chamber Music		O'Brien, Gladys	
	Theater, Wainut		Howarth, Sam	Howarth, Louise
	Theater, Wilma		Kamensky, Warren	Kamensky, Euseba
	Short Trips		Smith, Doris	
Sports Days		Kocher, Don	Hartman, Neil	
Teas		Raup, Teddy	Evaul, Louise	Fykse, Penny
Thrift Shop		Bartholomew, Colette	Hill, Kay	Allen, Jack & Bartholomew, Colette
Transportation		Stratton, Bud	Heizman, Barbara	
Winter Holiday Decorations		Muir, Jim	Webb, Fran	Muir, Jeannette
Workshop		Zimmerman, Milt	Burgess, Sam	
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>				
Art Studio		Blackburn, Grace	Culbreth, Alice	Wood, Anne
Creative Writing		Britten, Barbara	Tillman, Dorothy	
Records		Raup, Teddy		
	Albums		Huysman, Ruth	
	Archives		Raup, Gene	
	Historical Photographs		Raup, Gene	
Special Interests		Bartholomew, Colette		
	Duplicate Bridge		Hill, Russell	
	Family History		Haley, Russ	
	Progressive Bridge		Carter, Frances	
	Jig Saw Puzzles		Kunyczka, Carmen	
	Tennis		Ackerboom, Jack	Kocher, Joan
Vid-U		Blackburn, Grace	Lisovitch, Elsie	
Video Library		Kocher, Don	O'Brien, Gladys	Mckeeon, Joan

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specify the name of the person to receive the message.

Deadline for submissions: 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding  
publication



*Medford Leas Life will be on vacation  
during July and August.  
The staff wishes  
all its readers  
a happy, healthful summer.  
Happy Summer!*

**CRYPTOGRAM**

by Russell Hill

Here is the solution to the May Cryptogram:

**"TIS WITH OUR JUDGMENTS AS OUR  
WATCHES, NONE GO JUST ALIKE, YET EACH  
BELIEVES HIS OWN.**

**Ruth Blattenberger** correctly identified the author  
as Alexander Pope. Another solver said, "If I can  
do it, it's too easy."

Those who solved the cryptogram correctly are: **Lydia  
Andrews, Joan Bellman, Mary Barth, Ruth  
Blattenberger, Mort Bregmen, Florence Brudon, Don  
Davis, Lorretta Elkin, Herb Heineman, Barbara Heizman,  
Jane Hunter, Euseba Kamensky, Helen Peterson, Betty  
Preston, Liliane Reynolds, Doris Salati, Florence  
Sawyer, Nickie Stevenson, Ellen Stimler, Ellen Wiener,  
Jon Winton, Marie Winton, and Gladys Wynkoop.**

Here is the June Cryptogram:

**VXK 'F  
PD FNG DZBPVL,  
CVE KGGED CBG DNCRRXK-  
BXXFGE;  
DHJJGB FNGT VXK  
CVE FNGM'RR X'GBLBXK FNG  
LCBEGV**

Please put answers in Box 45 by June 10

IN MEMORIAM	
Mary Siersema	April 21
Curtis Henderson	April 29
Gary Raven	May 3
Mary Jane Caspary	May 7
H. Huntington Bliss	May 14