



Medford Leas LIFE

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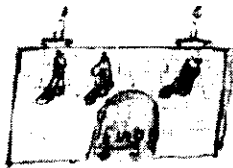
DECEMBER 2003

A LETTER TO SANTA

by Wil Britten

Again 'tis Christmas at the Leas,
Morning frost clings to our trees.
We count the blessings of this place,
while watching years speed by apace.
Our pleasant homes, our arboretum –
few other sites can really beat 'em!

So, Santa, when you fill your sleigh,
make room for gifts, just as we say.
For all the folks who've worked this year
to keep our life so pleasant here.



Plans ahead may be quite grand,
but keep us thankful for what's at hand.
Pray pack these gifts before you fly,
and drop them off as you pass by.

A gift of health to all living here –
with a measure of humor and good cheer.

And for our able working crew –
the best of life the whole year through!
To those who watch and treat our health,
a gift of thanks beyond all wealth!
And yes, to all who strive each day,
to enhance our life in every way,
bring them boons beyond all measure.
They are our off' unheralded treasure.

To our meadows, fields and woods,
a smile of sun from your store of goods!
Our days are blessed by open spaces –
Let's hope we never lose those places
where in the golden years that loom,
we can stretch our limbs and let minds bloom!



Sure, Santa, at times we have concern –
But from contention all can learn.
Opinions, gosh, we've got a hoard,
from residents, staff and Estaug Board --
So, to all -- as Yule trees glisten,
make our best gift the mind to listen !

Merry Christmas to All



Illustrations by Wil Britten

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR

by John DePreter, as told to Ellen Stimler

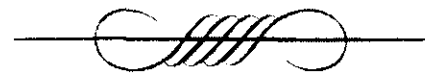
On a quiet, peaceful Sunday morning on December 7, 1941, **John DePreter**, a 19-year-old Air Force private, was enjoying a second cup of coffee in the mess hall of Wheeler Field, about 20 miles north of Pearl Harbor. Looking around, he noted that a lot of his buddies were still in quarters, sleeping off a big Saturday night on the town. Sundays were off-duty days at the fighter plane base after a busy inspection routine on Saturdays, which ended with all 153 fighter aircraft lined up side-by-side in neat rows.

Suddenly, there was a roaring noise outside. The men in the mess hall ran outside and at first thought it was some kind of buzz by Navy fliers. But the planes were coming in so low that they could soon see the rising sun symbol on the side of the planes and even recognize the Japanese crews in the cockpits. Meanwhile destruction and death was raining down on the base, as waves of attack planes were bombing and strafing the flightline, barracks, and hangars. With equipment and ammunition locked up for the weekend and officers and men still in their quarters, all John and his friends could do was remove the dead and wounded and some of the debris. When the attack ended after about an hour, the toll was 37 dead, six missing, 53 wounded, and 83 aircraft destroyed.

In recalling this day recently, John, who lives at Woolman Commons, pointed out that the Japanese must have had excellent intelligence, because they picked the best day and time for the attack; and by destroying most of the fighter planes, they made the defense of the Pearl Harbor fleet near-impossible. Nevertheless, six pilots from Wheeler managed to get their planes airborne and shot down 12 Japanese planes.

John spent the remainder of the war as an engineer on B-24's in the 14th Air Force, stationed at a base in China. He, like every member of the Armed Forces in Pearl Harbor on this "Day of Infamy," may wear a silver battle star on his yellow American Defense Service Ribbon.

John has a collection of memorabilia about the Pearl Harbor attack, including a 1983 article in the *Burlington County Times*, with a picture and story about Col. Lewis Sanders, one of the Wheeler pilots who shot down the first Japanese Zero plane that day. John managed to get a copy of the article delivered to Col. Sanders in Alabama and received a prized letter of thanks from him.



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

by Kitty Katzell

The annual Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Readings will be held in the Auditorium on Wednesday, December 24, at 7:30 p.m. Background music from Handel's Messiah will be played starting at 6:45 p.m. The one-hour service will consist of readings from scripture that relate to the birth of Jesus, interspersed with carols for which song sheets will be provided. The Vespers Committee extends a cordial invitation to residents, staff, their families, and guests to attend this traditional observance.



CHRISTMAS IN PHILADELPHIA

by Grace Spicer Stewart

Christmas in Philadelphia is a season of magic. Cares often float away as heart and imagination hold sway. It was so then. It is so now.

Downtown Philadelphia was the mecca of holiday festivities when I was a child. A five-cent elevated train ride took us into fantasyland. Window shopping at Wanamaker's or Strawbridge's might show Santa, elves, and reindeer surrounded by magnificent clothes and toys. The organist at Wanamaker's playing Christmas carols sent tingles up my spine. Sometimes, we had coffee at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel, imagining what it would be like when we were rich.

Salvation Army "soldiers" ringing bells as passersby dropped coins in their kettles. Men selling hot chestnuts or pretzels on street corners. I remember those times with joy.



Closer to home, the clip-clop of horse-drawn wagons. Ice-skating in the park. Sledding on our Flexible Flyer near the railroad tracks. Frolicking! Frolicking!

Prosperity returned, but the hauntingly beautiful memories seem to be during the Depression. We had the most when we had the least: joy, dreams, hopes, aspirations. And the dreams came true!

Christmas shopping was at Woolworth's with money earned shoveling snow. The old widow's walk was shoveled free. "Some things you do for God," my mother said. Another odd job was answering the phone in my doctor's office for fifty cents an afternoon.

Everyone came home for Christmas. Wonderful aromas of mince pies and cinnamon buns emanated from the old wood stove. Cookies were decorated by candlelight. Carols were sung. Corn was popped and strung. The treeman sold us a three-sided tree for 15 cents. "Beautiful," my mother said, "We'll just put that side in the corner."

The red-door church on the corner held a Christmas celebration with the nativity play enacted. I was a sheet-wrapped angel. We were each given a small box of hard candies. I ate slowly to make them last.

On Christmas Eve we gathered around the kitchen stove to hear my mother read *A Christmas Carol* by Dickens. And then she read the Christmas story from Luke.

Tucked warmly into bed, I watched the snow falling outside. Street carolers sang, "Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright." And words remembered made me smile as I drifted off to sleep.

MAGIC SHOW AT LUMBERTON LEAS

by Dorothy Rathje

The Lumberton Leas Forum Committee presents **Warren Reeves** in an All-New Holiday Magic Show on Friday, December 26 at 4:00 p.m. in the LL Community Center.

Warren has been a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians for 45 years and is past president of the Society of American Magicians, Assembly #25.

Warren's show has become an annual favorite with residents and their visitors. On December 26, come alone, come with friends, come with grandchildren – but come! You'll be in for a treat and a magical feat! A Medford Leas bus sign-up sheet will be at the front desk the week before the show.

HALLOWEEN AT MEDFORD LEAS

by Gertrude Marshall

Opening the Halloween season at Medford Leas, 53 fifth-graders from St. Mary of the Lakes School in Medford brought 12 colorful scarecrows they had made in their art classes, for the enjoyment and amusement of Medford Leas residents. The scarecrows were sitting, lounging, or standing on benches and ledges in the walkways near the front entrance and were labeled to represent characters such as Elvis, Mexican Basketball Boy, Dr. Nick, Goofy the Robber, and The Jewel Princess.



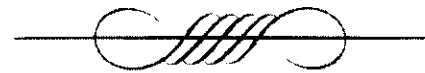
photo by Margery Rubin

The children also visited in Estaugh, took some residents for a walk, and read Halloween stories to them. The program was arranged by Principal Paula Angeletta and **Gerry Stride**, Director of Community Life.

On the following days, additional scarecrow characters designed and stuffed by employees and residents were admired during the traditional Scarecrow Walk on October 30, ending with refreshments in the Activities Room. Show stoppers were an enormous headless torso, labeled to represent **Jim Wolosin**, Director of Maintenance and Landscaping, and a spider clinging to a huge web created by **Debbie Lux** of Landscaping.

The final event was a pumpkin carving contest by employees, displayed in the Atrium. Judged by a group of residents on the morning of Halloween, a very big pumpkin that looked like the head of a tyrannosaurus, with an enormous open mouth and two rows of teeth showing, won three blue ribbons for **Craig Gower** of Maintenance, for the entry that was most creative, funniest, and most original. Other winners were: Prettiest, **Karen Raynor**, Administration; scariest, **Reece Steinagle**, Dining Services; cutest, Therapeutic Recreation and Assisted Living residents.

While this judging was going on, the children from the Day Care Center came into the Atrium, dressed in elaborate costumes. Later, at dinner in the dining rooms, most of the wait staff were in fancy or scary costumes, making Halloween week a real fun celebration for the young and the young at heart.



DAY CARE CENTER CELEBRATES SIXTEEN YEARS

by Kay Cooley

Thursday evening, October 23, was a night to remember. Everyone with a role in the Day Care Center, plus friends, gathered to celebrate its 16th birthday and the "Moving On" of its children. In view of the Center's impending closure on December 31, the program became a last, fond look at all the Center means in the lives of the children, staff, and volunteers.

The celebration began in the Coffee Shop with a pizza party for the Center children, their immediate families, and staff. In the midst of near-bedlam, everyone seemed to find and enjoy whatever food they wanted. For the 6:30 program in the auditorium immediately following, a near-capacity audience gathered. **Bea Chawla**, Director of the Center, introduced a short video of

the daily activities in the Center, entitled "A Year in the Life of..." She then paid tribute to the adults who had started the Center and guided it through its growth: **Gloria Bregman**, resident and Estaugh Board member, who together with **Lois Forrest**, then Executive Director, got it started; **Kate Kwiecinski**, Medford Leas' Assistant Director, who gave management support; and **Sue Dietz**, the Day Care Center Director for the first five years.

Next Bea called up each of the staff, headed by **Renee Jerome-Schwarz**, her assistant, for recognition and more hugs. The staff, represented by **Sue Wells**, reciprocated with a surprise presentation to Bea and Renee of gift certificates and plants.

Bea then recognized ten "Grandfriends" – residents whose presence and talents have enriched the children's experience with music, art, storytelling, and other activities. Each received a certificate, a rose, and a hug.

The intense emotion of the moment was relieved by the entrance into the auditorium of 12 preschoolers, who walked down the main aisle to their seats on stage. Their poise and self-control spoke volumes for the loving training they had received. Seated in a row, they sang 11 songs they knew by heart. For the ninth song, "You're a Grand Old Flag," they were joined by graduates (high schoolers among them), toddlers, and pre-toddlers in their parents' arms. **Emily Needham**, a toddler, who just turned three, was soloist, while the audience clapped to the beat. For the last two numbers, "Make New Friends" and "Friends," the graduates remained on stage, still able to sing the songs learned in past years.

The pre-schoolers then were each presented with a certificate commemorating their "moving on" at a date too early for normal graduation. They exited with their families to the Garden Room, where punch and birthday cake awaited.

For children, parents, staff, and friends the evening was more than a celebration of 16 years of child care. It was more than a tribute to staff

and volunteers for their dedication and service. It was a showcase of what loving child care can accomplish.

For some Medford Leas residents, the Day Care Center has been an important part of life. Many of them have been actively involved as volunteers holding infants, reading and talking to toddlers and pre-schoolers, or providing special art and music activities for them. Other residents have participated with the children in intergenerational activities planned by the Therapeutic Recreation Staff for Assisted Living and Estaugh residents. For all residents, "Goodbye and good luck" is said with heavy hearts.



photo by Margery Rubin

AGING WITH GRACE

by Maggie Woodard

Recently my husband, who has macular degeneration, went to the Coffee Shop for lunch by himself. Turning to the woman standing next to him at the salad bar, he asked her what foods were offered, and she graciously complied. He then walked over to the large bowl containing fruit; the woman followed him and named the fruits. She also named the desserts available. When he started to pick up a couple of cookies, she told him they crumbled easily, took a plastic bag from her purse and told him to put the cookies in it. He thanked her profusely, and she replied: "If you're married, tell your wife I'm 94!"

TEDDY BEARS FOR CHRISTMAS

About 75 needy children will receive teddy bears dressed by Medford Leas residents this year, thanks to a project started in 2000 by **Grace Schaffel**. She saw costumed bears at a volunteer fair conducted at Medford Leas that year, recognized them as a suitable project for the knitting group, and made contact with Blanche Renz, from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at Burlington County College. The participation of Medford Leas residents has increased every year. This year, over 75 dresses for the bears were knitted by **Sylvia Friedman, Helen Hamilton, Kitty Katzell, Gini Mutschler, Lillian Reynolds, Grace Schaffel, Nicky Stevenson, Anne Solomon, Ellen Stimler, and Mary Toda**.

The bears, which were donated by the Salvation Army, were dressed by residents in Assisted Living on November 14. An appreciation tea for all knitters was held in the Parker Center Lounge of Burlington County College on November 25. They will be distributed to children in hospitals and other needy families in the community.



A THANKS—GIVING STORY

by Hana Stranska

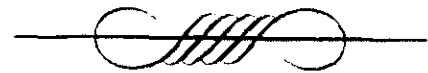
Nothing much, mind you, just a proof of – but let me get on with the story!

It happened when I walked into one of those giant all-purpose stores, hoping to purchase a small multi-purpose cart on wheels. I knew it would be an uphill battle. Having bought a similar item many years ago, I had no idea whether it still existed. I made the mistake of mentioning to a

salesperson that I used it as a plant-stand, which got me dispatched to "Garden Furniture," way on the other side. Anybody who's lately been involved in long-trekking through several aisles of giant emporiums, especially on legs that have seen better days, will know what I mean. OK, so nothing in "Garden Furniture."

Next, I was directed to "Housewares," many aisles away. But, with no further guidance, there I was, helplessly staring at aisle after aisle, seeing many signs about "low, low prices," but little about the aisles' contents. "How can one overcome these vast, user-unfriendly spaces?" I asked myself in despair. A supremely confident young lady assured me earnestly that no such item now existed at the store. About to abandon my fruitless search, I noticed an employee, probably in her sixties. I pounced on her, hoping she'd be old enough to remember the item. But she shook her head, regretfully. That's it, then.

I spent quite some time picking up smaller items before arriving at the cash register. And there stood the sixtyish lady, holding the very cart I'd come to buy! She'd found it in "Housewares," had sprinted to the cash register, not knowing whether I'd already left the store, on the off-chance of finding me. My thanks, dear lady, for going the extra mile, and proving that kind hearts can still bridge the gap between giant impersonality and warmhearted humanity. You made my day!



LEAF FALL

Young black locust
is kicking off her socks,
throwin' off her mittens
as gold foil for lawns and rocks.
Soon now this little tree
will lose its skirt and hat,
ready for a big freeze!
Backwards isn't that?

S.L.B.

MEET OUR NONAGENARIANS

by Dorothy Tillman

If you saw this month's nonagenarian – **Susan Pettiss** – beautifully dressed, posture erect and with every hair in place – as she walked to a meeting or an exercise class, and said to yourself “bet she's at least 80,” well, you'd be right but still off by a decade! Susan Pettiss may look 80, she may act 80, dress 80, think 80 – but she is, in fact, 91.



Susan Pettiss

photo by Margery Rubin

The New York Times of May 23, 1982, in a long article (also printed in the *International Herald Tribune*, June 2, 1982) said it all: “When Susan Thames Pettiss was in the fifth grade in Mobile, Alabama, she was asked what she would like to be when she grew up. ‘My mother wasn't a circus acrobat or president of the country, so I said I would like to be a plain lady like she was,’ she recalled the other day.”

The *Times* concluded that Dr. Pettiss turned out in fact to be anything but a “plain lady.” They

pointed out that she was in Europe when World War II ended, and helped refugees build new lives. She was in South Vietnam when the Tet offensive started and was involved in planning for reconstruction of essential services. She was a student at an American university in the 60's and marched in opposition to the war. She was in Afghanistan helping establish a program to prevent blindness in children when the Soviet troops invaded.

She spent several years with UNRRA in Germany. As an officer of the International Refugee Organization, she made plans for blind and handicapped refugees. She was also on a search committee to reunite children with their parents.

For ten years she was director of a blindness prevention program organized by Helen Keller International. The program concentrated on nutritional blindness, which is caused by a Vitamin A deficiency, and which is preventable.

There is more—enough to fill a book. So, that's what fills much of her time these days—writing a book about the fascinating life she has led.

What does she do with the rest of her time? Well, she lived in New York City for 20 years, and has a goddaughter and many friends there, so she likes to visit there about once a month if she can. Eight nephews and a niece are in and around Mobile, so she must go there at least once a year for an extended visit.

Aside from water exercise in the pool three times a week, she's one of the Philadelphia Orchestra faithful and a regular at Talk Cinema. A great interest, of course, is the Low Vision Group here at Medford Leas. She's been the presenter many times in Great Decisions programs and participates in the discussion from the floor.

Oh, it's just too much! You just have to read the book.

What this country needs today is a few more such “plain ladies.”

RESIDENTS, STAFF IN THE NEWS

by Ellen Stimler

A Medford Leas Wedding

Based on friendships going back over 60 years, **Jean Robbins** and **Roland (Bud) Stratton** were married on November 4 in Jean's apartment, with **Jim Muir**, retired Presbyterian minister, conducting the brief ceremony. Jean recalled that it all started in 1941, when Bud was visiting with Betsy Barclay in Riverton and discussed his college plans with Betsy's brother Walter and their friend Lew Robbins. Walter and Lew, who had just graduated from Swarthmore, suggested they drive Bud to the college to take a look. Bud went to Swarthmore. When Jean started at Middlebury College in Vermont, she met fellow student Betsy Barclay and later married her brother Walter. Several years after Walter's death, Jean married Lew Robbins, and together they moved to Medford Leas. Both Jean and Bud lost their spouses during the same year, and this is the third marriage for both. We all wish them good health and happiness.

Bridge Players Honor Russell Hill

Duplicate bridge proceeded in the Activities Room just about as usual on Wednesday, November 5, except maybe that there were more participants than expected, a total of 46. Suddenly, after the third round, **Gil Goering** interrupted the play with a surprise announcement: There was going to be a tribute paid to **Russell Hill** for his many years as manager of the duplicate bridge. The poem written and read by **Barbara Ballou** said it all:

*Many ways to divert and please
Are offered to us at Medford Leas.
There are clubs and committees for every taste
And, for those involved, little time to waste.
A special delight, for those who are able,
Is to take a place at a weekly table
Where duplicate bridge does fill the bill
Of challenge and fun, under Russell Hill.
His years of directing warrant celebration,
And - from all of us - our appreciation.*

Next, Russell was presented with a special tie printed all over with bridge symbols and a Certificate of Appreciation scripted and presented by "**Bart**" **Bartholomew**. The players then finished their rounds, with Russell and Catherine Hill emerging as the winning team.

Tree Planting in Lumberton

On November 3, a delegation from Medford and Lumberton Leas was joined by Lumberton Township officials for the planting of a large weeping cherry tree donated by Medford Leas for the beautification of the new Village Green in Lumberton. **Lucile** and **Warren Reeves**, **Kitty Katzell**, **Tina Mecray**, and **Jane Weston**, Director of Community Relations, were observers as the job of digging in the tree was skillfully performed by **Joe Greipp** and **Bob Calhoun**, Landscaping Department. The group of township officials was headed by June Madden, Township Administrator.

Video Taping at Medford Leas

Local cable TV station CN8 filmed two five-minute videos at Medford Leas, which will be shown as "fillers" between programs, so unfortunately cannot be announced in advance. A reporter from the station interviewed **Debbie Lux**, Landscaping, about the care of indoor plants and composting techniques. (CN8 cannot be viewed on the Medford Leas cable system.)

Anna Burr Honored

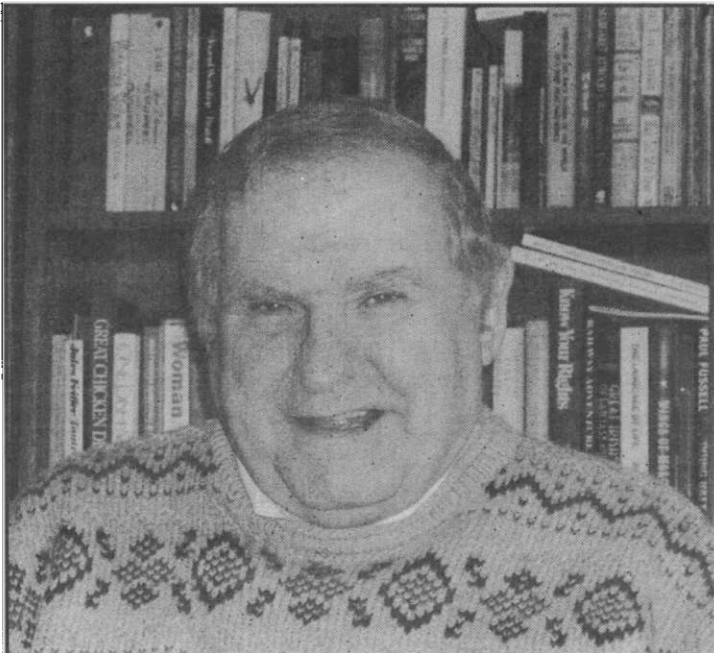
Anna T. Burr, one of our centenarians, was listed as honorary chairperson of Bordentown's Fourth Annual Patriot Ball, and a full page of the program booklet was needed to enumerate all her educational achievements and professional and civic involvement. Unable to attend the affair, she nevertheless received a standing ovation when her name was announced and a lovely flower arrangement made by one of her former students.

WORKING IN THE PRISONS

by George Rubin

Ed. Note: This is the second article in our series spotlighting unusual outside volunteer work of our residents.

Dr. Charles Brownfield knows, from his professional experience, what it means to be in jail or at risk of going to prison. Charles explained, "People don't seem to understand the differences. Prisons are for those who have been convicted and are sentenced to serve more than 365 days (1 year), while jail is for those serving less than a year or those who have been detained or are awaiting a hearing or a trial. This group is technically innocent of any crime." As a forensic clinical psychologist, he has worked with state prisoners in Camden, NJ and he is currently on the steering committee of Friends Transition and Support Service (FTSS), helping released prisoners and those at risk for incarceration. He also works with inmates and staff in the Burlington County Jail in Mount Holly.



Charles Brownfield

photo by Margery Rubin

He received his B.A. in psychology from Brooklyn College. After getting an M.A. at Western Reserve University he obtained a Ph.D. from Union Institute in Ohio. He later worked in the

New Jersey prison system. He retired in 2000 and moved to Medford Leas that same year.

After moving to Medford Leas Charles became actively engaged with the Burlington County Jail and the Sheriff's Department. At his office in Cherry Hill, he has screened, interviewed, and evaluated the new candidates for appointment to the jail and the Sheriff's Office. Some examples of his interaction with individuals in his current work are: An impoverished woman was referred to him by the FTSS because she and her boyfriend had violent fights, witnessed by their children. Charles was asked to provide emergency counseling and some support to the man. He prepared an evaluation and assessment for the man's attorney which helped to postpone the removal of the children out of the family.

Charles also designed a group support program for FTSS which would provide grief and bereavement counseling to residents in a half-way house who are former prison inmates and close to receiving parole. This group is different from most in that the participants are gay. Charles and a parolee co-facilitated this group.

Charles also evaluates the new inmates at the jail. These are adults with many problems, and the prison authorities need to know where to house them safely, their medication needs, and whether they require a suicide watch. For some it means supportive therapy at least once a week. In this capacity, Charles is on call. He feels that jails do the best they can, given their role as a warehouse for people. Charles said "Jails need to be expanded and improved, and this means more staff, space and, money – which has never been in adequate supply." With counseling he tries to help inmates cope with incarceration and planning for life after release. His service on the board of the Friends Transition Support Team, which works out of the Camden office, is to help provide many services for both released and at-risk prisoners. This help includes housing, jobs, food, clothing, and counseling, which is especially needed during probation or parole periods.

Dr. Charles Brownfield has a lifelong dedication to helping those in need.

JUDGE MARUTANI HONORED

by Ellen Stimler

To honor **Judge William M. Marutani**, a resident of Lumberton Leas, for his distinguished service to the Asian American community and the community in general, a Fellowship was established in his name by the Asian American Bar Association of the Delaware Valley and the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. The Fellowship, which will provide a stipend for one first-year Asian American law student at a Delaware Valley law school, was announced at the Annual Banquet of the organization held on October 24. The dinner was attended by about 200 lawyers and judges. Unfortunately, due to illness, Bill could not be there, but he was well represented by his wife, **Vicky**, other family members, and Medford Leas residents including **Hiroshi and Grayce Uyehara, Ben and Shirley Paradee, and John and Catherine Sommi**.

Another surprise disclosure at the October 24 dinner was that an oil painting of Judge Marutani will soon be unveiled and installed in the Philadelphia City Hall.

As summarized in the dinner program, Bill served on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas for 11 years. In one of his landmark decisions, he ordered the all-boys Central High School to admit girls in 1983.

As an attorney he participated in civil rights drives in the South and helped organize the 1963 March on Washington for the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). From 1960 to 1970, he served as national legal counsel to the JACL and also served as a volunteer civil rights lawyer in cases involving school desegregation and the promotion of voter registration.

In 1967, representing the JACL, he presented oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Loving v. Virginia*, the case which led to the invalidation of miscegenation laws in 17 states.

WHO'S NEW

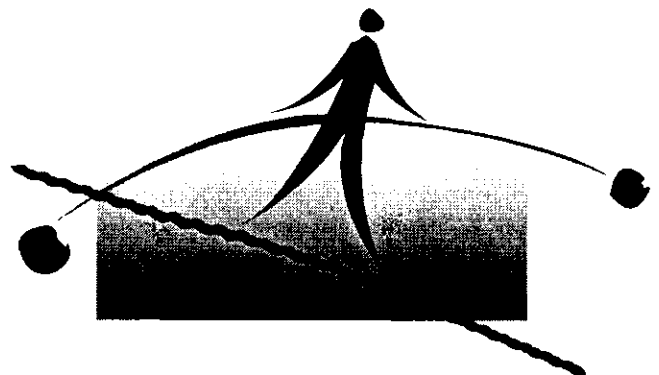
Dene Stern Mayer moved into Apt. 271 from Chappaqua, NY. She knew about Medford Leas from her parents, David and Edith Stern, who were among the Medford Leas "pioneers" in the early 70's. Her father used to contribute light verse to *Medford Leas Life*. If and when a unit opens up in Lumberton Leas, she will decide whether to live over there, closer to her good friend **Janice Saibel**.

She grew up in Elkins Park, PA. After graduating from Western College in Ohio with majors in art history and English, Dene held several secretarial jobs in Philadelphia. One evening, after a vigorous square dance session, she noticed a young man sprawled on the floor from exhaustion. Incredibly, this same man turned up as a dinner guest at her parents' house a week later. He was David Mayer, and six years later they were married. They lived in Cherry Hill while

David worked at RCA on the Early Warning System and then moved to Chappaqua after David got a job with IBM. They raised two children, and Dene now has four grandchildren. David died in 1990.

In Cherry Hill, Dene served on the School Board. During the Chappaqua years, Dene worked as a teacher's aide in the local schools and later for the Department of Social Services on employment and training programs. Aside from her interest in politics, Dene is interested in art and likes sports and walking.

by Ellen Stimler



NOVEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Ann Corsini of Environmental Services is November's Employee of the Month. She is a very pleasant, caring person in her dealings with both residents and staff. When the residents are sick she brings them homemade soup and visits them in John Woolman. When they return from shopping, she helps them manage their many bags. Her attendance record is excellent and she has often worked extra hours. Congratulations, Ann, and many thanks for your good work at Medford Leas!

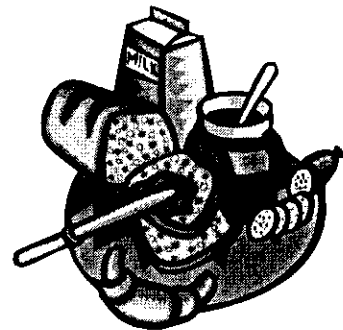
BREAKFAST PIONEERS

by Maggie Woodard

As of October 1, breakfast is served only in the Coffee Shop. Residents who had for years eaten in the Garden Room at a favorite table were shocked (and some very angry) when notice was given in September. **Lorraine LaPollo**, Director of Dining Services, tells residents they have an opportunity to create new history for the Coffee Shop – she calls them Breakfast Pioneers!

Management has tried hard to make the new breakfast experience a pleasant one. Tables are set with linen tablecloths and napkins. The window tables have been set aside for residents, and the boxes outside the windows are "dressed up" to provide a pleasant view. Seasonal changes will be made; presently there are chrysanthemums, scarecrows, gourds, and dried corn in the boxes. Residents were not happy with the glass coffee cups originally provided, so ceramic mugs have been ordered to match the new colored plates. The new carpeting has improved the sound level, but it has made it difficult to move chairs. It is expected that the carpet will be tamped down with use; if after a time the chairs still do not move easily, wheels will be investigated. Lorraine says that suggestions are welcome; changes have been made where possible in response to suggestions already received

For those who eat lunch in the Coffee Shop, food selections are offered buffet style on two sides of the room. Such an arrangement would create difficulties for many of the residents who eat breakfast every day. So at breakfast everything is served on one side only. After taking a tray, diners go first to the fruit selections, then to the grill area where a cook takes the order. Eggs any style are offered every day. French toast and pancakes are available on alternate days. Belgian waffles are a choice on Friday. After giving the order, residents can move on to the next station for a selection of other hot foods: potato of the day, bacon and sausage, hot cereals, and one other entree (breakfast casserole, blintzes, etc.). Next are pastries, breads, and juices. Wait staff is available to help residents to their tables if needed. A grill order will be delivered when it is ready. Carafes of coffee are at each table.



Financial considerations dictated the elimination of the breakfast buffet in the Garden Room. The staff is the same, although some staffing hours have been saved. Since it is no longer necessary to prepare food for two buffets and some food is made to order, there is less food waste. Over a year, there will be meaningful savings.

Lorraine reports that most reactions have been favorable. About 50-52 people are served every day at their new favorite tables. Most list the wide choice of food available and being able to special order hot foods as reasons for their satisfaction. It sounds as if Coffee Shop history *is* being created!

WELCOME TO MAIN CAMPUS

David and Katie Lewis are making a new home in Apt. 139 in the Courts after having lived at Woolman Commons for over 2½ years. Both are graduates of Ohio Wesleyan, where they met. They have two children and one grandchild. It is a family tradition to spend summers in a cabin colony in Blind River, Ontario. David is a member of the MLRA Diversity Committee, for which he has organized programs and a retreat. He is a member of the Madrigals and the choir of Grace Episcopal Church in Pemberton. His recreation includes ping-pong, swimming, canoeing, and water volleyball. Katie is active as a health volunteer and enjoys tai chi, other exercise, and square dancing.

Louise Evaul, who has been at Woolman Commons only a year, is facing another move to Apt. 94 in the Courts, on top of her double knee surgery in August. After the initial shock, she is now actually looking forward to life on the main campus, thanks to the tremendous support she is receiving from **Bill Murphy, Trudy DeLacy, Charity Reily, and Marge Sagett**. After she is fully recovered from her surgery, she will join the Mental Health Committee and volunteer in the Thrift and Gift Shops. Louise got her R.N. training in New York City at Bellevue Hospital and NYU. She is also a certified psychiatric nurse. Her big hobby is gourmet cooking.

ART GALLERY NEWS

by Helen L. Vukasin

December in the Medford Leas Art Gallery is always a special time. **Harry Forrest** and his group of calligraphers will once again decorate the Gallery space outside the auditorium at Medford Leas. The opening reception is on December 2 at 3:00 p.m. There will be a few remarks from the artists at 3:30 p.m.

All of the artists are members of the Philadelphia Calligraphers' Society. At some point each of those exhibiting has had a connection with Harry.

There will be a variety of subject matters, for there are no boundaries in this art form to the creativity of these talented artists.

Meanwhile, in the basement, the artistic residents of Medford Leas have been busy at work preparing for the opening reception of the Art Studio Exhibit on December 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. There are many new residents now working here and contributing to the show. Photographic works by residents are included.

As usual, there will be delicious homemade goodies and punch to spoil your lunch. For any newcomers, the Art Studio Exhibit can be found in the hallways outside the Fitness Center and the Swimming Pool. Take the elevator in the Atrium by the Colonial Room.

At the Lumberton Leas Art Gallery the exhibit of paintings by Medford Leas artist **Alice Skidmore Culbreth** and Lumberton Leas artist **Rita Keiper** will continue until the first of the year.

WHO'S NEW

R. Milton Gray, who prefers to be known as "Mickey," has moved into Apartment 41. He has lived in Medford since 1953 and has a deep interest in local historical sites in the Medford area. He graduated from Collingswood High School in 1932. In 1941 he married Barbara Hollis of Haddonfield. They had two daughters and a son. Mickey worked at the Esterbrook Pen Company for 28 years, starting as a lathe hand and progressing to Assistant Production Manager. Retiring from Esterbrook, he finished his working career doing sales and public relations work for the local Harriett's Oil Service, finally retiring in 1980. His wife, Barbara, was secretary at the Haines School of the Medford School District before she died in Canada while on vacation in 1994. Mickey is a longtime member of area bowling leagues and also the ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) Club that now meets in the Medford Leas Coffee Shop.

by Bob Minter

WHO'S NEW

Mary M. Carstens Cheney, Apt. 104, moved to Medford Leas from Basking Ridge in North Jersey to be able to live independently yet be close to her daughter's family in Medford. She grew up in East Brunswick, went to local schools, and graduated from Clark University with a major in sociology. After taking a secretarial course she worked for Johnson & Johnson for some time but then got her teaching certificate and taught fifth grade until her marriage to James Cheney. James was a helium specialist whose expertise took him on an expedition to Antarctica and other places. After their three children (one died at an early age) were all in school, Mary went back to teaching. The couple lived in many places in western Massachusetts but finally settled in Basking Ridge. There Mary did substitute teaching and volunteer work in her church and for the Women's Club. She is interested in gardening, church, and reading, and wonders why Medford Leas does not have a book discussion group. Maybe she'll start one?

by Ellen Stimler



THE MASTER GARDENERS

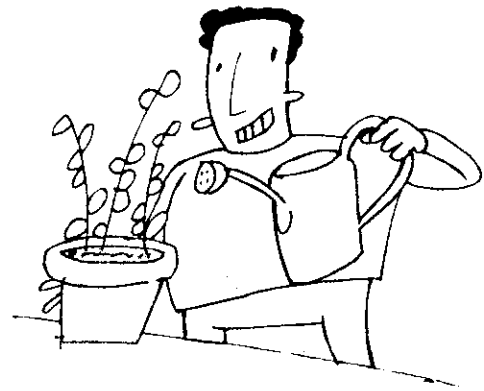
by Margaret Melstrom

Who are the Master Gardeners? What do they do? Why do we have Master Gardeners in the Nature Center at Medford Leas? Many residents have asked these questions, and Tom Polinski, president of their board of advisors, recently provided the answers.

The Master Gardeners program was established in New Jersey in 1984 as part of the Department of Agriculture to assist the County Extension Agricultural Agents. In Burlington County the main office is in Mount Holly, and Medford Leas is a

satellite office now open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Master Gardeners are volunteers who are not required to have previous education in horticulture; but they must spend three months twice a week taking in-depth classes in horticulture with Rutgers University professors who oversee the program as part of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service. The candidates must pass an examination to become Certified Master Gardeners, and they must volunteer 60 hours a year on the Helpline (609-654-5056) and other related activities. They give information on all residential and non-commercial horticultural issues from problems with giant trees to problems with indoor pot plants. They answer questions about the proper use of pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides, fungal diseases, and arbor issues; and they examine and research specimens that are brought in.

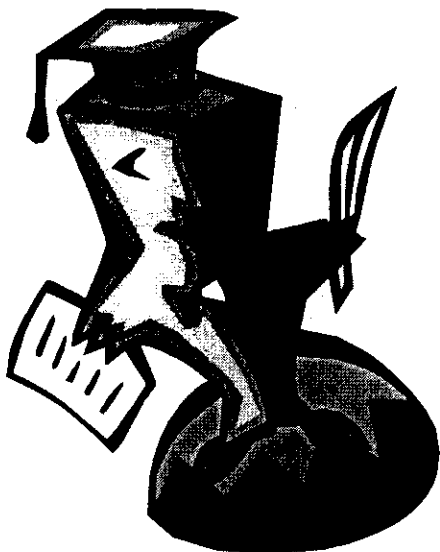


Burlington County has had classes for the past three years with 20-24 students a year. (Our **Debbie Lux** and **Lois Forrest** were graduates of the first class.) The Master Gardeners have their name on a sign outside the building at Medford Leas, but the building is owned by Medford Leas, which welcomes the Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners very much enjoy their interaction with the residents of Medford Leas who call or come in with questions or problems. They invite residents to become Master Gardeners.

SURPRISE MAIL

by Gertrude Marshall

There is nothing like receiving a triple-folded, yellow brochure addressed to "The Parents of Gertrude Marshall" to make a 91-year-old feel young. One of these came recently from the Educational Services Center, Inc., which offers courses in mastering the PSAT for \$385, no less, and questioned me as to my high school grade: 10th, 11th, or 12th. Since I have a B.A. from Bryn Mawr College and took my SAT in either 1928 or 1929, I spent 37 cents and informed the Center about my present status. But how did my name get onto a high-school list? Strange things can happen in the new computer world, and I assume that my transformation back to high school was one of these glitches. But would I really want to go through the 74 years again? I would gladly skip the SAT and the eight additional exams which I took in the Germantown Friends School gym. Those years had good as well as less pleasant aspects, but I suspect it is just as well that the only possibility is to relive the happy times through memory.



THE LUCKY PURCHASER

by Dorothy Tillman

Nurse **Mary Jo Christiansen** is a woman who knows what she likes and, more importantly, acts on it!

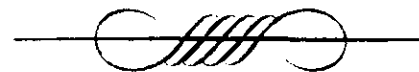
What she liked was a painting that was being auctioned off at The Thrift Shop a few weeks ago. She not only liked it – "I love it," she said. "The minute I saw it I knew I just had to have it."

Resident **Rose Cruikshank**, The Thrift Shop's researcher, thought it was of the School of Dutch painting, possibly the work of the Dutch painter of the 18th Century, Ambrosius Bosschaert.

'Nuff said, Mary Jo bid \$500 and won her prize. That could be the end of a lovely story – but wait – there's more.

Five hundred dollars is a lot to spend, and Mary Jo wanted to learn more about her purchase, so she took her painting to an appraiser. And did she get an answer! The painting was not in good condition. It needed restoration. But, as is, it is worth between \$6,000 and \$8,000.

As most of you know, Mary Jo no longer works at Medford Leas -- but, boy, what a way to go!



IN MEMORIAM

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Donald Quick | October 20 |
| Doris (Dolly) S. Smith | October 27 |
| Marguerite (Margo) Young | November 4 |

BOOKS WE ENJOYED READING

Ed. Note: In this space we share comments on books we found worth reading, and we encourage our readers to send us brief reviews of the books they especially liked.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night

by Mark Hadden (220 pp.).

Christopher John Francis Boone is a learned, gifted savant, a 15-year-old teenager who knows every world capital and every prime number up to 7057. But Christopher is autistic; everyday interactions and admonitions have little meaning. He cannot stand to be touched, he needs routine and order. He loves animals, yet when the neighbor's dog, Wellington, is found dead, he is blamed for the crime. He decides he will solve this mystery, just as Sherlock Holmes, his hero, would do it. This search leads him to face a real crisis in his own family. This is a debut novel by an author who has worked with autistic children and now lives and teaches in Oxford, England.

by George Rubin

The Piano Tuner

by Daniel Mason (337 pp.).

In October, 1886, Edgar Drake, a professional piano tuner, accepted the strange request from the British War Office to repair and tune the Ebard piano for Surgeon-Major Carroll stationed in British Burma. He found the Surgeon-Major engaged in an unorthodox peacemaking mission. Using poetry, medicine, and music, he had brought a tentative quiet to the southern Burma states, but his superiors questioned his methods. Edgar became totally enraptured by the mission of tuning this magnificent piano and the remarkable people he met. He found he had a role to play in this mysterious and dangerous part of the world. This is a sensuous and lyrical novel rich in passion and adventure. The writings of Conrad and Melville come to mind. A hypnotic tale of myth and self-discovery, it is in the Medford Leas library.

by George Rubin

TECHNOLOGICALLY CHALLENGED

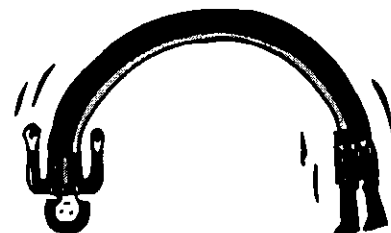
by Ellen*Stimler

After about 15 years of service, my personal copier started crumpling up the paper, and my worst expectations were confirmed by the customer service technician I consulted. He suggested that I get a new one, which he said would cost less than the repairs to the old one. At Office Max, they had the recommended model which would cost only \$100 after a mail-in rebate. The box was loaded into my trunk and I managed to get it home on a borrowed dolly. It took me about an hour to wrestle the copier out of the box, strip off all the tapes that held the pieces together, read the set-up instructions, and insert the print cartridge. I felt rather self-satisfied with my achievement at this point. Next I plugged the unit into the nearest outlet, inserted a piece to copy, and hit the "start" button diagrammed in the operating manual. Nothing happened. Nothing lit up, like it was supposed to. I tested the wall plug with a lamp, nothing wrong with that. What to do next?

I called the company's customer service, and the technician spent about 15 minutes with me going over everything I had done but not coming up with any mistake or omission. He gave me two options: Take the unit to the nearest service center, which was in Mt. Holly, or have it exchanged for another unit.

The next day I decided to take it to the place in Mt. Holly and rolled it to my car on my luggage carrier. When I called the store in the afternoon, the technician told me that I had a perfect copier. The one thing I didn't do was turn on the power switch on the side of the unit.

Nowhere was it stated that you had to turn on the power before you hit "start."



ERRORS IN DECEMBER CRYPTOGRAM

If you are planning to work on the December cryptogram, please work from the one given below and ignore the cryptogram on page 16, because there are two mistakes in the one on page 16. The mistakes were not the fault of Russell Hill. The editors submit their sincere apologies for this unfortunate occurrence.

Here is the correct December cryptogram:

NXVQ MJMK X SGVMW NSTUP

BX BSQ JMBQYZ MWP BSQ JTUP

JTBS M RMQYK, SMWP TW SMWP.

KQMBZ

CRYPTOGRAM

by Russell Hill

Here is the solution to the November Cryptogram:

ON YOUR MIDNIGHT PALLET LYING,
LISTEN AND UNDO THE DOOR,
LADS THAT WASTE THE LIGHT IN SIGHING
IN THE DARK SHOULD SIGH NO MORE.

A.E.H. (Alfred Edward Houseman)

It was solved correctly by **Lydia Andrews, Miriam Angle, Mary Barth, Mort Bregman, Joan Bellman, Marian Burk, Liz Dill, Betty Donahue, Loretta Elkin, Marian & Neil Hartman, Jane Hunter, Hugh Jenkins, Euseba & Warren Kamensky, Helen Peterson, Betty Preston, Liliane Reynolds, Doris Salati, Bonnie Schilling, Nickie Stevenson, Ellen Stimler, Hana Stranska, Ellen Wiener, John Winton, Marie Winton, and Gladys Wynkoop.**

Here is the December Cryptogram:

**NXVQ MJMK X SGVMW NSTUP
BX BSR JMBQYZ MWP BSR JTUP
JTBS M RMQYK,
SMWP TW SMWP.**

KQMBZ

Please put answers in Box 45 by December 10

MEDFORD LEAS LIFE

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**Deadline for submissions:
10th of the month preceding publication**

