



Medford Leas LIFE

VOL. XXXII, No. 3

MARCH 2004

BILL MURPHY: A MAN FOR ALL SYSTEMS AND SEASONS

by Grace Spicer Stewart

Bill Murphy sat behind his desk stacked high with documents. Blue eyes alert, intelligent, assessing – the epitome of unleashed energy. “Tell me about yourself and what you do,” I said.

“I came here in 1972,” he began thoughtfully. “After high school graduation and four years in the Air Force, I was working for a phone company. That day we were working at Medford Leas. My boss told me his company was bankrupt. He handed me a paycheck. I was out of a job.

“I walked into the Executive Director’s office at Medford Leas.” ‘I need a job,’ I told him. ‘We’re looking for a painter.’ ‘I can do that,’ I said.

“Now, 32 years later, as Director of Operations, I am responsible for Maintenance, Laundry, Environmental Services, Horticulture, Central Supply, Dining Services, and Information Technology.

“In 1972, there were 18 buildings and 250 residents ... only two guys in Maintenance ... Medford Leas was smaller but still a lovely place. Now, there are 715 residents and many more buildings.

“Each division has some kind of department head or coordinator and we all work together through meetings and procedures.



“A lot of my business is day-to-day operations ... keeping apartments safe and clean ... meeting new residents.

“I try to know all residents and their apartment numbers, so I can address each one by name.

“I am also in charge of keeping places full and up-to-date ... getting people settled and happy, content.”

“One of my sons asked, ‘Daddy, who is your favorite resident?’ ‘I don’t have any favorite one. I treat them all the same.’

“My parents taught me to do right. Church. I still remember my Sunday school teacher.

“Still, I am in tune with the absolute business of this place. And dealing with contractors. Lot of change at Medford Leas. People no longer want small apartments.

“There is a lot of satisfaction in my job. It is a pleasure working here. I can’t do anything to help residents’ physical health, but I do everything I can to keep their living space right.

“I am here every morning by 6:30 – earlier in cold weather to check mechanical things.

“I want to make it very clear how our people work to see things happen ... they are a quality dedicated staff – all are equally important.

“I enjoy doing behind-the-scenes tours with residents. We’ll be doing that again.

“There used to be four CCRCs in New Jersey. Now, there are over 30.

“It’s been quite a process to move people from Woolman Commons to the main campus. We have most of them moved. I plan to have everyone moved by April.”

David and Katie Lewis, who are in Apt. 139, wrote “Bill Murphy is performing an impossible job, with grace, in finding apartments for all of us – rather like fitting square pegs in round holes.”

Pat Lowe, now in Apt. 252: “Bill made me feel they are sorry to move us. He was gentle, kind. I couldn’t say more.”

Sumi Kabayashi, in Apt. 247: “Bill did everything to make the transition easy for us.”

Finally, I asked if I might talk with his secretary. “Sure. **Karen Raynor** is the best secretary in the world. A nice person, too. Talk to her.”

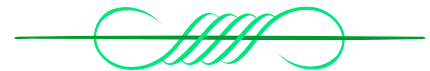
Karen was emphatic: “Bill is the best boss in the world. He really cares about residents and employees. He has a sharp memory. ‘Whatever it takes to make the residents happy, do it.’

“Bill is always positive. He appreciates everything you do – even the simplest thing. It makes you want to work harder.”

Residents have their own stories to tell. When **Saul Stimler** had a fatal heart attack in his car and was taken to the hospital, Bill went there on his Sunday off and returned the car to its parking place without saying a word. Bill has helped other residents in similar emergency situations.

Bill grew up in Collingswood, NJ and now lives in Tabernacle. He has three children and two grandchildren. Bill said his wife, Diane, “is very supportive to me and of Medford Leas residents.” At 6:30 p.m. on my interview day, I saw Bill still working – by now a twelve-hour day.

Many thanks, **Bill Murphy**, from all of us. We appreciate YOU!



WATCHING OVER YOU

by Dene Mayer

I like to walk and was doing so along Route 541, having just been to the cash machine at the WAWA, when a pickup truck pulled over just ahead. The driver’s side window went down and a voice said “Are you OK, Mrs. Mayer?” To my amazement, it was **Todd Jones** of Medford Leas Security, who just wanted assurance that I hadn’t wandered off the reservation unattended.

I thanked him for his concern and assured him I was quite OK.

I’m too old to be picked up by a handsome young guy, but I continue to marvel at the tender loving care we residents receive from the staff here at Medford Leas, whether we happen to be on or off campus.

THE NEED FOR NEW UNITS

by Kitty Katzell

Medford Leas has been undergoing expansion ever since it opened in 1972. New courts, Rushmore, Bridlington, Woolman Commons, Lumberton Leas, and single-family homes have all been added over the years. Some residents have questioned the need for more units now.

A major reason is that the total number of living units at Medford Leas has been reduced by the closing of Woolman Commons plus the ongoing use of studios to create larger one- and two-bedroom units. This means that those lost units are not available for new residents.

In addition, one or two of the existing courts will be displaced in order to build the new medical building. Those courts represent another 8 to 16 units that will not be available for occupancy by new residents, since the current residents in the displaced courts will be moved to other units that become vacant.

In combination, these changes represent a significant reduction in the total number of units available at Medford Leas. That reduction has an obvious impact on revenue because of the loss of entry and maintenance fees that would have been paid by new residents who would have occupied those units. As a result, new units are needed to generate revenue that is now being lost. Once built and occupied, the new units will also help in financing the construction of the new medical building that is so sorely needed. At this writing, the number of units that will need to be built has not been determined.

NEW OPERA LIBRARY

by Virginia Dreby

Good news for opera fans or just the opera curious. There is now, in the Third Floor Haddon Lounge, an Opera Library of books, videos, librettos and scores. This will be known as the

Beulah and **Eugene Link** Opera Library and is the way their friends want to honor the Links who initiated the Opera program at Medford Leas some ten years ago. The opening of this new library was made at an informal presentation to Gene Link before a video showing of Verdi's *Don Carlo* on Thursday, January 29. A group of residents and staff shared in the presentation.

The bookshelves, in which the various opera items are placed, were the gift of the Thrift Shop, and their refurbishing and installation were generously supported by **Jane Weston** and **Bill Murphy**.

The library collection at the present consists of items contributed by **Kitty Katzell**, **Teddy Raup**, and **Ed Dreby**. Additional contributions will be most welcome. Please contact Ed Dreby for further information.

A plaque designating the honorees has been installed, the items have been catalogued, and instructions for users wishing to borrow any of the items on a short-term basis have been provided

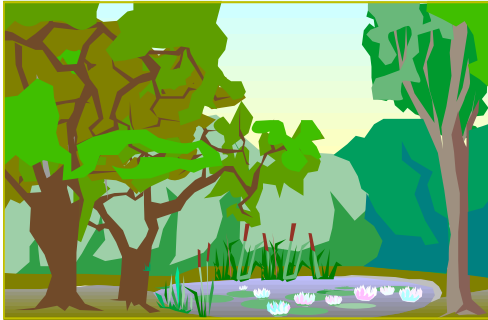
STAFF IN THE NEWS

Lenny Oman, a member of the Dining Services Department, is a very proud member of the Oman family of Maple Shade, which was chronicled in a two-page spread, with six large pictures, in a January issue of the *Maple Shade Progress*. At Medford Leas, Lenny is also known for the vegetables he grows in the window boxes outside the Coffee Shop, the awards he regularly wins at the Medford Leas Flower Show, and his genuine interest in many of the residents' activities. His father, Al Oman, has traced the Oman roots back to 1715 in Sweden. Lenny's grandfather came to the U.S. in 1913 with three of his brothers, and they all built houses in Maple Shade, as did his father when he got married. Lenny has six siblings and always looks forward to the family reunions which bring together 40 or more Omans from all over the United States.

THE ARBORETUM

by Kitty Katzell

Most residents of Medford Leas are aware that Medford Leas is the home of the Lewis W. Barton Arboretum, named for a founder and former resident of Medford Leas. Too many residents know little more than that about this wonderful feature of the place where we live.



The Estaugh Board's Arboretum Committee, composed of board members, residents, staff, and a representative of the Morris Arboretum, supervises all aspects of the Arboretum to ensure environmentally sound management and to enhance the natural aspects of Medford Leas with resident participation.

All of Medford Leas is part of the Arboretum – the 33 courts, each with a different landscape design; the woodlands, the meadows, the Atrium, residents' private gardens, the farm, Bridlington, Rushmore, the private houses, and Lumberton Leas. While the primary purpose of the Arboretum is to provide a beautiful landscape for residents, this treasure is shared with those on the waiting list and with the general public. Individuals and small groups make use of "Self-Guided Tours" of the Pinetum, the woodland trails, and other special features; residents also serve as tour guides for Arboretum visitors. **Betsy Pennink** is the artist who maintains the diagrams in each of the courts, showing the names and locations of the specimens planted here.

Another goal of the Arboretum has been the development of collections reflecting the diversity

of the plant world, as shown by our collections of crab apples, rhododendron, viburnum, conifers, and hardy, disease-resistant trees and shrubs.

The Arboretum also serves as a horticultural resource for South Jersey, providing information and education through classes, seminars, and the Master Gardeners who work in our Nature Center.

Residents are active in many of the Arboretum programs, such as trail, woodland, and nursery maintenance, the Bird Club, and guiding tours. The Tree-Taggers have been inactive in recent years but will resume their task of identifying and tagging specimens in the Arboretum as soon as the weather permits. The group meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 at the Nature Center. From there, they set forth with maps, and manuals to guide them in their appointed rounds. They maintain maps showing tree locations throughout the Medford campus, so that newly planted specimens can be added to the maps and those that have been removed can be deleted. This is obviously a great activity for residents who enjoy walking about the campus in nice weather and for those who have an interest in learning more about horticulture. The team's work is greatly enhanced by the participation of **Howard Kriebel**, whose career was spent in the scientific field of horticulture.

In addition to its work with the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, Medford Leas also works closely with environmental groups, with state and local agencies, and with Rutgers University.



FITNESS DAY MAKES FRONT PAGE

by Sam Howarth

It is not surprising that the Medford Leas ninth annual Fitness Day on January 28 was featured the next day in an article on the front page of *The Burlington County Times*. The story told of the many activities during the five-hour program, and in one of the pictures **Maggie Woodard** was identified holding a huge exercise ball.

All morning long in the Atrium a literature and information table was manned by knowledgeable Fitness Committee members answering questions and urging residents to sign up for one of three stretching classes according to levels of ability and/or the Medford Leas Fitness Challenge being held during the next couple of months.

Also in the morning in the Atrium and Lounge areas a continuous fitness slide show was viewed with enthusiasm. Back, neck, and hand massages were also popular. Hamstring length tests were given along with stretching tips. Perhaps the most fun of all was sticking one's head through a hole to have a photograph taken as Mr. or Mrs. Atlas with a muscular caricaturish body.



Between 9:15 and 10:15 Fitness and Aquatics Assistant **Debbie Grigg** conducted a very popular Swiss ball workshop in the Activities Room.

As always, the Fitness Day Luncheon was a sellout! Delicious healthful food and colorful hand exercise balls as favors at each place are enough to make this such a popular event; but there was a lot more to attract the diners. All had an opportunity to cheer for our five centenarian fitness folk, **Ping Folwell, Anne Burr, Alice Jones, Olga Clement** and **Louise Henry**, all of whom were masterfully given special recognition

by **Bud Stratton**. **Debbie Grigg** also acknowledged many of the staff and residents who have significantly contributed to the fitness program. **Julien Eysmans** read a delightful poem poking fun at the fitness program, and the Leas Singers along with **Gerry Stride** rounded out the entertainment with enjoyable songs.

After the luncheon everyone's attention was focused on the Activities Room to view the "Field of Memories," a collection of antique athletic equipment and lots of pictures of our residents in their former athletic days.

Fitness Day is just one more example of how well Medford Leas staff and residents work together. Fitness and Aquatics, Maintenance, Dining Services, Nursing and Rehabilitation, Environmental Services, and Therapeutic Recreation are some of the staff departments that contributed to the success of Fitness Day. Thunderous applause is due to **Beverly Kannengieszer** and her Fitness and Aquatics staff for pulling it all together so well.

GAS STATION TALE

by Phyllis Carducci

During the 1974 gas shortage, when one could only purchase gas on odd or even days, I was living in Medford Lakes and had to travel daily to Cherry Hill where I was employed. I purchased gasoline at a Sunoco station where you had to tell them what grade of gas you wanted, such as 1/80, 2/10, or 2/40. At that time you were allowed to buy gas only if you had less than half a tank full, thus requiring the attendant to check your gas gauge.

One morning, when I went to get my tank filled, the attendant, after poking his head in the window in order to read the gauge, asked me, "What denomination?" I thought they were getting very particular. "Presbyterian," I promptly replied. We both laughed hysterically, and he said, "That answer was worthy of the *Reader's Digest*."

CHANGE IN ESTAUGH BD. POLICIES

by Kitty Katzell

On February 3, residents received a letter from the Estaugh Board informing them of a change in Board policies. Under the former policies, the Board was composed entirely of members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Under the new policies, it will be composed of "at least 50% plus one" Quakers. There will also be a term limit of three consecutive 3-year terms for new members of the Board, as well as 3-year term limits for the Chair and Vice-Chair(s). The commitment to having residents on the Board was reaffirmed.

Recent events may have contributed to these changes. For a year now, CDC has been working effectively toward a revised master plan for the future of Medford Leas, with members drawn from management, the Estaugh Board, and residents. This may have helped to show how such a working relationship could be achieved.

In the fall of 2003, Elizabeth Bartlett of KPMG was brought in as a consultant. She interviewed individuals and groups at Medford Leas and conducted a survey of residents. Responses to the survey urged changes in the Estaugh Board's structure. When Bartlett met with the MLRA Board, she learned that residents had talked of their wish for resident involvement in the Estaugh Board. She encouraged MLRA to convey that wish to them, so, in October, a memorandum to that effect was composed, but never sent.

Then, at a January MLRA Board meeting, the October memorandum came up, quite by chance. The Estaugh Board was holding a retreat meeting that very weekend on the subject of governance. So the MLRA Board asked that the October memorandum be delivered before that meeting.

Regardless of what led to the Estaugh Board's action, residents were pleased to learn of it and look forward to the consequences of these changes in the Estaugh Board's policies.

LUMBERTON LEAS OPEN HOUSE

by Carol Suplee

Visitors to the January 22 Open House at Lumberton Leas were amazed by - and a little incredulous of - the warm reception they received from residents.

Jane Weston, Director of Marketing and Community Relations, confirmed that "They were taken aback in a positive way ... they couldn't quite believe that people would be so welcoming, would volunteer in this way, or open their homes to visitors... People may be used to the hard sell that some facilities use, but it was evident on that day that the enthusiasm was not put on. This is what sets us apart. The Open House was a wonderful way to show people what it is really like to live in the community."

The Great Room resembled a beehive, humming with activity. Every aspect of Medford Leas/Lumberton Leas community life was represented through displays, posters, or demonstrations.

According to **Dorothy Rathje**, chair, who shared duties with **Polly Schnepf** and **Louise Stiles**, more than 60 volunteers were on hand for the 76 attendees.

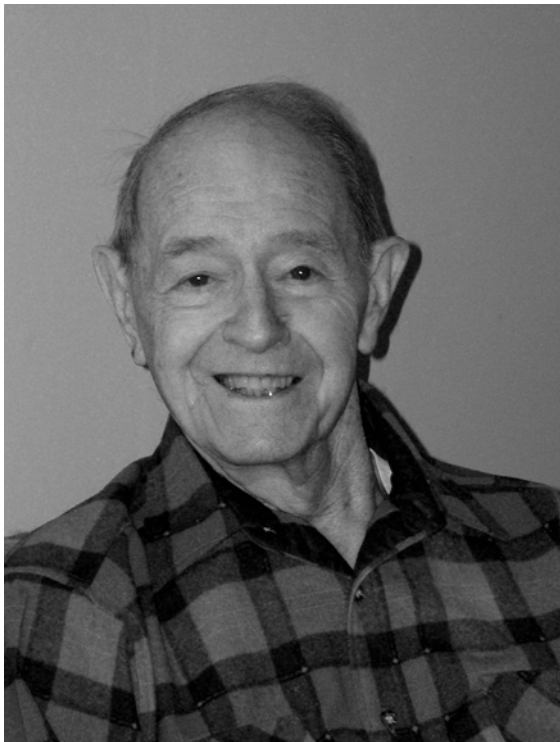
Marianne Steely, Marketing Manager, commented, "We were thrilled with the response...The community is mature enough now that it is exceptionally nice to present to new people."

Many visitors expressed interest and made appointments or inquired about waiting list applications. According to Jane Weston, Lumberton Leas had not been the focus of a major marketing effort since its opening. The challenge was to avoid standard marketing methods and to try to help people get a true sense of the nature and reality of life at Lumberton Leas. According to all reports, the effort exceeded expectations.

MEET OUR NONAGENARIANS

by Margaret Melstrom

Elmer and Thelma Rowley both became 90 last summer, and for the past 67 years their marriage has been a loving, caring partnership. Elmer retired as a colonel from the U.S. Marine Corps and from a corporate management business position in 1973 at age 60, and he says, "Then life really began."



Elmer Rowley photo by Margery Rubin

The Rowleys have lived in Medford since 1962, and both became active in the Pine Barrens Conservationists, a local organization dedicated to saving the Pinelands. Thelma had always been interested in botany, and Elmer was active in the New Jersey Audubon Society and was president in 1974-75. He became involved with other conservation groups such as the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy, and the National Parks Association. Elmer spent almost full time on projects for preservation of the Pinelands until 1978, when federal legislation was passed. In 1979 New Jersey passed companion legislation establishing the Pinelands Commission. Elmer

remained on the board of the New Jersey Audubon Society until 1990.

Elmer and Thelma moved to Medford Leas in 1998; by then Elmer was active in the Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, and he is currently on its board. He has also been president of the Burlington County Natural Sciences Club. This busy man has been a Rotary Club member since 1947 and is a past president of the Northeast Philadelphia Rotary Club. He is now the publicist of the Medford/Vincentown Rotary Club, which has annually given \$30,000 for scholarships, community service, and support of academic sports activities at Shawnee High School and the Burlington County Institute of Technology. The Rowleys are also known for their spectacular, large hibiscus flowers, which can be seen in Court 23 from spring to fall.

Thelma has been actively engaged in all of Elmer's endeavors; she has led nature walks and an arts and crafts group, and she has worked in watercolors and ceramics. Both Elmer and Thelma agree that "Behind every successful man is a good woman."



Thelma Rowley photo by Margery Rubin

WELCOME TO MAIN CAMPUS

by Ellen Stimler

Marion Burk is the proud new occupant of the remodeled Apt. 431 on the ground floor of Woolman. She and her late husband, Paul, moved to Woolman Commons in 1993 from Lower Bank, NJ. Paul died in 1994 after 57 years of marriage. Marion has a degree in music education from Trenton State College and taught music in local schools before and after her three children were her priority. She has also served as a vocal soloist, choir director, and organist in churches where they lived. At Medford Leas, she plays the piano for Estaugh sing-alongs, for some Vesper services, and directs the Leas Singers. She likes to walk and read and still attends church services in Delanco, where she was born.

Miriam K. Angle, a close friend of Marion Burk, will be living right next door to her in Apt. 434. Miriam sings with both the Leas Singers and the Madrigals and likes to paint with watercolors and exercise her brain with cryptograms and crossword puzzles.

Before her marriage to William C. Angle, Miriam worked as a laboratory technician for Sherwin-Williams, American Cyanamid, and Du Pont and took night courses in chemistry and other subjects at the University of Pennsylvania and elsewhere. She has traveled to many remote destinations and made nine trips on a windjammer schooner in Maine.

Nancy Darling is getting settled in Apt. 227 after having lived at Woolman Commons for over 11 years. She was a staff member of *Medford Leas Life* for most of that time and contributed biographies of all new residents there. Nancy majored in political science at Oberlin and later earned a M.S.W. degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She had a 41-year career as a family therapist, working mainly with children. A lifelong member of the Society of Friends, Nancy plays the recorder and krummhorn; she enjoys

swimming, reading detective stories, bridge, knitting, puzzles, and Scrabble.

Leonard (Len) and Ann Klotz, who lived at Lumberton Leas for over three years, are enjoying the comforts in their full-service Apt. 225. They both attended Drew University in Madison, NJ, and then served 41 years in the ministry of the United Methodist Church in New York, Connecticut, and Ohio. After their retirement in 1983, they lived in Oxford, Ohio, and carried on a great variety of volunteer work. Ann was registrar of Heritage Tours, which led study tours to eastern and western Europe and many other countries. After settling in at Medford Leas, health conditions permitting, they hope to participate in MLRA activities. They celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on New Year's Day 2004. Len said Ann picked January 1 as their wedding day so he would not forget their anniversary! They have three married children, six grandchildren, and four greatgrands.

Margery M. Larrabee has moved into Apt. 631, Rushmore, from Woolman Commons. She is a member of the MLRA Diversity Committee and a member of the Continuing the Dream Committee that was responsible for the Martin Luther King Day activities in Mt. Holly.

Margery, a Quaker for over 60 years, has a graduate degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania and studied for two years at Shalem on Becoming A Spiritual Guide and one year at the PYM School of the Spirit on Becoming a Spiritual Nurturer.

She facilitates retreats and workshops on such topics as Discovering Our Gifts, Emotional Healing, and Being A Spiritual Elder, and at an annual Conference on Religion and Psychology. She has written numerous articles and pamphlets and is presently involved with a spiritual formation program at the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Margery has three adult children and two grandchildren.

WILDFLOWER WALKS BEGIN

by Rudy Salati

This is the time of the year to begin our wildflower walks. The cycle of the seasons has gone full circle and spring returns to an eagerly awaiting corner of the world. All the signs of its much anticipated arrival: the sun riding higher each morning and lingering into the early evening; the appearance and prognostication of the ground hog; the swelling of the skunk cabbages; the enlargement and opening of winter buds; and, "... the voice of the turtle is heard..." (Solomon). Suddenly, spring has burst upon us!

A very good time for a wildflower walk is "when young dawn with her rose red fingers" (Homer) paints the sky. Our walks, though, start at a more humane 9:00 a.m. and extend for about an hour. Walking proceeds at a leisurely pace, thus providing time for friendly chatter and discussion of the subjects of our venture. All of the walks are on campus, and most are in sight of the courts. Dates, times, and meeting places are listed on the monthly and weekly calendars.

Some of the flowers that we will see and appreciate on our first walk are: Bloodroot, with the bright, showy blossom and its distinctive leaf; Field Pansy, an inch or so high with a tiny flower; and Spring Beauty, that carpet the forest floor with their cheery flowers and grass-like leaves.

Photographs, sketches, and trail comments make excellent additions to diaries and journals. We can use them, too, as we build a newly instituted website.

So, have your cameras, notepads, and sketch-pads ready for an enjoyable interlude with nature.



MLRA WEBSITE UPDATE

by Maggie Heineman

Are you familiar with the *Committee Job Description* notebook in the MLRA Library? With your back to the display window, at knee level you'll see several red 3-ring binders; one of them has the committee job descriptions. **Todd Butler's** interesting article, "The Workings of the Display Case" is one of many committee descriptions – all now available at <http://mlra.org>.

MLRA committee and activity leaders are invited to contact the Website Committee and plan *customized* committee pages – with photos. **Gordon Beckhart** has sent material for the Citizens Committee. **Rudy Salati** and **Maggie Heineman** are hard at work on the wildflowers pages, aiming to have the section on early spring wildflowers available by April 1.

The talk Maggie Heineman gave to the February MLRA meeting about the whys and wherefores of Internet discussion boards has been placed on the website.

Because low vision issues are important, the MLRA website is in *large* font. Moreover, at the top of the home page there's a message in *extra large* font that says "Click here if you need larger text size."

That click takes the reader to an important page called "Discussion Board Help," which, along with instructions about the MLRA Discussion Board, tells how to make your web-browser display oversized font.

Hopefully those of you who know how to go to the World Wide Web will be able to locate and understand the "Discussion Board Help" page. If you get stuck, Don Bernard is available for in-person help on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

The User Name for private areas of the website, is *mlra*. Until March 21 the password is *winter*. In spring, begin using the permanent password which is *atrium*. The reminder hint on the website will say "The courtyard near the Front Desk."

MEDFORD LEAS RESERVE FUND

by Maggie Woodard

Medford Leas is a very caring, giving community. Residents help other residents in many ways, often daily, depending on their talents, health, and time. The generous response to the year-end letter encouraging gifts to the Medford Leas Reserve Fund was another testament to the deep spirit of community which exists here. Thirty-five people made donations ranging from \$25 to over \$1,000, for a total of \$8,600. This fund, available for any qualified resident, provides ongoing financial assistance. Because of the downturn in the economy and because people are living longer, the use of the fund has recently increased substantially.

The fund has existed since 1974. Original seed money consisted of a gift of \$200 made in August 1973 to the MLRA in appreciation of the kindness shown to a resident and her visiting friend during a siege of illness earlier that summer. The idea of a Reserve Fund, "to provide aid to any resident who might be unable to meet future increases in monthly charges," originated in the 1973-74 MLRA Board under the leadership of the Finance Committee Chairman, **Elliot Lee**. The amount accumulated was turned over to the Estaugh for safekeeping, with the understanding that the corporation was to be solely responsible for the investment of the fund.

The Reserve Fund was formally established by the approval of a resolution by the Executive Committee of the Estaugh Corporation on February 27, 1974, and finally by the Medford Leas Residents Association by a unanimous vote on April 15, 1974. Recommendations for assistance grants are made by management to the Fund's Administration Committee. The Administration Committee, which makes all decisions including amount of assistance, is composed of two members of the Executive Committee of the Estaugh Corporation and three residents selected by the MLRA Board. The Committee meets yearly, more often if necessary. Full confidentiality is assured: names of residents requiring aid will never be divulged to any other

resident, including members of the Administration Committee.

Over the years, the principal source of income has been memorial gifts, but some people gave money as birthday gifts. Because the fund presently needs replenishing, it is hoped that residents will resume making gifts throughout the year. Small gifts are welcome. (These tax-deductible contributions should be made payable to "The Estaugh," marked for *Reserve Fund*.)

SPRING COURSE AT MEDFORD U

by Kay Cooley

The spring semester will mark the return of two of Medford University's most popular professors.

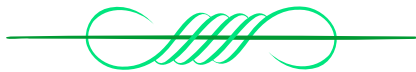
Dick Smollens, who taught "American Musical Theater: Classical and Jazz Interpretations" in the Fall of 2002, will present four classes on "Giants of American Popular Song." Each session will be devoted to one or a pair of these giants: George and Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter, Harold Arlen, and Rodgers and Hart. Classes will include vintage recordings, film segments, and vocal demonstrations by the lecturer. Come and enjoy your favorites from the past.



To bring the number of classes up to the usual six, Dr. Bob Hedrick, who gave us "Our Founding Fathers" last spring, will present two lectures in his primary field of scholarship – Russian history. (American history is just a hobby of his.) He will trace the founding of the Russian Empire by three

rulers: Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, and Alexander I. His talks will highlight the connections and parallels between the two emerging nations of America and Russia. Viewers of the Hermitage films should be well prepared.

Classes will start on Monday, April 12, in the Auditorium from 3:30 to 5:00. Course descriptions and enrollment forms will be distributed after March 15. For information, call **Kay Cooley** at 518-0109.



WHERE IS ROCKY'S STATUE?

by George Rubin

Ed. Note: This is one of a series about Medford Leas residents who participate in volunteer services in the wider community.

Debbie Troemner is asked that question dozens of times as a guide at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She moved to Lumberton Leas four years ago from Moorestown, NJ. In 1968 she had become tired of her local activities and was accepted for training as a guide at the Museum. Now, with thirty years in this volunteer position, she is conversant with the entire collection at the Art Museum. Her favorite area is the permanent collection of American art.

Debbie says every two years a new class of guides is being trained. They are divided into two groups, those working weekdays and others working weekends. She is a weekday guide. Right now the Museum has about 150 of these volunteers. She does one tour a day and is one of the "senior guides." The training is constantly updated. The museum is looking for more men and those who are fluent in foreign languages. Debbie has seen many changes and additions to the Museum and to the art collections over these many years.

She has had many incidents as a guide that she loves to recall. "There was a couple," she said, "the only ones on my tour one day. In the middle of the tour the woman's cell phone rang and she began a conversation on the phone. I was not perturbed," she continued, "I just gave all my attention and the lecture to the man she was with." She also says that in the center of the gallery of impressionistic art is a large fountain. On one occasion a visitor kept backing up to see the picture in front of him. Yes, he backed right into the fountain.

"Right how," Debbie remarked, "I am very busy with the start of the blockbuster Manet exhibit. Special tours will be added and numerous groups will be arriving from all over." Debbie expressed how she loves this work, saying, "Each group I lead has a different dynamic that makes the work exciting and interesting and it is never boring."

The two questions most often asked her are, "Where is the bathroom?" and "Where is the Rocky statue?" The statue was erected during the filming of the Rocky movie series at the Museum. Debbie said, "The only things left of that statue are the footprints embedded at the top of the stairs. And it never really was art!"



Debbie Troemner

photo by Margery Rubin

A SOUTHERNER IN THE FAMILY

by Gertrude Marshall

Genealogy was never my thing, but our daughter was very interested in my southern ancestry. My father, Willis Parnell, was born in 1872 in Thomasville in southwest Georgia; my grandfather, George Washington Parnell (born on February 22, 1840), had fought in the Civil War, was captured, and spent three years in a Northern prison camp near Newark, Delaware.

In 1976, we took a trip to Thomasville to search for our roots. My daughter had obtained copies of the 1870 and 1880 censuses and a map of the town showing the location of the "old cemetery" surrounded by a brick wall and a locked iron gate.

We managed to climb over the wall and then were able to locate Parnell graves of the Civil War era, including that of my great-grandmother, Mary Clarke Parnell. There was also a child's grave, Virginia Parnell, with a lamb carved at the top of the stone, with the inscription "Many fond hopes lie buried here." Next to this graveyard was a smaller, less pretentious one with wooden grave markers, for the local blacks. Segregation even in death!



The director of the Thomasville Historical Society was most helpful and interested in our search. He showed us a letter, written by a Civil War soldier to his girlfriend in 1865. To our amazement, it mentioned that the letter would be delivered by one George Parnell, meaning my grandfather, who would be returning to Thomasville.

We learned that my grandfather had been freed in a prisoner exchange and returned to his Confederate Army unit. The letter said nothing

about the war, at that point nearing its end. The writer told of a snowstorm and the soldiers throwing snowballs at each other. Thomasville was by-passed during Sherman's march to the sea because it was a little west of that swath of destruction. In 1879 my grandfather left Thomasville and was going to resettle his family in Richmond, but when he learned that there was yellow fever in the city, he just kept his family on the train and they continued north to Philadelphia, where his wife had a sister.

* * * * *

WELCOME TO LUMBERTON LEAS

Ruth and Robert Rosvold are new residents of Lumberton Leas. They came from Cinnaminson, where they founded and operated the Rosvold Pharmacy for 33 years.

Robert graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science and then went into the U.S. Army. He served from 1953 to '56 in the Medical Service Corps, ending up at Fort Meade in Maryland with the rank of First Lieutenant. Ruth met Robert when her father, a Methodist minister, was transferred to Robert's church in Philadelphia. They were married in 1953.

The Rosvolds built and opened the pharmacy in 1962. With two toddlers at home, they called the store their third child. Robert was the pharmacist and manager while Ruth, an X-ray technician trained at Hahnemann, developed the surgical supply side of the business.

The business did not leave much time for hobbies. Robert currently serves veterinarians in the area. He has tried his hand at pottery and sings in the choir at the First United Methodist Church in Moorestown. Ruth loves to travel. She takes the photos and Robert keeps the journals. Ruth also likes to cook, bake, knit, and sew. Both look forward to living at Lumberton Leas, where they already have good friends.

ART GALLERY NEWS

by Helen L. Vukasin

The Art Gallery at Medford Leas will feature the watercolor paintings of Julie R. Gardiner for the month of March. Her work has appeared in many juried shows.



Her style ranges from representational to loose and impressionistic. Many of her paintings depict nature such as complete landscapes while others may focus on a single flower. Ms. Gardiner has studied with James Penland and Francis McCarthy, Phyllis Ahlborn, and Domenic Di Stefano.

The opening reception will be on March 2 from 3 to 4:30 pm in the Art Gallery outside the Auditorium. Ms. Gardiner will say a few words about her work at 3:30 pm.

On February 6 The Art Gallery Committee at Lumberton Leas held a reception to open the art exhibit featuring **Toby Sullivan**, resident of Medford Leas. The event was attended by a large number of people from the Medford campus who drove over in spite of the rain that poured all day on that memorable Friday.

The exhibit is very exciting and displays Toby's wit, creativeness, and talent in many media. It is downstairs at the Community Center in the Lumberton Leas Fitness Center. Toby's work will be up for all of February and March. A key to the LL Community Center is available at the main desk in the Atrium.

THE UNINVITED GUEST

by Dene Mayer

A few weeks ago I went to the Administration Building because I was looking for an article in one of the newspapers in the Lounge.

There was a reception going on, and when I got to the table where the newspapers usually are it was covered with a tablecloth and loaded with a beautiful assortment of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres.

Thinking that the reception was a Medford Leas sponsored affair after a speaker or musical event, I ate some cheese squares, helped myself to some delicious puff pastries in a chafing dish, and went looking for a napkin.

Imagine my chagrin when the napkin said "Happy Birthday." Not only was I an uninvited guest to someone's birthday party, but I then noticed that the guests in attendance were all elegantly dressed, and there I was in my rather grungy winter jacket and baggy pants.

So embarrassed, I slunk out and went to the reception desk to inquire whose birthday it was. I was told the birthday girl was **Louise Henry**, and she was celebrating her 100th.

So thank you, Louise. You didn't know it, but I crashed your beautiful party and I wish you so many, many more.

IN MEMORIAM

Folwell Scull	January 21
Frances Montgomery	January 27
Ruth Yordon	February 1
Walter Riley	February 15
Jeanne Shoemaker	February 16

BOOKS WE ENJOYED READING

By George Rubin

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 liked.

Pompeii

By Robert Harris

Random House, 278 pages

Everyone knows how the story will end even before starting to read Robert Harris' suspenseful, dramatic latest novel *Pompeii*. What is captivating about this book is the story teller, one Marcus Attilius Primus who is the new engineer in charge of the Aqua Augusta. This is one of the largest and longest aqueducts in southern Italy, supplying fresh water to the entire coast as it circles the town of Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius. Suddenly the water has stopped running through the aqueduct and the smell and taste of sulfur is in the air and in the water. It has "the breath of Hades." Attilius must find the cause of the stoppage and fix it. Added to this mystery is the disappearance of the previous engineer, Exomnius. The clock is ticking away toward a great natural and man-made disaster. In the aftermath of this we see that the residents of Pompeii could do little to control events, even with their many rituals to the Gods.



Harris adds to this story his great depth of research into the life, architecture, food, and arts of the Roman Empire in 79 AD. How modern the way of life, corruption, and greed will sound to the reader.

This novel in many ways speaks to our time. Readers should keep this in mind as they read the closing sequences of the book.

This book is in the Medford Leas Library.

Lost Prophet:

The Life and Times Of Bayard Rustin

By John D'Emilio

Free Press, 564 pages

Bayard Rustin is one of the most important figures of the civil rights movement. Before Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and others he was the leading exponent of Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence here in America and civil rights for African Americans. He was the main organizer of the 1963 March on Washington.

So why has Rustin been nearly forgotten by history? Partly because he was an Afro-American homosexual and partly because he believed in working with the political establishment when it was not fashionable.

A Quaker and a radical pacifist, he grew up in the tumultuous times of the 1930s. He went to prison for refusing to serve in the armed forces in WWII. His sexual orientation and scandalous behavior followed him everywhere. A. J. Muste told him, "You were capable of making the 'mistake' of thinking you could be the leader in a revolution ... at the same time you were a weakling in an extreme degree and engaged in practice for which there was no justification."

John D'Emilio has written a compelling story. This book was a finalist for the National Book Award this year.

The Bayard Rustin that this reviewer knew personally and had the pleasure of working with is truly the lost prophet. In the struggles going on today for economic justice, world peace, and human rights, how much the voice and actions of Bayard Rustin are needed. Society lost a unique human being when he died in 1987.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY IN MOUNT HOLLY

by Jessie Jones Cobb

Mother Nature added a sense of adventure to the trip to Mount Holly's Martin Luther King Day celebration attended by some 18 Medford Leas residents on January 19. First, there were a few feet of ice to negotiate in reaching the Medford Leas bus at our front door at 7:30 a.m.; then, in the parking lot of Mt. Holly's Second Baptist Church, where we were to dismount, a few hardy souls among us set up a line to connect with the basement stairs, helping the less hardy get safely across more ice and down into the building where our contingent was the first to arrive even before the local parishioners.

But soon the church basement was humming with preparations for an ample breakfast of juices, meats, eggs, potatoes, and rolls, and the Medford Leas guests mingled with the locals at the long tables and enjoyed getting to know each other. There were two speakers, both retired war veterans, who talked about their life in the then-segregated services.

After the meal, most participants moved upstairs for a panel of speakers who shared ideas of how they believed Martin Luther King would have addressed the need for revival of the Mt. Holly community. Among other changes, concern was expressed about the political process involved in planning for the Mt. Holly Gardens housing development. The need for better communication between township officials and Gardens residents was recognized. Speakers seemed to agree that redevelopment should be possible without the need to force project residents to move out of the area.

After this program, several Medford Leas residents joined a procession to the Presbyterian Church for lunch, while the rest were picked up by the Medford Leas bus for the ride back to the main campus. The lunching residents were driven back later.

MORE ON IDENTITY THEFT

by Kitty Katzell

The next time you order checks, have only your initials and last name printed on them, not your first name. And if you have a P.O. box, put that address on your checks rather than your street address.

Don't have your phone number or your Social Security number printed on your checks. When you write a check to pay your credit card bill, enter only the last four digits of the credit card number on the "for" line of the check.

Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine and **copy both sides** of each license, credit card, membership, etc. That way, if you lose your wallet, you'll know what was in it and what numbers to call to report it. Keep that photocopy in a safe place where you can find it.

If you think you've been a victim of identity fraud, file a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where the fraud occurred. It proves to credit providers that you were diligent. Then call the three national credit reporting organizations and Social Security to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. The alert means that any company checking your credit knows your information was stolen and they must contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

These are the numbers to call: Equifax: 800-525-6285; Experian (formerly TRW): 888-397-3742; Trans-Union: 800-680-7289; Social Security fraud line: 800-269-0271.



CRYPTOGRAM

by Russell Hill

Here is the solution to the February Cryptogram:

UNTHRIFTY LOVELINESS,
WHY DOST THOU SPEND
UPON THYSELF THY
BEAUTYS LEGACY?
THE BARD

The correct solvers were:

Joan Bellman, Ruth Blattenberger, Mort Bregman, Liz Dill, Betty Donahue, Lorretta Elkin, Louise Evaul, Mickey Gray, Herbert Heineman, Barbara Heizman, Euseba and Warren Kamensky, Betty Preston, Liliane Reynolds, Florence Sawyer, Hana Stranska, John and Marie Winton.

Here is the March cryptogram:

APJTTJK CPJ FTXEH DJNXC,

GPX NZJG,

VXEZRAPHJ XV ACBZDJBQA,

BRZ BVH HJG,

RVCX CPBC JAAJVFJ

GPJVFJ PJ HZJG PRA TRLJ

BVH TKZJ.

Put answers in Box 45 by March 10.

MEDFORD LEAS LIFE

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Medford Leas Life is published monthly, September through June, by the Medford Leas Residents Association. Copies are distributed to all residents and to those on the waiting list. Subscriptions are available to others at \$7.50 per 10-issue volume by writing to Medford Leas Life 144 Medford Leas, Medford, NJ 08055. Medford Leas can be reached by phone at (609) 654-3000; by FAX at (609) 654-7894; on the World Web at www.medfordleas.org. The email address is information@medleas.org. When using FAX or email, specify the name of the person to receive the message.

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

