



# Medford Leas LIFE

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## OUR MULTITASKING RECEPTIONISTS

by Maggie Woodard

Medford Leas could not function without the very capable, very special receptionists who work at the front desk! Patient, friendly, and kind at all times, they give out all kinds of information and help to residents. All residents' needs are handled sensitively. They handle all incoming calls: from the general public, vendors, hospitals, and families. They also schedule guest rooms and transportation for companions, sell meal tickets, keep updated "away" cards, file "away letters" in envelopes, give directions to ambulances, florists, and whomever, and notify volunteers who put up death notices. Key persons in emergencies, as during the recent flooding, they relay messages to relevant departments. They also deal with fire alarms and "off-hooks," our emergency response system.

Anyone who has watched a receptionist during a busy time, when two telephones are ringing and she is talking to residents standing at the desk or sometimes talking on the intercom, wonders who would do such a job! Medford Leas is fortunate to have four regular plus four on-call receptionists who are capable and charming and like the job! They like people, have a sense of humor, are skilled at multitasking, and have big hearts! The regulars work four days one week, three the next. The two daily shifts are from 8 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and from 3:00 to 8:30 p.m. weekdays. Weekend coverage begins at 9:00 a.m.

**Trudy DeLacy**, Ombudsperson/Director of Resident Services, hires the receptionists and oversees their training. Most have had some receptionist training and some experience with computers. Trudy arranges for applicants to observe the front desk while waiting for their first appointment with her and, as a result, some eliminate themselves! Once hired, their training is completely on-the-job. Trainees sit at the front desk for at least two weeks and observe an experienced receptionist, taking notes on a steno pad. After three or four days, they start working the phones, always in the presence of the regular staff person. After they begin to work alone, there is always someone they can call.

**Gail Cole**, who has been a receptionist for nine years, says she couldn't work here if she didn't like the job and that residents make the difference. She enjoys talking to them and getting to know them. She stresses that crucial to doing the job is the support given by Maintenance, the Health Center, and Housekeeping. When urgent calls come in, the receptionist contacts appropriate staff by radio and they take



over. Gail's background is secretarial. She did not work when her two children were small.



When **Judy Braddy** started working at Medford Leas three years ago, she hadn't worked for 18 years! She was overwhelmed at first watching Gail, who knew everyone's name. Phones ringing all at once bothered her too, but now she loves it and finds it fun. She

also enjoys talking with residents and getting to know them. When her daughter, Lauren, was working in Dining Services, Judy applied for a job. Her work experience includes time in Consumer Affairs and Personnel at the Marriott Headquarters in Washington, DC. After receiving training at the University of Michigan, she was a financial recruiter for Corporate Marriott.

**Lavawn Johnson** has been a receptionist here three years as of last March. A teacher for 35 years, she taught mathematics – in Jackson, Mississippi, at a high school in New Orleans, and a junior high school in Maryland. She has lived in this area since 1981. Married in 1966, she has two children. Now divorced, her daughter and grandson live with her. She did not want to do substitute teaching, wanted more freedom. She likes it here!



**Donna Coonley** has been a receptionist since mid-June; before that she was our Dining Room Supervisor. Working part-time allows her to be home more, which she wanted. She enjoys being a receptionist and getting to see and know residents. Being in the center of the "hubbub" here pleases her, and she likes having nothing to do with serving food!

**Jamie Giordano** says she "fills in for everyone" and has since 1997 – working in Woolman, the Health Center, and Estaugh. She has finished nursing school and will be working in a labor and delivery center. After she takes her final tests, she will be an R.N.

**Donna Morgan** worked at Medford Leas for three years – first on night shift, then day shift – before she had her third child. She has been a stay-at-home mom for about ten years and is on call now as a receptionist. She loves it here and would like to come back full-time. Her work experience has been secretarial.

**Jackie Pacheco** has been a receptionist for two years. Her work background includes sales and customer service. She stayed home for 13 years with her three children. Living next to **Harry and Lois Forrest** on New Freedom Road makes for an easy commute. Her comment about the job: "I love you all!"

**Karen Raynor** started working as an evening receptionist in November 1990. In March 1991, she was promoted to the Administration office and became the Secretarial Assistant/Medical Transcriptionist. In September 2001, she also began doing **Bill Murphy's** secretarial work. Because her office is on the ground floor, she enjoys being a receptionist now on Monday through Friday from 11 to 11:30, providing a lunch break for the person on duty. She likes to see residents and meet new ones. She describes the job of receptionist as the most demanding at Medford Leas!

Thank you Gail, Judy, Lavawn, Donna C., Jamie, Donna M., Jackie, and Karen for doing the job and doing it well!

photos by Margery Rubin

## 2004 FLOWER SHOW ENCHANTS

by Sumi Kobayashi

Residents and staff put their green thumbs and creativity on display at the annual Flower Show on September 14 and 15. The Activities Room was turned into a charming conservatory where plants lovingly nurtured and the fruits of summer were shown to admiring visitors.



*Mountain Retreat* Joan McKeon

For the first time there were two “Best of Show in Design” winners, because the judges could not decide between **Joan McKeon’s** arrangement of orange dahlias and **Dottie Kriebel’s** clever display of a lakeside scene with a ceramic fisherman.



*Orient Express* Dotty Kriebel

**Sam Burgess** won Best of Show in the Horticulture Division with a large cactus. In the division of non-competitive exhibits, Landscaping had a large corner display, “For Stay at Homes,” depicting a tea garden lush with plant material. **Yuri Moriuchi’s** entry was a striking arrangement entitled “An Island Paradise” centered around several exotic bird of paradise stems.

This year for the first time Assisted Living residents presented a large number of entries in the Design division. Guided by **Gerry Stride**, Director of Community Life, they showed their designs in direct competition with the other participants.



*Cactus* Sam Burgess

Blue ribbon winners were: **Miriam Angle, Sara Barton, Ann Burr, Peg Burgess, Jane Caldwell, Ginnie Coe, Dunbar Denham, Gil Goering, Edith Isaacson, Warren Kamensky, Kitty Katzell, Rona Keilin, Gertrude Marshall, Becky Monego, Lennie Oman, Betsy Pennink, Allyn Rickett, Lois Rickett, Elmer Rowley, John Rudolph, Marion Sandmann, Elinor Scull, Dave Taber, Fran Webb, Jane Weston, Ellen Wiener, and John Winton.** Judges were from the Pinelands and Moorestown Garden Clubs.

Co-chairs **Lois Rickett** and **Joan McKeon** organized and saw to the myriad details needed to pull off a successful show. Veteran **Kate Haupt** lent her experience and expertise as consultant. Hats off to these dedicated and able ladies.

photos by Margery Rubin

## THE BIG DIG

by Kay Cooley



“Do you suppose it’s a mass grave?” a resident joked.

“Maybe it’s going to be a reflecting pool,” another conjectured, not thinking about what would be reflected.

They were referring to the cavernous trench that bulldozers had opened in July outside the Haddon Greenhouse in the lawn between the south side of Elizabeth Haddon, the west side of John Woolman, and courts 20 and 21.

It was instigated by July’s 1000-Year Flood, when the ground floors of Haddon and Woolman were inundated by rain water that had no place else to go. The flooding caused considerable damage, which **Bill Murphy**, Director of Operations, said was entirely preventable. What was needed were larger pipes, three new drains, and grading that sloped the ground towards the drains. Prevention, in short, meant digging.

First to go was Trent’s Mound, which had pushed water toward Haddon and Woolman during the storm. Next, two very deep trenches for electric cables and storm water pipes were dug around a center island where the mound had been.

The electric cables held up the work, which Bill had hoped to have had finished by mid-September. PSE&G, the utility company that had to change their location, was slower showing up than the turtles in the Atrium garden. After the cables were laid three feet below grade level, the storm water pipes were put down above them, the trenches filled, and three new drains inserted in the sides of the lawn. Then the ground was sloped towards the drains and sodded. Lovely plantings designed by the Arboretum Committee will complete the operation.

## BUDGET SUGGESTIONS

by Kitty Katzell

On Wednesday, September 8, an historic event took place in the Auditorium. At that time, residents had a chance to tell department heads how they could save money or increase revenue.

Residents have often asked for input into Medford Leas’ budget process, so Management and the MLRA Financial Review Committee created a special format to increase resident participation in governance. Residents were invited to submit suggestions for cost savings and revenue enhancement. The 125 suggestions that came in were then categorized according to the department to which they pertained: Dining Services, Health Center & Pharmacy, Laundry & Housekeeping, Maintenance & Landscaping, Marketing & Public Relations, and Administration. Four other departments either had no suggestions or only one, and those were put in Administration.

At the meeting on September 8, each of the six departments had its own table attended by two members of the staff, and each table had a resident from the MLRA Financial Review Committee or the MLRA Board serving as coordinator. Staff did not see the suggestions before the meeting, so they heard them for the first time from the person who had made them.

At the end of the meeting, each department was given its suggestions to use in its budget planning. From the departments, the budgets go to their divisions, then to the Administration, and finally to the Estaug Board and Finance Committee.

Most participants, including staff, judged the meeting to have been worthwhile. There were many useful suggestions, and staff had a chance to clarify points that involved misunderstandings. Some residents had misunderstood the purpose of the meeting and were disappointed, but so much was gained that plans are already in motion to hold such sessions in the future, with improvements learned from this first experience.

## MEET OUR NONAGENARIANS

by Ellen Stimler

**Edith Ellis**, at 98, walks without a cane in her small apartment and sits upright on the edge of her bed, surrounded by the visual evidence of a lifetime of excelling in painting, drawing, creative expression in different media, and fiction and poetry writing. Although she has been blind in one eye for the past three years, she still gets up about 6 a.m. and continues with her painting and drawing, writing, and teaching of other residents who want to learn to draw. She also keeps her mind active by doing cryptograms.



photo by Margery Rubin

"I love people," Edith says, and many share their stories with her. As to drawing and painting, she feels it's a time "for letting yourself go...you become oblivious of all your worries."

Edith's achievements as a "multi-talented person" are described in a special chapter devoted to her work in the book *Mt. Holly Women Who Cared*, by Mary L. Smith. This tells of the period from 1964 to 1992 when Edith was the resident director of John Woolman House in Mt. Holly and became widely known as a lecturer and interpreter of John Woolman. Edith also taught piano and violin, played the organ at five churches, and was director of the Evergreens Senior Residence in Moorestown for a period of time.

Edith became a Quaker after she visited the Woolman Memorial and then attended Friends meetings. "I liked the feel of Quakerism," she

said. There was so much love and kindness there."

Edith has won many awards for her unique stamp collages, paintings of her imagination made entirely of postage stamps. She said she got the idea for the stamp paintings when she happened to see a small sample of such a picture in a store window in a Pennsylvania town. Her stamp collages come in all sizes, from one several feet long to tiny miniatures, often given as gifts.

Edith has five surviving children and 64 grandchildren, great-grands, and great-great-grands.

## THE WIND-CARVED TREE, THE RAIN-CARVED EARTH, HAVE TAUGHT ME...

by Edith Ellis

I climb the hill; the barren rocks  
Stretch upward on and on.  
The wind-carved tree,  
The rain-carved earth  
Reach into my questing soul.  
I look across the scene end on end  
As distant hills appear.  
The misty hill and quiet scene  
Have taught me faith anew.

Close by my side the fretful burrs  
And stories of discontent  
Have lost their power  
To rend the peace.  
And gazing ever on and on  
I sense life's journey  
Though rough and crude  
Has solace there at last.



John Woolman Memorial  
drawing by Edith Ellis

## TURKEYS FOR EXTENDED HAND

by Ellen Stimler

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be about six weeks away. So this is a reminder to all residents to be aware of the turkey give-away programs at our local ShopRite and Acme markets. Although the exact details were not available at this writing, the managers of both stores said that they expected it to be similar to last year's and that an announcement would be in stores about a month before Thanksgiving.

Last year, shoppers were entitled to a free turkey for turning in a cash register receipt showing prior purchases of \$250 or more during the designated period. Residents who were eligible for a turkey but could not use it themselves brought it to the Medford Leas kitchen for donation to the Extended Hand Ministries in Mt. Holly, which picks up unserved food every day to provide meals for needy and homeless people and families in Mt. Holly, Willingboro, and Camden. Last year, over 50 turkeys were turned over to the Extended Hand from Medford Leas. Help us to exceed that number this year.

The Reverend Barbara Davis, a resident, is the founder and director of Extended Hand Ministries.



## WHO'S NEW

**Joseph (Joe) Siegel**, Apt. 224, grew up in Philadelphia. After his military service he attended college under the GI Bill, earning a B.A. degree from Franklin College in Indiana and an M.B.A. from Miami University in Ohio. Upon graduation he joined RCA and remained there until his retirement 36 years later in 1986.

During the Cold War, Joe had an exciting job as personnel manager at the Space Center at Cape Canaveral, where 3,000 employees were involved in testing missiles. Three years after his marriage in 1956, Joe accepted a transfer to Cherry Hill as personnel manager of the 4,000 employees of the RCA Service Company. In 1972 Joe was promoted to Vice President for Labor Relations at the corporate headquarters in New York City. In this job he was responsible for all contract negotiations with the company's labor unions. During his five years in this position, he commuted daily by bus from Exit 4 in Mt. Laurel. In 1977 he returned to his prior job at the Service Company in Cherry Hill until his retirement.

The Siegels moved to Medford Lakes in 1968. Joe lost his wife about ten years ago. The couple had three children, a daughter now living in Marlton, a son in Dallas, and a severely handicapped son who lived at home until his death last year at age 40. Joe also has a two-year-old grandson.

Joe's hobbies are tennis and keeping up with periodicals, especially the financial news. He does volunteer work for the Red Cross and at the Virtua Hospital's information desk. In his apartment is a very large reproduction of Nipper, the RCA mascot, signed by many of Joe's RCA friends at his retirement party. And Joe has a peppy, real live dog that looks like Nipper.

by Margaret Melstrom

**NOVEMBER ELECTION**

by Ellen Stimler

The ballot for the November 2 election is a rather short one this year, as there are no contests at either the local or state levels. The choices we will have to make are for President, Vice President, House of Representatives, and the Burlington County offices of Freeholder, County Clerk, and Sheriff.

The polling place on Election Day is the Activities Room at Medford Leas, which will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. **Colette** and **Evert (Bart) Bartholomew** and **Margaret Roberts** will be among the poll workers checking residents' eligibility to vote.

To be eligible to vote on November 2, a resident must be formally registered to vote and his/her name must appear in the books of registered voters at the local polling place.

The deadline for new registrations is October 4, and detailed information on registration procedure will be distributed to all residents' mailboxes in early October. Residents who have never voted in the Activities Room before should bring their registration card on November 2, just in case their name(s) didn't get into the books in time. Any new registrant who has not received a registration card should call the Board of Elections at 265-5062.

The candidates for House of Representatives are the Republican incumbent, Jim Saxton, and his Democratic challenger, Dr. Herb Conaway. For the county offices, the candidates are:

**Freeholder**

Vincent Farias, Republican  
Christopher Fifis, Democrat

**County Clerk**

Philip Haines, Republican  
Kristin Walker, Democrat

**Sheriff**

Jean Stanfield, Republican  
Preston Taylor, Democrat

**DO YOU KNIT OR CROCHET?**

by Grace Schaffel

Feel helpless to protest or change the craziness of the world? How about taking some small steps to help some of the most vulnerable in need? The Medford Leas Knitting Group offers you these opportunities to contribute.

1. Knit hats for Native American (Indian) children who are prone to ear infections. This effort has caught on nationwide, and the little effort gives such great relief. (Our group has already mailed off 70 hats to Indian children).
2. Knit, crochet, or sew dresses and outfits for Teddy Bears (supplied by the Salvation Army). See our sample at the Main Desk. These are distributed to needy children at Christmas.



3. Knit mittens (any size) for the American Friends Service Committee. They are needed and distributed by AFSC worldwide.

If you need patterns, yarn or other supplies, or directions, call Grace Schaffel at 3655.

**IN MEMORIAM**

<b>Donald Horton</b>	<b>August 22</b>
<b>Hugh M. Middleton</b>	<b>August 23</b>
<b>Ruth H. Killian</b>	<b>August 30</b>
<b>Stephen Lee</b>	<b>August 31</b>

## GAMES ON LABOR DAY

by Neil Hartman

The annual Labor Day Sports Day was held on Sept. 6 in perfect weather. It seems as if Medford Leas residents like to sleep late on holidays. For the first hour from 9 to 10, there were only about 20 people present, but from 10 to 11, the crowd swelled to over 75 and we ran out of cookies; however there was plenty of lemonade. Shuffleboard under the guidance of **Fran Werrell, Arthur Steitz, Jerry Pidcock, and Bill Carson** was by far the most popular activity. There was a waiting line even at 9 a.m. At times there were two bocci games going, and a few people struggled with badminton and the shuttlecock being blown by the wind. Horseshoes was introduced, but the shoes were plastic and flew around. We have put in an order for iron shoes next time! Croquet and golf were played on the same court, but they kept out of each other's way most of the time! **Joe Pantano** provided the music with his electric organ, which made some of the players step to the music and the wheel chair people jig in their chairs! A festive time was had by all!



Labor Day Shuffleboard

photo by Ellie Stimler

## NEW FITNESS ROOM WITH A VIEW

by Ellen Stimler



**Beverly Kannengieszer**, Director of Fitness and Aquatics, describes the new Fitness Center, around the corner from the old one, as a significant improvement. At 1,728 square feet, it is over twice the size of the old one. It has an inviting, spacious brightness, with a wall of windows looking out on the putting green surrounded by lawns and woods. There is a door leading directly to the pool area and another one to the outdoors.



There is now plenty of space between the pieces of exercise equipment, even after these new additions: a Recumbent Stepper (now there are three), a second Concept II Indoor Rower, a Schwinn Airdyne Upright Bike, two exercise mat tables (for a total of three), an incline/decline bench, a second ballet bar, and four television sets mounted in strategic corners, one with VCR and cassette and CD player.

Beverly's fitness team (**Donna Kanan, Rick Trandahl, Mary Hunter**) offers a great variety of individual training on the equipment and group programs throughout the week at times listed in the monthly and weekly calendars. The hours when the Fitness Center is staffed regularly are



posted on the door. The Fitness Department also has a new, larger office, where team members can be reached for information or appointments.

Residents who want to start exercising must obtain a referral from their assigned Health Center professional, and this will then lead to an individual evaluation by one of the fitness staff. A specialized program will be designed to meet the particular needs of the resident. The latest newsletter from the Fitness Department contains many “testimonials” from residents who improved their walking, balance, or other symptoms of aging after participating in strength training.



With regular attendance, a sense of “family” and “belonging” develops among participants. Although performing widely different exercises, they find fellowship in maintaining motivation and making progress. Often people exercising together at the same time start caring about each other and may even become friends.

The new user-friendly Fitness Center should serve as an incentive for all those who have read and heard about the benefits of exercise but haven’t ever tried it. It’s fun and it works!



**WATER VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION**  
by Grace Schaffel

Olympic volleyballers we’re not! The Medford-Lumberton Leas Volleyball team went down to defeat three games to one at the hands of the valiant Crosslands team on September 9, on a day filled with fun, fellowship, frustration, and frolic at the Lumberton Leas pool.

The real winner of the day was the capricious wind – a leftover from Hurricane Frances.

Much laughter and good sportsmanship erupted as a ball served from one side went sailing backwards instead of forward. The erratic ball often seemed like a Whirling Dervish as it sailed away from the field of play. Despite the wind and cloudy day, a great time was had by all as we renewed friendships and sat down to a delightful potluck lunch in the Lumberton Leas Community Center.

We look forward to a possible return match at Crosslands in the spring. Meanwhile, we continue play at Medford Leas pool on Fridays at 1:00 p.m. to polish our skills and enjoy a great sport. We invite each of you to come join us. Try it – you’ll like it!



*Volley Ball Competition*

photo by Rick Trandahl

## WHO'S NEW

Moving to Medford Leas was not a daunting job for **Alice Gallagher Norcross** (Apt. 74) because she had made many moves during her adult life. Her husband, Page, who worked in insurance for the Cigna Company, was transferred from Philadelphia (Cherry Hill), to Kansas City, to Indianapolis, to Pittsburgh, to New York (North Jersey), to Philadelphia (Moorestown), then back to New York. The family lived in Moorestown for 20 years. After his retirement, Page and Alice lived in Wilmington, NC. Page died in 1997, and Alice moved to Columbus, NJ and later to Holiday Village East before coming here.

With five children, Alice was a full-time mom who helped with Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts and was always available. Today all five children are married and parents themselves with a total of ten children, and all live on the East Coast from Virginia to Boston. They "divide" Alice for major holidays, and the whole family rents an eight-bedroom house at the Outer Banks for a week every August for a grand family reunion. This August there were 18 family members in the large house and five in a smaller place. This is a large, warm family that treasures time together.

During her years in Moorestown Alice worked at the Town Hall Tax Assessor's Office. Her hobby is bridge, and she likes other games. She says, "There is no place where there is better care or more kindness than at Medford Leas."

by **Margaret Melstrom**

## MLRA FALL TEA

**Doris Smith**, chair of the seasonal teas, announces the Fall Tea, to be held in the Lounge on Tuesday, October 19, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. It's an occasion not to be missed, a chance to meet friends from all campuses and savor the delectable hors d'oeuvres prepared by Dining Services.

## OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND AT MEDFORD SENIOR CENTER

by **Kay Cooley**

Earlier this year, Medford Township opened a new center for seniors in Cranberry Hall, the Recreation Department facility behind the Municipal Building at 17 North Main Street.

The Center is open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on weekdays, during which time it offers a variety of free and low-cost programs to elders who might otherwise be home alone with little to do.

Joyce McCarten, Volunteer Coordinator for Senior Programs, welcomes Medford Leas residents, who are also Medford citizens, to the activities. She hopes that some will volunteer to assist with some of the programs as instructors and staff.

Scheduled so far for October are:

- Mondays: Introduction to E-mail and the Internet 11:00-12:00 Group I and 1:00-2:00 Group 2
- Tuesdays: Beginners' Bridge 10:00-11:30
- Wednesdays: Introduction to Computers 10-11:30; Beginners' Knitting and Crocheting 10:30-11:30
- Thursdays: Beginners' Pinochle 10:00-11:30
- Third Friday of the Month: Rosemary's Readers Circle Book Club 10:00-11:30

Off-site programs include:

- T'ai Chi on Thursdays 11:15-12:15 in the Bob Bende Park Building (cost: \$25)
- Ceramics for Seniors Friday October 1 and 15 at Ceramica's, 69 S. Main Street (cost \$10)
- Breakfast Bingo at McDonald's on Stokes Road 10:00-11:00 on Wednesdays with a specially priced breakfast

The Senior Center doesn't serve food, so the schedule provides time for brown-bag lunches or eating out. Currently it has openings for volunteers to assist with several programs. Instructors are needed for Knitting/Crochet and Art, and experienced players for Beginners' Bridge and Pinochle. For more information on volunteering or on the programs, call Kay Cooley at 3212.

## WHO'S NEW

**Christian and Avivah (Wachtell) Trost**, 49 Woodside Drive (265-8908), moved here in August from New Milford, CT, where they had lived for 23 years. Avivah was born and raised in the Bronx, NY, and studied piano and cello in high school. During the 1940's she played cello in the American Youth Orchestra in New York City. She married her first husband, had three children, and after frequent moves settled in Cherry Hill, NJ.

Christian emigrated to the U.S. from Norway in 1953 and came to Moorestown, where he had an uncle. In those early years Christian's neighbors were **Bill and Lucia LeConey**, who now also live in Lumberton Leas. Christian's talent in painting and paperhanging soon allowed him to start his own business. In 1957 he switched to importing sweaters, jewelry, and trolls, and later added Danish furniture, using his refurbished garage and enlarged home in Mt. Laurel as a showroom. The need for more space led to the purchase of the vacant Woolworth store on Main St. in Moorestown in 1972, and the Mt. Laurel "Scandia" became "Copenhagen Imports."

While shopping for a Danish table in 1965, Avivah met Christian. Eventually, she became a co-owner of the business and managed the Moorestown store after Christian opened a second shop in Woodbury, NJ. They sold their New Jersey businesses in 1981 and moved to New Milford, CT, where they married and opened "Nordica," a gift and toy store. They sold Nordica about 18 months ago.

Avivah's artistic pursuits are quite evident throughout their home. Many paintings line the walls, and interesting pieces of pottery are displayed on shelves and tables. She also creates jewelry. The couple has traveled extensively and hopes to visit Norway again soon.

by **Doris C. Brown**

## ART GALLERY NEWS

by **Helen L. Vukasin**

"As a Quaker, there has always been a conflict for me between a career in art and some kind of community service. I am relieved to have finally arrived at the realization that I don't have to justify that art is what I do."



Monoprint: *My Bouquet*

Janet Mustin has developed an interest in printmaking as well as oil painting. "Printmaking," she says, "has a wonderful capacity for surprise and experimentation, and oils have a richness in the feel of the paint and depth of color along with flexibility that is lacking in other media."

Ms. Mustin will exhibit her work in the Medford Leas Gallery during the month of October, in "Recent Work in Oils and Monoprints." The opening reception will be on October 5 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Ms. Mustin will speak about her work at 3:30 p.m.

At the Lumberton Leas Gallery, the Second Annual Staff Exhibit will include **Dr. Keith Quinton, Dr. Joel Porter, Heather McInerney, Judy Braddy, Lenny Oman, Howard Dodson** and **Beverly Kannengieszer**. This show will open October 15 and should not be missed.

## A QUAKER'S FIRST BAR MITZVAH

by Laura Farr

A Bar Mitzvah is a symbolic way to usher a child into the Jewish community. This was the day Julian, the son of my beloved niece, was to be so honored. He was 13 years old. As I sat in the soft-cushioned pew in the synagogue, I glanced at the platform, looking for an ark. Where was the ark that I was supposed to close? It was the first time I attended a Bar Mitzvah, and I was to take part in the ceremony. Later I discovered that the ark was symbolic behind those closed doors I was to open.

My tall, handsome great-nephew had studied very hard in preparation for this day. Standing on the platform, wearing his prayer shawl, he appeared to be calm while making his presentation. He was reading from the Torah, which contains the Five Books of Moses. I glanced at the passage. In this way Julian would be linked to the entire Jewish people. He also read from the Haftarah, a section of the Bible which ends on a note of comfort. The program stated that a Bar Mitzvah is always held during the Sabbath worship. I thought of my Quaker Meetings; our memorial and our business meetings are also considered meetings for worship.

The synagogue was by no means ornate. Neither are our Quaker meetinghouses. There are no stained glass windows. Occasionally someone may place a small arrangement of flowers near the facing benches, but overall the meetinghouses are quite simple in décor. Looking around at this Jewish place of worship, I felt very much at home. It was beautiful in its simplicity. We sang a hymn in the first part of the service: "Who is like you among the gods that are worshipped?" It is a song similar to the one Moses and the Israelites sang at the farther shores of the Red Sea when they had been saved from the Egyptians. Next, the ark was opened and the Torah was removed and carried through the aisles, where some of the congregants who wore shawls kissed the shawl and touched the Torah with the shawl.

In the second part of the service the rabbi offered a prayer for peace for the Jewish people, and then for the whole world. In the latter section of the service the rabbi also read from the Haftarah. This portion of the service ended with the hope that all humanity would embrace God's words. The service concluded with two prayers: Aleinu, a triumphant plea that the world would recognize there is only one God, and Kaddish, a mourners' prayer which proclaims that God's kingdom, the fulfillment of God's hopes for the world, would come someday. (The function of the Kaddish seemed to be closely related to the Lord's Prayer.) The message of the service was the triumph of hope: for freedom, peace and universal redemption.

I am so proud of my great-nephew. Following the arrival of the invitation to the Bar Mitzvah a letter arrived from Julian. He stated that he had lived in Philadelphia only a short time, but had seen so much poverty. He requested that in lieu of gifts, the guests bring non-perishable foods to his Bar Mitzvah, to be given to Philabundance for the poor and homeless.

Upon leaving the synagogue I noticed the foyer was filled with the gifts Julian had requested. I read that when a Jewish child reads from the Torah at his Bar Mitzvah, he is saying: "I am now thirteen years old. I am now ready to fulfill the covenant with God by being responsible for performing mitzvot (good deeds), the obligations of Jewish life." Julian's request for food for the poor was an excellent start in that direction.



## LUMBERTON LEAS NEWS

by Doris Brown

The month of September found us with shorter days but with renewed energy for the many activities here at Lumberton Leas. Residents gathered at the Community Center for the annual Labor Day Picnic, coordinated by **June Krainik, Ed Grafenstine, Gini Mutschler**, and other helpers. The barbecued goodies, salads, and desserts offered a tasty experience for everyone.

We have a unique system here at Lumberton Leas, which separates adjacent units of 12 to 14 units each into eight groups. Each group, called a cluster, often gets together for a social hour or two. Some of the residents, however, would like to know their neighbors from across the meadow a little better. A wonderful way to accomplish this was by way of a wine and cheese party hosted by **Helen Vukasin** and **Barbara Zimmerman** on September 1 at the Community Center. It enabled those of us in Cluster 1, who remember faces but not names, to make interesting connections with friends from Cluster 7.

Medford Leas residents have long been able to enjoy weekly visits from the bookmobile and so are familiar with its new technology and many services. Now it is our good fortune to have this handsome 40-foot vehicle parked at the Lumberton Leas Community Center every other week. (A new schedule of hours begins October 1.) While this may be old news for main campus residents, we were amazed to learn that it contains a collection of over 5,000 items including books for adults and children, large-print books for adults, books-on-tape and CD, videos and DVDs. There are two laptop computers, used by staff to check in/out materials, to view the library online catalog, and to place requests for materials. In addition, the vehicle has a photocopier on board and has an internal/external audio system. This is a far cry, indeed, from a book truck designed by Sarah Askew, State Librarian, in 1921, to carry books on a regular schedule to county venues. This early truck, which was driven by the librarian, was a Ford car with a truck chassis. It resembled an ambulance

with a bell to clang its arrival. The sides of the truck opened vertically to expose rows of books. About 500 volumes were carried.

Although they heard no clanging bell, many residents have visited the bookmobile and have taken advantage of its wonderful services.



## NEW DONATED TALKING BOOKS

by Myra Binstock

### Fiction

Cisneros, S.	<i>Caramelo</i>
Dunning, J.	<i>Two O'Clock Eastern Wartime</i>
Jacques, B.	<i>Redwall</i>
Lowell, E.	<i>This Time Love</i>
Steel, D.	<i>The Kiss</i>

### Non-Fiction

Carr, R. & Halsey, A.	<i>Land of a Thousand Hills</i>
Hepburn, K.	<i>ME: Stories of My Life</i>
Quindlen, A.	<i>Thinking Out Loud</i>

### Mystery and Suspense

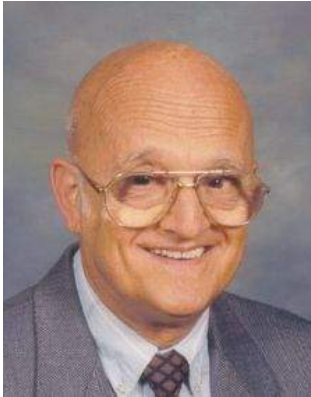
Christie, A.	<i>The Cretan Bull</i>
Gardner, A.	<i>Case of the Sulky Girl</i>
Jance, J.A.	<i>Partner in Crime</i>
Kellerman, J.	<i>The Murder Book</i>
Leonard, L.	<i>Pagan Babies</i>
Lutz, J.	<i>Lightning</i>
Truman, M.	<i>Murder in Georgetown</i>
White, R.	<i>Siberian Light</i>

## MEDIATION – a “LABOR OF LOVE”

by Dene Mayer

*Ed. Note: This is another one in our series on residents' significant outside volunteer activities.*

Herb and Maggie Heineman moved to Lumberton Leas in June 2001. Having retired many years earlier from his position as Director of the Public Health Laboratory for the City of Philadelphia, Herb was eager to find useful volunteer work. Maggie helped by researching possibilities on the Internet, and Herb thought he'd enjoy mediating disputes in small claims and municipal courts.



He made application, complete with character references, and was admitted to a training course administered by the Burlington County Superior Court Resource Center in March 2002. A period of observation and co-mediation followed, after which he began handling cases on his own.

Asked what makes a good mediator, Herb named these qualities: fairness, firmness, absolute neutrality, ability to keep confidence, balancing the need to listen to often contentious arguments with the need to focus on reaching an agreement, and winning the disputants' trust. He asks the disputants to be respectful of each other and recognize that theirs is not the only point of view. He hears about 6-10 cases a month, counting small claims (demands for money up to \$10,000) at Superior Court in Mount Holly and municipal cases (non-monetary disputes) at various locations in the county.

Both types of cases, when filed in court, are routinely submitted to mediation. The advantages

are many: speed, informality, confidentiality, and the satisfaction of negotiating one's own settlement. Herb takes pains to point out to disputants that if they go to trial one party is bound to lose; a mediated settlement provides something for both. Between two-thirds and three-quarters of small claims cases, and almost all municipal cases, settle.

Without revealing information that could identify specific parties (an ethical imperative because of confidentiality), Herb described some interesting cases. In one, plaintiff demanded the return of a gift, claiming in hindsight that it had only been a loan; in another, plaintiff complained that defendant deliberately parked too close; in another, defendant allegedly stood too close. One defendant actually agreed to plaintiff's demand but plaintiff refused, determined to see defendant embarrassed in court. Not infrequently the parties bring to these disputes long-standing hostilities over matters that have nothing to do with their present cases. These feelings come out during the mediation session with much shouting and angry outbursts. Herb lets them vent for a while and then tries to get the discussion back on track. Sometimes he is unable to talk disputants out of their conviction that they (both!) are sure to win in court – and, even if they don't, are willing to risk losing just to satisfy a principle against compromise.

What happens when mediation doesn't work and the dispute is not settled? Herb said the parties must then return to court and let the judge decide. In that case, nothing said at the mediation will be accepted at the trial; what was said in confidence not even the judge wants to hear.

Herb tells the disputants up front that his only function is to help them resolve their own dispute and that, not being a judge, he has no authority to impose a settlement. This distinction, however, is often lost on the parties, who treat him with the deference ordinarily reserved for a judge. Occasionally they ask him to suggest a settlement, which he does reluctantly and only after assuring them that they don't have to do as he suggests.

Herb has recently completed a training course in mediating child custody disputes and is now observing experienced mediators in preparation for taking such cases himself.

Herb is so happy with his volunteer mediation "job" that he decided to tell about it in response to *The Philadelphia Inquirer's* call for letters about job satisfaction. In his letter, published on Labor Day, he said, "Calling it a labor of love is not a claim to altruism; rather it says that I look forward to every day in court and to every encounter with people I've never met before...."

## CHORAL GROUPS OPEN SEASON

by Marion Burk and Nannette Hanslowe

The vocal groups, the Madrigals and the Leas Singers, have resumed rehearsing for the season. They will be preparing music for the coming holidays. Foremost, of course, the residents who are in these groups come out for the true love of singing, to learn new music, and to enjoy the fellowship of singing together.

Both groups welcome new members who want to participate in these activities. No auditions are required.

Both groups meet on Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Third Floor Haddon Lounge. The Madrigals, under the leadership of **Nannette Hanslowe**, meet on the first and third Wednesdays; The Leas Singers, with **Marion Burk**, rehearse on the second and fourth Wednesdays. **Mary Fenimore** will again be the able accompanist.

For any questions, you may call Marion at 3431 or Nan at 3296.



## CRYPTOGRAM

by Russell Hill

Here is the solution to the September cryptogram

**IS IT NOT BRAVE TO BE A KING,  
TECHELLES, USUMCASANE AND  
THERIDAMAS?**

**IS IT NOT PASSING BRAVE TO BE A  
KING, AND RIDE IN TRIUMPH  
THROUGH PERSEPOLIS?  
MARLOWE**

The correct solvers were: **Mort Bregman, Florence Brudon, Marion P. Burk, Scott Charles, Anne Cree, Liz Dill, Betty Donahue, Loretta Elkin, Louise Evaul, Mickey Gray, Herb Heineman, Barbara Heizman, Sally Klos, Euseba Kamensky, Helen Peterson, Doris Salati, Florence Sawyer, Hana Stranska, Ellen Wiener, John Winton, Marie Winton, Gladys Wynkoop.** A list of others who answered was lost. I apologize. If you sent in a correct solution please drop me a note at Apt. 45 and I will give you belated recognition.

SP VYYUPO CF BSZPP DYZOA

TX M OTNBTYXMZE,

PANSMBYVYRTNMV

WMVPQTNPXB MXO BPVPYVYRE

Put answers in box 45 by October 10.

## MORE FLOWER SHOW PHOTOS

See page 3 for the Flower Show report and photos of the Best of Show winners. Here are photos of two other blue ribbon winners.



*White Rose* by Jane Weston  
photo by Jane Bourquin



*A Taste of Tuscany* by Rona Keilen  
photo by Margery Rubin

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE GIFT SHOP

Have you seen the latest window display?

Our fall season starts off with much enthusiasm, showing beautiful 3-D laser art designs carved inside solid crystal, which could surely make a perfect hostess gift, collector's item, or paperweight for your or a loved one's desk. While inside the shop, check out our cute little furry animals and new plush wild ones.

## MEDFORD LEAS LIFE

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

