



Medford Leas LIFE

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DENNIS KOZA: OUR NEW CEO

by Kay Cooley

Ed. Note: In February, Medford Leas welcomes its new CEO, Dennis Koza. This profile is based on notes of the Search Committee's second interview with Dennis, which are used with his permission.

Dennis has lived in New Jersey all his life. He has also worked all his life, starting at age 13 peeling potatoes in a hotel kitchen and holding hotel jobs throughout his youth. When Cornell University accepted him as a freshman, the Hotel and Restaurant School seemed a natural choice. "I was always interested in a service industry and in serving people," Dennis explained.



Dennis's route to the CCRC industry has been roundabout. After college he was accepted at the

NYU Graduate School of Business and completed one year of an MBA in accounting. He left to serve three years as a naval officer in Japan to earn the money to complete his studies. At the end of his tour, he returned to NYU, where he earned his MBA at night while working in a public accounting firm.

Meanwhile, AT&T was looking for someone with precisely his credentials to pioneer a new industry-specific marketing effort, starting with the hotel/motel market, and hired Dennis to take charge. By the time AT&T broke up some 15 years later, he had become a division manager but was ready for a change.

Tiring of the large corporate world, Dennis wanted to work for a smaller organization where he could see the results of his efforts. He searched for an industry where his knowledge of hotel and food service management, combined with his accounting skills, could be put to use in a service-oriented business. He discovered hospitals and was hired by one in Morristown to develop information systems for a new 400-member physicians' health organization. It was there that he learned of CCRCs, an industry that was service-oriented and compatible with his skills.

But breaking into the field wasn't easy. A candidate with AT&T and hotel backgrounds but

no nursing home experience or administrator's license didn't impress long-term care facilities. Dennis's application was turned down three times by Princeton-based Presbyterian Homes and Services of New Jersey before they hired him as Administrator of their lowest performing long-term care facility in Neptune, a converted motel serving very difficult Medicaid patients from Asbury Park and Atlantic City. If he turned it around, he was promised, he would get the next CEO opening in a Presbyterian Home CCRC. Within two years the facility attained its first deficiency-free survey, occupancy reached 94%, and employee turnover was reduced by 40%. Dennis accordingly was appointed Executive Director of Monroe Village, one of Presbyterian Homes' four CCRC's at that time.

After two successive deficiency-free surveys and other successes at Monroe Village, Dennis learned of growth opportunities with Peninsula United Methodist Homes, Inc. (PUMH) in Hockessin, Delaware. He was appointed Executive Director of Cokesbury Village in Hockessin, where he completed new pool/fitness center construction. Within a year he was named Regional Director, and a second PUMH CCRC was placed under his charge. Two years later, two more facilities were added when he was named Senior Vice President of Community Operations. He has served in that capacity since 2002.

"But I had become a corporate person," Dennis said. "I was sitting at corporate meetings instead of being with the residents in the community. That's what I really treasure and value as the contribution I can make, so that's why I am looking for a change."

When asked to identify the challenges he sees facing Medford Leas, Dennis cited several. Medford Leas needs to plan for the generational differences that will come when the baby boomers start to retire in 2010. Related to this is the development of new contracts, which Management has already been working on. Another issue is finding

new sources of revenue to supplement entrance and monthly fees and investments. Staffing in future periods of drought and succession planning complete his list.

Dennis lives in Moorestown with his wife Norine. They have four children, three sons who have graduated from Ivy League colleges and one daughter who is a senior at the University of South Carolina.

WELCOME TO COURTS

by Ellen Stimler

Because Medford Leas is planning to sell some of the single homes on Wilkins Station Road, **Toby Riley** has moved into Apt. 661. But this change is not expected to have any impact on the peripatetic lifestyle of Toby, which was chronicled at length in *Medford Leas Life's* February, 2004, issue under the title of "A Man in Motion."

Toby expects to move his collection of computers, printers, scanners, and other components to a workshop behind the Woodworking Shop, get the equipment into good functioning order, and then make it available to residents and help them with its use. Having just completed the production of the seventh issue of *Leas Lit*, Toby has been designated as publisher for the next issue.

Toby's major outside volunteer activity is with the Alternative to Violence Project (AVP). He facilitates workshops in English and Spanish at correctional institutions in the U.S. and abroad.

APOLOGY

Marjory Rubin took the excellent pictures on the front cover of our January issue, and we failed to display a photo credit line under the pictures. We are truly sorry for this omission.

PLANNING BOARD APPROVES DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT

by Ed House

During its meeting on December 22, the Medford Township Planning Board agreed with the terms of a Developer's Agreement, drafted cooperatively by the Township and Medford Leas in support of Medford Leas' Improvement Plan. In essence, the Developer's Agreement commits the Township to rezone Medford Leas' property and to allow Medford Leas to make facility improvements, including about 110 additional living units. In return, Medford Leas agrees to install low-flow toilets and showerheads in existing and new facilities. In addition, Medford Leas will assist in sponsoring the development and operation of a 32 rental unit Affordable Housing project. This project will assist the Township in meeting its obligation to provide affordable housing, as described in its recently amended Fair Share Housing Plan.

The Developer's Agreement is needed so the New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) and the court can:

- (1) approve the Township's recently amended Fair Share Housing Plan;
- (2) allow Medford Leas' Improvement Plan to go forward; and
- (3) allow the Township to allocate the necessary water and sewer capacity for the Improvement Plan and for the Affordable Housing Project.

The four parties involved in the agreement are Medford Leas, the Township of Medford, the Medford Township Planning Board, and a Partnership (to be established in the future) which, with Medford Leas' assistance, is to sponsor the development and operation of the Affordable Housing Project.

After Dennis Funaro, Director of Planning and Zoning, summarized the terms of the Developer's Agreement and responded to questions from the Board, the Chairman asked for public questions or

comments. The only public comments were by two of the 12 Medford Leas residents in attendance.

Beth Wray asked for clarification concerning wording in the draft rezoning ordinance related to protecting the interests of residents and others involved with a development. Dennis Funaro explained that these are standard words required by state law, intended to ensure that a development is carried out properly and as planned.

Ed House asked what must be done before Medford Leas can be given the go-ahead with the first step of the Improvement Plan, described by the Developer's Agreement as constructing 30 Independent Living Units in the New Freedom Woods and Rushmore neighborhoods. Dennis Funaro indicated that, in addition to the usual plan reviews and approvals,

- (1) the Township's Fair Share Housing Plan, which incorporates Medford Leas' Affordable Housing Project, must be approved - hopefully right after the court hearing on March 30, 2005;
- (2) rezoning ordinances must be approved;
- (3) there must be conversion of sufficient Medford Leas campus plumbing fixtures to cover the water and sewer needs for the new construction units; and
- (4) the Developer's Agreement must be signed off by all concerned, including the Partnership.

NOMINATIONS FOR MLRA BOARD

It's that time of year again for all residents to decide who among them would best represent them on the MLRA Board and to put their recommendations into the Ballot Box in the Atrium starting on February 11. Deadline is March 31.

2005 GREAT DECISIONS

by Stan Brush

Challenged as we are by world problems both natural and man-made, the 2005 Great Decisions program at Medford Leas will highlight the eight issues identified by the Foreign Policy Association as urgent and reviewed in its 2005 Great Decisions briefing book. The book will be made available to residents around mid-January for \$11.00 as in previous years.

Our series will begin on Thursday, February 10, at 11:00 a.m. in the Auditorium and will continue on Thursdays through March 31. During this period there will be no Vid-U programs on Third Floor Haddon. We have a roster of knowledgeable volunteer speakers drawn from the Medford Leas community who will present their views on the Great Decisions of 2005 as listed below. We anticipate a vigorous exchange of enlightened opinion during these sessions.

Date	Topic	Speaker
Feb. 10	China: The Challenge	Allyn Rickett
Feb. 17	Global Water Issues	K. Anderson
Feb. 24	Intelligence Reform	C. Prentice
Mar. 03	Sudan and Darfur	Joe Wray
Mar. 10	Outsourcing Jobs	Walt Zwarg
Mar. 17	Global Poverty Gap	H. Vukasin
Mar. 24	Russia Today	C. Woodard Joe Wray
Mar. 31	Middle East Roundup	Stan Brush



NEW YEAR'S EVE – 2004

by George Rubin

The colored balloons floated along the ceiling, the champagne and sparkling cider sat chilled on the table. Nat King Cole singing his signature songs filled the Activities Room, for it was New Year's Eve 2004 at Medford Leas.



Photo by Margery Rubin

Inge Raven had put together a fun-filled evening. There was a series of skits called "Then" and "Now." Want a doctor at 3 a.m.? "Then" you called and spoke to his wife. "Now" you call and get an automated phone message prompting you to press 1, press 2 etc. without ever reaching a human being. If you go to a pharmacist with a prescription, "Then" it was 50 cents, and if you don't have it, you can pay me tomorrow. "Now" the Rx will cost \$500, and you decide you have to do without it.

As a parent you wanted to see the teacher about your child. Your child is chewing gum in class? "Then," I'll see to her behavior. "Now" I'm just too busy for you to drag me down there, stop annoying my child or I'll sue! The last skit was a "then and now" visit to a shoemaker.

The cast members presenting these skits were **Don Killian, Kit Ellenbogen, Loretta Strassler, Warren Sawyer, Kitty Katzell, Fran Werrell,** and **Pete Johnson.** **Mary Toda**, dressed in a tux with a top hat, was the sign-changer for each act. All the sign lettering was done by **Jim Muir.**

Then came a sing-along of old-time favorites with **Nannette Hanslowe** at the piano. The evening ended with more singing, piano playing, and delicious food and drinks. It was a joyful way to say goodbye to 2004 and welcome in the New Year.



photo by Margery Rubin

MEET OUR NONAGENARIANS

by Maggie Woodard

Jane Benjamin, 91 years old, came to Medford Leas 25 years ago and is still enthusiastic about living here! She cites her friendships with staff members and the view of a small Burning Bush tree she observes daily from her window as examples of the goodness of life here. A careful observer of people and a lover of nature and art, she finds pleasure where others may not.

She and her husband, Wilber, lived in Elkins Park, PA until his death in 1976. A teacher of third-grade children, Jane liked to sew. She also did a lot of art work. Presently, her apartment is filled with beautiful objects, some gifts and some she made or collected: pillows covered with needlepoint embroidery, a favorite stuffed animal with a special expression on its face, and many

pictures. One large picture of 15 birds perched on a tree, which she embroidered on antique linen sheets in 1956, displays her artistic skills. The colors are radiant and the handwork is exquisite.

One of her many projects was making large banners for her church in Toms River. They were so big she had to work on them on the living room floor, necessitating crawling. She made them until ten years ago, when she had to give up crawling!

Last December she decorated her apartment with a small Christmas tree, which she had created in years past from a coat hanger, small beads and wire. On a large tree, which she had made from dowel sticks, were hung small objects she had received over the years.

Jane reads a lot; she also likes to write poetry. Several of her poems have appeared in *Medford Leas Life*. In addition, she has kept a journal for the past five years. Her journal is a history; she likes to look back at the pages and relive the memories they contain.

In 1981, Jane could not attend a New Year's Eve party here but she left as gifts 25 3x5 cards, one for each guest. On these, she had written a "jingle" she composed and put a ribbon bow on the top as well as a shiny new penny to symbolize the hopes for the coming year. She ended up making 80 cards one year. In December 2004, she made 25. Is it any wonder that she enjoys life at Medford Leas?

ENJOY OUR WINTER TEA!

Everyone is invited to the MLRA Winter Tea, held in the Lounge and the Atrium on Tuesday, February 8, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. Wear your name tag, meet new and old friends, and taste the special treats created by Dining Service.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY: PROGRESS IN DIVERSITY

by Ellen Stimler

Martin Luther King Day this year was celebrated at Medford Leas on January 15 with an address by Burlington County Superior Court Judge Marie White Bell, evaluating progress achieved in diversity since the death of Dr. King.

photo by Margery Rubin



Judge Bell herself introduced some diversity into the Burlington County Courts when she arrived as the first African-American law clerk in Mt. Holly. Later she practiced law in Mt. Holly and also served as municipal court judge in Willingboro and Camden before being appointed to the Superior Court.

Martin Luther King inspired the young Marie to change her career from biologist to lawyer in order to pursue King's goals of obtaining equal justice for all citizens regardless of race or other limiting condition.

She grew up in York, PA, at a time when that town had strict color barriers. She had to attend an all-black school which had no cafeteria or gym and only reject textbooks; her father had difficulty getting work, and her mother would not be hired by the local hospitals after she had completed her nurse's training. The family could not go to restaurants or movies. Her father said blacks were "the invisible citizens." But he made Marie go to the public library for hours and "learn everything" in an encyclopedia he brought home. In contrast, today an African-American is president of the York Board of Education, and Judge Bell was an invited speaker of the local bar association, albeit finding herself speaking to an exclusively white audience.

Judge Bell believes that education and political clout are needed to advance diversity. She also sees a great need for more teaching of black

history to make students aware of the achievements (other than sports or entertainment) of African-Americans in their fields. She finds progress in many areas but a long road ahead. Looking at the New Jersey Court system, she found that, of 433 state judges, 19 are Hispanics, 31 African-Americans, 104 women, and 2 Asians, a total picture not at all representative of these groups in the state population.

In too many cases, positions are awarded based on political contributions, friendship, association, or social reasons rather than considerations of diversity. There is a need for a constant and persistent push toward that goal. For this reason Judge Bell still believes in the need for affirmative action.

At a luncheon following the speech, **David Lewis**, chair of the Medford Leas Diversity Committee, had organized the seating to facilitate an exchange of views between residents and members of the Mt. Holly "I Have A Dream" Committee on ways that Medford Leas itself could increase the diversity of its resident population. Suggestions made included more outreach and information about Medford Leas to African-American sororities, organizations of retired teachers and other professionals, and churches.

HEARING AID BATTERIES IN GIFT SHOP

by Joan Bellman

In the near future, Energizer hearing aid batteries will be sold over the counter to residents in packs of eight instead of four. They may be paid for in cash or via the Gift Shop's "yellow slip" charge system. But they can no longer be charged on residents' monthly bills.

The new price will be \$8.00 for a pack of any one size of eight batteries, compared with the average prior cost of \$5.87 for a pack of four, depending on size. There will be no sales tax.

WHAT'S UP, DOC?

by Sumi Kobayashi

The 2005 series of Coffee Hours, to keep communications open between residents and staff, began with a well-attended Monday meeting featuring Dr. Quinton. Anticipating a large attendance, the event was moved from the usual meeting in the Lounge to the Auditorium. As he looked out over the audience Dr. Quinton remarked that it looked like the audience for the Employees Show.



Dr. Quinton began by discussing a question that arises frequently: When should a resident stop driving? The subject is a painful one to discuss. The answer must strike a delicate balance between taking away a person's independence and taking off the road a driver who is a danger to self and others.

National Highway Administration statistics show that an alarming 13% to 18% of highway traffic fatalities involve drivers over the age of 85, which is 9 times the rate for drivers aged 25 to 69.

As people age, vision, reaction time and flexibility deteriorate, reducing the ability to drive in a safe manner. Other factors are memory loss (dementia), impairment of muscle strength, and nervous system functions and balance. Many people recognize their own deficiencies and voluntarily give up driving, especially at night. Often family members recommend the move, in some cases taking such steps as hiding the car keys. In other cases it is a near miss, too many fender benders, getting lost over familiar roads, plus the high cost of insurance and maintenance,

which help decide it is time to stop driving. In some cases the decision is obvious: the driver is observed crossing the yellow line into the opposing lane of traffic. For the die-hard resister, the Medford Leas medical department or state police must intervene, recommending tests to determine driving skill, including reading road signs and parking. Some states have a mandatory requirement for tests over a certain age for license renewal; New Jersey does not. Tests to determine driving competence are given at the Moss Rehabilitation Center in Woodbury.

An AARP driving course for seniors will be given at Medford Leas February 8-9 and 15-16. Both dates are completely filled.

Dr. Quinton closed the meeting responding to questions from the audience. About arthritis drugs currently under scrutiny, such as Vioxx which has been taken off the market, others such as Celebrex are prescribed on an individual risk/benefit ratio. The same applies to Fosamax for osteoporosis and baby aspirin for prevention of heart attacks and strokes. The flu season peaks in late January and February. A few cases have occurred at Medford Leas. An influenza vaccine clinic will be scheduled when our final shipment of vaccine arrives. The available vaccine will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

Dr. Quinton will hold these meetings on a quarterly basis. The next meeting in early April will include a discussion of advance directives, also known as living wills.

IN MEMORIAM

Virginia McMichael	December 26
Elizabeth Macpherson	December 30
Patricia McCormack	January 8
Edward K. Pickett	January 10
Charles F. Peck, Jr.	January 14
Brian Daly	January 16

A JAPANESE NEW YEAR

by Sumi Kobayashi

The New Year celebration is the most important holiday of the year in Japan. It has been so for hundreds of years. Over time many traditions have come to be associated with the holiday: decorations, games, and especially food. Many of these have meanings associated with long life, good health, and good fortune. Even today it is a three-day holiday during which visits are made to relatives and friends. All shops and businesses are closed. Small gifts of candy and other sweets are given to children.

A New Year decoration placed at the entrance to a home is made up of a pine bough, bamboo and, at some homes, a sprig of plum blossoms. The pine symbolizes long life, bamboo resilience, and the plum blossoms a promise of spring to come. Another type of decoration is three mounds of mochi, made of a special rice, graduated in size and topped by a tangerine with a lobster (cooked red) alongside.

One tradition is a thorough cleaning of the house before New Year's Day. **Aya Endo** and her two sisters were assigned by their mother to this important task. At midnight the family sat down to eat soba, buckwheat noodles. Soba is traditionally served on New Year's Eve, the long strands symbolizing longevity.

A game played by young girls is battledore and shuttlecock. The paddles are made of wood decorated on one side with raised images of Kabuki actors or elegant ladies. The shuttlecock is a small weighted sphere attached to a bundle of feathers. The game is played without a net by individuals, not teams. Boys fly kites.

But food is the focus of the celebration. The menu is a balanced presentation of foods from the mountain, the sea, and the field.

The most traditional New Year food is ozoni, a clear soup containing mochi, a special rice dumpling, and greens and other garnishes. Another traditional dish is a whole fish, such as a

red snapper, baked with head and tail left on and curled up at both ends. Boiled shrimp represents hope for a long life – until one's back is curved with age. Kazunoko, preserved herring roe, connotes hope for many children. Black beans represent a wish for good health. Oseki-han, rice cooked with red beans, is served at many celebrations. Kombu, a seaweed, is cooked and tied into bows. All of these foods are arranged artistically on a large platter or placed in lacquer tiered boxes call jubako.

Mochi, the rice dumpling, is made of a special sticky rice. Most is now made by machines, but the old-fashioned way of making it is fascinating to watch. The rice is first steamed; then two men pound the sticky mounds in a large wooden mortar and pestle. One man swings the pestle while the other moves the rice around in the mortar between strokes of the pestle. The two must work in complete rhythm with each other or one man will have a smashed hand.

In Japanese American communities on the West Coast, especially in Pasadena, where **Ida Shimanouchi** grew up, these traditional celebrations were combined with watching the Rose Parade and, at least with the young male part of the population, cheering on their favorite football teams in the Rose Bowl. A large proportion of the colorful floats in the parade were designed and decorated by Japanese American rose growers of southern California.

The Seabrook Buddhist Temple in Seabrook, NJ, has a mochi machine. Each holiday season temple members make mochi to order as a fund raising activity. The Philadelphia Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League holds an annual New Year's covered dish dinner at Moorestown Friends School at which many of the traditional foods are served along with additions from the larger community such as ham, cakes and pies.

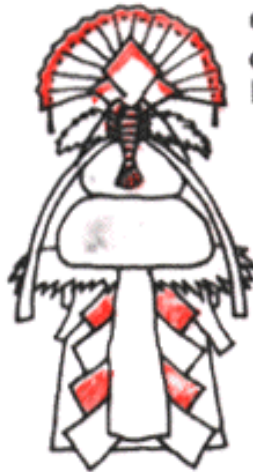
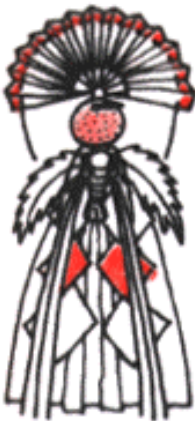
福 喜 寿 和



Shimenawa: The special twisted straw rope called *shimenawa* is put over the door of a house to bring good luck to the house and keep evil out.



Kadomatsu: This decoration, made from pine branches, bamboo and straw, is used in pairs, one on each side of the front gate or door of a house. The pine tree is a symbol of longevity.



Shimekazari: The crops of the harvest are offered to the gods in thanks and to pray for good harvests in the coming year. The prawn is also a symbol of a prayer for longevity.



Kagamimochi: This is also an offering to the gods. It consists of two *mochi*, or rice cakes, one on top of the other, and is placed in the *tokonoma*, or alcove of the main room of the house.

VETERANS' REBATES AT ISSUE

by Ellen Stimler

There is a law on the books in New Jersey which gives veterans or widows and widowers of veterans an exemption from real estate taxes. This law, however, does not extend to persons otherwise eligible who live in CCRC's. Bills have been introduced in the New Jersey legislature to eliminate this discriminatory feature, and ORANJ, the organization which represents member retirement communities in New Jersey, is working hard to get these bills passed (S. 1406 and A. 1285).

The bills have been stuck in committees, and letters to our state representatives urging action on those bills have produced nothing more in response than a form letter saying that, if and when the bills are reported out, they will be considered.

The MLRA Citizens Committee has sent around a memo within Medford Leas to learn how many residents would be eligible for a tax abatement if the bills became law. If all the ORANJ members would do likewise so that the total number of eligible persons could be ascertained, ORANJ might have more clout to impress our representatives with the voting power behind this move, and they might then take action to get the bills to the floor.

Any resident who believes he/she would be eligible should fill out the form received from **Gordon Beckhart**, chair of the Citizens Committee, or call him at 3052.



ART GALLERY NEWS

by Helen L. Vukasin

In the Art Gallery, all the folding chairs were full. It was standing room only on January 8 when The Spirit of the Wood exhibition opened at Medford Leas. Jules Burrowes, daughter of **John and Sally Burrowes**, residents of Medford Leas, spoke about her work and answered questions.

The exhibition includes the wood or linoleum blocks that she carved to make the prints. All of her work is printed on muslin, linen or silk. When asked if she ever printed on paper, Jules explained the difficulties of using paper and the enhancement of the prints because of the softness and texture of the cloth. In answer to a question, she said that the most difficult carving is lettering, which must be done in reverse. Carving of scenes or abstracts can follow the grain of the wood.

It is an unusual exhibition for Medford Leas because of the absence of color. It is, however, exciting to study the prints and the blocks for their texture and depth of perception. The Exhibition will be up through February.

At Lumberton Leas a new show of paintings and photographs opened on January 15, 2005. Three residents of the Medford campus were invited to show their work in the Lumberton Leas Art Gallery. These are **Dorothy Tillman**, showing the best of her portfolio of photographs; **Sam Howarth**, offering his three latest watercolors; and **Gladys Wynkoop**, exhibiting six of her watercolors.

The Exhibition will be up until the middle of April.



ML NEWEST PUBLISHED AUTHOR
by Grace Blackburn

A book signing featuring **Susan Pettiss** was held on December 4, 2004 in the Medford Leas Lounge, with an estimated 70 people present. The book, *After the Shooting Stopped: The Story of an UNRRA Welfare Worker in Germany 1945 –1947*, is in the form of a memoir, with entries from Susan's diary intertwined with narrative of the historical and political perspective. The co-author, Lynne Taylor, is a historian on the faculty of the University of Waterloo, Canada.



photo by Ellen Stimler

At the end of World War II, there were an estimated six million newly liberated non-German refugees in Germany. Most of these displaced persons or DPs had been in concentration camps or were former slave laborers and were in desperate need of shelter, food, and medical care. Anticipating this need, UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) had been established.

Susan arrived in Munich eleven days after VE day as the Welfare Officer on an international team of five, to direct a refugee center. Initially, Susan processed truckloads of DPs registering new arrivals, arranging for DDT dusting, assigning quarters, and issuing meal tickets. On the third day there were 1,322 new arrivals from more than 17 countries. A few days later there were six



Susan Pettiss interviewing a refugee couple from Shanghai

thousand people under the care of the five-person team. With no precedents, no policies, and critical needs, imagination, creativity, administrative capability, and strong negotiating skills brought results. Susan flourished in this environment. Even as the only woman in a man's world, she directed a series of increasingly important projects. For a period of time, Susan drove throughout Germany to small villages and orphanages in order to identify the hundreds of displaced children. Many of these young children did not know their country of origin, but every effort was made to repatriate them appropriately.

Gradually, the number of Jews passing through the refugee centers increased. They were seeking refuge in the American sector where there was more sympathy for their goal of emigrating to Palestine. As this pressure increased, the various Jewish charities decided to coordinate their efforts, and they selected Susan to moderate this new coalition.

Simultaneously, Susan Pettiss was changing as a person. Brought up in Mobile, Alabama, to be a lady in the conservative South, the desperate challenges and vivid reality of post-war Germany was having its effect on Susan. Initially UNRRA provided "a great and socially accepted escape" from a bad marriage but gradually she came to the realization that the field of international welfare was her life calling.

OUR CHINESE SCROLL

by Allyn Rickett

Calligraphy is considered the highest form of art in China, and famous calligraphers are even more revered than famous painters. Actually the two arts are closely allied due to the fact that, from at least the third century B.C. on, the primary writing instrument became the brush, and most well-known artists were noted for their work in both fields.



photo by Margery Rubin

The complex nature of Chinese characters allows the calligrapher limitless opportunity to express his feelings, both in terms of the meaning of the character and the way it is written. Thus the work of topflight calligraphers exudes a spirituality and sense of mystery that can draw the viewer into another world.

The Chinese scroll hanging on the north side of the fireplace in the Lounge, facing the Library, is a fine example of this art. Even the untutored eye is struck by the power and speed with which this character, normally consisting of 13 separate strokes, was executed with a single continuous movement of the brush.

The character, pronounced *shou*, means "longevity" and is a favorite of calligraphers in a

culture where traditionally old age has enjoyed special respect. The four smaller characters below *shou*, going from right to left and top to bottom, read: *shou yu hong kai*, "The horizons of those who have reached old age stretch far and wide."

The artist, Liu Shunian, was 84 when he did this for us. The five characters in the lower left read *Baichuan*, "Hundred Rivers," (Liu's sobriquet) and his official name, Liu Shunian. The scroll was presented to Medford Leas in 1998 by a delegation of officials from the Chinese Family Planning Commission on the occasion of their visit here while attending a conference in Princeton.

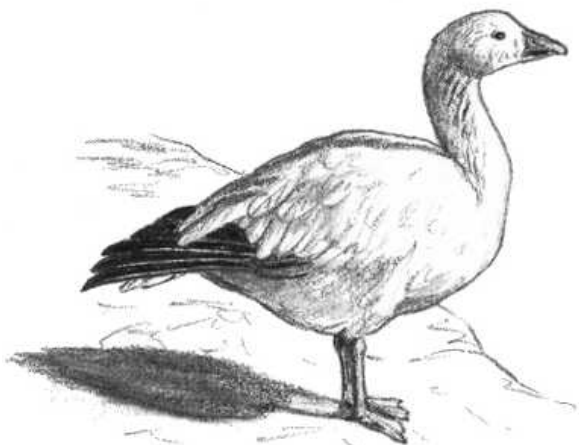
2005 BIRD CENSUS

by Miriam Swartz

Thursday, January 6, a small group of Bird Club members met at the Nature Center at Medford Leas to decide if we wanted to start this census on such a cold, raw, rainy day. **Arthur Steitz, Doris Curley, Louise Tompkins, and Miriam and David Swartz** decided we would undertake this task weather or no.

We promptly got into the Swartzes' car and started off around the Medford Leas campus, including Rushmore, Bridlington, and Woods Cottage, eyeing residents' bird feeders as we drove along. We saw a total of 17 different species of birds. House Finches, White-throated and English Sparrows, Starlings, and Robins were in great numbers. We did not see as many Juncos, Downy or Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Carolina Chickadees, or Tufted Titmice as might be expected. Other species sighted were White-breasted Nuthatches, Mourning Doves, Blue Jays, Goldfinches, Northern Cardinals, Mockingbirds, and Carolina Wrens. We ended our outing with a delicious, warming cup of hot cocoa at the Coffee Shop. We wish to thank **Sheila and Thomas McMillan** for taking part from their home.

Monday, January 10, **Chuck and Barbara Lassen, Jean Jordan**, Louise Tompkins, Doris Curley, and Miriam and Dave Swartz met at Lumberton Leas Community Center to traverse the perimeter and woodland trails. We started out using Louise's telescope and saw many water species while looking over Monarch Lake. We saw Ruddy Ducks, Coots, Ring-necked Ducks, a Pied-billed Grebe, a Great Egret, two Great Blue Herons, and of course many Canada Geese. While we were leaving that area to travel down the perimeter blacktop path, we heard a flock of geese flying overhead. One of the geese had a more soprano voice. We looked up and saw a Snow Goose among the Canada Geese ready to land on the lake. This was a first time we had ever seen a Snow Goose at that spot. It was a very exciting and profitable morning for "Birders." We saw a total of 28 different species. Goldfinches, Mourning Doves, Carolina Chickadees, Northern Cardinals, White-throated and English Sparrows, Carolina Wrens, Robins, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers were the most numerous species seen on this day. It was exciting to see a male and female Bluebird spotted in the top of a maple tree in the meadow. **Joan Kocher** and **Charleen Cosand** helped us by making observations of bird life from their feeders.



Snow Goose drawing from
http://www.dierinbeeld.nl/animal_files/birds/goose/

THE TREES OF LUMBERTON LEAS

by Miriam Swartz

Three years ago **Allen Lewis** and **Miriam Swartz**, with **John Siminski** and **Herb Minkus** of the Landscaping Department at Medford Leas, walked, identified and labeled plants and trees along the perimeter blacktop path at Lumberton Leas. This fall, **Tom Krainik** removed the tags that were not visible in the trees, made stakes for the tags, and drove the stakes into the ground in front of each specimen. Those of you who walk that path will now be able to see those tags. If you look on the tags you will find the Latin name for the species first, followed by the common name.

Thank you, Tom, for doing this job so that we can educate ourselves and become knowledgeable of the great variety of plant materials that we have here in our arboretum.

We have both Dawn Redwoods and Cypress trees near the entrance. The Cypress knees are becoming visible at the bases of the trees. These knees are root extensions. You see them rising up surrounding the Cypress trees in the swamps in the South. In back of the tennis courts are small trees called Yellow Wood. The yellow branch tips are very visible now that the leaves are off. Of course, we are well aware of the profusion of red berries on the deciduous holly known as Winterberry. Walking out beyond the Community Center in the circle towards the lookout over Monarch Lake, you will be aware of a delightful perfume filling the air. Looking closely you will see three untagged small Witch Hazel shrubs, the dry, brown leaves still hanging on the branches. The flowers of this species are spidery and golden-orange, with burgundy centers and yellow stamens. It's worth the walk to see these plants that bloom in January. We also have a yellow variety behind the Fitness Room and out by the entrance, to the left of the Woodworking Shop, as you drive toward Lumberton. They bloom later and are often mistaken for Forsythia.

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 books they especially liked.

ALL HE EVER WANTED

by Anita Shreve (310 pages)

As a storyteller, Anita Shreve has the uncanny knack of drawing one into her world from the very first sentence. "The fire began in the kitchen and spread to the hotel dining room." This is the opening sentence of *All He Ever Wanted*.

In her past novels, *Sea Glass* and *The Pilot's Wife*, among others, she has always focused her stories through the eyes and ears of a woman. In this book, for the first time she tells the tale from the viewpoint of a Victorian man in New England at the turn of the century. Nicholas Van Tassel, a professor at the local college, becomes obsessed with Etna Bliss. Obsessed cannot convey the deep emotions that the author puts into play between these two people. Van Tassel tells the story in flashback from 1933. He woos and weds Etna Bliss and slowly uncovers the secret that explains her physical and emotional distance.

Anita Shreve's great gift as a writer is the ability to bring the reader into her time period in speech rhythms and mannerisms. She is fascinated by the Victorian era and has used it before in her novel *Fortune's Rocks*. *All He Ever Wanted* is a real "page turner." You may also want to read her latest novel, *Light on Snow*, which has been on the *New York Times Book Review* Best Seller List.

All He Ever Wanted is in the Medford Leas Library.

by George Rubin



THE MEDFORD MINISTERIUM

by George Rubin

Walk by the Colonial Dining Room at 12 noon on a particular Wednesday and you will see a group of about 20 men and women having lunch and conversation. They are the representatives of the churches, synagogue, and the Quaker Meeting in Medford.

They make up the Medford Ministerium, which has about 30 members. The convener of this group is the Reverend Dr. Patricia Epprecht of the Christ Presbyterian Church. These meetings are held to discuss ways of deepening the ecumenical dialogue in Medford.

The lay people and clergy at these gatherings understand the religious diversity that exists here and the constant need to foster tolerance among all people.

For example, Rabbi Gary Gans of Congregation Beth Tikvah informed the group of the work they are doing with Jewish families in the community. The Reverend John Shincick welcomed all the congregations of the Ministerium to attend the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross at the St. Nicholas mass before Christmas, and a number of people did attend including some from Medford Leas. The Reverend Richard Overcash of the Lutheran Church and the Reverend Patricia Epprecht, both members of the Ministerium, participated as readers at the mass.

Medford Friends Meeting has invited all the members of the Ministerium congregations to join in our peace vigil that is held once a month at the meeting house. Plans are also being made to have an ecumenical Thanksgiving service in the community this year, something that has been done in the past.

The Ministerium sees its role as important in the religious life of Medford and is very appreciative that Medford Leas is the host for these meetings.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Esther Benson, who came to Medford Leas in August 2001, was designated October's Employee of the Month. Her dedication to the residents on Assisted Living is her trademark; nothing is too much for her to do to ensure their comfort and happiness. At the December Employee Show, Esther electrified the audience with her solo performance of "His Eye is on the Sparrow."

Rose Marrone, the "mother figure" of the Dining Services Department, was named November's Employee of the Month. Rose, who has been at Medford Leas for five years, is very conscientious about her job assignments. Those who work with her appreciate her humor, smile, and willingness to help others.

Deborah ("Debbie") Lovenduski, December's Employee of the Month, started working at Medford Leas in June 1978. Over the past 26 years, she has demonstrated devotion to the facility and a caring and respectful attitude towards the residents. Her present title as Medical Records Coordinator hardly encompasses all of her duties. In the past year, she has become the AAOD guru for the medical floors developing assessment tools, has taken over duties in the Assisted Living area, and also is a timekeeper for the Kronos system!

Congratulations, Esther, Rose, and Debbie, and many thanks for your good work at Medford Leas!



RESIDENTS IN THE NEWS

Anna Burr, our 104-year-old resident, was the guest of honor at the annual tea of the New Jersey chapter of the National Society of Colonial Dames, held at Peachfield Plantation in Westampton on December 8. Anna is a direct 7th generation descendant of Henry Burr and Elizabeth Hudson, founders of Peachtree Plantation, which is now the group's headquarters.

Anna received a scroll citing her "contribution to the genealogical knowledge of New Jersey families" through books she has written and her leadership in local historical preservation as president of both the Bordentown Cemetery Association and the Public Library.



Peachfield Plantation: Certified as a NJ Historic Site
Credit: <http://colonialdamesnj.com/>

Susan Pettiss, whose new book about her World War II experiences was featured at a book-signing ceremony at Medford Leas (see p.11), was also the subject of a half-page article in Phil Joyce's *Senior Life* column in the January 9 edition of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. In the article, Susan is quoted as saying that her WWII work on behalf of displaced persons was still applicable to today's situation in Iraq. What was different, she said, was that "we did a lot of planning before we went into Germany."

CRYPTOGRAM

by Russell Hill

Here is the solution to the January cryptogram:

IT IS HARD TO SEE WHY MORDRED
SHOULD HAVE FORGED A LETTER
PURPORTING TO TELL OF ARTHUR'S
DEATH.

STEWART

The correct solvers were: **Kenneth C. Anderson, Miriam Angle, Ruth Blattenberger, Mort Bregman, Florence Brudon, Marion Burk, Scott Charles, Liz Dill, Betty Donahue, Lorretta Elkin, Mickey Gray, Marian and Neil Hartman, Herb Heineman, Barbara Heizman, Eleanor Horner, Jane Hunter, Hugh Jenkins, Kitty Katzell, Sally Klos, Mary Hope Mason, Mary Ann Metzger, Alice Norcross, Helen Peterson, Betty Preston, Doris Salati, Florence Sawyer, Hana Stranska, Ellen Stimler, Miriam Ward, Fran Werrell, John and Marie Winton, Gladys Wynkoop, Jeanne Youngs.**

Here is the February cryptogram:

MTR QDZJB QTD FDKRP MTR

ZDKM PVHRNM MTHRJM MD

XRBBRPS'K KFBHJMVDBK QJK

JB JHVMKM BJZRP LJHLJHJ

XDFKUSBKXJ

Please put solutions in an envelope and leave on Medford Leas Life shelf by February 10.

MEDFORD LEAS LIFE

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Deadline for submissions:
10th of the month preceding publication

