



Medford Leas LIFE

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NEW DINING SERVICES DIRECTOR

by Ellen Stimler

Charles Loving, our new Director of Dining Services, was selected after a nation-wide search by Aramark Corporation as the very best person who could meet the requirements of the Medford Leas management team. Aramark has been providing food management services to Medford Leas for many years, and Charles is an employee of Aramark, as was our prior director of dining services.



photo by Margery Rubin

Charles said he is very excited about coming here at a time when some really great changes are on the drawing board. His goal is "to make Medford Leas the premier dining service account in the region."

Charles explained that **Dennis Koza**, Executive Director, **Bill Murphy**, Director of Operations, and Aramark together have laid out a program for updating Medford Leas' systems and services, and it will be up to him to implement this program.

When asked to give some examples of what this will involve, Charles said it means that the kitchen will be updated, and current standards of food service will be introduced and maintained through training of the "front and back" of our dining services operation. This will cover both the waitstaff in the front and the cooks and kitchen staff in the back.

For starters, Charles promised that, "barring a catastrophe, there will be a new menu cycle in place by April 3." This five-week cycle will continue through spring and summer, and then a different cycle will come in for fall and winter. The new menus will focus more on healthy preparation and healthy food choices.

Other changes we can look forward to are more special-occasion offerings or themed dinners. With respect to the quality of ingredients used, Charles said that Aramark provides only USDA Grade A meats and poultry and the finest quality of ingredients across the board.

Charles grew up in Lake Forest, IL, graduated from local schools, and then earned a B.Sc. degree in criminal justice from Southern Illinois College. While going to high school and college

Charles worked part-time in area restaurants. So when it came to career choice for him, he didn't pursue law enforcement but accepted an apprenticeship in a four-star restaurant in Chicago. After its completion he worked his way up to executive chef level and held these positions in hotels and restaurants for 15 years. At that stage he moved into contract management of senior living communities. He worked for Aramark as executive chef for five years, then left that organization, only to return at this time following his selection for the Medford Leas job.

POEMS BY JESSIE JONES-COBB

Jessie, who died several months ago after living at Medford Leas for 13 years, had many talents of the heart and mind. She led anti-violence seminars in prisons, relationship groups, and workshops.. What is not well known is that she was also a poet. A collection of her poems was assembled by her daughters on the occasion of her memorial service on February 26 and was placed in the Medford Leas Library. One of her poems, which she wrote after the death of her husband, Sidney, is printed below.

REMAINDERS

I do not think to find
some vestige of the one I loved
beneath earth's covering
nor captured in a work of art.

It was a wrenching, rending break
but we had grown so fused,
our roots so intertwined,
that death could not break out
one piece neat margined and alone.

Some fragments of ourselves are gone,
While some of yours remain.

A SPECIAL WELCOME

by Della Williams

Everyone said that Medford Leas was a friendly place. And they were right! The warm call from the Friendly Visitor, **Mary Toda**, who guided me through the early days, was followed by the nice people who recognized that I was new and introduced themselves. Then there was the Hospitality Table, which kept me from feeling like a wallflower, and the nice ladies who asked me to join them for Sunday lunch.

I had also learned that newcomers were treated to a fruit basket delivered to their apartments. My basket turned out to be special: the first one delivered personally by the new CEO, **Dennis Koza**. As soon as his secretary called to confirm that I would be home at 11:30 on Friday, I started to fret. I couldn't take the basket at the door and shut him out. I must invite him in and offer him something. It's too early for a glass of wine. Coffee will have to do with the boxed cookies stashed in my tiny pantry.

I needn't have worried. Mr. Koza propped himself comfortably on my counter stool, devoured several of the shortbread cookies, sipped my mediocre coffee, and chatted amiably. "I don't drink and I don't smoke," he said, "but I have a terrible sweet tooth." He told me he planned to deliver the fruit baskets to all newcomers because he likes to meet people personally. He is indeed a fine "people person." I almost forgot he was the CEO. The few minutes we spent together felt more like coffee with an old friend.

Clearing away the cups and dishes, I started to plan what I would wear to Court 14's welcoming reception hosted by **Phil and Rita Sagi**. Medford Leas is indeed a friendly place with a warm and caring CEO.



OUR NURSING CARE IS 'A OK'

by Ellen Stimler

After spending three days inspecting and examining every aspect of Medford Leas' skilled nursing care, a staff of six professionals from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, concluded that there was "no deficiency" of any kind to be found in Woolman or Estaugh. This deficiency-free status is achieved by only three percent of facilities subjected to these annual inspections.

Dennis Koza, Executive Director, announced this achievement at his February 28 Coffee Hour and expressed his appreciation for the hard work and devotion of the staff which made this possible. Similarly, **Dolores Redner**, Administrator, said she is very proud of all the staff for doing such a great job. She pointed out that the health inspectors come unannounced, and the staff here does a great job every day, not just during the inspection.

The inspection is based on hundreds of pages of mandatory regulations applying to skilled nursing units. The visiting team consists of a building inspector, two nurses, a dietitian, and two pharmacists. The regulations contain many standards that must be adhered to, in such areas as quality of life, resident rights, fire and safety code, kitchen maintenance, sanitation, administration of medications, documentation of care plans, and physician orders.

What is very special about Medford Leas skilled nursing care, however, as explained by Dolores, is that it goes beyond the required regulations and includes compliance with 40 different "advisory regulations" which are voluntary and which Dolores has documented in 40 different file folders presented to the inspectors.

Dolores offered several examples of the difference between mandatory and advisory regulations. Under the mandatory rules, dietary-approved meals must be served; under the

advisory rules, special meals are served on holidays and other appropriate occasions. In this situation, one of Dolores's folders had to list the special menus served in the skilled units on holidays.

Another example of an upgrade is that Medford Leas voluntarily offers activities on three evenings a week plus 55 minutes per person each day. This compliance with an "advisory" rule was documented with the special calendar for activities in the skilled units, which is prepared by Therapeutic Recreation each month.

Medford Leas has an R.N. on duty on each shift, which is not required but "advisory." At Medford Leas every nurse is CPR trained, which is also not in the mandatory regulations.

As mentioned above, Dolores had to prepare 40 separate folders to document these "advisory" add-ons or upgrades to the mandatory regulations, a time-consuming task which Dolores started in December.

This is an aspect of Medford Leas' skilled care that is probably not well known among residents and again validates our belief in the superior quality of health care at Medford Leas.

MEDICAL BILLS REMINDER

All residents under health care contracts with Medford Leas are reminded that any medical bills or statements they receive from Medicare, secondary insurance carriers, doctors, or other medical providers should be dropped into the Medical Bills box right under the Monthly Statements box across from the front desk, to be processed by **Pat Webster**.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE RECOGNITION

by Kitty Katzell

The annual Employee Service Recognition dinner was held on Friday, February 25. About 125 people were in attendance, including all levels of staff, ten residents, and eight members of the Estaugh Board. (Six of the ten residents were Estaugh Board members and their wives.)



Susan DeJacomio and Dennis Koza

Dennis Koza emceed the proceedings as if he'd been at Medford Leas for four years, not four weeks! Starting off with a few words of welcome, he encouraged all present to enjoy their dinners, which was not hard to do. When the meal was over, he presided over the program. There were brief remarks by **Miller Biddle**, President of the Estaugh Board, and by **Kitty Katzell**, President of MLRA. Next came the recognition of service, where those who this year reached various landmarks for length of service were called up to receive their service pins. Twenty-seven were honored for three years of service; 20 for five years; one for ten years; ten for 15 years; two for 20 years; three for 25 years; and one for 30 years, **Bob Costigan**. **Pat Wilus**, Director of Human Resources, assisted Dennis Koza with the presentations, and **Susan DeJacomio** took group pictures of each batch of honorees.

The nine members of the Employee Council of Representatives were introduced and their picture was taken. The names of the 18 past Employees

of the Year who are still at Medford Leas were read off, the earliest being **Bill Murphy**, 1974.

Finally came the highlight of the evening's announcements, the one for which everyone waits with bated breath, Employee of the Year! This person is chosen from among the twelve employees of the month during the past year. And the winner of the 2004 Employee of the Year is **Susan DeJacomio**! Susan started work at Medford Leas as one of our receptionists; she now works in Human Resources. The Employee of the Year gets some special perks as a result of this honor, most envied of which is a designated parking space for her use till this time next year.

WHO'S NEW

Della Burgio Williams, Apt. 145, taught English at Cherry Hill High School West for 25 years before she retired in 1995. Her husband, George, was a professor at Burlington County College during those years. The two had met at SUNY at Buffalo when they were students, she majoring in English and he in art, English, and philosophy.

After their marriage, the Williamses lived in Buffalo for ten years. Both taught; he studied for his doctorate; and their daughter, K.C., was born. Then they moved to Albany for two years while George taught philosophy at a Catholic college. In 1970 the family came to South Jersey, where George was a professor at BCC and Della was on the CHHSW faculty. They moved to Medford Lakes the following year.

With their daughter, the couple spent their summers traveling across the U.S., across Europe in a Volvo, and on cruises in the Greek islands and around South America. One of their memorable travel experiences was to a village in Sicily where Della's father had lived his first four years. The villagers, who could not remember a

toddler who had left decades earlier, treated Della, George, and K.C. like long-lost family and celebrities.

In South Jersey George was involved in little theater and directed "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" which shocked the community. He also used his art talent on their trips doing many sketches that were hung on the walls of their Medford Lakes home. The drawings now hang on Della's apartment walls. Together for about ten years Della and George were members of the Gourmet Club, a group of about 15 couples who prepared gourmet meals and met monthly at members' homes. George died last April after a long illness, and now Della is looking forward to continuing a good life at Medford Leas, but she has given up cooking.

by Margaret Melstrom

MEDFORD U SPRING COURSE

Medford University's spring course focuses on the cutting edge topic of brain development and behavior. Stacey Ake, who guided us through a course on Science and Religion in the fall of 2003, returns to explore such issues as brain development through evolutionary time, the role of human communications on brain development, the making of personhood, and the process involved in making ethical decisions.

This will be a six-session course starting on April 18 and ending on May 23. All classes will be held on Mondays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Auditorium. Flyers listing the topics of the individual sessions and giving biographical data on Prof. Ake have been distributed to residents' mailboxes. Anyone wishing to take the course should complete the enrollment form attached to the Flyer or obtain one from the Main Desk. For further information, please call **Rita Sagi**, 654-3143.

CCRC ORDINANCE PASSED

by Ellen Stimler and Kitty Katzell

Another milestone on the long road toward the start of our Improvement Plan was passed on February 22. The Township Council of Medford unanimously approved the ordinance that amends an existing ordinance to permit "Continuing Care Retirement Communities As Planned Developments" on the land Medford Leas presently occupies. Previously the property was designated as a GMN (Growth Management North) district. The amended ordinance also rezoned the eight acres adjoining Medford Leas, which are to be developed as affordable housing, and changed the designation from Highway Management to Growth Management North.

Over 20 residents, top staff, and several Estaug Board members attended the session, which turned out to be very short, despite a long agenda on which the Medford Leas ordinance was near the end. The whole session lasted less than an hour. The only person who responded to the call for public comments on the ordinance was **Beth Wray**, who inquired about the status of the Developers Agreement. She was told that there were still some issues to be worked out but that the hearing before Burlington County Superior Court Judge Sweeney was expected to be held as scheduled the end of March.

There were two other items of interest. The Township has negotiated with Glassboro to accept some of the Township's required affordable housing units, an issue which had caused the delay in the hearing before Judge Sweeney. Also, Mayor Walter Urban thanked those present for the Medford Leas turnout.



RESIDENTS VISIT 'THE GATES'

by Joyce Haase

"I felt like I was part of a procession," . . . "they look like shower curtains," . . . "they were mystical, a poetic experience."

These comments draw Walter and me to Central Park, New York City, to see "The Gates," the latest creation of Christo and his wife Jeanne-Claude, who formerly had wrapped the Reichstag in Berlin and the Pont de Neuf in Paris, and created the Running Fence in California, among other huge projects.

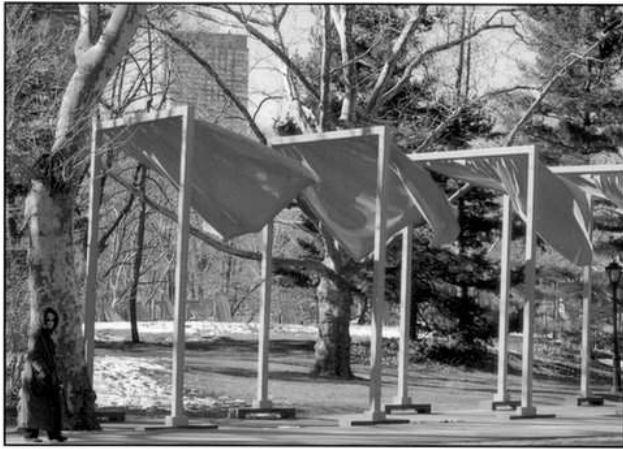


photo by Margery Rubin

The artists had wanted to create The Gates for 25 years and finally succeeded through the enthusiastic intervention of Mayor Bloomberg. There are 7,500 gates – saffron-colored, pleated fabric hung on portals on 23 miles of Central Park walkways, at a cost of over \$20 million, borne exclusively by the artists.

It is immediately obvious that this is a different kind of art – we aren't just looking at something – we are a part of the whole experience. Seeing people smiling as they are walking under the gates makes me realize that if we all weren't there, the project would have no impact. The gates can't be truly experienced from above or outside. They were conceived to be on the ground level.

There are a large number of hired people and volunteers answering questions and holding long

poles to keep the gates from being tangled in tree branches. They are actors, architects, designers – all who signed up two years ago to help. They are fed a daily hot meal served in a park restaurant at the expense of the artists. Souvenirs and memorabilia about the exhibit are sold at various locations in the park, with all proceeds going to Central Park.

The whole atmosphere is that of being on a holiday. People smile at each other, walk as though in a parade. Above, the gates blow and billow with the wind, the saffron changing its hues with the sun and clouds, with the tree branches silhouetted against the fabric.

"It is like a fairy tale," Jeanne-Claude says, "once upon a time in Central Park."

* * *

Ed. Note: Several other residents visited The Gates and submitted their own reactions and comments:

Elly and **Bill Elmendorf** were there for the opening and unveiling on a very cold day on February 8 at 8:30 a.m. From their perch on a rock outcropping, they observed the volunteers pulling a tab attached to the Velcro on the fabric, which then unfurled the saffron banners to the cheers and applause of the crowd.

Helen Vukasin and **Alice Culbreth**, also visiting on a 30-degree day, observed "the light wind lifting the saffron curtains of the gates in different sections at different times to create changing patterns of light."

Janet Sholl reported that on her trolley ride along The Gates she saw Christo and Jeanne-Claude as they were enjoying their daily walk among the visiting crowds. **Helen Hamilton** also took the trolley ride and said the golden orange color "made her think of Thailand and the monks' robes."

A contrarian view was expressed by **George Rubin**, who wrote: "The saffron hanging banners . . . resemble the sheets on my mother's clothesline on the roof of our apartment house."

Well, it's only going to be up for 16 days, then many of us will have 'our park' back green and pristine."

Stan Brush was moved to write a poem about his experience:

Crisp afternoon in pale sunlight
 Bare trees
 and weathered shrubbery
 Blue frozen ponds
 Footpaths packed with celebrants
 moving under
 billowing saffron curtains
 suspended from rectangular forms
 that march in their hundreds
 on miles of gray asphalt
 Saffron, the sacred color of deity,
 infusing New York for a moment
 with an unexpected
 divine winter glow

WWII VETERANS: THIS IS FOR YOU

by Gordon Beckhart

This year the annual Medford Memorial Day Parade will include a special ceremony honoring the veterans of WWII who are currently residing in Medford. The parade is scheduled to take place on Monday, May 30.

To insure that all of these deserving veterans and surviving spouses of veterans living in Medford are duly recognized, Medford Township requests that they register with the Township by phone or e-mail. This will help the Township to contact them with further information. They should call Dawn Bielec at 654-2608 or email her at dbielec@medfordtownship.com. Robin at the Recreation Department (654-2515) is in charge of the event.

MEET OUR NONAGENARIANS

by Maggie Woodard

Rebecca "Becky" Monego, Apt. 54, celebrated her 90th birthday, with 30 relatives and more than 20 residents, at a festive party in the Lounge on Saturday, February 19. A resident for 21 years, she and her husband (now deceased) moved to Medford Leas in 1984. Becky retired as our librarian last July, after serving 12 years. A Drexel Library School graduate, she did library work for 35 years before coming to Medford Leas. In addition to her work in the Medford Leas Library, she served two years as chair of the Knitting and Sewing Committee and as co-chair two more years with **Ella Haines**. She continues as a member of the committee. She was President of the MLRA 1989/1990.



photo by Margery Rubin

Probably because she grew up on a farm, Becky loves gardening and has two gardens filled with annuals and perennials – peonies, daffodils, lilies of the valley. Her bird feeder attracts many birds – juncos, white-throated sparrows, chickadees, and an occasional cardinal. She enjoys lovely views from her apartment.

Becky is in good health and remains active, although she needs a cane. She attends the morning stretch class three days a week, plays Scrabble on Wednesday nights, watches game programs on TV, and still reads a lot. Life is good for her. We thank her for her many years of service to Medford Leas!

HOLOCAUST WALL AT LENAPE HS

by Ellen Stimler

Hilde Fischer, 96 years old, a Holocaust survivor who came to the United States in 1949, participated in the opening ceremony of the new Holocaust and Genocide Center at Lenape Regional High School on February 24.



Hilde Fischer with high school students

The Center was the brainchild of Linda Hammond, an English teacher at Lenape, who teaches a course on the literature of the Holocaust and felt that knowledge of its history was an important part of students' education. With the help of many organizations and individuals, she assembled materials and artifacts, which are displayed, on a long wall at the end of the Lenape Media Center. The dedication of the Center took place in front of that wall and was made very real for the attending students and staff by personal testimony offered by a number of Holocaust survivors.

Hilde volunteered to relate some of her experiences at the Theresienstadt concentration camp, which she described as a "show place" for visitors who had heard about the killings and abuse. One time, she related, everyone in the camp was forced to stay outside in the cold night for many hours, and they expected to be killed; but then in the morning they were all herded back in and the misery continued. Hilde also told of her husband, a surgeon, who was separated from her when they were deported. After the war, Hilde

returned to Berlin, but during the four years she waited for her husband she never learned what had happened to him.

After the ceremony, many of the students, visibly moved by Hilde's talk, clustered around her to ask questions and learn more.

LENAPE SCHOOL BOND VOTE

By Gordon Beckhart and Ellen Stimler

District 9, which includes Medford Leas, turned out to be the only place where voters approved funding for air-conditioning and a swimming pool on the bond referendum ballot of the Lenape Regional High School District.

The special election, held on a snowy, windswept March 7, asked voters to answer three separate ballot questions dealing with funding of structural improvements, air-conditioning, and a new pool.

The first question was the only one that received district-wide approval, 9,302 to 6,688, representing 20 percent of eligible voters' participation. In District 9, the voting participation was 30 percent and the yes votes on all three questions were 834 to 325 no votes.

The bond issue approved by the voters in the first question will permit the Lenape District to make a variety of structural improvements and classroom expansions in its three older high schools, exclusive of the new Seneca High School.



WEALTH OF LANGUAGES II

By Betsy Pennink

Ed. Note: This is the second in a series of profiles of Medford Leas residents with useful and interesting language skills. The first one appeared in our February issue.

Tamara Kosteljanetz was born in Copenhagen to Russian parents who had come to Denmark during WWI. While her parents were learning Danish, they found it easier to communicate in German, which they already knew. As a result Tamara grew up bilingual, speaking Danish at school and German at home. The schools in Denmark emphasized languages and Tamara took English, German, and French. She found work immediately at the UN when she arrived in New York in 1948. There Tamara took further courses in French and Russian, which she used for the most part in her research for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. She picked up more Russian when she began living with relatives in New York. Tamara worked for the UN for 29 years. Her fluent English enabled her to meet many interesting people. She is still in touch by telephone and e-mail with her family in Denmark and has used all her languages on her many trips back to Europe.

Karel Pennink was born in the U.S. to Dutch parents and lived in Montclair, NJ, for seven years. He spoke English outside the house and, grudgingly, Dutch at home. Later at high school in Holland, French, German, and English classes were required. English was easy for Karel, but his American accent cost him points! During WWII he used his Dutch as the liaison between the American Army and the Dutch Army in Exile in Australia. He worked 38 years for General Motors Overseas and was sent to countries where his languages were useful, especially the Netherlands, Belgium, and Austria.

Winston "Toby" Riley III had his first exposure to Spanish when he was growing up in Puerto Rico between the ages of seven and 12. He studied some Spanish in high school and had Spanish literature in college, but he really had no

chance to speak it until he began consulting for the United Nations. Over a period of 30 years Toby was sent on missions several times a year, many to Spanish-speaking countries, working for the UN Statistical Office and other different UN agencies. For the past six years he has used his colloquial Spanish monthly in three-day workshops with Hispanic prisoners in the federal prisons in Fort Dix. Toby also speaks French, which he picked up in Paris in the army. He used his French working for the International Labor Office in Geneva and for the UN Fund for Population Activities in several French-speaking countries, especially in Africa. College studies in Russian also enabled Toby to work on missions to Bulgaria and helped him when traveling in Russia.

Ellie Stimler, who grew up in Germany, is often told that she has no German accent at all. She credits this to her wonderful English teacher in her progressive elementary school. This lady focused on sounds in the English language that don't occur in German. At the start of every lesson, the class had to chant "this thing," to get used to the voiced and voiceless sounds of the "th." During a two-year stay in England she was hired as a governess to teach German in an English home. By the time she came to the United States in 1939, she spoke perfect English and received credits for English when she was accepted at Radcliffe College as a sophomore in the fall of 1942.

Inge Wolf was born in Westphalia in western Germany. Inge's mother was a concert pianist who was very good at languages. She insisted that her daughters always speak English at home as well as in their English classes at school. When the family went on yearly trips to Italy and Switzerland, Inge and her sister were expected to learn Italian and French as well. At age 18 Inge went to England. For two years she lived with a family who corrected her English when necessary. Inge uses her German when she goes back to Germany every year to see her nieces and nephews. She has also been giving lessons in her apartment to a man who is eager to learn conversational German.

WHO'S NEW

Miriam Davis Dotti, Apt. 32, was born in Atlantic City but grew up in Brigantine, which was a small town when she was a child. She attended a school where there were 17 students in grades K-12, eight in the 8th grade. She suffered culture shock when she went to Atlantic City High School where there were 1000 students in the freshman class.

Miriam attended West Chester State College in Pennsylvania and majored in biology. She met her husband Jack in college and abandoned a career to marry and rear four sons and a daughter. After obtaining full library certification at Drexel, she was hired to establish the library at the new Cherry Hill High School East. She worked there for 22 years, retiring in 1983.

She was a protégé of the late Lewis Barton, one of the founders of Medford Leas, who urged her to succeed him as President of the Board of Trustees of the Cherry Hill Public Library.

She and her husband traveled extensively in Europe, and after his death in 1978 she continued to travel, frequently to the Far East.

Miriam has six grandchildren and four great-grands.

She looked at several retirement communities and decided on Medford Leas because of the friendly people. She knows **Walter Belfield**, **Margaret Melstrom**, and **Della Williams** from their working days at Cherry Hill West, and also **Bernice Ahlquist**.

by Sumi Kobayashi

ART GALLERY NEWS

by Helen L. Vukasin

The watercolors of Al Manchester in the Art Gallery at Medford Leas have been very well received. A record number of people have asked for the red sticker that identifies the picture they wish to purchase. The paintings will be on exhibit through April.

Downstairs in the Art Studio/Fitness Center hallways, resident artists have hung an absolutely wonderful show. The opening reception with the usual homemade goodies will be on Tuesday, April 5, from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

At Lumberton Leas, a new exhibit, featuring Lumberton Leas residents **Rebecca Hesse** and **Marjorie Zimmerman**, will be in place by April 15.

Rebecca has been drawing and painting since kindergarten. Her work in acrylics on canvas is large and colorful. She has exhibited extensively in Pennsylvania and Maryland. This will be her first show in New Jersey.

Marjorie Zimmerman has always done embroidery. Her specialty is the counted cross-stitch with which she creates framed samplers, sayings and blessings. The work is extremely meticulous and Marge is very skilled at it. This is an unusual and interesting show.



IN MEMORIAM

Sara P. Barton
Alice C. Jones

February 21
March 8

WELCOME TO COURTS

Because of Management's decision to replace Woods Cottage with sample homes to be built under the Improvement Plan, the occupants of Woods Cottage are moving into the Courts. They are **Eugenia (Genie) Phelps**, who had an apartment on the first floor, and **Alfred** and **Lois Pfeiffer**, who occupied part of the first floor and the second floor.

Alfred is now in Apt. 208. Lois was in Woolman for some time and is now in Estaugh. Apart from visiting with his wife, Alfred says he plans to play more golf, read *The New York Times*, and use the Fitness Center. He started cooking when Lois was not able to do it, and now he enjoys making his own meals and finds it therapeutic.

Alfred worked for New Jersey Bell his whole professional life. The couple lived in Medford Lakes for 40 years before coming to Medford Leas. Lois was a busy mother-homemaker with five children to take care of.

Genie had to spend some time in Woolman and was not quite sure exactly what unit she will occupy when she has to vacate Woods Cottage. She enjoys water volleyball, other exercise, reading, and keeping in touch with her three children and granddaughter. She gave her amateur radio equipment to her younger son, knowing that she would not be able to install the equipment on the main campus. Operating this radio and being able to communicate with people all over the world was an important part of her life at Woods Cottage.

Genie graduated from Douglass College with a degree in physics. She met her husband, Girard (Rod), at her first job at the Lenox Company. After a job at a jet propulsion firm, she settled down to homemaking and childrearing. She accompanied her husband, a professor in the Ceramics Department at Rutgers, on many trips to underdeveloped countries.

BUSY HANDS PROJECT

by Kitty Katzell

For over a year, the Busy Hands group has been producing knitted caps for children on Indian reservations. Two women in Massachusetts started the project in the 1960's. They had visited reservations where they learned that many of the children suffered with otitis media, more commonly known to most of us as earaches. The children were transported to school in the back of open trucks. The women decided that warm knitted caps would help to prevent that condition and the project was born. It has now become nationwide.



Last July, the Busy Hands shipped 76 caps to the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, DC, and in the fall another 50 were shipped. A letter from the Office of Indian Education Programs in the Bureau of Indian Affairs has been received thanking our knitters for the "generous donation of beautiful hand-knit caps." The letter says that the caps were sent to Turtle Mountain Elementary School on the Turtle Mountain Ojibwe Indian Reservation in a remote area of North Dakota near the Canadian border. The school serves 605 children in grades K-6 and another 60 parents with infants aged 0-3 in a home visiting program. Since the caps were in many sizes, it would seem that many children's heads and ears will be warm this winter.

LUMBERTON LEAS WOODWORKERS

by Louise Stiles

It was sheer, unplanned luck that the maintenance building at Lumberton Leas was not being used as expected by the Medford Leas Maintenance Department. Instead, permission was granted to Lumberton Leas residents to set up a woodworking shop in the building with an agreement to reserve a small portion of space for maintenance storage. And so began the challenge of creating a sufficiently equipped shop in which residents could safely work.

As the result of several meetings, a group of residents interested in woodworking was formed. For a healthy working environment, it was the group's priority to install a dust collecting system. The woodworkers with the expertise of **Roy Potts, Anthony Cristoforo**, and Medford Leas staff successfully completed the installation of a Cyclone system to create a dust-free room.

A variety of equipment was donated by residents **Al Stiles, Barbara Zimmerman, Bob Hesse, Walter Riley, Art Hartwig, and Jack Osborn**. More equipment has been purchased with money earned from woodworking jobs. Their pride and joy is a recently purchased jointer. Several workbenches are located throughout the shop. Medford Leas residents might recognize their old bowling alley serving as wonderful working tops for two of the benches!

Because safety in the use of the equipment is paramount, instruction has been and will continue to be given as needed. The lock and key policy is stressed.

Often seen at the shop are Jack Osborn and Art Hartwig, who also serve as President and Treasurer, respectively, for the woodworkers' group. Art is presently working on the construction of walnut cabinets for a resident and Jack is rebuilding the base of one of the bowling alley benches to make two shorter benches. Finished projects include walkways for the "Soggy-Bottom" trail in the woods, bike racks, poster board

stands, parlor organ bench repair, birdhouses, plant stands and bookshelves. Knife sharpening is also a service.

Acquiring the use of the maintenance building has given the woodworkers pleasure and pride in productivity and a "Mr. Fix-It" to those residents who need help with repairs. A win-win deal!

MLRA WEBSITE

by Maggie Heineman

For the next four months the Nature Bulletin Board near the bank will feature the wildflowers of Medford Leas. The bulletin board displays, which will change each month, are based on the four sections of the Wildflowers Website: early spring, late spring, summer, and autumn. The website offers wildflower walkers a way to prepare for the Saturday morning walks while others can enjoy the wildflowers of Medford Leas virtually by visiting www.mlra.org/wildflowers/

Os Cresson's *In Their Footsteps: A Brief History of the Lives of People Who Lived on the Property Called Lumberton Leas* has been completed and can be found at www.mlra.org/footsteps/

The www.mlra.org site includes descriptions of all MLRA committees and activities. One outside link goes directly to the page for requesting books from the bookmobile. Another goes to ORANJ, the Organization of Residents Associations of New Jersey.

Now that most of the work on the wildflowers section is completed, what's next? **On Thursday April 28, at 3:30 p.m.**, in the MLRA office, there will be a meeting of anyone interested in planning the future of the MLRA website. Committee members are not expected to become webmasters. What's needed is community interest, committee input, and volunteer photographers. To become involved, please attend the meeting and/or contact **Maggie Heineman** at 518-8906 or maggie@mlra.org.

RESIDENTS IN THE NEWS

Yuriko Moriuchi was featured in an article in the *Courier-Post*, Friday, March 4, in the section SCENE. She was photographed with one of her flower arrangements in her home. She created an arrangement for the closing three days of the 2005 Philadelphia Flower Show.



photos by Denise Henhoeffer
courtesy of the COURIER-POST



Yuri has been a lifelong practitioner of the art of Japanese flower arranging called ikebana, specializing in the Ikonobo School, a formal style headquartered in Kyoto, Japan. She has been associated with the Philadelphia Flower Show for many years, formerly as a judge. Yuri offers private lessons in her home in Bridlington. She returns to Japan periodically to maintain her certification as

a master of the art. Yuri created an outstanding piece of artistry with Bird of Paradise flowers at the Medford Leas Flower Show in September 2004 and had similar showstoppers at many preceding September shows.

—Sumi Kobayashi

* * *

About 20 friends and relatives of **Anna Burr** helped her celebrate her 105th birthday at a festive luncheon in the private dining room on March 11. **Claire Engle**, a distant cousin, arranged the party. The dining table had a blue and white color scheme, with blue balloons and napkins and two vases of flowers that were won by **Helen Hamilton** and **Kathryn Deacon** at a drawing. During dessert a barbershop quartet resplendent in gray weskits entertained the guests with popular songs.

—Margaret Melstrom

ANNUAL MLRA PLANT SALE

by Dottie Kriebel and Ellen Wiener

The annual spring plant sale will take place on Tuesday, May 3, in the Estaug Mall from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Residents and staff are encouraged to buy plants for their gardens and porches and to celebrate Mother's Day with flowers on the following Sunday.

The sale will offer a selection of hanging baskets holding geraniums, new wave petunias, and other flowers; potted plants such as dahlias, gerbera daisies, New Guinea impatiens, and a variety of bedding plants. There will also be herbs, tomato, and pepper plants for sale. Prices will be below retail. Profits from the plant sale will help pay for flowers in the public rooms at Medford Leas.

Residents using wheeled vehicles and walkers may choose their plants the night before, on Monday, May 2, between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.

NATURE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

by Kitty Katzell

There is so much interest in nature at Medford Leas that MLRA has a Nature Coordinating Committee, which meets quarterly to keep track of what's going on. The groups whose endeavors are coordinated attend to many different aspects of nature. The Bird Club has monthly meetings and goes to interesting places to see what birds they can find. The Wildflower group keeps track of the wildflowers in Medford Leas' woodlands and guides tours to see the wildflowers when they are in bloom.

The Woodlands group maintains all the trails around the Medford campus. A separate group maintains the trails at the Lumberton campus. Maintaining the trails involves cutting back the invasive plants, chopping up fallen trees, laying mulch, spraying poison ivy, and so on. As the weather improves, the Woodlands group will be offering guided tours of the trails, so keep watch.

There is also a Farm where residents grow flowers, fruits, and vegetables. This group reports on the status of mulching, rototilling, and crops. At the latest meeting, it was reported that there are some vacant plots at the farm, if someone wants to start tending one.

Because Medford Leas is an arboretum, it is important to have specimen trees that are clearly identified, so there's a tree tagging committee. Also part of the Nature Coordinating Committee are those who maintain maps of the natural areas and of the plantings in the courtyards. Others conduct guided tours of the Arboretum, maintain nature bulletin boards, and manage the nature library at the Nature Center.

If any of these nature activities appeals to any reader, do check the main Bulletin Board to find the name of the person who leads that program.



BUILDING COMMITTEE

by Joan McElhinney

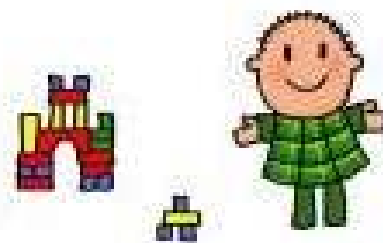
Because of consumer demand for larger living space, Medford Leas began extending some of the apartments in the Courts 10-15 years ago. Many court residents were satisfied with the new construction. Others were unsure about the preliminary plans shown to them and about possible impact on their present surroundings. Ongoing projects in the courts and quadrangles have continued to raise similar questions.

The MLRA Building Committee was formed in January 2001, for the purpose of ensuring that residents in the vicinity of any construction project fully understand how it will impact their area, and to assist those who want help in modifying undesirable features of the project.

From the beginning, Management has supported the goals of the Building Committee. **Bill Murphy** sends an informative memo to people living in the vicinity of a planned construction and meets personally with those who want to know more about it. The Building Committee also contacts affected residents and is available to discuss individual concerns and possible solutions.

Members of the Building Committee are: **Joan McElhinney**, Chair, **Bob Hambleton**, **Dottie Kriebel**, **Dave Sleeper**, **Ed McVaugh**, **Allyn Rickett**, and **Bud Stratton**. **Doris Allebach** is the MLRA sponsor.

If you are concerned about any construction project in your area, please contact Bill Murphy or a member of the Building Committee, or write a PIW to the MLRA Board.



NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY



Non-Fiction

Abdul-Jabbar, K.	<i>Brothers in Arms</i>
Diamond, J.	<i>Collapse</i>
Dwyer, J.	<i>102 Minutes</i>
Gladwell, M.	<i>Blink</i>
Guiliano, M.	<i>French Women Don't Get Fat</i>
Oz, A.	<i>A Tale of Love and Darkness</i>
Sharansky, N.	<i>The Case For Democracy</i>
Whitman, C.	<i>It's My Party Too</i>

Biography

Carter, J.	<i>Sharing Good Times</i>
Ellis, J.	<i>His Excellency: George Washington</i>
Moran, L.	<i>Blowing My Cover</i>
Rhodes, R.	<i>John James Audubon</i>
Washington-Williams, E.	<i>Dear Senator</i>

Fiction

Cohen, P.M.	<i>Much Ado About Jessie Kaplan</i>
Crichton, M.	<i>State of Fear</i>
Smith, A.M.	<i>The Girl Who Married a Lion</i>
Shreve, A.	<i>Light on Snow</i>
Sittenfeld, C.	<i>Prep</i>
Winegardner, M.	<i>The Godfather Returns</i>

Mystery

Beaton, M.C.	<i>Death of a Bore</i>
Braun, L.	<i>The Cat Who Went Bananas</i>
Brown, R.M.	<i>Cat's Eyewitness</i>
DeMille, N.	<i>Night Must Fall</i>
Grisham, J.	<i>The Broker</i>
Lescroart, J.	<i>The Motive</i>
McBain, E.	<i>Alice in Jeopardy</i>
Mortimer, J.	<i>Rumpole and the Penge Hill Murders</i>

Reference

The N. Y. Times Almanac 2005

NEW TALKING BOOKS

by Myra Binstock



Fiction

Patterson, James	<i>Sam's Letters to Jennifer</i>
Perez-Reverte, Autoro	<i>Club Dumas **</i>
Smith, Alex McCall	<i>Tears of the Giraffe</i>

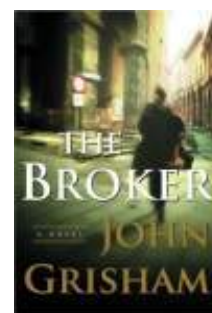
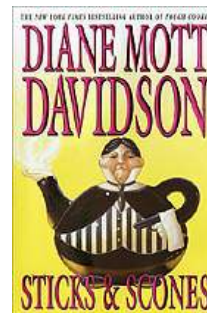
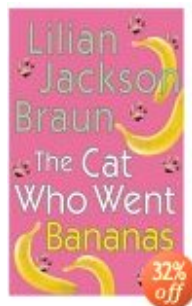
Non-Fiction

Bryson, Bill	<i>Lost Continent</i>
Clinton, Bill	<i>My Life</i>
Kelley, Kitty	<i>The Family (Bush)</i>
Reeve, Christopher	<i>Still Me**</i>

Mystery & Suspense

Baldacci, David	<i>Hour Game</i>
Braun, Lilian	<i>The Cat Who Went Bananas</i>
Cannell, Stephen	<i>Vertical Coffin**</i>
Davidson, Diane	<i>Sticks and Scones**</i>
DeMille, Nelson	<i>Night Fall</i>
Fairstein, Linda	<i>The Kills**</i>
Grisham, John	<i>The Broker</i>
Kellerman, Jonathan	<i>Therapy</i>
Patterson, James	<i>London Bridges</i>
Scottoline, Lisa	<i>Dead Ringer**</i>
Scottoline, Lisa	<i>Legal Tender**</i>

**Donated



APRIL CRYPTOGRAM

by Ellen Stimler

Here is the solution to the March cryptogram:

THE GREAT AND LIVING ATEN
ORDAINING LIFE VIGOROUSLY ALIVE, MY
FATHER . . . WHO FASHIONS HIMSELF WITH
HIS TWO HANDS. – LDRED

Ed. Note: The correct author was Aldred, but unfortunately the A at the beginning of his name was missing for unexplained reasons. Our apologies. Several solvers did some research and found that Aten was an Egyptian Sun God and that the mysterious sentence was an Egyptian prayer. After years of producing challenging and stimulating cryptograms, Russell is taking honorable retirement. We send him our boundless admiration and appreciation for all he did to make our brains work harder. Betty Preston has agreed to provide cryptograms for May and June. During the summer, we call on all cryptogrammers to submit proposed cryptograms, with their solutions by August 1, and we will select the best ones to use for our 2005/6 volume.

The correct solvers were: **C. Kenneth Anderson, Ruth Blattenberger, Mort Bregman, Florence Brudon, Marion Burk, Liz Dill, Betty Donahue, Lorretta Elkin, Louise Evaul, Mickey Gray, Neil and Marian Hartman, Herb Heineman, Barbara Heizman, Eleanor Horner, Euseba and Warren Kamensky, Sally Klos, Mary Hope Mason, Alice Norcross, Helen Peterson, Betty Preston, Liliane Reynolds, Alfred H. Rudrauff, Doris Salati, Florence Sawyer, Bonnie Schilling, Hana Stranska, Ellen Wiener, John Winton, Marie Winton.**

Here is the April cryptogram:

WCQ ZW QYGLR NYRPGAI, ZSR
RFCPC GQ, FMPYRGM, YLB KSAF
MDDCLAC, RMM. RMSAFGLE RFGQ
TGQGML FCPC, GR GQ YL FMLCQR
EFMQR – RFYR JCR KC RCJJ
WMS. – QFYICQNCYPC

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

MEDFORD LEAS LIFE

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

