



# Medford Leas LIFE

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## MEDFORD LEAS FLOWER SHOW, 2005

by Maggie Woodard

Another spectacular Flower Show, this one to a "Singalong" theme. Much credit goes to Co-Chairs **Lois Rickett** and **Joan McKeon**, consultant **Kate Haupt**, the four judges, many resident helpers, and the residents and staff who submitted creative designs, handsome plants, beautiful flowers, and healthy vegetables and herbs.

Two new features made the show outstanding. The Bird Club's exhibit, aptly titled "On Wings of Song," showed 15 birds' nests, each one with a picture of the particular bird species who built the nest, accompanied by an audiotape of bird songs. Also new was background music for the show, tapes of tunes from the 30's and 40's supplied by **Gene Raup**.

The judges awarded 220 first, second, third place, and honorable mention ribbons. The best-in-design ribbon went to Joan McKeon for her miniature arrangement of heather, amaranthus, chrysanthemums, pyracantha, cotoneaster, and dogwood. **Ellen Wiener** was awarded the best in horticulture ribbon for her single orange Tithonia.

First place blue ribbon winners in the design class were: **Edie Pray**, Ellen Wiener, **Cheryl Smith**, Joan McKeon, **Betsy Pennink**, **Gerry Stride (2)**, **Mary Hansen**, **Dottie Kriebel**, and **Florence Ishida**. Blue ribbons in horticulture were given to **Miriam Angle**, **John Winton (2)**, **June Krainik**, **Dennis Koza**, Joan McKeon (3), Lois Rickett (3), **Lennie Oman (3)**, Ellen Wiener, **Bill Murphy**,

Ellen Stimler, Kitty Katzell, Gil Goering, Barbara Heizman (2), David Taber, Fran Baumgartner, Dunbar Denham (2), Jane Weston (2), Elmer Rowley, James Honan, Steve Denham (2), Warren Sawyer, and James Wasson (2).



Winner of Best in Design

photo by Margery Rubin  
Joan McKeon

There were several outstanding non-competitive exhibits: **Yuri Moriuchi's** dramatic "September Song"; Landscaping's "Singing in the Rain," a home with two street signs mounted on lamp posts, with 12 potted plants; Master Gardeners' "Sing For Your Supper"; and several educational posterboard exhibits dealing with mushrooms, Fibonacci numbers and flowers, and other topics.

Gerry Stride, Director of Community Life, arranged for eight Assisted Living residents to make flower arrangements the day before the show. Their artistic skills paid off in two first place and several second and third place ribbons.



Shoobie Doobie Doo

photo by Margery Rubin  
June Krainik

The four judges deserve special recognition. Members of the Pinelands and Moorestown Garden Clubs and certified flower show judges, they worked all morning and not only awarded the ribbons but also wrote thoughtful comments about some individual entries.

Another community-wide outpouring of creative energy that brought pleasure and enjoyment to all our residents, staff, and visitors!

## LIVING 'GREEN' AT MEDFORD LEAS

by Ellen Stimler

With no apparent end in sight for rising gas prices, most of us are aware of the diminishing resources of world oil. At an Auditorium meeting on August 19, **Dennis Koza**, Executive Director, and **Bill Murphy**, Director of Operations, told us what Medford Leas has done in the past and will do in the future to conserve energy and explore the newest technology for heating and cooling.

Their remarks came after the audience had watched a 30-minute film describing the movement of people from urban to suburban areas where they became totally dependent on the automobile for maintaining their suburban lifestyle. The title of the tape, "The End of Suburbia," predicted the eventual collapse of the suburban way of life as use of gas-guzzling cars

becomes intolerably expensive for commuting to jobs and other activities.

Cautioning that he "doesn't have an answer" to the suburban dilemma, Dennis pointed out that Medford Leas has a "proud tradition of environmental planning." Saying that there is energy beyond oil and gas, he indicated that Medford Leas is looking into geothermal heating, accessing the 50-degree heat found in the ground. There are many industries trying to deal with the problem of utilizing this heat, and Medford Leas will be studying any applications that become available. "We have to start some place, and soon," he said.

Dennis added that the Estaugh Board is very concerned about maintaining a "green environment." Potential energy savings in the new homes to be built behind Rushmore are being explored. Consultants will be hired to devise creative energy solutions. Some of these new technologies require a cost/benefit analysis, because there are often higher initial expenditures in order to reap major savings a few years down the road.

Bill said Medford Leas has always been aggressive in its search for energy savings. A cogeneration system was installed about 20 years ago. It produces 60 KW of electricity and 150-degree water while running on natural gas. The savings from the cogeneration system have been substantial.

When Lumberton Leas was built, all units were made eligible for the Public Service Plus program, which resulted in sizeable rebates. Eventually, all Medford Leas units will have the water-saving toilets, and most already have low-flow showerheads and energy-saving windows. Bill also mentioned the recycling and trash-compacting programs as contributing to our "green" management.

As to the new technology, Bill sounded a voice of caution because of some past failures along these lines. He recalled solar heat at Building #11 and a heat pump project at Rushmore that "were complete failures."

## MEET OUR NONAGENARIANS

by Ellen Stimler

**Madeline Yundt**, at 97, enjoys life in her new Haddon ground floor apartment. Prominent in her living room is her upright piano, which is still a major source of pleasure. During her 28 years at Medford Leas, she has played for vespers, memorial services, and singalongs, but now she just enjoys playing favorite pieces for herself.



photo by Margery Rubin

Madeline, a "morning person," gets up at 6 a.m. most days, has breakfast with her friends in the Coffee Shop, and on three days a week she participates in Morning Stretch at 9:30. After a short rest back in her apartment, she plays the piano to keep her fingers nimble. A home-made lunch is followed by a little nap. In the afternoon she enjoys reading the books she gets from her daughter, Bonnie, who just retired as music director at the Moorestown Middle School. Madeline says she loves to read books about horses, which remind her of the farm where she grew up in Chambersburg, PA.

Madeline earned a B.A. degree in English and Latin and taught in a high school before marrying John Yundt, whom she had met in high school. After WWII, they moved to Moorestown, where John was Assistant Superintendent of Schools. They had three daughters. One died at age 26, and the Yundts raised her three young children.

John died in 1984, seven years after moving to Medford Leas. Madeline served on the MLRA Board for two terms, was secretary of the Board, and organized many short trips.

Recently, Madeline asked her grandson, Matt, to lift down her boxes of slides and take them to the Trash Room. Matt was outraged and insisted on saving all of them to figure out how to use current technology to make them accessible for viewing. Madeline concedes that they contain the memories of a lifetime, including a trip around the world in 1962 and travels in South America and Europe. "Now the responsibility is on them," Madeline said with a sigh of relief.

## AN ODE TO THE WOOLMAN STAFF

by Barbara Ballou

I thought I would sleep this afternoon  
But instead my mind sang a happy tune –  
Of thanks and praise for the Woolman crew.  
To them abundant credit is due  
For the care they give to us "wounded" folk  
They are A-number one, and that's no joke.

I regret I can't remember each name,  
But appreciation is still the same  
As it would be if I could recall  
Even the first names of one and all.

As I've mentioned elsewhere once or twice,  
My only complaint (which is really quite nice):  
The food that is served us, morning, noon, and night  
Could not be called a dieter's delight.  
It is varied and tasty and served with some style,  
And we who enjoy it do *not* walk a mile --  
But stroll down the hall when for each meal it's time  
Perhaps this is enough of this silly rhyme --

Except to repeat to all in the ranks  
Of Woolman – you're great and deserve  
MANY THANKS

## THE LANDSCAPING DEPARTMENT MIRACLE

by Kay Cooley  
photos by Margery Rubin

Last March, when the only blooms to be seen were at the Philadelphia Flower Show, the Landscaping Staff under **Jim Wolosin** swung into action for the 2005 growing season at Medford Leas. Apart from the forces of evolution and some help from residents, most of what the eye beholds on campus--healthy trees, green lawns, shapely shrubs, gorgeous flowers and so much more--springs from the thought and the toil of this dedicated team. Each year brings its own challenges and accomplishments, as well as ongoing maintenance. This year was no exception.



Herb Minkus planting in Court 15

In the spring, trees and bushes were planted in the Haddon Greenhouse area to finish off the drainage improvement work completed last year. Similar work was done in the space outside Courts 12, 13, 14, and 15, where trees were planted and shrubs are still to come.

Behind Court 1 in the rhododendron area, dead trees were removed, while Court 15 was stripped to prepare for drainage improvement and new plantings designed by Morris Arboretum.

One of the most formidable challenges is the ongoing Tree Identification Project. With the help of K.S.A. (the firm that does the site work for Medford Leas' expansion projects), the database of all trees on this property is being updated and digitalized. Until now contained in bulging loose-leaf binders, when the project is complete this information will be readily accessible, literally at the touch of a fingertip. For each tree, a number, the dates of its planting and spraying, and other data will accompany its picture. Users of the

computers in the Nature Center and residents' Computer Room will need only press the screen to get a full entry on each of the 1,576 trees profiled. After the project is complete, the Tree Tagging Committee plans to retag the trees with their names and numbers. The project, begun in February, is the work of **Russell Pepe, Joe Greipp, and Herb Minkus.**

Not all the action occurs at Medford Leas. On the Lumberton campus, **Debbie Lux** and Joe Greipp, with the collaboration of residents, are creating another wild flower patch in the meadow. Debbie also maintains the plantings at the entrance and around the Community Building.



Debbie Lux in Atrium Garden

At Medford Leas, she cares for all of Rushmore and the interior flowerbeds and plant displays such as the Estaugh Walkway, where, among other things, she grows from seed the ornamental grasses that are transplanted throughout the campus. The Nature Center and Greenhouse, too, are favored places for incubating seeds.



Bob Calhoun mowing at Bridlington



Lester Jackson Pruning

All that blooms or grows needs unrelenting watchfulness and maintenance. Medford Leas' 40 acres of grass require mowing, irrigation, crab grass and insect control, spraying for turf diseases, and edging around sidewalks, borders, and tree bags. Courtyards need weeding, pruning, and

spraying. The Farm gets rototilled and weed-whacked. The Rancocas-based irrigation system, 30 to 35 years old, requires repair of its periodic breakdowns. Dead and dying trees, like the junipers near the front door, need to be removed.

Besides working with nature, the Landscaping staff spends considerable time interacting with residents. Every week they respond to 50 to 75 work orders. In addition, Debbie Lux works with Therapeutic Recreation to involve Assisted Living residents in various growing and gardening projects. Other staffers help the Trails and Sites committees and work with individual residents on their special requests.

In the off-season, the staff doesn't go south. Instead, they perform outdoor jobs such as snow-removal from the walkways and roads, and help with indoor maintenance like preparing apartments for move-ins. They also participate in the Employee Holiday Show.

So what is the Landscaping Department miracle? It is that all this is the work of just six staffers – **Bob Calhoun, Greg Ericson, Joe Greipp, Lester Jackson, Debbie Lux, and Herb Minkus**, with the help of four college students hired during the summer. In tune with nature, they make Medford Leas the place of beauty and peace we all enjoy.

## DINNER MIXER/OKTOBERFEST

by the Hospitality Committee

Creative planning by the MLRA Hospitality Committee promises a sociable evening with special menu choices on October 24 for the 180 residents who sign up for the combination Dinner Mixer and Oktoberfest in the Colonial Room that evening.

At the Spring-Fling Dinner Mixer and last year's Oktoberfest Dinner Mixer, reservations went fast and a waiting list had to be added. Residents who do not want to participate in the Mixer have a choice of dining in the Garden Room or the Coffee Shop.

Seating in the Colonial Room that night will be by lottery, and residents will be asked to pick up a slip with their table number on it. Preceding the dinner, Mixer participants will be able to enjoy a cocktail hour in the Lounge, where several kinds of beer and soft drinks will be served along with Dining Service's imaginative hors d'oeuvres.

The Mixer is open to all residents on both campuses. Full-service residents will be charged \$2.00 on their monthly bills to cover the cost of the liquid refreshments and the hors d'oeuvres. The price for partial-service residents is \$12.00.

Residents who moved in since April are particularly encouraged to come so that others who were away during the summer can get to meet them. With 180 people expected, there should be many opportunities for making new friends.

On the sign-up sheet at the Main Desk, residents are asked to select their main entrée choice so that the kitchen can plan ahead, and these choices will be noted on the special nametags being prepared for the participants.

## A TASTE OF MEDFORD

by Della Williams

"A Taste of Medford," an upscale harvest festival, was celebrated in Freedom Park on a hot Saturday afternoon September 17, and Medford Leas was a visible presence.



*photo by Ellen Stimler*

**Brad Mauger and Kimberlie Wagner**

Executive Chef **Brad Mauger** and Chef **Scott Bender** from Aramark devised a nutritious dish using the favorite crops of South Jersey, corn and tomatoes. They dished out to the eager crowd of diners a corn and tomato gazpacho, flavored with cilantro and garnished with grilled shrimp and plantain chips. They were assisted by **Kimberlie Wagner**, Catering Supervisor. Others from Medford Leas, including residents **Norma D'Alonzo** and **Alfred Pfeiffer** and staff members **Jane Weston** and **Charity Reily**, helped with the festival by staffing the check-in desk.

Under the many colorful tents, more than 18 Medford eateries served signature food samples to the hundreds of enthusiastic munchers. Some of the favorites were Izzy's crabcakes, Beau Rivage's lamb chops, Mom's unusual pizzas, Lamberti's pasta, and Queen of Tarts' chocolate desserts.

A hayride sponsored by Johnson's Farm and an exhibit by Allen's Antique Farm Equipment Museum contributed to the harvest theme. Area bands and vocalists provided a wide variety of music.

The Medford Business Association and a number of local businesses, including Murphy's Markets, Braddock's Tavern, and Medford Ford, sponsored the festival. Proceeds will help support the Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund, which aids uninsured families with seriously ill children.

Organizers hope this first-time festival will become an annual event – the happy munching families hope so too.

## CHORAL GROUPS BEGIN

by Nannette Hanslowe and Marion Burk

At 11 a.m. on Wednesday mornings there is singing in the Third Floor Haddon Lounge. All are welcome. There are no auditions. The members sing for the love of singing, to learn new music, and to enjoy the fellowship of singing together.

On the first and third Wednesdays the Madrigal Group sings not only madrigals by such composers as Di Lasso, Dowland, and Victoria, but also familiar anthems, oratorios, choruses, and chorales by Bach and others, plus requests from our members.

On the second and fourth Wednesdays, the Leas Singers enjoy singing beloved classics of popular, folk, and musical theater selections.

Occasionally, we sing for vespers, open houses, and MLRA meetings.

For questions please call Marion at 3431 or Nannette at 3296.



## A FARM WEDDING

by Ellen Stimler

Deciding that her job at Medford Leas was too important to her to give up, the new **Mrs. Joseph Conte**, formerly Rachel Smith, returned to her Medford Leas job after her August 27 wedding to Joseph Conte, one of the co-owners of Conte's famous farm and market in Tabernacle.

The wedding was a reflection of Rachel's two loves, the farm and Medford Leas. It was held in a large tent set up in one of the farm's blueberry fields, and a large number of the 70 wedding guests were staff or residents from Medford Leas. **Gerry Stride**, Director of Community Life, in-



photo by Tracy Lear

introduced the wedding party as they filed into the tent. **The Reverend James Muir**, a resident, officiated under an arbor erected in the tent. **Tracy Lear**, from Therapeutic Recreation, was the official wedding photographer. **Pam Fake**, also from TR, was one of three bridesmaids in sky-blue gowns. Another bridesmaid was **Janet Weiss**, a close friend of Rachel's, who formerly worked at Medford Leas as head waitress. On her last working day before the wedding, the Health Department staff presented Rachel with a beautiful gift and a large cake.

Among the guests at the wedding were all members of the Therapeutic Recreation Department, staff from the Health Center, and **Marion Sandmann** and **Judith Loillieux** from Assisted Living.

After the bride and groom had kissed and embraced, the party sat down to a "picnic lunch" which "couldn't have been done without **Donna Coonley**," formerly a Dining Services supervisor and currently a receptionist. All the food served

was homemade, and Donna prepared much of it. All of the members of the Therapeutic Recreation Department helped with the cooking and with the decorating of the tent.

Rachel's love affair with the farm and Medford Leas began three years ago, when she took part-time jobs in both places. At Medford Leas she started as a waitress, then went to Therapeutic Recreation. After her engagement to Joe Conte, she quit Medford Leas in the summer of 2004 and worked full-time on the farm. However, she missed her associations with Medford Leas so much that she returned in November 2004 and worked part-time in the Health Center and at the Front Desk. After some time off in connection with the wedding, she returned part-time to resume her prior assignments. Rachel says her husband is fully supportive of her work at Medford Leas. The couple is planning a honeymoon after the end of the summer season at the farm.

## GIFT SHOP FALL PROMOTION

by Joan Bellman

It's another year, and we plan to present new merchandise on **Wednesday, November 2**, from 9 a.m. to noon! Everyone looks forward to this annual event, when we will display a great variety of new and updated favorites on our Promotion Tables in the Atrium. After our July trip to The Philadelphia Gift Show at Ft. Washington's Expo, we have returned once again with some fresh ideas for the holidays. Be prepared to see new items, as well as variations on familiar ones. As usual, we know residents and staff will be delighted with what they find!



**LABOR DAY/SPORTS DAY**



On a sparkling, sunny Labor Day morning, a group of watchers and a group of players got together on the Patio outside the Pool, where lemonade and cookies were served. The watchers swayed to the live music of Joe Patano and looked out on the field, where game enthusiasts hit

croquet balls, batted badminton birds, threw horseshoes, and competed in shuffleboard. Here are some pictures by **Margery Rubin** illustrating the activities.



**RESIDENT SERVICES ASSISTANT**

by Kitty Katzell

Everyone knows **Charity Reily**. She can be seen scurrying around all over Medford Leas. But what is she doing?

Charity's job description covers a page and a half, single-spaced, and the details are impressive. With respect to Medford Leas Companions, she interviews, hires, orients, and supervises them, and then handles resident billing for their services. She prepares payroll for all employees of Resident Services, including companions, the Front Desk and the bus drivers. She is the contact for new residents, providing them with information to help them adjust to their new environment, scheduling, organizing, and conducting workshops for their orientation. She visits hospitalized residents and those in the Emergency Room, attending to any needs or problems they may have.





photo by Margery Rubin

Charity maintains Channel 2 for Medford Leas TV, entering updated information and notices. She oversees the safe deposit boxes, informing Accounting about new box holders and boxes being discontinued, and providing access to the boxes both weekly and in emer-

gencies. She receives mail for some 50 residents, sorting it and forwarding it to executors and other designated parties.

There are many ways in which Charity assists residents. For those who are moving, she helps arrange for movers, placing of furniture, change of address notices, and other forms of support. For those unable to get out, she arranges for the purchase of clothing and supplies they need and for visits with family and friends. When a resident dies, she is involved in providing needed information, arranging for memorial services, and helping the family vacate the apartment.

She maintains the records of parking places for residents' cars; issues the Medford Leas stickers for the cars; keeps records of residents' pets; is a Notary Public available to all residents; substitutes at the Front Desk; sets up the yearly free Tax Counseling program; assists residents with the yearly Homestead Rebates; maintains the files of resident information such as advance directives, emergency notification, power-of-attorney, and do-not-resuscitate forms, and provides copies to the Health Center.

She attends staff meetings and meetings of the Lumberton Leas Council, the Interdisciplinary Resident Review Committee, and the Hospitality Committee, serving as recorder in some of them.

There's more, but this gives the general idea. So, when Charity is seen scurrying around, it's likely that she is engaged in one or more of the numerous duties in her job description.

## NOVEMBER ELECTION

by F. Evert Bartholomew

This fall candidates for three seats on Medford's five-person Town Council will be elected. Both Republicans and Democrats are sending their candidates to Medford Leas on October 6. Furthermore, the Medford chairs of both parties are working to find a date for the open seats on the Board of Freeholders, two New Jersey State Assemblymen, one Congressman, and the Governor. We probably won't get all of the candidates, but we have never failed to get some of them.

The members of the MLRA Citizens Committee plan the details of these sessions. The MLRA Constitution prohibits taking sides politically. Every attempt is made to get candidates from both parties. Republicans are the majority party here in Burlington County. They have all the seats on the Board of Freeholders, all the seats on the Medford Town Council, and most of the seats on the Lumberton Township Council.

The latest public listing of registered voters at Medford Leas shows 481 names, with 219 registered as Republicans, 195 as Democrats, and 67 either undeclared or registered as independents. We don't have figures for the Lumberton campus.

Medford Leas is the polling site for District 9 in Medford Township. About a third of the voters in this district live at Medford Leas. The others come from the surrounding neighborhoods. Three of the six workers who regularly work at our polls live at Medford Leas. **Colette** and **Evert Bartholomew** are two of the three Democratic workers, and **Margaret Roberts** is one of the three Republicans.

Having the machines right here in our Activities Room makes it easy for our residents to vote, and indeed the turnout in District 9 is one of the best in the Township.



## ART GALLERY NEWS

by Helen L. Vukasin

The exhibit "Fur and Feathers, a Retrospective," featuring the paintings of Anna Bellenger, winner of the 2004 Medford Leas Award at Perkins Center for the Arts, Moorestown, continues in October in the Medford Leas Art Gallery. The opening held in conjunction with Medford Leas Community Day on Saturday, September 24, was a great success.

At the Lumberton Leas Gallery, **Alice Skidmore Culbreth** will be showing her watercolors, many of which have won awards in juried shows. She has had one-person shows in Colorado, Florida, Connecticut, and New Jersey, most lately at the Riverton Country Club.

Alice paints on traditional watercolor paper but her favorite is a paper called "yupo." Yupo is a commercial paper with a hard finish, which means it does not absorb the paint as traditional papers do. With yupo the artist has a real challenge to control the paint and at the same time to let the paint control the image with sometimes surprising results and sometimes disaster. Although the disaster can be washed off, the artist must start again from scratch.

Alice's work will be in the Lumberton Leas Gallery for the months of October, November, and December. The opening reception will be on October 7, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. There will a sign-up sheet in the Atrium for transportation to Lumberton.



Yellow Calla Lillies  
Alice Skidmore Culbreth

October is a busy Arts month. On October 3, the Fall 2005 Exhibit of residents' artwork will open in the Art Studio Gallery downstairs outside the Fitness Center and the Art Studio. We now have some 27 resident painters, and photographers who show their work in the Art Studio Gallery.

As usual the reception on Monday, October 3, from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm will feature home-made goodies and punch.

## RESIDENTS IN THE NEWS

For the third time, **Alice Skidmore Culbreth** has had a painting selected by the prestigious New Jersey Water Color Society for its annual exhibition. Eligibility for membership in the society requires being chosen to exhibit at least three times within 6 years. Alice has been aspiring for membership for some 19 years. The selection of her painting this year means that she is now a full-fledged member of the Society. The exhibit opens at Montgomery House, Skillman, NJ, on October 2.

**Toby Sullivan** had two of her works accepted for the Burlington County 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Show, to be held in the Smithville Mansion Annex Gallery during the month of October. The gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Toby said one of the paintings is an etching with watercolors titled "Amusement Park," showing some of the rides she enjoyed in earlier times; the other one is a monoprint painting of "things to do."

**Harry Forrest** and **Lili Wronker** have been appointed as members of the jury that will judge and select the exhibits for the Philadelphia Calligraphy Society's Juried Exhibition opening at the Center for the Arts of South Jersey in Marlton on October 2. Following the opening reception, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., the show will continue at the Center on 123 Elmwood Avenue. Harry introduced Lily to the Society at their August meeting, and Lily was made an honorary member of the Society.

## A WEALTH OF LANGUAGES V

by Betsy Pennink

*Ed. Note. This continues the series of residents' many language skills.*

**Carmelita Aseron** was born in Manila, the Philippines, into a family that spoke three languages: Tagalog, English, and Spanish. Carmelita spoke Tagalog at home, but her schooling was in English, the second language of the Philippines. Courses in Tagalog, Spanish, and Latin, as well as English, were required at her private school. Carmelita then earned a B.S. in Medical Technology at the University of Santo Thomas, where the instruction was also in English.

With her command of English and her excellent education, Carmelita was able to come to the U.S. in 1961 and had no problem being certified as a clinical pathologist and obtaining important supervisory positions in New Jersey hospitals.

Carmelita married **Reynaldo Aseron**, a doctor, in 1964. They lived in Marlton, NJ, for many years until they moved to Lumberton Leas.

Carmelita's fluency in English has led her into several different careers. She is a licensed real estate broker and has owned a flower shop. Eight years ago she was hired by PNC Bank, expressly to be their representative at Medford Leas. Recently she taped a thirty-minute cooking class for television. Her dishes have Spanish and Oriental influences, typical of the Filipino cuisine.

Tagalog is still an important part of Carmelita's life. She speaks it with her husband and with her brother and sister, who are still in the Philippines but visit here often. She has been the president of the Philippines Community of Southern New Jersey, a Tagalog-speaking group that has recently bought a community center and established a library devoted to the preservation of Philippine Culture and Language.

**Patricia Lowe** was born in the U.S. but grew up in Europe, mainly in Oxford, England. Her parents

and two sisters spoke many languages and Pat had a good ear. She was exposed to French in her early years, spending some time in a lycée in Grenoble, France, at the age of seven. She had courses in French at school in Oxford and went to France every summer with her family. Pat also visited Germany and Italy many times, both as a child and as an adult. Along with German and Italian, she also speaks some Spanish. When her husband, an editor at *Business Week*, lectured abroad, Pat's many languages enabled her to act as his interpreter. She is also a writer, with the ability to turn awkward translations of foreign children's books into readable English. In one instance, she herself made an Italian translation of two stories by Pushkin into a polished English version.

## WHO CAN SEW?

by Kitty Katzell

Fall is in the air and residents are beginning to look at the clothes that they haven't worn since last winter. This means that the Busy Hands Group will find their hands really busy. They sew on buttons, mend seams, shorten pants and skirts, that sort of thing.

Any resident who can do some sewing is invited to come down to the Knitting and Sewing Room any Wednesday morning and volunteer her (or his) services. The room is open every Wednesday from 9:30 to 11:45. The time from 9:30 to 11:00 is for people to bring in sewing jobs; from 10:00 to 11:45 is for the knitters. Those who do the sewing usually take the work home with them and bring it back the next week.

The Knitting and Sewing Room is on the lower level of the Community Building. Going down the stairs or on the elevator, it's before the Pool and the Fitness Center.



## EXPLORING MOHONK

by Helen L. Vukasin

Many Medford Leas residents have enjoyed the luxury of a stay at the Mohonk Mountain House on Lake Mohonk, NY, a place of great natural beauty. However, Mohonk is more than the majesty of the glacier-formed lake, the vistas of the Shawangunk ridge and the Catskills, the laurel in June, the trails, and the wildlife.

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mohonk Consultations, Inc., a not-for-profit organization created to carry on the Quaker heritage of providing a neutral venue for the discussion of national and international problems, sometimes at the highest level. I have been connected with Mohonk since 1975 and have served on the Board of Managers of Mohonk Consultations, from the 1980s till the present.

Mohonk has had a fascinating history. It is part of the Shawangunk Mountains that were the hunting grounds of local Native Americans long before the Quaker twins, Albert and Alfred Smiley, discovered the little inn at the top of the Mountain in 1869.

The first generation of Smileys had a vision that "eminent men and women shall meet [on the Mountain] to discuss great national and international questions that pertain to the betterment of the world." And they did! Two series of conferences were held, one on international arbitration from 1895 to 1916; the other on American Indian mediation from 1883-1918. U.S. Presidents and other high officials, including Native American Chiefs, met on the Mountain to mediate sensitive issues.

It was this tradition that led Keith Smiley, a 20<sup>th</sup> century descendant of the family, to found Mohonk Consultations, in 1980, to carry on that heritage with a mission to bring together people of diverse perspectives to discuss important issues. Keith's vision has been carried on through a number of significant conferences on such subjects as lessons from the conflict in Kosovo, developments in biotechnology, how different

cultures settle differences, making the connection between environmental rights and human rights, and preserving farming in the Hudson Valley, among others.

Mohonk Consultations also acknowledges the contributions of individuals and organizations in the Hudson Valley with a Distinguished Environmental Achievement Award. Thirty-five awards for conservation, education, legislation, planning, communication, and citizen participation have been celebrated in the past 25 years.

In addition to Mohonk Consultations, Inc., two other Mohonk entities play important roles in the totality that is Mohonk: Smiley Bros., Inc., a commercial corporation, operates the Mohonk Mountain House, with the same values as all of those connected with the Mountain; the Mohonk Preserve, a not-for-profit organization, manages the 6,000 acres of forever-wild land that surround the Mountain House in the tradition set by the Smiley Family. **Doris Shamleffer** served on the Board of the Preserve for 21 years and is presently Director Emeritus.



*photo by Jim Smith*

Mohonk Mountain House, Lake Mohonk NY and the Catskills

## MEDFORD LEAS BENCHES

by Sam Burgess

The wooden benches outside the doors of many court apartments have a venerable history. In the very early days of Medford Leas, true to the Quaker ideal of "waste not, want not," the first benches were built from scrap pieces of siding left over from the building of the last courts. These original benches, some still in use, can be identified by their rough exterior.

About 25 years ago, when most construction was complete and scrap lumber was no longer available, the Resident Workshop began to build the benches with pine bought from local lumberyards. The original design, whose origin is lost in history, has been followed to this day.



*drawing by Lili Wronker*

The benches made today require six feet of No. 2 pine, with some knots but no major defects. The boards are called twelve-inch, but due to processing and finishing in the lumber mill, they actually measure eleven and a quarter wide. Just the right size for a bench, according to the volunteer carpenters.

The charge for ML benches made of Eastern white pine is \$20, reduced from \$22 when the Workshop found a less expensive lumberyard. The Residents Workshop could make the bench of more expensive wood, for a higher price. However, because most benches sit out in the weather, there is little demand for mahogany benches with a fine-furniture finish.

The Workshop, which does many other jobs for ML residents, charges \$2 an hour for labor, plus the cost of materials. The charge for jobs done in the Workshop is used to purchase or replace equipment. The substantial amount left over is contributed to some worthy cause. Recently funds were donated to the Appreciation Fund of the MLRA. The workers in the Shop earn only the satisfaction of a job well done.

## ED DREBY CAN CANOE!

by Virginia Dreby

**Ed Dreby** wants to go to the Adirondacks. Anyone with any kind of relationship with him knows this: The doctors, the nurses, the assistants, friends, family, but especially that special group of occupational and physical therapists.

Following his visit to Deborah Hospital, Ed has been regaining his stamina in Woolman. Those who are facilitating the process are the OTs (occupational therapists) and PTs (physical therapists) – those engineers of re-entry into the world of mobility after a patient's hospital stay and convalescence. In addition to their comprehensive medical know-how, OTs and PTs are creative caretakers with wonderful imaginations. Just ask Ed.

In the Adirondacks, Ed always wants to row a boat and paddle a canoe. Mother Nature, however, has made alterations to his schedule, with a pacemaker for him now to consider. So no more paddling.

But here come the OTs and PTs. With the cooperation of **Bill Murphy**, Director of Operations, and **Kevin Crain**, Maintenance, they drove Ed in the staff's "chariot" down to the Rancocas Creek. A canoe appeared and he was challenged to get in and out of the vessel. Just this simple task is physically demanding. But the therapists had seen to it that he would be successful when he tried. And he did it! Once in the Adirondacks, younger arms will handle the paddling, but Ed can look forward to a relaxing canoe ride. So many praises are due to the creative champions of Medford Leas who spark all our imaginations.

Who are these innovative geniuses? Go to the Therapy Department, where **Anna Ocasio** will welcome you and gladly introduce **Alison Eden**, PTA; **Christine Trojak**, OT; **Donna Sherman**, PT; **Jeannie Roland**, OT; and, last but not least, **Vickie Piernian**, the Rehab Director.

## A BIT OF MEDFORD LEAS HISTORY

by Kitty Katzell

*Ed. Note: This report is based on one written by **Lewis W. Barton**, describing the founding of Medford Leas.*

The story begins in the summer of 1969. The Estaugh Board had been hoping to build a retirement community in Moorestown to replace the nursing home they had been operating in Haddonfield, but the Moorestown Planning Board denied their request. It is said that they didn't want a lot of old people moving to Moorestown.

When the mayor of Medford, Ephraim "Eph" Tomlinson, heard that Moorestown had turned them down, he phoned **Lew Barton**, who was chairman of the Estaugh Board, and told him that Medford had just the place for him. Eph wouldn't give Lew any information about the property but invited him to come right over and look at it. The place that Eph showed Lew was an uncultivated farm, chest high in weeds, largely wooded, some of it swampy, along the Rancocas Creek. They walked around near Route 70, where the crude culvert over Sharp's Run was washed out. They went over to Wilkins Station Road to the abandoned railroad and followed the tracks that had once been used to access the farm tract. There were no buildings, but there was a large holly tree on the property.

Lew's next question was, "How much?" Eph's answer, "\$400,000, but you'll have to act fast to buy off the auction, and you'll need \$57,000 at that time." A group of investors had bought the farm from the Mickles but had failed to pay the taxes on the property, so it was to be auctioned off in ten days.

Lew got some members of the Board together and they agreed to buy the tract, subject to Medford Township's approval. Their next step was to bring the executive director of Philadelphia's Yearly Meeting and other key members of the Estaugh Board to see the property, walking them through the woods and along the stream. Holly, swamp magnolia, and an abundance of native plants made the setting attractive to the nature lovers.

On August 27, 1969, at a special meeting of the Estaugh Executive Committee, it was agreed to buy the farm. **Tom DeCou**, **Tak Moriuchi**, and **Lew Barton** met the next morning at a local bank, where they signed bank notes and their checks for \$19,000 each.

Like the good farmer that he was, Lew Barton went back to look the property over the evening before the closing. He went to the little log cabin that is now our guest cottage near Sharp's Run, but was then a real estate office and the home of Winifred O'Malley. It sat on one acre of land and was not included in the sale. The Estaugh didn't like that, but they were in no position to argue about it because Winnie was a friend of Tomlinson's and she didn't want to give up her house or her office.

Lew introduced himself to "Winnie" and told her he just wanted to walk around. He was putting on his boots and saying good-bye when Winnie said, "Oh, I'm going with you." "How are you going to get across the stream," he asked. "You're going to carry me!" she announced. And, of course, he did.

And thus was Medford Leas born. Those three men and their wives all came to live at Medford Leas. Tom DeCou's wife, **Wilda**, is still living here. Tak Moriuchi and his wife, **Uri**, live in Bridlington. Lew Barton and his wife, **Sarah**, are no longer living, but their daughter, **Nancy Barclay**, is a member of the Estaugh Board and chair of the Arboretum Committee.

### IN MEMORIAM

**Elizabeth D. Buckstine September 12, 2005**

## TURKEYS FOR THANKSGIVING

by Ellen Stimler

During the last few years, a tradition has been established for residents to collect free turkeys from local supermarkets and then to donate them to the Extended Hand Ministries in Mt. Holly, which feeds needy people in several towns.



The Extended Hand Ministries has a special relationship with Medford Leas, because Medford Leas donates all its prepared but not served food to the organization. **Rev. Barbara Davis**, Director of the Extended Hand, comes to Medford Leas on the anniversaries of the relationship and gives thanks for the donations and updates residents on current programs of the Ministries. Barbara is assisted by **Geri Dickerson**, Apt. 75.

At this writing, neither Shoprite nor Acme was ready to announce the details of this year's program. They said notices will be in stores by the middle of October. Receipts showing purchases during a given period in a fixed amount are usually required. Last year, it was \$250.00.

This article is intended to remind residents of this program and make them aware that there is a great need for donated turkeys for the Extended Hand.

### MLRA FALL TEA

On Tuesday, October 18, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m., the Medford Leas Lounge is the place to be to enjoy the MLRA Fall Tea. This is a chance to catch up with friends from both campuses, meet new residents, welcome back the summer travelers, and savor the delectable hors d'oeuvres prepared by Dining Services.

## RESIDENT'S NEW BOOK

by George Rubin

*bLama Quest -- A Cartoon Adventure*,  
by **John Brzostoski**, 108 pp.,  
Fire Tiger Press, NY. [www.firetigerpress.com](http://www.firetigerpress.com)



The art of cartoons to tell a story is one that goes back to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In Japan it developed into an art form for both children and adults. In the United States it parallels the beginning of motion pictures. The cartoon form as visual art matured after WWII and

became part of the new underground and alternative culture. It produced *MAD Magazine* and the brilliant cartoonist Robert Crumb. Art Spiegelman used the cartoon form to tell the story of his parents during the Holocaust. His graphic cartoon novel *Maus* won a Pulitzer prize.

John Brzostoski, a Medford Leas resident, continues this art form with his novel *bLama Quest*, a cartoon graphic novel for our times. The book's hero is sent to Tibet on a secret mission by the government to find "more intelligence." What he does find and what he encounters in this strange adventure provide him with (we can only hope) inner wisdom.

John is at his best as he satirizes the dilemmas and incongruities of Western and Eastern civilizations. These incongruities include religion, politics, war, love, sex, and inner peace. The story is humorous, and most of the time he is right on target.

John is the author of seven novels and two books of nonfiction. He is also a teacher of art and oriental philosophy.

When finishing the last page, will the reader understand everything that has taken place? I say understanding is put right in front of our eyes. I found the looking very worthwhile.

## OCTOBER CRYPTOGRAM

by Betty Donahue

O DE D XQRGH-HMGE  
 FMXXOEEXH NYH D  
 ZRIB-HMGE RFHOEOXH. O HQOIP  
 XREM VYHYGM WGOXOX SOZZ  
 GDZZT HQM WRYIHGT DIA  
 NGOIB RYH IMS ZMDAMGX.  
 HQMXM DGM HQM WTWZMX  
 RV QOXHRGT.  
 – DGHQYG XWQZMXOIBMG

By October 10, put your solution in an envelope in Box 116 or email it to [estimler@medleas.com](mailto:estimler@medleas.com) We are still interested in getting submissions of cryptograms for future issues.

Solution to Mickey Gray's September cryptogram:

TENORS ARE NOBLE, PURE AND HEROIC  
 AND GET THE SOPRANO IF SHE HAS NOT  
 TRAGICALLY EXPIRED BEFORE THE FINAL  
 CURTAIN. BUT BARITONES ARE BORN  
 VILLAINS IN OPERA.

– LEONARD WARREN

The solution was received from 27 residents: **Ken and Helen Anderson, Miriam Angle, Ruth Blattenberger, Mort Bregman, Florence Brudon, Marion Burk, Ann Cree, Liz Dill, Louise Evaul, Barbara Heizman, Eleanor Horner, Warren and Euseba Kamensky, Sally Klos, Bob Morrow, Alice Norcross, Helen Peterson, Betty Preston, Alfred Rudrauff, Doris Salati, Florence Sawyer, Hana Stranska, Ellen Wiener, John and Marie Winton, Gladys Wynkoop,** and a resident who didn't leave his/her name.

## MEDFORD LEAS LIFE

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

