



# Medford Leas *Life*

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*JUNE 2007*

## BEHIND THE SCENES IN ACCOUNTING

by Betsy Pennink  
photos by Margery Rubin



Tucked away among the Medford Leas offices is a small world of six people, dealing with all the figures that keep the organization running smoothly. This is the Accounting Department, led by **Heather Foor**, Chief Financial Officer. Heather, a

CPA, has been here for five years and has a clear picture of her responsibilities.

**1. Long-term financial planning** to make sure that expected fees and budget costs balance for future projections. With information entered in an actuarial program on a computer, Heather can track residents' moves from one level of care to another and determine how people are using Medford Leas' services, a help in projecting future costs. (Heather emphasizes that this is only a part of strategic planning, in which the entire senior management team is involved.)

**2. Coordination of annual planning (the budget process).** From October through January, Heather brings together the calculations of the Accounting staff and the responses from the department heads. The announcement of the new rate follows on January 31. This is a difficult task, as Heather and the team must balance the "needs" and the "wants" of each department. Under "wants" they must decide which may represent the next step for growth or could add to the quality of life or perhaps even make Medford Leas unique compared to the competition.

**3. Management of financial assistance.** This is an ongoing process because there are new applications for financial aid throughout the year, as well as the reapplication all recipients must make in mid-February. Heather works with **Trudy De-Lacy**, Director of Resident Services, in processing the applications and also "fine-tuning" the aid as the needs of a recipient change, as when a resident moves from one level of care to another. For Heather, this is the most rewarding part of her work. It is carrying out the mission of seeing that the donations from generous contributors are being used well to aid residents.

**4. Keeping all her "constituents" informed and educated.** Heather reports on Medford Leas' financial performance to The Estaug Board, Medford Leas management, the Department Heads, the Accounting staff, and the MLRA Resident Financial Review Committee. She also advises them on financial issues, such as new regulations, and on trends of interest in other CCRCs. She reports periodically to the whole resident body and employees and often finds herself answering personal questions in the hall!

**5. Compliance.** Heather makes sure that Medford Leas is in compliance with the Internal Revenue Service, sending in a yearly 17- to 20-page tax return although no taxes are paid. The Department must also send reports to Medicare on health care spending and to the State of New Jersey on the sales taxes collected from residents.

**6. Ensuring appropriate accounting** (charges and deposits) for all activities at Medford Leas.

Heather describes how the strong staff of the

Accounting Department works through many projects as a team. In this open atmosphere, there is “no stupid question” and answers are arrived at as a group. The good financial status of Medford Leas reflects their collection and communication of accurate data.

The other members of the Accounting staff are as follows:

**Wendy Harkins**, Accounting Manager, was a financial statement auditor before joining Medford Leas in 2002. She is a CPA. Wendy monitors the activities of the staff to make sure that the monthly schedule is followed. The first week is for billing, the second for reporting financial results, the third for research and the development of reporting issues, and the fourth for preparation for billing. Wendy also monitors the bank accounts and prepares reports according to federal and state regulations. She keeps a financial calendar showing all the deadlines. She is involved in the preparation of reports on her computer, as she is proficient with the Excel program as well as with Power Point.

**Pat Webster**, Billing Supervisor, began at Medford Leas 19 years ago as a billing clerk. She bills Medicare for skilled nursing stays, therapy, and health center visits. She loves coming to work and helping people out. Pat assists residents if they want to make a change in their supplemental insurance. She verifies prospective residents' insurance and will check their medical bills to be sure they have to pay them. There was a lot of work getting people on the Medicare D pharmacy program, but now it is just a question of managing the ongoing program.

**Valerie Wills**, Billing Clerk, is the newest member of the Accounting staff, having joined the department in February. This is her second time at Medford Leas, as she was a CNA here from 1989 to 1999. In between she earned a degree in health information at Burlington County College. Besides helping Pat in the generation of all monthly statements, Valerie puts residents' non-recurring charges on their monthly bills (e.g. beauty shop), receives payments, and applies them to the appropriate accounts. In the end, she

collects the checks, makes up the deposit slip and takes it all to **Carmelita Aseron** at the bank. She also answers residents' questions about the bills.

**Martha Crawford**, Accounts Payable Clerk, has been at Medford Leas for two and a half years, but she has been in accounting for a long time. She pays all the operational bills, after verifying that they are due and getting approval from department heads. (They get the bills on Tuesdays and must return them to Martha by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday.) She then enters the invoices into the system. On Fridays she prints out the checks, has them signed, usually by Heather, and takes the envelopes herself to the mailbox. Martha works on a weekly cycle. On Mondays she does filing and reconciles the statements, making sure there are no outstanding invoices. On Tuesdays she sometimes generates “emergency checks” for payments that cannot wait until that Friday. She also spends time corresponding with vendors.

**Matt Alibrando**, Accountant/Analyst, came to Medford Leas two and a half years ago with a B.S. in accounting from St. Joseph's University and an M.B.A. from La Salle University. He gets out the financial statements to the heads of each department every month. He analyzes the figures to check for variances between the actual numbers and the budget, so that he can phone and ask about them. Matt is involved with many of Wendy's or Heather's special projects. Although he is an integral part of the Accounting team, residents are not likely to have contact with him.



Front: Valerie Wills, Martha Crawford;  
Rear: Wendy Harkins, Pat Webster,  
Matt Alibrando, Heather Foor

## NEW MEMBER OF THE ESTAUGH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

by Kay Cooley

**Harry Scheyer** is the newest member of the Estaugh Board of Trustees, but Medford Leas is not new to him. Owing to professional relationships with several residents, Harry says he was able to see that "Medford Leas was not only surrounded by a beautiful setting ... but that the staff ... were exceptional and caring professionals ... and that it would be an honor to be on the board of that type of community."



Harry was born in Germany, grew up in Pittsburgh, and in 1969 graduated from Temple University. In 1975 he received his CPA credentials for Pennsylvania and New Jersey, followed by certification through the College of Financial Planning as a Certified Financial Planner in 1982 and Accredited Asset Management Specialist in 1997.

During his career, Harry has worked with a number of prestigious firms, including E. I. Dupont de Nemours and KPMG Peat Marwick. In 1986 he founded his own CPA firm, specializing from the beginning in tax, accounting, and personal financial planning.

Harry was listed from 1996 to 2002 by *Worth* magazine as one of their 250 recommended financial advisors in the country. He has also been listed as one of the "Best Financial Advisors for Doctors" by *Medical Economics* magazine since 1996. He has been very active in the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors, having served on its board of directors from 2002 to 2005, and is currently a member of the Rowan (University) Foundation Board of Directors as well as of its investment management committee.

When asked his view of the challenges facing Medford Leas, Harry wrote: "I believe a few of the critical challenges for Medford Leas and its board are not only maintaining the highest quality living standards and quality of life for residents in all stages of their maturing life span but adequately planning to meet these needs in the future, at a cost that everyone can continue to afford, while at the same time providing for Medford Leas' continuing viability.

"Also challenging will be the needs of the next group of future residents and making sure that Medford Leas remains an attractive alternative to them. It appears to me that it is more important than ever that the current residents and their resident boards, staff, management, and organization board work closely together to meet these challenges. In getting to know the management and staff, and from participating in recent board meetings, I feel pretty optimistic that these ongoing challenges will be successfully met. I look forward to contributing to that outcome."

Harry and his wife Sandra, a leader and active participant in the Hadassah Hospital women's organization, make their home in Medford. They have three children: Mark, 31; Scott, 25; and Jillian, 21.

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## WATER CONSERVATION

During the summer especially, water conservation becomes an issue. There are many ways in which residents can help to reduce the amount of water used. Repeating them in *Medford Leas Life* would elicit a "been there, done that" response. So, rather than reiterate the usual suggestions, a short slogan is offered: **Always think water conservation when opening a faucet or tap.**



## SUMMER HIATUS

*Medford Leas Life* takes a vacation every summer after the June issue is published. The next issue will appear at the beginning of September. Residents may submit cryptograms or ideas for news items at any time by placing them on the *Medford Leas Life* shelf at the right of the Front Desk. All submissions are considered by the editorial staff.

## FLOWER SHOW – PLAN AHEAD

The Fall Flower Show will be held in the Activities Room on Tuesday, September 11, and Wednesday, September 12. The theme of this year's show will be Carnival, which will be illustrated in the various classes in the Design Division. As usual, there will be three categories in the Horticulture Division: Plants in Containers; Flower Specimens; and Fruits, Vegetables, and Herbs. The third division is noncompetitive and is for special exhibits.

The full schedule for the Flower Show will be issued during the summer, but residents with gardens, farm plots, and house plants should start planning ahead so they will be ready when the big day arrives.



Best in Design - 2005

## LIFE IN THE NINETIES

by Ellen Stimler



photo by Margery Rubin

**Gladys Gray's** 90<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated in style on May 5, at a party with her three daughters, other family members, and friends. On Sunday, April 29, Gladys was honored at a pre-birthday party during the Coffee Hour after Meeting at the Moorestown Friends Meeting. The Grays have been members since 1974 and

were active in several committees. Gladys had a part-time job as Meeting Coordinator. Because they have given up their car, they don't get to Sunday Meeting every week. Sometimes their daughter, Janet, an associate professor at the College of New Jersey, drives down to take them.

Right now, assisting her husband Bob with daily activities and medical appointments is Gladys's priority. But she still tries to get to the Fitness Center for hour-long workouts and makes breakfast and lunch for Bob and herself. Her membership on the Diversity Committee is very important to her. Gladys says that she and Bob have worked for integration of the races all their lives and recalled that they had an African exchange student living with them for a year.

One wall in their apartment has an arrangement of 18 family pictures, and Gladys enjoys telling stories to make family history come alive. While Bob worked for the American Friends Service Committee on an assignment in India, two of her children went to the school where **Kitty Katzell's** mother had been the principal, but Kitty and her mother weren't there at that particular time.

The Grays' oldest daughter, Bobbi, lives in Alberta, Canada, but comes on long visits a few times a year. She stayed with nearby friends during the weeks surrounding the big birthday and helped with all the arrangements and shopping. The youngest daughter, Marie, came from San Diego. Bobbi has four children and six grandchildren, and Marie has two boys and a stepson.

## NEW CASH REGISTER IN GIFT SHOP

by Joan Bellman

July 1 marks the beginning of the new fiscal year for MLRA. It will also mark the official start of a new system of record keeping in the Gift Shop, where an electronic cash register has been installed.



For the present, manual records will continue to be maintained while sales personnel are becoming familiar with the new equipment. But starting July 1, the old system will be discontinued. No more waiting while someone writes on a form each item purchased, its price, and the amount of tax, if any. No more checking a list to find out how much tax should be applied; products will be coded and the code will tell the cash register whether tax should be applied. No more figuring out how much change should be issued; the cash register will subtract the amount of the purchase from the amount of the payment and show the amount to be returned to the customer. Twenty-first century, here we come!

Any resident who might be interested in becoming a sales volunteer in the MLRA Gift Shop should contact **Geri Dickerson**, ext. 3075, or leave a note in Box 75. All are welcome, and it's a great way to meet and greet neighbors.

## BIRD FORAGING STUDY

by Miriam Swartz

The May meeting of the MLRA Bird Club provided the attendees with a different subject to consider. They were asked whether they thought birds preferred foraging in native trees or non-native trees. Not being birds, they, of course, didn't know. That is what Christy Beal, a graduate student from the University of Delaware, is trying to determine with her doctoral study and asked the Bird Club's help with data collection. The purpose of her study is to compare bird foraging frequency and caterpillar density counts on native and non-native landscape trees to determine whether birds prefer to forage on native tree species. Her ultimate goal in the six-year study is to create a list ranking landscape trees by foraging bird use.

Ms. Beal has been given permission to use the Lewis W. Barton Arboretum as one of the sites where she will collect the data. Bird counts will be made on the selected trees by Medford Leas Bird Club members and by students from the University of Delaware during the week of June 4 to 8 and again during the week of August 6 to 10 from 6:00 to 9:00 a.m. each day.

Residents will notice white sheets under many trees in the Arboretum during the bird counting periods. The sheets will collect caterpillar frass (debris or excrement produced by the caterpillars). The collected frass for each 24-hour period during the bird counts will be weighed and dried, and the individual pellets counted.

Medford Leas Bird Club members are happy to help with the bird counts and data collection. Residents are welcome to ask questions during the surveys.

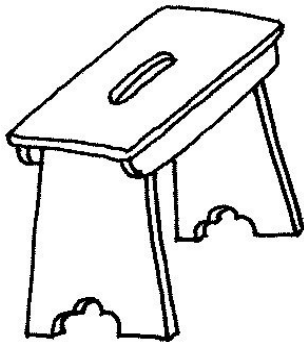


## WORK AND WORKERS NEEDED

by Maggie Woodard

**Andy Moll**, Chairman of the Residents' Workshop Committee, says that they need workers and can deal with more work. Eight other residents are presently members of the Committee: **Sam Burgess, Jim Eynon, Jim Eby, Vince Pecoraro, Inge Raven, Doug Springer, Arthur Steitz** and **Alex Webb** (sponsor and active member).

The Workshop staff provides services for residents and for Medford Leas. They build, repair, and refinish furniture; repair light fixtures and jewelry; make picture frames; sharpen knives; create bookshelves and small outside benches. They try to do almost anything within the ability of the members. This year they completed several projects for the Fitness and Aquatics Department, the Thrift Shop, the Gift Shop, the Busy Hands workroom, and the Occupational Therapy group.



Jim Eby, an electrical engineer, offers a new service – electronic repairs and hook-ups for VCRs and computers. He also provides troubleshooting for computers but does not do what **Russell Pepe**, Information Technologist, does.

Residents are asked to pay for repairs or other work at the cost of materials plus \$4 per hour for labor, but Medford Leas furniture is repaired with no charge for labor. The Thrift Shop, Fitness Center, and certain other committees also pay no fee for labor. Last year the Workshop handled 200 jobs, billing \$1,800, both down from the previous year. They donated \$2,000 to the

Appreciation Fund. They will not be able to continue this support without an increase in both jobs and workers.

Residents may work on their own projects in the Workshop at no charge except for materials. The Committee supervises such residents and instructs them in the safe use of equipment. Power tools can be used only if two people are present.

Workshop request forms are available on a shelf to the right of the front desk. The completed form should be returned to the front desk, and someone from the shop will contact the resident about arrangements.

The committee needs more residents to volunteer to join them. Four hours a week is the minimum time expected. Someone skilled at chair-caning is especially needed. For more information, please contact Andy Moll (Apt. 101).

## THE POOL AT LUMBERTON

by Deborah Troemner

Medford Leas residents are invited to enjoy the swimming pool on the Lumberton campus throughout the summer season, especially during the time that the Medford pool is under repair.



Polar Bear Dip – brrrr

To gain access to the Lumberton Community Center, residents may pick up a key at the desk in the Atrium on the Medford campus. Guests are welcome but they must be accompanied by a resident. Everyone using the pool must sign in the book that is located in the drawer of the stand at the Community Center end of the pool. Residents sign in the residents' column and record guests' names in the guest column. Rules for use of the pool are in the sign-up book and also posted in the Community Center.

A gala pool opening for the summer was celebrated at the fourth annual Polar Bear Dip on April 24. Near-perfect weather brought out many "dippers" who were cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd of onlookers. There followed refreshments on the Community Center patio. In honor of the occasion, a large blown-up Polar Bear was joined by Mr. and Mrs. Atlas, the larger-than-life figures with cut-out holes for their faces providing numerous memorable "photo opportunities." **Rick Trandahl** of the Fitness Staff contributed his great organizing skills and enthusiasm to the creation of this fun event.



Carol and Jim Atlas Suplee

## REPORT FROM ORANJ

by Helen L. Vukasin

On April 18, five Medford Leas residents joined nearly 100 residents from CCRCs all over New Jersey for the meeting of the Organization of

Residents Associations of New Jersey (ORANJ) at the Pines at Whiting. It was a stimulating meeting.

The morning program was a presentation about the One Day University. It is run by a private corporation that engages Ivy League universities' award-winning professors to present five of their sought-after courses in a single day.

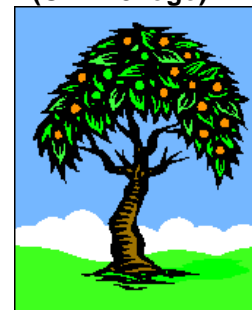
In the afternoon, two doctors presented "Quiet Care," a hi-tech system that monitors activities of people living alone. The information can be accessed by relatives and/or an emergency responder.

ORANJ serves CCRC residents well with information from many sources including surveys and research projects, such as the annual fees and occupancy reports.

ORANJ reports that in the spring of 2007, New Jersey's 23 CCRCs had 9,937 units: 6,868 independent living; 1,225 assisted living; and 1,444 skilled nursing/long term care. An additional 1,073 units are in the planning stage. Fee increases averaged 4.50% in independent living units, 5.15% in assisted living, and 4.86% in skilled nursing. The full survey report, which provided data for each of the New Jersey CCRCs, is on the ORANJ website at [www.oranjccrc.org](http://www.oranjccrc.org).

ORANJ has been invited to hold the April 2008 meeting in the new Arts and Social Wing at Medford Leas. Medford Leas residents are welcome to attend the program.

(ORANJ logo)

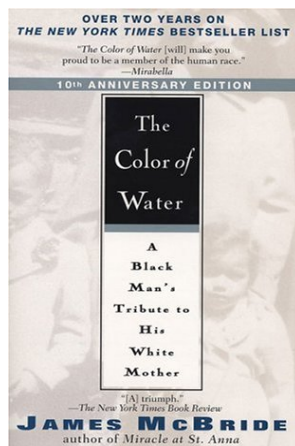


*The Tree Unites the Branches  
The Branches Bear the Fruit*

## “MEDFORD LEAS READ”: A NEW MLRA PROGRAM by Sue Heath

Medford Leas Read, a brand-new shared reading experience, will provide a new way for people to connect. Residents will all read the same book and then gather to discuss it. The MLRA Diversity Committee is organizing Medford Leas Read, which will start in the fall. All residents are invited to read *The Color of Water* and then meet in assigned groups in individual apartments for a guided discussion.

*The Color of Water* by James McBride is subtitled “A Black Man’s Tribute to His White Mother.” It is the remarkable story of Ruth McBride Jordan who raised 12 children. A Polish Jew who came to America soon after her birth, she was married twice and battled poverty and racism to give her children advantages she never had.



Readers have been struck by the author’s devotion to his mother and his recognition of the obstacles she faced in raising him and his siblings, all of whom attended college and achieved success in their lives.

Medford Leas Read plans to have copies of the book available for purchase in mid-September, to be read during October, with discussion groups meeting during the first week in November. Various residents will offer their homes for discussion meetings at a time convenient to the group and the hosts. Leaders or facilitators will lead each group, with topics and questions designed to encourage general discussion and group participation.

Residents will receive reminders over the summer, and in September they will learn how to become part of a discussion group.

## ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBIT – JULY 20

At this exhibit residents of both campuses will have an opportunity to see what the photographers, craftsmen and artists of the Lumberton Campus have been doing. So far, tables have been reserved for woodcarvings and wood sculpture, Victorian ribbon wreaths, children’s books, woodshop projects, antique tools, quilts, and knitted goods.

The purpose of the exhibit is display and conversation with residents about their work. In a few cases, residents will also have items for sale. For example **Tom Krainik** and **Mort Yoemans**, who will have tables at the Medford Leas Community Day in September, will also be selling handcrafted items at the July 20 exhibit. Proceeds from sales go to the Medford Leas Reserve Fund.

The Craft Show and Exhibit will be held in the Lumberton Campus Community Center July 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Hummingbird by Mort Yoemans



## KNITTING AND SEWING CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER

During July and August, Knitting and Sewing will not be open on Wednesday mornings. The last day for residents to bring sewing repairs to be done is June 27. It will reopen on September 5.

Other needlework needn't stop during the summer. Knitting needles, patterns, and yarn will be available, and those who are able to do their own sewing may use the two excellent sewing machines in the Busy Hands Room.

If assistance is needed, contact either **Helen Hamilton**, 3243, or **Kitty Katzell**, 3056. Residents may also borrow the key to the room from the Front Desk

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## THE COAST OF UTOPIA – WE RAN THE MARATHON

by George Rubin

On Saturday, March 3, Margery and I were in New York City to see a performance of the three plays called *The Coast of Utopia* by the British playwright Tom Stoppard. This trilogy is a production of the Lincoln Center Theater. Each of these plays, with a cast of 43 actors, runs approximately three hours. For those who have the stamina and endurance, there are marathon performances of all three plays in one day. We decided to try it. It was something we had never done before and most likely will never do again.



The first play of the trilogy, *Voyage*, started at 11 a.m.; the second, *Shipwreck*, at 3:30; the last, *Salvage*, at 8 p.m. The theater provided a list of restaurants and small sandwich shops where people could eat between performances. We were fortunate in having Marge's niece living a few blocks away. It gave us a place to rest, eat, and recuperate between plays.

We found both the trilogy and the marathon a stimulating, intelligent, and emotional day and night of theater that we had not experienced before. The plays are stories of friends, members of "generation of the 1840s," idealistic young Russian noblemen who met in Moscow. Their friendships will last throughout their lives as they struggle to bring Russia into the modern age, and are buffeted by history, their own triumphs, and personal tragedies. Their dangerous ideas lead to prison and eventually exile, first to Paris and then England. These "romantic revolutionaries" soon find that history will leave them behind, as one of them says, "We discovered that history isn't impressed by intellectuals. History is more like the weather, 'you never know what it's going to do.'" In the end their leader, Alexander Herzen, proclaims, "Our meaning is in how we live in an imperfect world in our time. We have no other."

Margery and I returned home with *Coast of Utopia* buttons proclaiming, "I ran the marathon." The time we spent with these philosophers, writers, and poets was worth it.

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## RESIDENTS – START YOUR ENGINES

There will be two sessions of the AARP safe driving program in October. The first session will be Tuesday and Wednesday, October 16 and 17. The second session will be Tuesday and Wednesday, October 23 and 24. Each session will be limited to 30 residents and restricted to those residents living on both Medford Leas campuses. More specific details will be given to all residents in September.

## MEDFORD LEAS HONORED

by Kitty Katzell

**Judy Braddy**, receptionist, accepted the "Outstanding Certificate" for Medford Leas at a special dinner held at the Medford Lakes Country Club on May 16. Judy has been Medford Leas' contact person for the Medford Lakes Lions Club's "Recycle for Sight" program.



Seventy years ago, the Lions Club started collecting eyeglasses. Currently, the average club collects about 600 pairs per year; Medford Lakes collected 1,500 last year, and hopes to get close to 2,000 this year. Those collected by the Medford Lakes Club are sent to Trenton, where they are sanitized and sorted before being sent overseas.

At the dinner, Judy sat with Judy Aley, who is the Pinelands Library Branch Manager. The library also collects glasses for the Lions Club, as do Murphy's Market and ShopRite. Residents who have eyeglasses that are no longer needed may turn them in at the Front Desk for recycling.

### IN MEMORIAM

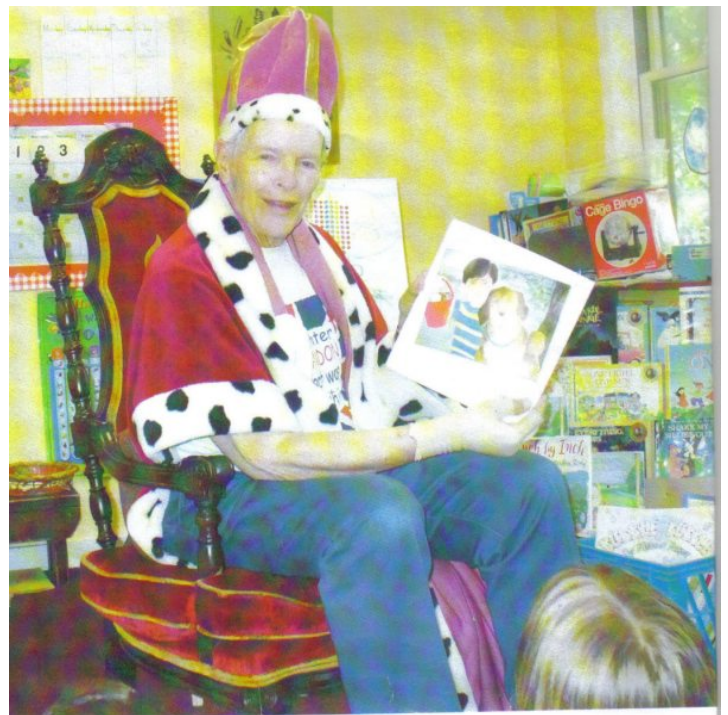
**Justine (Tina) Mecray May 14**

## THE ROYAL READER

by Kitty Katzell

When **Russ Haley** broke his wrist this past winter, his neighbor, **Jackie Doster**, often walked his dog, Duffy, for him. So, when Jackie invited Russ to come to Haddonfield Friends School to read to the kids, he agreed. Jackie teaches P.E. at the school and had taken Duffy with her a couple of times, so the kids knew Duffy and were happy to greet him when he came with Russ and Jackie.

On his arrival, Russ learned that he was the designated "Royal Reader," which meant he must be outfitted accordingly, in a royal robe – a purple blanket with a cotton border that had spots on it representing ermine, a matching hat, and a fancy bejeweled scepter. A red carpet led to a throne – a fancy gilt chair with a tall back and soft purple cushions. The children lined up on both sides of the red carpet with jingle bells and Russ paraded to his throne and started to read a dog story that they had selected.



It turned out to be a sad story, in which the old dog dies at the end. Russ had been aware of this ending and had brought a box of Kleenex with him. By the time the book came to a close, the

tears were flowing freely and the children were groping for the Kleenex.

Not wanting to end the reading on that sad note, Russ created an additional chapter to end the story. In his conclusion, the family members all had an identical dream in which the dog was playing happily in heaven. That ending brought smiles to the faces of the children. Russ was invited to return to read again in the fall, when he'll choose his own text.

## MLRA WEBSITE

by Helen Vukasin and Maggie Heineman

In late June a website editorial committee will be organized to determine the content of the MLRA website. Those who are interested in helping to make the MLRA website a showcase for Medford Leas may sign up at the desk in the Atrium. For more information, call the committee chair, **Helen Vukasin**, at 261-3166.

Those who saw **Margery Rubin's** photograph of the recent Dog Show in the May issue of *Medford Leas Life* can now see a whole slideshow of her 2007 Dog Show photos through the MLRA website, [www.mlra.org](http://www.mlra.org). Margery's photos of the 2005 and 2006 Employee Shows are also on the website and so are **Rick Trandahl's** color photos of the Brain Gym, the Polar Bear Dip, and exercise programs on the Lumberton campus. Among the 11 slideshows at [mlra.org](http://mlra.org) is one with 46 large clear photographs that were collected for the 35th Anniversary issue of *Medford Leas Life*.



Main Entrance

photo by Jim Wolosin 7/04



Exercise Class

photo by Rick Trandahl 3/07

The MLRA website continues to present content prepared in previous years:

- Wildflowers, with photos and descriptions of the nearly 150 wildflowers found at Medford Leas.
- **Os Cresson's** monograph *In Their Footsteps*, a history of the people, starting with the Lenape, who lived in the area that is now the Lumberton Campus.
- MLRA bylaws and descriptions of each of the MLRA committees.
- Links to the Medford Leas, ORANJ, and Burlington County Library websites, including a direct link to request books to be delivered by the Bookmobile.

Residents and staff who have digital photographs of Medford Leas are invited to contact **Maggie Heineman**, webmaster, about having their photos placed on the MLRA website: phone 518-8906 or email [maheineman@comcast.net](mailto:maheineman@comcast.net)



White Trillium

photo by Rudy Salati 4/04

## OUR FERAL CAT CARETAKER

by Maggie Woodard

**Perry Krakora**, who lives in Apt. 694 in Bridlington, says she's a "people person," but she's also a "cat person." She and her husband, Herb, have four inside cats in their Medford Leas home and feed and provide outside shelter and water for a colony of 10 feral cats at their Barnegat Light home.

Perry started befriending feral cats at 6 a.m. on a rainy, dreary day in June, 2003, when she was gardening and heard a cat yowling. She fed it and found it again the next day under a woodpile, with three kittens. After two of the kittens were killed by a dog, the Krakoras continued to feed the mother and played with the kitten. They soon adopted the kitten, a tabby, and named him J. D. Kittens can be socialized, adult feral cats usually cannot, nor can they be handled. Perry eventually trapped the mother, using a Have-a-Heart trap, and took her to a local veterinarian for sterilization and shots for rabies and distemper.

Since 2003, Perry has trapped 20 feral cats and kittens near her Barnegat Light home and taken them to the vet for shots and sterilization. Unless they had adoption potential, they were released where they had been caught. Perry lost two who were diseased and had to be put down. Of the kittens she socialized, she and Herb adopted two, a neighbor took in two, and Herb's son and Perry's sister each took one. The Krakoras now have a feral cat "colony" of 10 who come regularly to their island home. Seven are there every day, and a few are there all day. Available to these cats are two shelters and a doghouse in the Krakoras' yard. There is also a hamper that holds 90 pounds of dry food and a big tub of water with a mechanism that keeps the water from freezing. Perry goes to Barnegat Light at least twice a month to fill the feeder and water tub.

Perry knows her 10 feral cats well and talks about them fondly. She says they have distinct personalities and make friends with the other cats. She printed a two-page description of them, including the names she has given them.

Following are two typical descriptions:

- **Mom**, female. Long black hair, moves low to ground, golden eyes. JD's mother. Born probably 2000-1. Don't see her too often now. **Silky** (another cat) is very aggressive toward her.
- **Max**, male, black with large white "star" on his chest, white on his belly; medium length hair. Born probably 2002-3. Max is a loner, here every day. He sometimes complains verbally if the food has run down.

Feral, stray, and unowned cats have become a big problem in New Jersey. It is believed that many residents abandon their unneutered, outdoor pet cats, especially at the end of a vacation. These cats tend to form colonies around food sources and rapidly reproduce. It has been estimated that there are more than a million of these cats in New Jersey alone. In order to deal with this problem humanely, many private organizations, which depend on contributions, have developed programs for people willing to become feeder/caretakers. One such group is the Stafford Veterinary Hospital in Manahawkin, NJ, where residents can have animals spayed/neutered, vaccinated for rabies, and tested for FELV/FIV at a reduced cost. The result is that fewer cats are reproduced, and the spread of diseases is limited to some degree. There are many such organizations in New Jersey and elsewhere. Much material can be found on the Internet.

Residents of New Jersey owe a debt of gratitude to these organizations and to caretakers like the Krakoras.



JD Senior and his buddy, little Gray

## ART GALLERY NEWS

by Helen L. Vukasin

The Art Studio Gallery exhibit of 28 resident artists will be on view all summer. The cat pictures have been a big hit. As usual, scenes of "down the shore" are not only appreciated but also sell well.

The Gallery Committee went as a group to the Perkins Center for the Arts annual Water Color Exhibit. Two of the artists were chosen to have exhibits in the new Medford Leas Art Gallery outside the Auditorium and the Garden Room.

At Lumberton, residents **Alice Skidmore Culbreth** and **Rita Keiper** have mounted a beautiful show of new and varied paintings. Be sure to take a look when you come over to use the pool this summer. The show will be followed in mid-July by a one-person show of the professional painter Victoria Brush, daughter of **Bev** and **Stan Brush**.

## RESIDENTS IN THE NEWS

by Ellen Stimler

Medford Leas' brain gym and cognitive fitness programs were selected as "Innovation of the Year" by the New Jersey Association of Not-For-Profit Homes for the Aging (NJANPHA). **Dolores Redner**, Administrator, received a letter from the organization in early May, stating that this special award was "presented in recognition of the year's most innovative program or service in a long-term care retirement community, and one that makes an extremely positive impact on resident quality of life." **Gerry Stride** and Dolores prepared the application for the "innovation" designation. The award was presented on May 31 at a ceremony in Atlantic City during NJANPHA's annual meeting.

In a related news item, Gerry Stride and her management of the "brain gym" at Medford Leas were featured prominently in the lead paragraph and throughout a long article starting on page 1 of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* on Sunday, April 29.

The article presented a summary and evaluation of brain training programs, classes, gadgets, and software currently available or being used in retirement communities, senior centers, and some colleges in the Delaware Valley. It described the Posit Science program used at Medford Leas in some detail and quoted **Frances Stoll's** opinion that, after the course, she was now able to remember names she previously used to forget.

An accompanying picture showed **Miriam Angle** (mistakenly identified as **Alice Norcross** in the caption), wearing headphones at one of the brain gym computers, with **Bob Morrow**, an instructor or coach in the brain gym, looking on in the background.



**Anne Burr**, currently Medford Leas' oldest resident, has received many honors and awards during her lifetime of 107 years. She was front-page news in the County & Region section of the *Burlington County Times* on Sunday, May 13. The occasion was a guided tour of the new Bordentown High School, which replaced the old school where Anne graduated and later was a teacher and principal. Anne expressed wonder and amazement at the facilities she was shown, including the gymnasium, auditorium, cafeteria, and science and music rooms. "Everything is so different," she was quoted as saying, "I can't imagine a school like that."



The May issue of the magazine *Artmatters* has a two-page, illustrated article by **John Brzostoski**, one of Medford Leas' resident artists, discussing an exhibit by two Japanese artists at the Philadelphia Museum of Art through July 22. The artists are Ike Taiga and his wife Tokuyama Gyokuran, who produced hundreds of works in a variety of formats, including fan paintings, hanging scrolls, handscrolls, and screens. The article discusses and explains the works displayed in the museum and gives much background information on the history and techniques developed by these 18<sup>th</sup> century Japanese artists.

## WELCOME TO THE COURTS

by Ellen Stimler

**Henrietta (Henry) Kwiecinski** said it was “an easy move” for her into Apt. 107 from the Lumberton campus, where she has lived for the past six years. She is familiar with the Medford campus from her visits to the health center. She knows **Helen Peterson**, also a former Lumberton resident, and **Elaine Heinzelman** and **Frances Carter**, who used to work with her husband at Ridgewood High School. Henrietta is the mother-in-law of Kate Kwiecinski, who was the assistant executive director of Medford Leas while **Lois Forrest** was CEO.

Henrietta graduated from the former Paterson Teachers College (now Paterson University) and took additional courses at Glassboro (now Rowan), Rutgers, and Yale. She was a special education teacher in Glen Rock, NJ, and taught the first class for brain-injured children. She had to develop her own materials for these students, as little was known or available at the time. Her husband was also a teacher and later a principal at the Ridgewood High School.

The couple retired in the early '70s and moved to Ocean City. They traveled all over the United States and in Europe. After the death of her husband in 1999, Henrietta moved to Lumberton. She likes to knit, embroider, work on crossword and other puzzles, and read. She has a married son with four children in Wyoming and another married son with two children just an hour's drive from Medford.



**Victoria (Vicki) Marutani** is another May transplant from the Lumberton campus. Five of her eight children living in New Jersey and Pennsylvania have arranged some of her furniture and art works so perfectly that her Court Apartment 167 looks like a Japanese museum. A wall of display shelves holds unusual gifts received by her and her late husband, Bill, a Judge of the Philadelphia Common Pleas Court for 11 years. An eye-catching piece on the display

is a figurine (Vicki calls it a doll), of an elaborately dressed fan dancer. In another display case is a “doll” of a samurai, holding a bowl in one upraised arm and his weapon in the other hand. Wall hangings include silkscreen paintings and an ancient scroll. Over the kitchen entrance hang three bands of Japanese lettering, called a *noren*.

Vicki was born in Kyoto and met Bill in a Kyoto hospital after WWII. She was a nurses' aide and Bill, then working for U.S military intelligence, was a seriously ill patient. They corresponded for two years during Bill's transfer to several other hospitals, ending back in the U.S. Eventually, following advice from Eleanor Roosevelt, Bill persuaded his Congressman to have a special bill enacted permitting Vicki to immigrate to the U.S. They were married in 1950.

After Bill graduated from law school, he was hired by a Philadelphia firm, and the couple made their home in Philadelphia for 36 years. Bill had a distinguished legal career, culminating in the establishment of a special fellowship in his name by the Philadelphia and Asian American Bar Associations (*Medford Leas Life*, Dec. 2003, p.10).

Asked how she managed a household with eight children and a husband who often worked 14-hour days, Vicki just smiled and said she had a lot of energy in those days. At present, she leads a quiet life, reading mostly Japanese books, taking care of her health, and keeping up with her children and eight grandchildren.

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## WHO'S NEW

photos by Margery Rubin

**Aline Page** moved to Apt 42 from Ship Bottom where she will continue to spend the summers. She grew up and went through the public schools in Burlington City. During WWII, she joined the Waves, but the war ended before she could start training at Hunter College and she was discharged.



photo by Margery Rubin

In 1946 Aline and Earle Page, friends from high school, were married. Earle earned a degree in accounting at Temple University. After he graduated, the couple moved to Burlington, and eventually Earle

became president of the Burlington Savings Bank. Aline, meanwhile, had a busy life with a large house, church and community responsibilities, and three sons who attended the Burlington public schools.

In 1970 Earle and Aline bought a house in Ship Bottom from Earle's parents. They also owned a motor home, in which they made yearly trips to Key West, so they decided to move permanently to the shore and spend the winters in Florida.

Aline continued this pattern after Earle's death in 1996. Currently, she participates in a church quilting group in Waretown on Wednesdays, and on Mondays she quilts with a group in Pemberton with her friend **Kimiko De Franco**, another recent arrival at Medford Leas. One of Aline's sons lives in Houston, and one lives in North Carolina. The third son lives in Cherry Hill, and he and his wife expect a baby in September. At present Aline has five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

by Margaret Melstrom



**Kimiko DeFranco**, who has settled into Apt. 237, was born in Japan. She met an American officer, Joe DeFranco, while he was stationed there after WWII, and they were married in 1955.

After a tour of duty in Germany, Joe was assigned to Fort Dix, and the couple established a home in Browns Mills in 1963. They raised two children, a daughter now married and living in Colorado with

her husband and two children; and a married son with one child, who lives nearby in Shamong Township.

In addition to running her household, Kimiko worked in the Burlington County Community College Library, first at the circulation desk and then in the office.



photo by Ruth Huysman

Joe's death in 2005 influenced Kimiko's move to Medford Leas. She had been invited for lunch at Medford Leas by a former resident, and Kimiko liked the community immediately. Before coming here, she also attended one of the Pinelands Garden Club

meetings in the Auditorium, and there met **Shigeko Kawano**. She did not know any of the other Japanese residents here before she arrived, but she expressed great appreciation for the welcome she received from **Mary Toda** and Shigeko, who took her along to a flower arranging demonstration of the Philadelphia Chapter of Ikebano International.

Kimiko is just starting to resume some of her favorite activities after a long recuperation from a back operation. Quilting has been one of her hobbies. A wall in her apartment displays one of her creations, a colorful quilt depicting a variety of flowers, each flower set into a large, separate square. Kimiko hopes to resume swimming, working on her computer, and maybe venturing into some new activities offered at Medford Leas. She used to attend St. Ann's Church at Browns Mills and hopes to join another Catholic Church in the area.

by Ellen Stimler



**JUNE CRYPTOGRAM**

by Miriam Ward

Ed. Note: The June cryptogram is longer than usual, so we are giving solvers until July 10 to submit solutions.

ABCDEF, GHB ICF JCF, KJ C  
 JLKMKEDCR "NKECIKH"; OKEPGDE  
 ABCDEF KH JGIB QGMI C  
 HGMICR PDICH ABKHS TCH  
 PCMURF RKNB C PBCREPF  
 CHU PCLLF RKQB. CHU EPB  
 TGHEBILRCEKGH GQ ABCDEF  
 KJ HGE BHGDSP – GHB  
 IDJE "UG JGIBEPKHS CAGDE  
 KE." GHB IDJE TMBCEB ABCDEF.  
 — ICMF IBKSJ CEOCEBM

Here is the solution to the May cryptogram by Mary Hope Mason:

IF YOU ARE A PROCRASTINATOR YOU MAY HAVE TO PUT OFF SOME THINGS A DOZEN TIMES BEFORE YOU COMPLETELY FORGET TO DO THEM.

The correct solution was received from 22 readers: **Ken Anderson, Ruth Blattenberger, Florence Brudon, Marion Burk, Gwen Crawley, Alice Culbreth, Liz Dill, Louise Evaul, Mary Fenimore, Mickey Gray, Mary Haines. Herb Heineman, Barbara Heizman, Eleanor Horner, Jane Hunter, Hugh Jenkins, Sally Klos, Ruth Mavronikos, Alice Norcross, Helen Peterson, Betty Preston, Florence Sawyer, Peg Scott, Miriam Ward, Ellen Wiener, Gladys Wynkoop.**

Please put your solution in an envelope in Box 116 by July 10 or send it by email to [estimler@medleas.com](mailto:estimler@medleas.com)

**MEDFORD LEAS LIFE**

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



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