



# Medford Leas *Life*

**VOL. XXXVI, No.2**

**FEBRUARY 2008**

## **MARTIN LUTHER KING ADDRESS**

by Kay Cooley

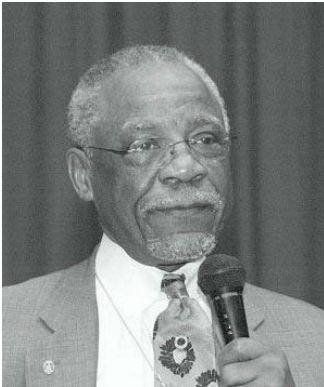


photo by Maraerv Rubin

On January 11, residents had the privilege of hearing Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr., give the annual Martin Luther King address. He chose as his theme "Are you ready to stand in the riverbed?" (Joshua 3:14-17). Interpreting the text as a challenge to

struggle for justice and equality for all, he showed how Dr. King "stood in the riverbed" and how those who would continue his work must do the same.

Dr. Goode, former Mayor of Philadelphia, is eminently qualified to speak on this subject. Born into a sharecropper farmer's family in Tennessee, he moved with them to Philadelphia at age 14 after his father was incarcerated for an assault. That experience was later to influence the leadership role that has occupied him for the last seven years – serving as the head of Amachi, a nonprofit organization founded to help the seven million children in the country who have one or both parents in jail, on parole, or under state or federal supervision.

If the problem was personal to Dr. Goode, so has been the solution – faith-based mentoring. When Amachi was launched in September 2000, the longtime Baptist minister, at age 62, had just earned his Doctorate of Ministry from Eastern

Baptist Theological Seminary. Having written his dissertation on moving congregations from looking inward to looking outward to their community, he reached out to the Philadelphia religious community, recruiting pastors and religious leaders to rally their congregants to serve as mentors.

Amachi is a Nigerian Ibo word that means "who knows what God has brought us through this child." Starting with 42 church congregations, the organization has inspired or is affiliated with 240 programs in 48 states that serve approximately 30,000 children between the ages of 4 and 19. Without intervention, experts suggest, 70% of these children would follow their parents to jail.

Dr. Goode's work has received recognition from President Bush as a model faith-based initiative. In 2006, he was awarded the prestigious Civic Ventures \$100,000 Purpose Prize; he was also named Citizen of the Year by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

---

## **ENERGY TIPS OF THE MONTH**

from MLRA Resource Conservation Committee

Answers to FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions):

- **Yes**, remove all caps from bottles before recycling.
- **No**, never put paper or plastic bags in recycling bins for glass, plastic, and metal.
- **Yes**, continue to add raw vegetable and fruit waste to the compost pile, near the walk to Rushmore.

## HDTV AT MEDFORD LEAS

by Ellen Stimler

In one of his December broadcasts, Jim Lehrer announced that, as of January 1, his News Hour would be broadcast in HDTV (high definition television). One segment of that night's program explained the numerous complex, expensive technical modifications and installations that had been developed over a period of months in order to start HD transmission.

Residents who heard this program or learned about it wondered what, if anything, they would have to do to continue to receive Jim Lehrer's program on their old, non-HD, TV sets.

At Medford Leas, the technical oracle is **Russell Pepe**, Manager of Information Technology. Sitting behind his desk cluttered with wires, cords, and other techie paraphernalia, Russell smiled and answered the question with just one word: "Nothing."

While it is absolutely true that residents can continue to use their old (analog) TVs even though transmissions are received at Medford Leas in digital signals from satellites, there is a longer story behind "nothing."

At the present time, digital TV programs received by the Medford Leas system are automatically converted into the analog standard on all old TVs. That is why residents not interested in the new technology can ignore digital transmissions.

The Federal Communications Commission is requiring all TV transmissions to be in a digital format as of February 2009. After that date, the IT Department has to satisfy residents with old analog TVs and others with new HD sets. Russell says 30% of current residents already have the digital TVs. The screens of the old TVs are almost square, and the new ones are oblong and flat-screen. One of these new ones is in the Fitness Center to the right of the entrance.

**Mike Carrell**, a techie par excellence, could serve as the model for the future resident. In his Bridlington basement, he has a 38-inch flat

screen, an HD receiver box, and seven speakers around the room, to allow him to experience movie-theater-like pictures and sound. He gets his signals from a satellite dish mounted on his roof. He pays about \$100 per month for access to hundreds of HD program channels already available. Of course, HD does not affect the quality of programs, but it does create pictures and sound that produce the feeling of being inside the action.

Russell said that he expects future residents to demand HD reception. He is confident that Medford Leas will provide this, based on the format desired by a majority of users at the time. Meanwhile, IT is continuing to supply programs for analog sets and will do so even after February 2009.

In the interim before February 2009, new residents who come with a digital TV set and want to receive HD programs can expect expert assistance from the IT Department to make all necessary hook-ups and connections for them.

---

### *Forget the Winter Blues . . .*



### ***Winter Tea***

The Medford Leas Winter Tea will be held on Tuesday, February 19, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room, the Gathering Room, and the Activities Room. Wear your nametag.

## TELL IT TO THE FOOD COMMITTEE

by Sumi Kobayashi

Food – nourishing, well prepared, tasty and enjoyed in a sociable environment – is one of the most important elements in the good life at Medford Leas.

The Food Committee, chaired by **Mary Ann Black**, is the liaison between the Dining and Food Services Department and resident diners. Members of the committee, drawn from all parts of Medford Leas, are **Jack Akerboom, Elly Elmendorf, Louise Evaul, Sumi Kobayashi, Liliane Reynolds, Elmer Rowley, Polly Schnepf, David Sleeper, Jean Stratton**, sponsor, and **Fran Webb**.

The Food Committee meets with **Jennifer Zdunczyk**, better known as Jen Z, Director of Dining Services, once a month to pass on suggestions and complaints that have come to members' attention. Common complaints are undercooked or overcooked food. Another is ample portions that arrive when small portions were requested. "Half portions" is more precise than "small portions." On rare occasions the food is too highly spiced for sensitive palates. On the other hand, warm bread at the table is a welcome amenity.

Discussion at the meetings, on the second Tuesday of each month (except in summer), is lively. Suggestions were made to save energy by lowering the level of lighting in the Garden Room and to conserve water by waiting until diners are seated to ask if they want water.

A different individual from the Dining and Food Services staff is invited to accompany Jen Z to meet with the committee each month. At the December meeting **Christe McGowan**, Dining Services Manager, described the five-day training procedure given to new wait staff, some of whom are very "green" and need extra time to learn their jobs. They must learn how to write orders and how to carry trays, and must commit to three or four days a week. Christe admitted it is a challenge to recruit servers, and asked that patience be shown for these young people, who

must juggle athletics, music, exams, and other demands of busy high school life with their jobs.

Jen said that currently the staff is working on catering policies for the new wing: menus, pricing, meal credits. The first gathering, a reception to introduce the new Estaugh Board members and honor retiring Board President **C. Miller Biddle**, was a huge success. A private party for a resident also proved the usefulness of the new facilities.

Communication between staff and residents is all-important in order that each knows what the other is thinking. The Food Committee is the connecting link. Ideally complaints should be brought to the attention of the staff host at the time of service. Otherwise residents are encouraged to put their thoughts and suggestions on food PIWs (Put It in Writing). Staff considers each PIW and gives a summary of them and staff's responses to the committee. If suggestions from the committee or PIWs are practical and within food safety guidelines, the staff will consider implementing them. The staff likes to know what they are doing well, too.

## NEW TALKING BOOKS

by Myra Binstock

Evanovich, Janet – *Lean Mean Thirteen*  
 Grafton, Sue – *T is for Trespass*  
 Iles, Greg – *Dead Sleep*  
 Parker, Robert B. – *High Profile*  
 Patterson, James – *Double Cross*  
 Patterson, James – *You've Been Warned*  
 Patterson, James – *The Quickie*  
 Wilhelm, Kate – *A Wrongful Death*



## NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE LEAS

by Ellen Stimler

The new Multi-Purpose Room, decorated with balloons and twinkling streamers, was the perfect setting for the evening's fun and games.

The aroma of roasting popcorn drew residents to the Theater for a pre-party showing of three comedy videos. Then it was just a few steps to the Multi-Purpose Room, where chairs were arranged in large circles for participants and onlookers.



photo by Margery Rubin

With **Bart** and **Colette Bartholomew** in charge, the evening started off with a few games that generated a lot of laughter and surprise at missed cues. Spectators had the most fun watching the alphabet game, where each participant of two teams of 12 received one letter of the alphabet. As Bart announced a word, such as MASTER, players with those letters jumped up to form that word. The first team to do so won a point. After a dozen words, it was time for dancing.

Bart and Colette -- expert folk and square dancers who met at folk dancing -- led a Virginia Reel and other familiar dances. Last came a long line dance winding through the onlookers, the Gathering Room, the hall, and ending in a big circle.

For the finale, there were refreshments and a

sing-along of favorite songs, accompanied on the piano by **Nan Hanslowe**. The champagne was uncorked at midnight Newfoundland Time. **Bud Stratton** offered a toast to the New Year and to Bart, Colette, and Nan. By Medford Leas midnight, the revelers had returned home to watch the crystal ball descend in Times Square.

Among the many helpers, special mention goes to **Mike Carrell** for skillfully putting parts of three videos on one DVD, **Mary Ann Black** for showing the videos, **Warren Sawyer** for making and dispensing popcorn, and **Margery Rubin** for great photos of the evening's activities.

## GREAT DECISIONS SCHEDULE

by Bill Heisler

The 2008 Great Decisions program will be presented on Thursdays, beginning February 21, and continuing each week through April 10. Sessions will be held in the Auditorium starting at 11:00 a.m. and continuing for approximately one hour.

### Dates, Topics, and Moderators

- Feb. 21 – *Waning War Machine? The State of the U.S. Military.* **George Spivack**
- Feb. 28 – *The Latin American Left.* **Dan Seeger**
- Mar. 6 – *The European Union at 50.* **Barbara Trought**
- Mar. 13 – *Out of Balance: U.S.-China Trade.* **Allyn Rickett**
- Mar. 20 – *Reexamining Russia.* **Bill Heisler**
- Mar. 27 – *Philanthropy and the Rise of Global Giving.* **Helen Vukasin**
- Apr. 3 – *Dangerous Dialogue: Talking with the Enemy.* **(To be announced)**
- Apr. 10 – *Exiting Iraq: Deadline for Democracy.* **Chuck Woodard**

Sessions of Vid-U, the educational program that is currently learning about the Joys of Science, will not meet while Great Decisions is in progress. It will resume its regular Thursday meetings at 11:00 a.m. on April 17.

## THE CLAY POTTERY STUDIO

by Inge Raven

At last the long awaited potting studio has become a reality. A space next to the Wood Shop has been enlarged; a new inner wall has been created to establish a set of working spaces; and an adjoining room has been set up to house three kilns, tables, and shelving space.

Within those spaces:

- New electric lines have been run.
- A telephone has been installed.
- A large air purifier system has been set into the ceiling to eliminate clay dust particles.
- A large sink has been installed in the bathroom for cleaning pottery tools.
- Hand tools made of wood and metal are available for use in hand-shaping the clay.
- Books on how to work with clay are available, as are issues of two major clay-working magazines.
- One corner of the larger room houses an electric potting wheel and shelves on which residents can store their work.

The major emphasis of the studio is to introduce residents with little or no prior experience to the work of shaping clay with their hands. They can learn to make small bowls, cups, mugs, tiles, and plates, how to color and glaze them, and how to fire them in a kiln with the help of experienced potters. Residents with experience working with clay will be available at specific times to mentor beginners. Experienced residents are also welcome to use the studio's resources in a friendly and informal environment.

The clay studio will be open every week on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Questions should be directed to **Inge Raven** (3272) or **Jane Spivack** (3081).

Special appreciation is expressed to **Bill Murphy** and his staff for their support in making the pottery studio a reality.

## ESTAUGH GRADUATES

by Maggie Woodard

Contrary to most residents' impressions, moves to John Estaugh are not necessarily permanent. According to **Donna Boone**, Director of Nursing for John Estaugh, there have been four or five "graduates" in the last three years. Most recent is **Becky Monego**. Once very active in MLRA committees, and a former MLRA president, "she wouldn't do anything at all" when she first arrived at Estaugh. Now, after over a year, she has moved to Apt. 250, second floor Assisted Living.

How did this happen? Donna says that she and her staff "always support our residents while pushing them to live to the fullest possible, with dignity, and to enjoy the best quality of life." They started Becky in a Fitness program, moved her sewing machine to her room after calling her son and learning that she loved to sew, and encouraged her to walk more. And, very important, the Recreation Therapy staff introduced her to the Wii program, a simulated bowling program that she enjoys immensely.



photo by Margery Rubin

The decision to move Becky to Assisted Living was made by a medical team: **Dr. Kapulskey**, **Donna Boone**, **Lisa Heinkel**, Director of Nursing for Assisted Living, **Karen Evans**, Director of Nursing for John Woolman, **Gerry Stride**, Director of Community Life, **Trudy DeLacy**, Director of Resident Services, and **Charity Reilly**, Resident Services Assistant. The decision was based on Becky's needs.

This is another fine example of our staff's caring, concerned, professional approach to the individual needs of each resident.

## STAFF TO THE RESCUE

by Evert Bartholomew

One of the nice things about living at Medford Leas is the friendship residents enjoy with employees. We have all experienced the way staff go out of their way to be helpful to us. I recently had an unusual example.

I purchased some wine at the Sharps Run Shopping Center. At checkout, I found I didn't have my credit card with me so I reached for cash. I emptied my pockets and came up 11¢ short. What to do? Then I noticed that next to me in line was **Mary Calabrese**, Medford Leas purchasing agent. "Mary, would you loan me ten cents?" I pleaded. "Of course, be glad to," she said, and in an instant a dime was on the counter. The clerk forgave the penny, and I made my purchase.

Kidding, I said to Mary, "Thanks, I suppose you are going to charge me about 18% interest till I pay you back." "Oh, at least that." Mary smiled. At that rate, I'm enjoying being in her debt.

---

## MUSHROOMS AT MEDFORD LEAS

as told by Jane Bourquin to Ellen Stimler

Medford Leas is well known in the horticultural community for its large, beautiful arboretum, with plant specimens from all over the world. But almost nobody knows that Medford Leas is also home to varieties of mushrooms that might be of interest to members of the New Jersey Mycological Association and mushroom lovers in general.

**Jane Bourquin** is a member of the Association and regularly goes on its forays. Members convene in an area known for its varieties of mushrooms, fan out to collect specimens, and then meet to identify them. Jane thinks that Medford Leas has enough mushrooms to justify a visit and will suggest it to the Association.

Jane described some of the varieties she discovered in her walks around the Medford campus.

In her own backyard behind Court 27, the mushrooms are all very poisonous, belonging to the feared Amanita family.

In the rear gardens of Court 19, mushrooms of the Suillus family can often be seen. This type has spores instead of gills, and some varieties are edible.

In the area where the backyards of Court 27 and Court 65 intersect, Jane saw a bird picking at a mushroom. After the bird flew away, Jane examined the red colored leftovers and identified the mushroom as belonging to the Russola family, whose mushrooms are not always red but sometimes yellow or white.

Under the pine trees behind Courts 16 and 17, along Medford Leas Way, Bluettes in large numbers often pop up after a good rain. These choice edible mushrooms hug the ground and hide under the pine needles.

Another variety of choice edible mushrooms, Puffballs, can be found in the woods back of Rushmore. They look like white balls, have a firm white center, and come in many sizes from marbles to golf balls. They are excellent when cut into slices, sautéed, and added to omelets or stews. One very special variety is the Giant Puffball (*Calvatia Gigantea*). To her amazement, **Virginia Mattice** found two of those monster Puffballs, measuring 26 inches in circumference, on the trail in the woods behind the Health Center, where she was working as a member of the Trails Committee. Jane cooked parts of one for an omelette and froze the rest.

A third edible mushroom, similar to the Bluettes, can also be found under pine needles, but these little ones are yellow. Their common name is Slippery Jack, because they are slippery to the touch. Jane says they have to be peeled before cooking. Her final advice: "Never eat a wild mushroom unless you are 100 per cent sure of its identity."

## SECURITY

by Marian Hartman

After failing to find the new phone number of a person I needed to reach, I dialed 411, Information, and was given a new number. This seemed to be the right one, because I recognized the voice on the answering machine.

A short time later, I heard the doorbell. Standing outside was a tall, good-looking police officer. For what? "Ma'am, are you all right?"

"Yes, why wouldn't I be?"

"Are you alone?"

"Yes."

I got worried. Was this an impersonator? Was there an intruder in the neighborhood?

Just then the phone rang. It was Jim from Medford Leas Security. He asked the same questions as the policeman. When he heard the police had come, he said he'd be right over.

Thoroughly confused, I asked the policeman what was going on.

"Ma'am, you dialed 911."

"No sir, I had no reason to . . ."

But then, it came back to me, when I dialed 411, I had accidentally dialed 911 and then quickly hung up the phone before anyone answered.

"It doesn't matter," the policeman responded. "It signals where the call is coming from, so we track it to see if there is a problem." He called his office and told them I was ok. On his way out, he met Jim and told him the same thing. They both waved and departed.

I made myself a cup of tea and mused, "Isn't it nice to know that we have such security at our fingertips without even realizing it."



## ART GALLERY NEWS

by Helen L. Vukasin

The grand opening of the relocated Art Studio Gallery celebrated a bigger-than-ever art exhibit on January 14. The show features works by several new residents who are talented painters, joining the long list of familiar resident painters. The paintings and photographs are hung in the halls outside the Fitness Center and extend around the corner to the new Art Studio facility. Over a hundred visitors came to the opening to see the show and sample the homemade refreshments.

In the Medford Leas Gallery outside the Theater, a show entitled "Works by New Jersey Folk Artist Betty Ann Bemby" will open with a reception on Sunday, February 10, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Betty will share some of her experiences at 2 p.m.

Betty is mostly self-taught, working against the odds to reach her present level. She shows different emotions in her drawings, such as love, peace, harmony, humor, and sometimes sadness. She wants the viewer to feel drawn into her work and to become very much a part of her paintings.

At the Lumberton Art Gallery, the present exhibit features the works of **Katie Lewis**, from the Courts, and new Lumberton resident **Pat Heller**. Since it was hung in December, several significant paintings have been added. There has been no formal opening, but Medford residents are encouraged to get a key from the receptionist on the Medford campus and visit this stunning show before it closes.

### IN MEMORIAM

<b>Mary (Betsy) Dow</b>	<b>December 20</b>
<b>Mary Middleton</b>	<b>December 22</b>
<b>Anne Hennighausen</b>	<b>December 27</b>
<b>Avivah Trost</b>	<b>January 1</b>
<b>Christine Wack</b>	<b>January 13</b>
<b>Henry (Hank) Walters</b>	<b>January 16</b>
<b>Georgette Malnate</b>	<b>January 21</b>
<b>Joseph Roland</b>	<b>January 21</b>

## IOWA CAUCUS REPORT

from Lisa Heineman

[Ed. Note: **Maggie & Herb Heineman's** daughter caucused with the Democrats at Johnson County Precinct 21, a portion of Iowa City with nine delegates. Her report may explain some of the mystery of the Iowa caucuses. The Republican caucus does not operate the same way.]

Doors opened at 6:00 p.m. for new voter registration and registered voter sign-in. Registration was complete at 7:15, so the caucus could begin at 7:20. After the collection plate was passed for the County and State Democratic Party and the rules were read, the next order of business was to divide into presidential preference groups by going to the respective classrooms for the candidates.

On the first round, the count was as follows:

Obama, 223  
 Edwards, 92  
 Clinton, 59  
 Kucinich, 45  
 Biden, 26  
 Richardson, 25  
 Dodd, 13  
 Gravell, 0  
 Undecided, 36

Viability required 15% of attendance, or 78 votes. Republican caucuses use a secret blank ballot on which voters record the names of their choices. The voting ends here. Democrats go a second round. In the second round, people from unviable groups can join another group.

At that point, various procedural problems arose: the chair remembered the rules for second round voting incorrectly; caucus-goers who knew them objected; finally something like peace ensued. People from the two viable preference groups, Obama and Edwards, fanned out through the building, trying to persuade those from unviable groups to join them; various unviable groups tried to combine forces to make a third candidate viable. This part, which lasted for 20 minutes, is when it got heated, with shouting and foot-stomping in the hallways.

Result: 6 delegates for Obama, 3 for Edwards.

The presidential politics finished at 9:00 p.m. and other business (like party platform) took another 1½ hours.

In some respects, representation resulting from the caucus procedure is problematic – only those who can get away for two hours in the evening, only those who are willing to let their preferences be known in public, etc. – and there's a gap between caucus-goer support and delegate count. Each precinct is awarded a certain number of delegates, based on turnout at the last general election. Grinnell's first ward, which includes Grinnell College, had 37 delegates, regardless of the number who showed up at the caucus or their share of Iowa's population. My precinct had nine delegates; some precincts had only one. In other words, 50 caucusers for Obama at Grinnell got more delegates than 50 caucusers for Biden in Sioux County in northwest Iowa.

In closing let me say that I love caucusing. While something is lost in the lack of a secret ballot and the need to devote a whole evening to the process, something is gained in the requirement that people actually talk to each other. It's certainly more participatory than watching TV ads, talking to friends who all support your candidate, and then pulling a lever.

---

## NEW LIFE FOR OLD CELL PHONES

by Ellen Stimler

**Alice Culbreth**, one of our award-winning artists, has taken on a new mission. She collects residents' and employees' old cell phones, together with their chargers, and takes them to the AT&T phone center next to Dick's behind the Moores-town Mall. At that point, the Medford Leas cell phones become part of the nationwide Cell Phones For Soldiers program. Started by two Massachusetts teenagers, it makes prepaid



phone cards available for members of the U.S. Armed Forces, allowing them to make free phone calls to their relatives and friends.

As described on signs in the AT&T store and on the program's website, the discarded cell phones are shipped to ReCellular, a company which recycles the phones and pays the program enough to allow soldiers abroad to talk for one hour on the prepaid phone cards.

There are now over 3,000 drop-off places in the U.S. More than 400,000 calling cards have been distributed, with the help of additional donations and a \$500,000 contribution from AT&T.

Residents who want to participate in this program should take their discarded cell phones with chargers to **Charity Reily's** office, in the back of the X-Ray Suite. Alice will pick them up there.

This program does not replace a similar one in the Burlington County Sheriff's Office, where rehabilitated cell phones are given to needy seniors for 911 calls. Americans are estimated to replace 130 million cell phones each year.

---

## WINTER BIRD COUNT

by Barbara Heizman

January 4 was cold (16° F.) when birders met at the Nature Center. We traced a path through the farm plots where we watched dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows feeding, then over to the Rancocas Creek. There was little activity in the sunny silence.

Returning to the cars, we drove to Bridlington to see what might be going on in the area between homes and the wooded ravine. It was a wise move. We were immediately engulfed by many species. Crabapple berries were ripe and hundreds of Robins and Starlings clustered in the trees, then rushed over our heads to the ravine in a way reminiscent of Hitchcock's film, *The Birds*. All we could see were bellies as they dashed back and forth.

Although charmed and distracted by the display, we worked on the bird count, observing House Sparrows taking dust baths near our feet, two black Vultures floating overhead, and Cardinals, Goldfinches, House Finches, and other species in between. Species worth citing were Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Great Blue Heron and Red-breasted Nuthatch. In all, 28 species were seen and, thanks to the feeding frenzy of Robins and Starlings, more than 478 birds were counted.

The participants were **Ethel Cebra, Doris Curley, Susan Dowling, Barbara Heizman, Jean and Joe Jordan, Perry Krakora, Dave Lewis, Julia Lyman, Arthur Steitz, David and Miriam Swartz, and Louise Tompkins.**

---

## IN THE ARBORETUM

by Kitty Katzell

Several residents have signed up to serve as Arboretum volunteers and more are always needed. As the days grow milder with the onset of spring, others may be thinking about getting outdoors and puttering in the garden. Even those who are not able to do heavy gardening can help with jobs that are involved in maintaining the Arboretum.

There are jobs in many locations on both campuses. Some residents volunteer to keep an eye on a specific area of the campus – a particular court, parking circle, or other spot. Some choose to do weeding or watering of certain plots. Some serve as tour guides for visitors to the Arboretum. Some maintain one or more bulletin boards related to the Arboretum. At certain times of the year, volunteers can help with planting projects. Clearly, the opportunities are almost unlimited.

Anyone who might be interested in volunteering to help with an Arboretum assignment may contact **Herb Minkus**, Coordinator of Landscaping, 3102, or **Kitty Katzell**, 3056, for more information.

## WHO'S NEW



photo by Barbara Degler

**Eileen Clare McManimen** moved to 152 Woodside Drive from Merchantville, NJ, where she was born. After graduating from Merchantville High School and Taylor Business College in Philadelphia, she worked at Rice & Holman Ford (now Holman Lincoln Mercury).

Her next job was a secretarial position at Smith Kline & French (now Glaxo SmithKline) in Philadelphia, from which she moved to Executive Assistant to the President/Chairman of the Board.

Her next job was in the Department of Human Resources, so when SmithKline acquired a site for a new building to house their corporate headquarters, Eileen had to write a job description for Facilities Manager. She applied for and got that job, and became Manager of Administration. For the next two years, as SmithKline representative, she coordinated and maintained oversight of all aspects of the architecture, construction, and interior design of the new building with other professionals. When her duties required her to check construction crew procedures at the site, she donned a hard hat, a rare experience for a woman in the 1970s.

By 1980, Eileen had become Director of Corporate Administration and then advanced to Vice-President of Corporate Administration, the first woman to achieve that position. She retired in 1992.

In her retirement, Eileen served on a committee of corporate representatives set up by then-Mayor Ed Rendell to recommend improvements to the Philadelphia city administration. Later, she served two years on the staff of the Executive Service Corps of Delaware Valley, consultants to administrators of nonprofit organizations.

Eileen has dusted off her tenor saxophone, which she had not played since high school, and joined

several area bands. She also volunteers with the Home School Band of Southern NJ, a major outside activity of students who are home schooled. She has taken up golf and is an avid participant in the women's league at the Merchantville Country Club and two leagues near Ocean City, NJ, where she has a summer home.

Eileen has a niece and two nephews living in North Carolina and looks forward to their summer visits in Ocean City.

by Doris Brown

\* \* \* \* \*

**Bill and Ellie Reifsteck**, Apt. 696, knew about Medford Leas before there was a Medford Leas. Bill was a member of the Haddonfield Zoning Board in the 1960s when The Estaugh boarding home unsuccessfully sought to expand there. He recalls believing strongly that The Estaugh needed more space to build a new facility. Now they live in that "new facility" at Bridlington.

Bill and Ellie were kept abreast of the evolution of Medford Leas by **Laura** and the late **William R. Farr**, who was Bill's mentor when he was a young lawyer. The Farris lived in Woolman Commons in Mt. Holly before moving to the Medford campus.

Bill was born in Camden, grew up in Haddonfield and Indianapolis, and studied at Indiana University, where he met Ellie, an Indiana native. Bill completed most of his education before the draft board requested his service as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in the Army Corps of Engineers and sent him to Orleans, France.

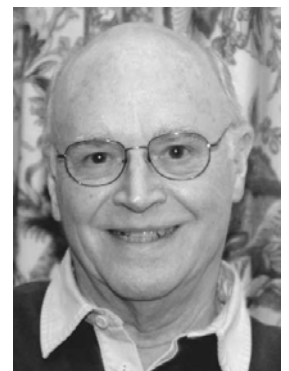


photo by Mrgery Rubin

Meanwhile, Ellie finished a B.A. in speech and theater, a B.S. in speech therapy, and a B.S. in education, and was working as a speech and hearing therapist for several school districts in Indiana. Following a transatlantic courtship and a proposal by long-distance telephone, Ellie traveled to France, and the couple was married

by the Mayor of Orleans in a building made historic by Jeanne D'Arc. Their oldest son was born while they lived in Orleans.

After Bill's discharge from the army, the family returned to Indiana University so Bill could finish his last year of law school. He holds both a B.S. in business administration and an L.L.B.

Then it was back to Haddonfield, where Bill completed his clerkship and was admitted to the New Jersey Bar and subsequently to those of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.



photo by Margery Rubin

Besides raising their two sons and a daughter, Ellie was named New Jersey Jaycee-ette of 1964 and was an avid collector of 146 Byers Choice Carolers. She is accomplished at needlepoint and cross-stitch. Bill filled his free time playing tennis and gardening.

Bill and Ellie have six grandsons and a granddaughter.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Ruth Harker (Acton) Spendelow**, Apt. 88, has lived in Medford, on Braddock's Mill Lake, for 38 years. She still has to dissolve her large household and move needed furniture into her new apartment. She says she was a kind of packrat and used to retrieve items discarded by her husband in the trash.

Ruth was familiar with Medford Leas because her mother-in-law, **Mabel Spendelow**, was one of the "pioneer" residents here, and an aunt and uncle, **Mr. and Mrs. William Harker Acton**, also lived here. Ruth knows **Elmer** and **Thelma Rowley** from birding trips and the New Jersey Audubon Society.

Ruth grew up in Quebec Province in Canada, went to a local school through the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, then transferred to a boarding school in Natick, MA. She has an A.B. degree from Smith College,

where she majored in geology. Ruth met her future husband, Howard, on a double date with a friend of an older brother. They married in 1942, after Howard received a metallurgical engineering degree from MIT.

Howard's jobs for different companies dictated a number of moves on the East Coast during his professional career, including periods near Niagara Falls and Chappaqua, NY, and Newfield, NJ.

During these moves, Ruth was busy taking care of three sons and a daughter and doing volunteer work. The family moved to Medford in 1969. After Howard retired, he and Ruth began to indulge their bird-watching passion by going on exotic trips, including two visits to Attu, the birding mecca in Alaska's Aleutian islands, to Costa Rica, and to South Africa. Howard died from a heart attack in 1987 while he and Ruth were taking a walk in the neighborhood.

Ruth is interested in genealogy, gardening, Sudoku, and jigsaw puzzles. She is on the board of the Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge and is a member of the Medford Historical Society and of the Burlington County Natural Sciences Club, which meets in the Lumberton Campus Community Center. But most of her time is spent keeping up with her four children's families, which include seven grandchildren and eight great-grands.

by Ellen Stimler



photo by Margery Rubin

## RICHARD FINE BIOGRAPHY

Residents who had known **Dick Fine** learned many new things about him at his memorial service. An 18-page biography of Dick, using his family's remarks at the memorial service, is now in the Medford Leas Library.

## FEBRUARY CRYPTOGRAM

by John Caughey

LZRKONEBRY RE ISOEHMOH RO  
 MTT SHBKZ HBROCE, EMJK RO HBK  
 SLLRIK MON MLLMRZE SL TSJK:  
 HBKZKLSZK, MTT BKMZHE RO TSJK  
 VEK HBKRZ SFO HSOCVKE;  
 TKH KJKZX KXK OKCSHRMHK LSZ  
 RHEKTL MON HZVEH OS MCKOH.  
 --EBMUKEYKMZK

Here is the solution to the January cryptogram by Ellen Stimler:

IF WE HAD NO WINTER, THE SPRING WOULD NOT BE SO PLEASANT; IF WE DID NOT SOMETIMES TASTE OF ADVERSITY, PROSPERITY WOULD NOT BE SO WELCOME.  
 --ANNE BRADSTREET

The correct solution was received from 40 readers: Helen and Ken Anderson, Miriam Angle, Judy Braddy, Florence Brudon, Marion Burk, Judy Cardona, John Caughey, Gwen Crawley, Anne Cree, Alice Culbreth, Doris Curley, Liz Dill, Betty Donahue, Jan Durbin, Louise Evaul, Mary Fenimore, Dorothy Garver, Mickey Gray, Herb Heineman, Barbara Heizman, Patti Hopton, Eleanor Horner, Hugh Jenkins, Sally Klos, Mary Mason, Mary Ann Metzger, Bob Morrow, Alice Norcross, Helen Peterson, Ed Porter, Betty Preston, Warren Reeves, Doris Salati, Florence Sawyer, Peg Scott, Miriam Ward, Ellen Wiener, Gladys Wynkoop, and one anonymous solver.

Please put your solution in an envelope in Box 116 by February 10 or send it by email to [estimler@medleas.com](mailto:estimler@medleas.com). New interesting cryptograms are always welcome.

## MEDFORD LEAS LIFE

*Ex Officio:* Wil Britten, MLRA President; George Rubin, MLRA Sponsor

*Editorial Staff:* Ellen Stimler and Kitty Katzell, Senior Editors; Elsie Behmer, Kay Cooley, Sue Heath, Sumi Kobayashi, Betsy Pennink, Maggie Woodard

*Staff Photographer:* Margery Rubin

*Proofreaders:* The editorial staff, Herb Heineman, Sally Klos, Florence Sawyer

*Business Manager:* Gene Raup

*Production Manager:* Maggie Heineman

*Distributors:* Pete Johnson, Mary Lou Mullen, Mary Toda

*Recorder:* Florence Sawyer

Medford Leas Life is published monthly, September through June, by the Medford Leas Residents Association. Copies are distributed to all residents and to those on the waiting list. Subscriptions are available to others at \$7.50 per 10-issue volume by writing to Medford Leas Life, 144 Medford Leas, Medford, NJ 08055. Medford Leas can be reached by phone at (609) 654-3000; by FAX at (609) 654-7894; on the World Wide Web at [medfordleas.org](http://medfordleas.org). The email address is [information@medfordleas.org](mailto:information@medfordleas.org). When using FAX or email, specify the name of the person to receive the message. The Medford Leas Residents Association has a separate website at [mlra.org](http://mlra.org).

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



printed by Minuteman Press, Berlin, NJ