



Medford Leas *Life*

VOL. XXXVII, No.1

JANUARY 2009



See more Margery Rubin 2008 Holiday Show photos, in color, on mlra.org

MEDFORD LEAS SHOW OF SHOWS

by Suzanne Frank & Sue Heath

What's all this jingling and running about?
 "Amateurs! amateurs!" newcomers might shout,
 But for seasoned residents, **this is their show**,
 A gift given by those they care about and know.

Holidays Round the World was the stated theme,
 Lively dancing and singing was there to be seen.
 Finely tuned humor was sprinkled with clout
 In songs and skits lovingly given a shout.

A transported Queen from England made clear
 That Philip, while useful, can't get too near.
 A jolly leprechaun followed, with beard of green,
 Who sang and joked – a creature not often seen.

A bevy of redheads from Ireland appeared --
 From Killarney, came singing, and we all cheered.
 Next came the Scots master of all that pervades
 In kilts yet, to join his crew of wizard comrades.

Since France's Alouette is a "known-by-all" song,
 It had the audience robustly singing along.
 Dylan Thomas, the Welsh poet, was quoted well.
 His "toward a two-tongued sea" rang a bell.

Ah, Schnitzelbank, how we loved ye, uproarious gang.
 "Ist das nicht ein stander upper" went off with a bang.

*"Cute man this, great big kiss, Stander upper,
 get to supper, Muscle weak, grand physique,
 Tannenbaum great big palm..."*

There followed a well-timed quieter interlude,
 The singing of *Silent Night* put us in the mood.
 The Austrian von Trapp singers went totally ape
 With lyrics their clients surely helped to shape.

*"Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
 Polident and Fixodent, false teeth in glasses,
 Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
 These are a few of my favorite things."*

The curtain came down for a Scandinavian tale
 And Poland had dancers whose polka didn't fail.
 A Buddhist monk Hoesioho is Japan's Santa Claus
Italian Santas ride a donkey -- who can forget the
 hee-haws?

What Chanukah and the dreidel mean to Israel was
 told gaily

And India's winter holiday is New Year's 'cause it's
 Hindu mainly.

The North Pole never saw the likes of our gyrating
 elves

And the Philippines had dazzlingly clothed representa-
 tives -- themselves.

Outstanding in dress were Ghana, Liberia and Sierra
Leone dancing.

The Handyman and woman of Australia were rau-
 cously prancing.

*"Who can change a light bulb, tighten up a screw?
 Who can fix the toilet and have it done by noon?"*

The Handyman, the Handyman can.

The Handyman can, the Handyman can

The Handyman can

'Cause he fixes it with love

And makes the toilet work good."

Feliz Navidad and poinsettias were Mexico's choice,
 And then a cast-filled stage with multiple-octave voice
 Ended the incredibly fun-loving gift by the staff,
 The humorous musically-tinged acts that made us all
 laugh.

* * * * *

Backstage note: Speaking of the origin of this festive night, **Gerry Stride**, Director of Community Life as well as playwright and force behind this huge effort, said, "A committee picks a theme and then each department is assigned a part which fits its particular talents. Each department then creates the costumes and develops its own interpretation, embellishing it with their own 'tools.' I never know what's going to happen in the end! It's just neat to have people step up and create such a night of fun. I'm very gratified when I look out over the audience and see the residents smile and I know that every single person who participated feels the same way."

GINGERBREAD HOUSES

The gingerbread houses displayed in the Atrium are a Medford Leas Christmas tradition. The basic houses are made by **Brad Mauger**, Executive Chef, and decorated by employee volunteers.

EAGLE SCOUT AT MEDFORD LEAS

by Betsy Pennink

An impressive ceremony, the Eagle Court of Honor, was held in the theater at Medford Leas on November 22. Robert Marshall Romano of Troop 14, Marlton, NJ, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. The culmination of his years of earning 21 merit badges (of which 12 were required) was the completion of his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project at Medford Leas in April 2008.



Most Eagle Scout projects take place outdoors, but Robert's involved an indoor activity. He had discovered on the Internet that some residents in retirement homes enjoy playing *Wii*, a Nintendo video game system that gives players the chance to bowl or play golf or tennis electronically.

Since one of the purposes of the Leadership Service Project is to benefit a nonprofit organization, Robert hoped to set up a *Wii* system in a nearby retirement home. Robert's mother knew about Medford Leas, so Robert phoned **Jane Weston**, Director of Marketing and Community Relations, in July 2007 and told her he would like to install such a system and teach the residents how to play. He suggested that the games would "benefit the seniors because they will be able to exercise,

increase their motor skills, have fun, and be able to socialize."

Jane agreed, but explained that construction of the game room would not be finished until early 2008. In fact, this gave Robert and his troop time to raise \$355 for the necessary equipment. Meanwhile Jane alerted **Dick Feaster**, who, with his wife, **Happy**, and **Bud** and **Jean Stratton**, head the Fun, Recreation and Fitness Committee. The Feasters, who are proud parents of an Eagle Scout, helped with the arrangements for the two training sessions for residents and the final Scouts vs. residents tournament that Robert had planned.

Demonstration of leadership ability is part of the Eagle Scout project and Robert showed his skill in organizing the troop members who put the *Wii* together and helped to train the residents. There were 28 residents in the first session, 19 in the second, and 21 at the tournament.

At the November 22 ceremony those assembled consisted mainly of Scouts taking part and adults who had been involved in Robert's achievements. Foremost were Robert's parents: Tony Romano, Scoutmaster of Troop 14, and Dawn Romano, active committee member. Some of the residents who had participated in the training also attended.

The elaborate Eagle Court of Honor protocol included an Honor Guard, a candle-lighting ceremony and recitation of the Eagle Pledge. Robert received an award and a pin, and an Assistant Scoutmaster tied an Eagle Scout scarf around his neck. Robert's mother and father each received a pin.

After some speeches, Dick Feaster congratulated Robert and presented Dawn Romano with a framed tribute to "the mother of an Eagle Scout and the wife of a Scoutmaster" that had been given to Happy years ago.

After Robert's sister Lauren came forward to give her brother a scrapbook she had made for him, Robert recognized the other Eagle Scouts present, thanked everyone who had helped him on his way, and encouraged the other troop members to achieve this highest rank.

MARTIN LUTHER KING ADDRESS

by David Lewis



The Reverend Ward B. Ewing, Dean of the General Theological Seminary in New York City, will be the speaker at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observance on Saturday, January 10, in the Medford Leas Theater at 11 am.

Dean Ewing's ministry has combined excellent scholarship with congregational development. He is a noted author on empowerment of congregations and editor of numerous adult education curricula.

This annual MLK observance is co-sponsored by the MLRA Forum and Diversity Committees. The public is invited.

MEDFORD LEAS READS

by David Lewis

The MLRA Diversity Committee is pleased to invite residents to join in the second community reading and book discussion program. This year's selection is *The Soloist*, by Steve Lopez, a former columnist for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Residents who participated in the first Leas Reads will remember reading *The Color of Water* and the interesting meetings held to discuss the book.

The Soloist, a non-fiction best-seller, tells the story of a street musician on a Los Angeles skid row and the reporter who befriends and attempts to help him. Both of their lives are changed in ways neither of them could have anticipated.

Details of the program will be announced shortly. Residents are alerted now to give them time to obtain the book and read it before the scheduled book discussion on April 28 from 3 to 5 pm in the Holly and Gathering Rooms. The Medford Leas Library has one copy of the book. Residents who do not want to buy the book on their own may order it through the discount purchase system of the Diversity Committee.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

by Maggie Woodard



photo by Margery Rubin

The talented, vivacious, competent, and charming **Donna Coonley** received the Employee of the Quarter Award for the third quarter of 2008. A member of the Department of Marketing & Community Relations, her title is Marketing Administrative Assistant.

When asked what she liked best about her job, she replied: "My interaction with people – residents, fellow employees, and potential residents."

There are other benefits besides the honor of being named the Employee of the Quarter: a small gold "You are a Star" pin, a gift certificate for \$150, attendance at the annual dinner, and participation in the selection of the Employee of the Year.

The Human Resources Department is in charge of the Employee of the Quarter and Employee of the Year awards, but the selection is made by a special committee whose members are **Beverly Kannengieszer**, Director of Fitness & Aquatics; **Tammy Gerhart**, Resident Services Administrative Assistant; **Denise Zaugra**, LPN on Estaugh and 2007 Employee of the Year; **Matt Alibrando**, Accountant/Analyst; and **Pat Wilus**, Director of Human Resources. This committee meets quarterly to consider nominations made by staff and residents. The number of nominees for Employee of the Quarter has ranged between four and forty. Pat Wilus summarizes the nominations, concealing the names. The Committee meets, reviews the anonymous summaries and selects the winner.

The goal of the Employee of the Quarter program is to "recognize outstanding employees and acknowledge their accomplishments and contributions to Medford Leas."

Congratulations again, Donna!

THE NEW GIFT SHOP

by Kitty Katzell

The Grand Reopening Sale on November 18 was a success as residents got their first look at the completely remodeled Gift Shop and enjoyed shopping at the special displays in the Atrium. The sale was staffed by the regular buyers and sales staff of the Gift Shop, and all seemed happy with the new arrangements.

Joan Bellman, the manager, says she focuses on the needs of the residents. They want to buy things that are small, not expensive, traditional, and of good quality, for family, friends, and themselves. Joan worked closely with **Gerry Dickerson**, assistant manager, to plan and organize the new space and set out the stock so all would be ready for the Grand Reopening. The merchandise is displayed artfully on open shelves, and additional stock is accessible in cupboards beneath the shelves. There are two lighted display cabinets outside the entry doors in the Atrium for exhibits of special merchandise. In addition to small gift items, the shop provides a wide variety of greeting cards, various pharmaceutical and personal care items, cookies, candy, standard and hearing aid batteries, facial tissue, jewelry, and stationery.

The Gift Shop will now be open five days a week between 1:30 and 5:00 pm and shoppers are invited to stop in. The wider floor space inside permits patrons with walkers to move about freely. Electric carts are not allowed in the shop for safety reasons. Transactions are for cash; an IOU form is available if a shopper doesn't carry cash. Proceeds are donated to the MLRA Activities and Employee Appreciation Funds.

Sales volunteers are needed to serve as often as possible on shifts of 1¾ hours. Positions as buyers and assisting managers are also sometimes available. Both men and women, singles and couples, are encouraged to volunteer. It's a pleasant place to be and the work is light. One gets to meet residents and staff that one might otherwise never see. Schedules can be arranged to suit each volunteer's

convenience. Contact Joan Bellman (3695) or Gerry Dickerson (3075) for more information and to sign up.

ART GALLERY NEWS

by Helen L. Vukasin

In January, the Medford Leas Gallery will host the annual Members Exhibit of the South Jersey Camera Club. The opening reception on Tuesday, January 20, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm in the lobby of the Theater will precede the Club's January meeting. Residents and the public are invited.

In the Art Studio Gallery the works of 27 resident artists will continue to be shown for a few more months. Some of the paintings have been sold and replaced.

At Lumberton, the December exhibits will continue in January (see December *ML Life*, p. 5).

The town of Medford has a beautiful new and spacious Gallery called *Off Main* at 32 South Main Street. Resident **Rita Keiper** was invited to hang seven small works in the show for the grand opening.

Ten paintings by resident artists are on exhibit in the Pinelands Branch of the Burlington County Library in Medford.

IN MEMORIAM

Ann Walker	November 28
Grace Garcia	November 30
Margery Larrabee	December 1
Vivian Hart	December 4
Katharine Church	December 4
Glenna Dean	December 10
R. Milton Gray	December 16

RESIDENTS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Russell I. Haley was asked to serve as judge for the prestigious 2009 Ogilvy Awards for excellence in Advertising Research. They will be presented at the 55th Annual Advertising Research Foundation's Convention on March 31, 2009, at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City.

Judging will take place between January 28 and February 4, 2009. The Advertising Research Foundation is considered to be the "the premier foundation in the advertising industry for creating, aggregating, synthesizing, and sharing knowledge." Russell Haley is a member of two national research Halls of Fame.

* * * * *

On December 5, the Phillis Bridge Farm Project in New Paltz, NY, recognized the contribution of **Helen Vukasin**, by appointing her the first Honorary Trustee. The Farm Project is a demonstration organic farm that educates children and adults about growing toxin-free produce and sells the harvest in prepaid shares. Helen was the co-founder of the farm in 1994. The not-for-profit corporation now owns the land, and the project is doing well.

WHO'S NEW

photos by Margery Rubin



"I have the best children in the world," declared **Elizabeth (Betty) Tancredi Fabrizio**, Apt. 202, talking about her daughter in Mt. Laurel and her sons in New York and Australia. Together, they decided Medford

Leas was the best place for her after visiting ten retirement communities in New Jersey.

Proudly, she showed her visitor a large-screen TV set and a computer with a webcam to permit Betty to talk with her son in Australia while both can see each other on their screens. She said her chil-

dren purchased all the items, and one of her sons installed everything and showed her how to use email and the Skype program for the video conversations. Betty has visited her son in Australia three times and has a very loving relationship with her daughter-in-law.

Betty grew up in Philadelphia and married Alfred Fabrizio a few years after graduating from high school. Not long into the marriage, Alfred contracted multiple sclerosis, which his doctors attributed to his service in the Air Force. Betty spent 15 years as nurse to her husband and mother to her three children. Alfred died at age 36 when the children were 12, 9, and 7.

Betty had to go to work and found a job in the underwriting department of an insurance company. She retired in 1987. Betty has traveled widely with her daughter and loves to read. She stays in touch with her sons by email and uses the Internet to get answers to her questions.

As to her new home, she says: "I'm very happy here. I've met so many wonderful people. I like everyone I met."

E.S.

* * * * *

In this bad housing market, **Ila Jane Hill Stiles** was one of the lucky ones: She sold her house in Medford on the day she moved into Apartment 135. She is the mother of William (Bill) Stiles, a popular dentist in Medford who has many Medford Leas patients. Her older son, Robert, is a metallurgical engineer in Southampton, CT.



Ila Jane grew up in Philadelphia and went to Logan Demonstration School and Philadelphia High School for Girls. Interested in teaching physical education, she attended Stroudsburg Teachers College (now University) to obtain teaching credentials in health and physical education. In the summer of 1949, she found a job as waitress in

Ocean City. The sister of Lee Stiles, her future husband, was a coworker who invited her to her home to play cards. There she met Lee, and they were married in 1952, after her graduation.

Lee was a salesman "who could sell you anything," Ila Jane said. The couple's first home was in Beverly, NJ, but Lee's job required them to move to different towns in New Jersey until they finally settled in Medford in 1963. Before her children were born, Ila Jane taught physical education in the Florence schools, but in Medford there were no openings in phys. ed. She was offered a librarian job if she would obtain the needed certificate. So she went to Glassboro (now Rowan University) and earned a degree in library science. She worked in the Medford schools until 1994, the year she was honored as Teacher of the Year.

In 1986, the Stiles bought a small house in Stone Harbor, where they spent parts of the summer for many years. Lee died in 2004. Ila Jane still owns the summer home and likes to spend August and September there, renting it out during the earlier months.

Ila Jane is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, an organization of educators, and is active in the Faith Presbyterian Church in Medford. She likes walking, knitting, and traveling. She has six grandchildren.

E.S.

* * * * *



Sara Blackburn has moved into Apt. 275 from Haddonfield, NJ. In a sense she has "come home." She was born and raised in Haddonfield, but life has taken her to places far away.

Sara graduated from Camden Catholic High School, then attended St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines in Asheville, NC. She met her husband when a friend brought a fraternity brother, Charlie, from Memphis, TN, to a party at her home in Haddonfield. She and Charlie clicked, and they

were married in 1955. Her husband's work as a mechanical engineer for an elevator company took them to New York City and Kalamazoo, MI. During this time she was a "professional Mom," rearing two boys and two girls.

Her husband eventually became president and general manager of a plant. When he retired in 1985, the couple went to live in Chattanooga, TN. She was overjoyed when he said, "Let's go back to Haddonfield." They bought a boat and a house on a lake, and they renewed acquaintance with old friends and made new ones. Unfortunately, Charlie died within 1½ years after moving back to Haddonfield.

When Sara suffered a shoulder injury from a fall, her children decided she should no longer live alone. She and her friend Jane looked at several retirement communities. Sara liked the friendly atmosphere and meals at Medford Leas. Although her friend Jane has yet to move in, Sara is very pleased with her new home.

Sara used to play tennis, but has given that up since her shoulder injury. She likes music and gardening. She loves to travel and has been with Jane to the Canadian Rockies, Ireland, and Jerusalem.

Sara's maiden name is Doyle. When she was a child, Haddonfield was much smaller than it is now. If anyone knows former residents of Haddonfield who knew the Doyle family, she would very much like to get in touch with them.

Sumi Kobayashi

FITNESS DAY AND LUNCHEON

The 2009 Fitness Day is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, with the theme of *Total Body Fitness*. There will be an aquatic class and demonstration in the Pool and other activities before and after the Fitness Luncheon in the Garden Room. Invitations and program details will be distributed to residents' Atrium mailboxes.

JANUARY CRYPTOGRAM

by Ellen Stimler

EP'O W HKJC PEIA
 YKIEJC, XQP PKJECDP,
 XAYWQOA KB SDWP SA ZEZ
 KJ PDEO ZWU, EJ PDEO
 AHAYPEKJ, WP PDEO ZABEJEJC
 IKIAJP, YDWJCA DWO YKIA PK
 WIANEYW.

–BNKI KXWIW'O REYPKNU OLAAYD

Here is the solution to the December cryptogram by Ruth Blattenberger:

BELLS ON BOBTAIL RING / MAKING SPIRITS
 BRIGHT / WHAT FUN IT IS TO LAUGH AND
 SING / A SLEIGHING SONG TONIGHT.
 --JAMES LORD PIERPOINT

The correct solution was received from 24 readers: **Ken Anderson, Miriam Angle, Marion Burk, John Caughey, Alice Culbreth, Doris Curley, Liz Dill, Louise Evaul, Herb Heineman, Barbara Heizman, Ariel Huyn, Sally Klos, Mary Hope Mason, Eileen McManimen, Mary Ann Metzger, Alice Norcross, Helen Peterson, Betty Pres-ton, Warren Reeves, Doris Salati, Peg Scott, Miriam Ward, Ellen Wiener,** and one resident who failed to leave a name on the solution card.

Please put your solution in an envelope in Box 162 by January 10 or send it by email to estimler@medleas.com. We encourage solvers to submit new cryptograms for future use.

MEDFORD LEAS LIFE

Ex Officio: Barbara Trought, MLRA President; Wil Britten, MLRA Sponsor

Editorial Staff: Ellen Stimler and Kitty Katzell, Senior Editors; Elsie Behmer, Kay Cooley, Suzanne Frank, 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

Layout: Maggie Heineman, Dave Bartram

Distributors: Wilma Fitzpatrick, Mary Lou Mullen, Fran Reynolds

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. The email address is 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.

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



printed by Minuteman Press, Berlin, NJ