



# Medford Leas Life

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## FITNESS HAD ITS DAY

by Suzanne Frank

"I got a good tip for helping me get out of a sofa. I just put a phone book next to me for support," said **Ruth Spendelow**, with appreciation. **Kristen Perkowski**, PT, Genesis Rehab Therapy, had just given a minilecture on strength and fitness as part of Medford Leas Fitness Day XV held on January 27. Kristen's suggestions were praised by **Joy Moll** and **Jean Stratton**, who both had personal reasons to be impressed by the cooperation and communication between the Therapy and Fitness staffs.



Beverly helps Elizabeth Platt with an against-the-wall push-up

Presented by the MLRA Fun, Recreation, and Fitness Committee along with the Fitness and Aquatics Department, residents were treated to

a full day of how to go about improving their health and their lives. Specific educational sessions were set up in the Atrium, run by **Beverly Kannengieszer**, **Ken Roland**, **Rick Trandahl**, and **Ed Ellis**, all of Fitness and Aquatics, on strategies to improve sports skills, functional balance, and dynamic movement, and to learn new methods to make daily chores simple. The emphasis of participating staff was to put exercise and some physical activity into everyone's daily schedule.

A relaxed **Aline Page** said, as she exited the silky curtain that was the entrance to the Morning Spa, "I'm a new woman! I always come here first." No wonder the lines were long outside the Lounge, which featured wonderfully soothing hand massages, warm herb neck packs, and slow relaxing back massages. People glowed in response to the pleasure they had experienced. **Kay Hoagland** added, "It felt wonderful...and the staff is so caring." Both **Barbara** and **Allen Lewis** remarked that they especially appreciated the feeling of comfort they got from the hot neck packs, which **Bud Stratton** faithfully reheated in the microwave.

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## THIS MONTH

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Ken and Rick led a Balance Class in the Theater in which the audience was told an amazing fact: that a cafeteria tray loaded with a normal meal's empty dishes alone weighed five pounds and created a balance challenge for some. They advised that holding trays closer to the body would offset some of the weight and thus be less likely to put a person off balance. Ken strongly emphasized that "everything is in weight shifting," and suggested that classes in balance would help not only with tray holding but with building strength and confidence in participants, so they could change speed in walking, going up and down stairs, and traversing uneven surfaces.

Those who were looking for a better golf or tennis swing or wanted to strengthen their muscles were part of Ed's demonstration using the Dual Pulley System in the Fitness Center. Ed introduced this new exercise machine by having various residents give it a go. **John Bartholomew** remarked that he could feel the effect of his many golf swings on the muscles of his back, and **Elaine Heinzelmann** chuckled as she remarked that it was too bad that she was already 90 when first introduced to these challenging exercises.

And then it was time for the Fitness Day Luncheon, which was by reservation only. Bud welcomed an eager audience of 165 in the not-a-seat-empty Garden Room. **Colette Bartholomew** took the microphone on behalf of the Fitness Committee and spoke about its early days and some of the activities – even synchronized swimming – that had been successfully tried over the years.

The room suddenly hushed when a wonderful surprise was sprung on Beverly, commemorating her 15 years with Medford Leas. The in-the-flesh appearance of **Debbie Grigg**, her first hire for the Fitness Department, brought tears to Beverly's eyes, as did a collage of meaningful staff photographs. Everyone in the room raised a glass to celebrate and honor Beverly's 15th anniversary. Comments about Beverly flowed easily as Debbie wondered aloud, "How does she remember so many things about so many

people? Is it because she cares so much? And how, under her leadership, staff working for her seemed to grow as individuals?"



Ed, Sandy Heath and the Dual Pulley System

Awards were presented to **Adele Scull** and **Connie Bacha**, who were inducted into the Century Fitness Club for 2008 and 2009, and to **Mary Fenimore**, the 2010 inductee. **Ruth Spendelow** was honored for her unending volunteerism. (Beverly: "We love her to death.") **Kay Roberts** and Fuller, the Service Dog, were honored for exercising five days a week both in Medford and in Lumberton. And **Bill Scull** was lauded for exercising five days a week and being eager to learn something new as well as increasing his strength, mobility, and balance so he could move from John Woolman to Assisted Living.

**Elizabeth (Betty) Fabrizio** did not attend the luncheon, but received her award for "most im-

proved" later in the day in the Fitness Center. She was overwhelmed and ecstatic for being honored, according to Ed and Beverly.

**Gerry Stride**, Director of Community Life, led everyone in singing the inspired and clever fitness songs, which she composed herself. When everyone had settled down, CEO **Dennis Koza** praised Beverly by giving her an "A for accomplishment" in being a true leader who molded her staff into such a cohesive unit. He commended her for everything she has done and for whom she is as a person.

The luncheon ended with Beverly thanking everyone. She especially thanked **Dolores Redner**, Health Administrator, and the Administration for the support her group has been given. And, being as fit as she is, Beverly was able to easily carry home two enormous bouquets.

### MLRA SPRING TEA

On Tuesday, March 23, MLRA is holding its Spring Tea from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the Holly Room and the Activities Room. Everyone is encouraged to attend, sip some tea, coffee or punch, nibble on delectables, and meet new residents as well as old acquaintances. Please wear name tags.



### HERE'S TO THEM

Comfy in our dens were we  
TV working busily.

Plenty of food was near at hand  
When snow again fell on the land.

But out of our hearing  
The snow they were clearing  
From streets and from paths  
With wonderful swaths.

Sidewalks and driveways,  
Parking lots and byways,  
Drains and hydrants all were cleared.  
Snow by **them** is never feared.

"**Them**" is the crew who is always there  
Working hour on hour – Is it really fair?  
But we the residents give all our thanks  
Not only to those in the Maintenance ranks.

But also to all who worked long extra hours  
Huge appreciation is truly ours.  
For a job that was extremely well done  
Residents' gratitude was certainly won.

### SNOW PARKING

The snow at Medford Leas has been parked for much, much longer than the 10-minute space in front of the Community Building permits! The unofficial totals: 24 inches fell during Blizzard I (December 19-20, 2009), 20 inches during Blizzard II (February 5-6), 16 inches during Blizzard III (February 9-10). That's roughly 60 inches and for residents and staff alike much, much more than enough!



## DISPLAY CASE

by Maggie Woodard and Alex Webb

(Lili Wronker handwrote the signs identifying the birds. Color photos of the entire exhibit are on mlra.org)

The current exhibit in the Display Case contains 15 of **Alex Webb's** beautiful wooden bird carvings. Alex started making decoys and decorative birds in 1982 after he retired. His brother-in-law sent him a wood block and instructions on how to carve. Because Alex had made furniture and model boats in past years, he was not a novice woodworker, carving with old scalpels his father had used as a veterinarian. To put feathers, etc. on a completed carving, Alex prefers using a burning tool rather than painting. The tool is attached to a transformer that controls the degree of heat. The hotter the tool, the darker the mark it creates. The burning operation is called "detailling." The detailer is fountain-pen size. Alex used to carve three or four birds a year; he now makes one or two. Calling himself a hobbyist carver, he enjoys creating the birds.

The creation of a waterfowl "decoy" began in the United States and is considered our oldest form of pop art. American Indians first made them out of bunches of straw or salt grass to attract ducks, geese, and other waterfowl into bow and arrow range. This method of hunting began in the early 18th century. A gradual increase in demand for waterfowl as food, with a corresponding increase in the number of waterfowl hunters, plus the advent and use of firearms, brought a dramatic change in decoy art as well as competition for better decoys.

Attempts to produce decoys from wood that were more lifelike soon followed. As in any art form, some decoys were more realistic than others, but always the decoys were made to attract the waterfowl.

The earliest manufacture of a wooden decoy began simply by use of a hatchet, draw knife, pocket knife, and file. Hundreds of producers worked at it, many part-time. Improvements in the art continued, with perhaps 20-30 men at the "quality peak" of the art through the mid-20th

century, when demand for wild duck as food diminished. The advent of factory-made decoys also competed with the man-made, as well as the plastic decoys.

Collecting decoys as a hobby began after World War II and continues (much the same as collecting antique furniture, coins, paintings), with regional auctions in half a dozen parts of the country. A new trend in waterfowl carving and painting began to gain favor about 1980, called Decorative Birds, where the artist strives for absolute realism, both in the bird and the setting. These "decoys" are not for use in hunting, but as decorative works of art. Some decoy carvers made the transition to decorative birds. A new group of artist/carvers appeared, producing birds (ducks and shorebirds) in such perfect detail that they are almost impossible to distinguish from a live waterfowl!



photo by Margery Rubin

The birds in the Display Case are all decorative birds (ducks, geese, shorebirds) except for the life-size Pintail decoy on the second shelf in the middle section. This is a copy of a Pintail carved by Elmer Crowell that recently sold for one million dollars. (Crowell, who passed away in 1952, started out as a duck hunter and artist and is still considered one of the finest.) The Bluewing Teal on the middle shelf of the left section illustrates how the burning tool and paint create feathers and a realistic head. The Red Knot on the top shelf of the same section shows how the burning tool can create different colored feathers. The Ruddy Turnstone on the middle shelf is another good example.

## DON BERNARD, PROBLEM SOLVER

by Ellen Stimler

Every Tuesday and Thursday, from 10 am to noon, **Don Bernard**, a retired IBM employee who is on the waiting list, volunteers in the Medford Leas Computer Room, solving whatever problems residents bring to him. In addition, he makes house calls to residents' apartments for private instruction at a nominal fee.



photo by Margery Rubin

Don said he isn't looking for business but enjoys helping residents solve their computer questions and problems.

Don has been doing this for close to 17 years, starting in the original computer room on the third floor of Haddon, and then moving to the room across from the Fitness Center when the third floor was converted into Assisted Living.

Don retired in 1991 as senior systems engineer and wanted to make his computer skills available to children and to seniors. He was hired to teach a computer course in the evening Adult School of the Vo-Tech High School in Medford. **Kitty Katzell** approached him after class and asked if he would be interested in helping to start a computer program at Medford Leas. She put him in touch with the late **Walter Zwarg**, who had received the go-ahead from **Lois Forrest**, the executive director at the time.

Don and Walter collaborated to buy first one, and then a second computer, with money lent by the Administration. The loan was paid back from fees charged to computer users. Eventually

there were five computers in the third-floor room, and Don continued his twice-weekly problem-solving visits. He also taught several classes on various computer programs.

In the current Computer Room, there are three PCs, an Apple computer, a scanner, and a laser printer. **Gil Goering**, also an IBM alum, is the chair of the Computer Committee and is available much of the time to assist with use of the equipment. Services made available include Internet access, email, scanning and printing documents, word processing, games, and various other programs. Regular users of these services are asked to make an annual contribution of \$20-\$50, based on Committee guidelines, to pay for necessary maintenance and purchases.

Don said he usually manages to help from three to five residents. If there is any spare time, he clears out excess files to avoid computer slowdown, installs new software, and advises on new purchases. Setting up spreadsheets, the bane of many users, is one of Don's specialties. He said his IBM experience was different from Gil's; they work well together and still learn from each other.

Don and his wife Suellen live in Medford Commons, about a ten-minute drive from Medford Leas. Their six children and all but one of their 14 grandchildren are within easy visiting distance from Medford.

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## SITTING TOO LONG?

Sitting too long at the computer, watching TV, reading, or playing cards? Here are some useful moves to keep neck and joints from hurting, according to **Tammy Beckett**, OTR, of Genesis Rehab Therapy:

- Avoid one position for a long period of time
- Move and stretch arms
- Open and close fingers every 10 minutes
- Limit the time spent at one activity.

## WHY I LOVE MY iPHONE

by Betsy Pennink

When I first saw an iPhone several years ago, I thought it was just another amusing toy. We were at Thanksgiving dinner, and my nephew pulled out his new iPhone and, with a few taps on its screen, showed our Kenyan visitor an aerial map of his home, zooming in until we thought we could almost see his mother!



In the end, this turned out to be just an interesting feature of the new smartphone. I discovered its real value when my husband gave me one for our wedding anniversary last spring.

After getting used to using one finger to tap commands on its screen, I found that I could easily place phone calls, send emails, and (how modern can you get?) send a text message.

Typing a message, either for emails or for texting, is fun. A little keyboard, similar to that of a typewriter, appears. I sometimes wish I had tiny fingers to tap out the letters, but it's not hard to get the hang of it. Whenever one sends a text message to someone, all the previous messages sent to and received from that person appear on the screen. It's a great record of the "conversation."

If the words on the screen seem too small, the iPhone has the answer. Touching the tips of the thumb and another finger together on its screen and then pulling them apart zooms the image in. The text can be made small again by reversing the procedure, called "pinching." The text goes up or down when a fingertip is dragged up or down on the screen.

This smartphone also has a camera, which takes excellent photos. To send a picture by email, one tap and it goes out with the message, a very satisfying action, especially if there's important information to be conveyed.

The iPhone has a lot of other features for communication. I've gone on the Internet, checked the weather, and used the maps. All the symbols (icons) on its screen lead to something interesting. I'll explore them some day. Right now, I'm enjoying being in touch in so many ways.

(Note: the iPhone has a speakerphone, handy if you don't want to hold the funny flat rectangle to your ear. Also it needs recharging regularly, like other cell phones.)

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## REDISCOVERING AMERICA WITH THE BAY-ATLANTIC SYMPHONY

by Kay Cooley

While many residents were preparing to watch NFL Conference playoffs at home on January 24, seven others – **Ruth Blattenberger, Kay Cooley, Frank and Betsy Snope, Loretta Strassler, and David and Miriam Swartz** – drove to the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in Pomona for “Rediscovering America,” a subscription concert of the Bay-Atlantic Symphony. A regional orchestra of professional musicians comparable to Symphony in C, the B.A.S. utilizes the Stockton Performing Arts Center as one of its three performance venues.

On this Sunday, the program featured Aaron Copland’s *Appalachian Spring*. Commissioned in 1942 by Martha Graham for one of her ballets, the original composition was scored for 13 instruments. Three years later, Copland transformed his original work into the suite for full orchestra more familiar to concertgoers. The B.A.S., however, played the original version, in part to allow 19 dancers from the Rutgers Mason Gross Department of Dance to share the stage. In this lighter instrumental version of *Appalachian Spring*, the familiar melody “Simple Gifts” sounded more lilting and pure than in the full orchestral arrangement.

*Appalachian Spring* was preceded on the program by the B.A.S. brass quintet. They empha-

sized the program's theme of Rediscovering America by playing music of American composers both known and unfamiliar, such as Charles Ives, George Gershwin, and Leonard Bernstein on the one hand and Eric Ewazen and G.W.E. Friedrich on the other.

For the energy needed to engage with more than two hours of demanding music, the Medford Leas travelers first visited the Stockton dining hall, where an elaborate Sunday brunch was served. At various food stations, they made their own tacos, cooked individual stir fries, loaded their plates with breakfast food, and scooped ice cream to be topped with their favorite high-calorie sauces and sprinkles.

Thus fortified, they made their way to the classroom where Jed Gaylin, music director of the Bay-Atlantic Symphony, delivered an informative and personable pre-concert lecture. His passion for the orchestra and its music was evident in his remarks.

Residents who missed this exciting excursion may have an opportunity to experience another on Sunday, May 2, when the Bay-Atlantic Symphony will perform the Brahms Double Concerto for Violin and Cello and two other works. Plans for another brunch-and-concert are under consideration.

### BELATED THANKS

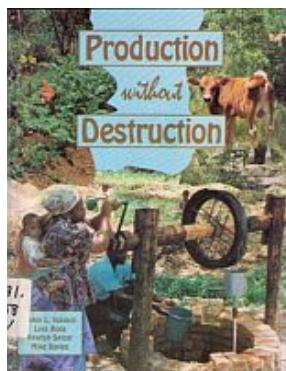
As a member of the Fun, Recreation, and Fitness Committee, **Judy Leidy** did a super job working closely with **Kim Wagner** planning the food for the New Year's Eve party. She also helped in buying the decorations and "went above and beyond" when she stayed well past 12 midnight working on the post-party clean-up.

### RESIDENTS' BOOKS IN LIBRARY

by Kitty Katzell

It was surprising to discover that there are over 100 books in the Medford Leas Library that were written by current and former residents. They deal with a wide range of topics. Books by early residents often dealt with Quaker topics, nature, and environmental issues. As time has gone by, the books have become more general.

To illustrate, **Lewis W. Barton**, after whom the Arboretum is named, is the author of *The Quakers* and of *Early Quaker Writing*. **Ruth Bonner** wrote *Before and After George Fox* and *Quaker Ways*. **Mary Anglemeyer**, an early Woolman Commons resident, has three books on environmental topics.



More recently, **Stan Brush's** *Farewell the Winterline* is about his boyhood in India. **Sam Burgess**, a retired pathologist, wrote *Understanding the Autopsy*. **John Brzostoski**, who has traveled extensively in Tibet, wrote *Lama Quest: an Adventure in Tibet*. Two books by **Russell Hill**, who was a news correspondent, deal with World War II battles in North Africa, *Desert War* and *Desert Conquest*. **Gertrude Marshall** collected the stories of Medford Leas Japanese-American residents, and they appear under the title *Japan-American Experience during World War II*. **Ellen Stimler** compiled a similar collection of stories about Holocaust survivors, *Portraits in Survival*. **Helen Vukasin** has two books, *We Carry a Heavy Load* and *Production Without Destruction*.

Until now, books authored by residents have been mingled with other books dealing with similar topics. **Joanne Greenspun**, Librarian, is considering creating a special section in the Library that will be devoted entirely to books by former and current residents. The list is currently being checked for accuracy and completeness. Stay tuned.

## RESIDENT MARKETING SURVEY

by Betsy Pennink and Kitty Katzell

In the spring of 2009, residents were asked to complete a survey whose purpose was to help market Medford Leas. Staff and residents worked together from February to May to define the important areas of interest and to choose the kinds of questions that would elicit the information wanted.

**Marianne Steely**, Marketing Manager, devised the questions and **Donna Coonley**, Marketing Administrative Assistant, spent long hours on the computer, entering the volumes of data the questionnaire had gathered. **Dave Bartram** had the task of summarizing the results. A program for analyzing survey questionnaires was available on the Internet. Using it, he was able to produce easy-to-understand tables showing a picture of the makeup and attitudes of today's Medford Leas residents.

These survey results were shared with residents in December by Dave, assisted by Marianne and **Jane Weston**, Director of Marketing and Community Relations.

Of 625 residents, 406 (65%) responded, giving the data considerable credibility. Some of the questions were demographic, one of the most interesting showing that the average age at entry was 77.5, the range being from 54 to 91. Slightly more than half of the respondents had moved to Medford Leas from within 25 miles, and about the same proportion had not considered any other CCRC.

Of special significance is that 73% of the respondents indicated that they knew someone who told them about Medford Leas, showing again that word of mouth from those who are in a position to know is the best form of advertisement. Not surprisingly, physical features of Medford Leas were also important in the decision-making process, things like garden-level living, access to nature, the Arboretum setting, covered walkways, and the like. The Quaker connection had suggested to those who moved here that Medford Leas was well run, caring, fis-

cally prudent, friendly, and accepting. On-site primary health care and long-term care were extremely important to residents in their selection of Medford Leas, as were the presence of a full-time medical director and the availability of contracts with continuing care.

The survey results confirm that current residents play an important role in encouraging others to move to Medford Leas.

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## ORANJ SUBSIDY SURVEY

Recently the Finance Committee of the Organization of Residents Associations of New Jersey (ORANJ) conducted a survey of subsidy practices of New Jersey CCRCs. All CCRCs reported having a program in place to provide financial assistance to residents who are outliving their resources, and each community has its own prerequisites for providing subsidies to its residents. The full report of the survey is at [oranjccrc.org](http://oranjccrc.org). Residents who are unable to access the website may contact **Maggie Heinemann**, ORANJ webmaster, for a printout. **Ed House**, a member of the ORANJ Finance Committee, has offered to answer questions that residents may have about the survey.

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## THE LUNCH BUNCH

by Ellen Stimler

MaraVillas, Jasmine, Zinc, Femmina, Izzie's, and Braddock's. The Lunch Bunch has eaten at all these local restaurants since August, when **Marion Raindorf**, then a new resident, organized the group. On a visit to a friend at an Arizona CCRC, she had participated in a similar "eating out" program arranged there by an activities director.

Discussing the concept with a few residents, she was told to approach **Gerry Stride**, Director of Community Life. Gerry's reaction was positive, and she offered Marion the use of the Medford

Leas bus from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm on Thursdays, without charge.

That was all Marion needed to know. She had heard about the popularity of Izzy's, so she decided to book the first lunch there. She prepared a flyer with menu selections under \$20.00, and 12 residents went on this first trip. **Fran Werrell**, chair of the Short Trips Committee at that time, explained to Marion that residents' checks should be made out to MLRA and deposited in the MLRA checking account.

When **Sandy Heath**, MLRA Treasurer, returned from his summer vacation, he was puzzled by the deposits from the Lunch Bunch, which he did not recognize as an approved MLRA activity. But it all got straightened out after Marion filed a job description, required of all MLRA activities, and the Lunch Bunch was added to the Short Trips Committee in the Treasurer's account.

Since the first trip, more residents have been participating. On the day before a lunch, Marion makes a point of calling all those who have signed up.

"The company was congenial. The food was good. What more could you want?" asked **Mary Hope Mason**. **Ruth Blattenberger** said she enjoys the Lunch Bunch because "the cost is reasonable, it doesn't take too much time, and it's good to get out of my apartment."

There's room for 24 residents on the bus, so Marion hopes that many more will join the Lunch Bunch for these eating adventures.

### IN MEMORIAM

Mary Roland	February 10
Mary Ann Metzger	February 13
William Elmendorf	February 14
Euseba Kamensky	February 17

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ROBERT BURNS!

by Helen L. Vukasin

Lumberton residents of Cluster Seven celebrated the 251<sup>st</sup> birthday of the beloved poet of Scotland, Robert Burns, with much fanfare and a-wearing of the clan tartans. Burns lived most of his life in poverty and hardship on isolated rural farms. His father and, later, he himself, tried unsuccessfully to be tenant farmers on poor land under a medieval system.

Yet he managed, with no more than two years of formal schooling and thanks to a father who believed in reading and education, to better himself. He lived during some of the most powerful times in history: the latter part of the 1700s, which encompassed the French Revolution, the American War for Independence, and the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. He learned and was influenced by reading the Bible, Shakespeare, Milton, and Dryden and contemporaries, such as Emerson and Adam Smith. He wrote his first poem, a song, *O Once I Lov'd*, at 15.

The birthday party began with the ritual welcoming of the haggis (a sausage of questionable ingredients, definitely an acquired taste) accompanied by recorded bagpipes. The singing of a few of Burns' hundreds of songs was led by **Jim and Carol Suplee**. Members of Cluster Seven read selected poems: **Catherine Sommi**, *John Anderson, My Jo*; **Milt Zimmerman**, *A Red, Red Rose*; **Hugh Jenkins**, *The Scotch Drink*; **Helen Vukasin**, *Scots Wha Hae*, a cry for liberty. The gala evening ended with the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*, accompanied by **Barbara Zimmerman** on the piano.

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"Every generation imagines itself to be more intelligent than the one that went before it, and wiser than the one that comes after it."

George Orwell

## ART GALLERY NEWS

by Helen L. Vukasin

During March and April, the Medford Leas Art Gallery will show *Mythic Image*, the work of Kevin Convery. He began his career as a teacher in Russia, where he directed the International Education Foundation from 1993 to 1997. Since then he has taught in a number of school districts in Pennsylvania. He published *The Golden Thread, Reflections on Myth and Memory* in 2009.

Convery has written that since his childhood he has been exposed to the rich imagery of myths. He was influenced by Joseph Campbell who wrote, "Myth is the secret opening through which the inexhaustible energies of the cosmos pour into human cultural manifestation." The characters and symbols of myths became the source of a visual poetry that the artist developed over many years.

The opening reception will be Tuesday, March 6, from 3:30 to 5 pm. The artist will speak at 4 pm.

On April 19, the Art Studio Gallery will open a new show from 10 am to noon with refreshments and good cheer.

At Lumberton, the photographs by **Rolfa Rogers** will be up till the end of April. They will be followed by an exhibit of photographs by **Bob Gray**. It will feature elements of his work with the AFSC. Bob will talk about his work and answer questions.

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## RESIDENTS' ART IN THE NEWS

by Helen L. Vukasin

Since it opened last year, the new Medford Arts Center (MAC) has been cooperating with Medford Leas artists. MAC invited several to submit work for an art show from mid-January through

February 14. The juried show was curated by **Susan Barnes**. (Coincidentally, before turning artist, Susan served on the Medford Leas nursing staff.)

The show was a great success, and local newspapers highlighted the works of a number of Medford Leas residents.

An article in the *Burlington County Times* mentioned the work of **Rita Keiper, Mary Lou Morrow, Pat Heller, and Ginny Mutschler**. Included were color photos of paintings by **Vincent Piecyk, Alice Skidmore Culbreth, and Sumiko Kobayashi**.

Under a headline "It's a Valentine: Medford Leas Studio Exhibition," the *Central Record* reporter, Mary Ainsworth, neatly summarized the biographical remarks of studio artists Alice Skidmore Culbreth, **Helen Vukasin, John Brzostoski, Pat Heller, Mary Lou Morrow, and Anne Wood**. The full-page article included photos of Pat Heller with one of her paintings, **Jane Weston** and Helen Vukasin viewing Helen's abstract, and **Eileen McConville** adjusting her painting on the wall.

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## ART HISTORY SERIES CONTINUES

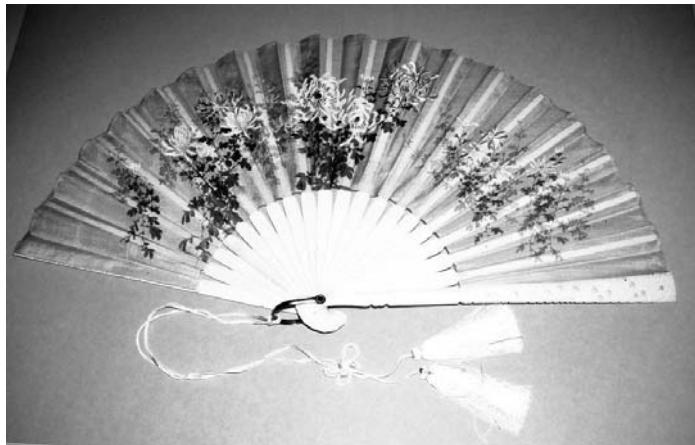
The Teaching Company's Art History course is held in the Linden Room on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 11:45 am and will continue until May or June. The program, sponsored by the Art Gallery Committee and the Art Studio, is about mid-way through 48 half-hour lectures presenting a comprehensive survey of Western art. Residents are invited to bring a lunch and eat while attending the program.

The subjects of the March lectures are: March 2, Riemenschneider, Grunewald and Netherlandish Art in the 16<sup>th</sup> century; March 16, Bruegel, the Elder, and the late work of Michelangelo.

## THE STORY OF A FAN

by Sumi Kobayashi

My family history has met world history. Years ago, the great-grandmother of Yukio Hatoyama, Japan's new prime minister, gave my father an embroidered silk fan as a wedding present.



The story began when Susumu Kobayashi, my father, emigrated to Yamato, a Japanese agricultural colony near Palm Beach, FL, in 1914 at the age of 22. After 3½ years he decided he wanted to learn about automobiles and headed to Detroit, where Ford Motor Company had a work-study program. Just as he arrived there, the United States entered World War I. The work-study program was halted, and Ford began building Liberty motors for airplanes.

Having very little money, Susumu went to the Japanese YMCA in Chicago to look for work. The assistant director, a designer of Japanese gardens for wealthy clients, found him a job in Geneva, IL, at a 300-acre private estate called *Riverbank*, owned by Colonel George Fabyan. He was put to work tending its Japanese garden. He saved his money and after 13 months returned to Florida, bought his own land, and continued farming.

After a few years he returned to Japan to marry Suye Matsumoto, a young lady chosen for him in a match arranged by the two families. On the way to Japan for the wedding, he stopped at *Riverbank* to pick up a gift to deliver to a high-ranking Japanese family, the Hatoyamas. He delivered the gift and continued on to his home

town for the wedding. After a short honeymoon, he and his bride began their return trip to Florida. On the way, he stopped at the Hatoyama residence to pick up a return gift for the Fabyans. He also received a wedding gift for his bride, a beautiful ivory and embroidered silk fan. Madame Hatoyama's son became prime minister after World War II.



July 19, 1922 Wedding of Susumu and Suye Kobayashi

Fast-forward 87 years. In September 2009, Japan held an election in which a new party broke the hold of the party that had been in power since the end of World War II. The leader of the winning party was Yukio Hatoyama, the new prime minister of Japan. Was he a member of the same family that was part of our family history? News reports identified him as the grandson of a prime minister. That clinched it. It had to be the same family.



The fan is a treasured family heirloom, now passed on to my niece, Suye's granddaughter, who lives in the Netherlands with her Dutch husband, son, and daughter.

**Left:** **Suye Kobayashi** at the celebration of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, here at Medford Leas.

**MARCH CRYPTOGRAM**

by Ariel Hollinshead Hyun

**WDAL KZLM YZN JZYMDMN XHDYWS,  
ZG LPLY WHGBLWS, ZA AHJNM  
HYK CHEELYDYBM. DN JZYMDMNM  
XHDYWS ZA NCL MNZGX ZA  
NCZOBCNM AZGLPLG AWZQDYB  
NCGZOBC ZYL'M CLHK.**

**-XHGU NQHDY**

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

THAT LOVE IS ALL THERE IS  
IS ALL WE KNOW OF LOVE;  
IT IS ENOUGH, THE FREIGHT SHOULD BE  
PROPORTIONED TO THE GROOVE.  
--EMILY DICKINSON

The correct solution was received from the readers listed below:

Ken Anderson, Miriam Angle, Catherine Barry, Jane Bartram, Ruth Blattenberger, Jane Bourquin Judy Braddy, Marion Burk, John Caughey, Alice Culbreth, Doris Curley, Liz Dill, Betty Donahue, Louise Evaull, Herb Heineman, Barbara Heizman, Patti Hopton, Sally Klos, Tom Krainik, Mary Mason, Joan McKeon, Eileen McManimen, Mary Ann Metzger, Alice Norcross, Helen Peterson, Betty Preston, Ruth Quackenbush, Warren Reeves, Fran Reynolds, Doris Salati, Florence Sawyer, Peg Scott, Ellen Wiener, and Barbara Zimmerman.

Please put your solution in an envelope in Box 162 or email it to estimler@medleas.com no later than March 10. We welcome suggested cryptograms from our readers.

**MEDFORD LEAS LIFE**

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10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication**

