



# Medford Leas *Life*

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## THE EARLY ARBORETUM

by Beth Bogie

As we celebrate the beauty of our Arboretum in April, we can only feel wonder at the vision of **Lewis W. Barton**, one of Medford Leas' founders, better known as Lew – farmer, expert horticulturist and man of action. What he accomplished as a horticulturist in Medford Leas' first decade, 1969-1979, laid the groundwork for the creation of the Arboretum and its beginnings in the following decade, 1979-1989, the period of the Early Arboretum.

In 1969, with the aid of **Tak Moriuchi** and **Tom DeCou**, fellow members of the Estaugh Board, Lew, its president, acquired the Mickles farm in Medford – “uncultivated, chest high in weeds, largely wooded, some of it swampy” – as the site for Medford Leas [*MLLife*, Oct. 2005]. By 1975 the Landscape Horticultural Award of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society was presented to Medford Leas. And by 1979, Lew had turned the completed main buildings and early landscape into a setting that residents today might well recognize.

He managed the transformation because he not only knew plants, he was also an engineer who built water systems worldwide for such projects as golf courses. **Nancy Barton Barclay**, Lew's daughter, recalls that he “went all over collecting plants for Medford Leas with nurseryman and farmer Brad Snipes.” And he laid out the roads. One story has it that he was seen riding in the bucket of a front-end loader while giving directions as to the path that Medford Leas Way should take. By 1979, the stage was set for the Arboretum.

In April 1979, **Lois Forrest**, who had been director of the YWCA in Philadelphia, became executive director of Medford Leas. She immediately caught Lew's enthusiasm for the landscape and made it her first order of business. Together, they began to seek advice for a way forward. “Although the setting was attractive,” Lois reports, “the plan

was unstructured. It became apparent a more detailed and focused scheme was required.” Lois invited her friend Ernesta Ballard, president of the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society, to visit. As they strolled about, Ernesta told Lois, “Medford Leas has the finest landscaping in South Jersey.” She promptly advised the creation of a registered arboretum. She then put Lew and Lois in touch with the University of Pennsylvania's Morris Arboretum and Paul Meyer, a member of its staff later to become director. Morris Arboretum has one of the country's top staffs, expertise and collections.

As a result of meeting with Ernesta, the year 1980 saw Medford Leas' landscape become the Lewis W. Barton Arboretum and a long-standing and valuable relationship begin with Morris Arboretum. The Arboretum Committee of the Estaugh Board was created, with Nancy Barclay as chair and Paul Meyer a member. It held its first quarterly meeting in August 1981. From the beginning, it was made up of board members, staff, residents and a representative of Morris Arboretum.

Earlier, in May, Paul Meyer had presented a paper, “The Arboretum of Medford Leas: Guidelines for Development.” That same month, at an MLRA gathering on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Medford Leas, **Coles Roberts**, a member of the Estaugh Board, was among those paying tribute to Lew's expertise in achieving a setting that led to the creation of the Arboretum.

That was just the beginning. One piece of advice from Ernesta was to begin recording the species already in place and their location on the campus. **Miriam Evans** wrote about "Cataloguing an Arboretum," [*MLLife*, Jan. 1983], a task she undertook on 5x8 cards, long before there were computers.

She wrote, "By definition an arboretum is a plot of land where trees are grown for scientific or educational purposes, or popular interest. One or all of these purposes make it necessary to keep a record of all the trees and shrubs, including their scientific, family and common names."

Morris Arboretum divided the Medford Leas Arboretum into quadrants, and quadrants into grids. A chart of each grid listed its trees and their scientific names as well as identification numbers. In explaining, Miriam wrote: "The trees planted this fall along the walk to **Midge Ilgenfritz's** daffodils are American Sweet Gums, the evergreens at the south end of Parking Lot A, Oriental Spruce, and the trees in the meadow opposite A and B, Black Gums. These are just three samples of the more than 200 trees in Quadrant 1."

The launch of the Arboretum led to major volunteering by residents. **Tina Mecray**, chairman of the Nature Committee, kept everyone doing what they were supposed to be doing. Members of the "Residents' Arboretum Volunteers" did species labeling and acted as trail and tour guides. On arriving in 1989, **Ray** and **Kitty Katzell** were among the very active volunteers. Ray became leader of the tree-tagging effort before computers and the GPS system emerged in the late 1990s and 2000s. Later, Ray and Kitty gave \$100,000 for the creation of an Arboretum Fund, to provide for useful projects that could not be justified in the regular landscaping budget. In the 1980s, leaflets with six different self-guided tours were also developed by residents.

**Gertrude** and **Wayne Marshall**, who had come in 1987, brought their birding expertise. Wayne, a bird bander since 1929, soon founded the Bird Club and introduced bird censuses. Gertrude, who is now approaching 100, wrote for *Medford Leas Life* for 15 years about birds and wildlife.

Birders have found that the Arboretum provides a varied habitat for different bird species.

The Nature Committee was the predecessor of today's Nature Coordinating Committee, which was chaired by **Howard Kriebel**, a nationally known arborist, in the late 1990s. The Medford Leas GPS system was established in his honor after his death. **Don Horton**, a paleontologist and naturalist, joined the Arboretum Committee in the 1980s and eventually assisted well-known naturalist Ted Gordon in 1993 in surveying the arboretum. Don headed the Trails Committee, now known as Woodland/Trails.

The impact of the Arboretum has been enormous.

- Immediately, it gave Medford Leas a wider exposure to the world of horticulture, more than ever imagined;
- At the outset, the Estaugh Board stated that the open campus space and attractive environment were essential to the quality of life of residents;
- The unique situation of a Continuing Care Retirement Community in an arboretum has been a major attraction for prospective residents;
- In the words of Paul Meyer, the Arboretum in a major way has engaged the interest and involvement of existing residents;
- It has given Medford Leas an opportunity to interact with the wider community – local garden clubs, Burlington County Master Gardeners, horticulture professors and students and distinguished lecturers;
- It offers residents benefits for a healthier quality of life; enhances their sense of well-being; nurtures them physically, psychologically and even spiritually;
- It continues the long Quaker interest in plants and nature.

In an article entitled "A Nature Walk by Wheelchair," in *Medford Leas Life*, February 1983, Lew Barton wrote: "Let us go out and look at the miracles of plant life which lie right at our feet." On returning, he wrote, "We're back in an hour, having noted the colorful greenness of our campus without leaving the pavement.... And there is lots more all over our campus."



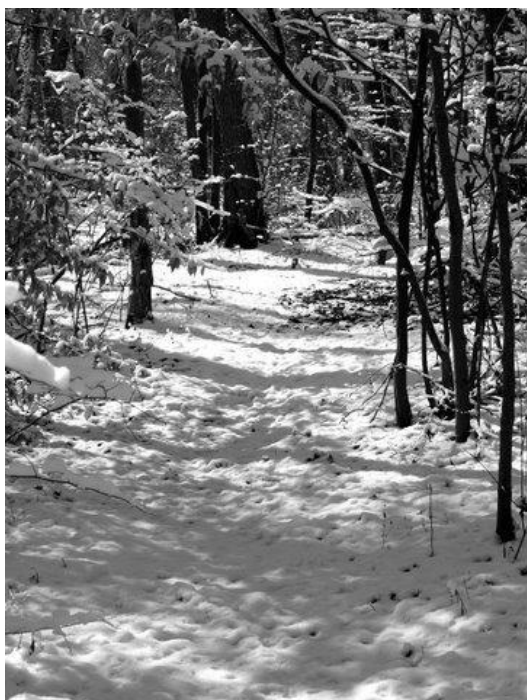
Sunrise over Bridlington Woods

Ralph Berglund



Court 29

Perry Krakora



Woodland Trails in February 2009

Margery Rubin

## APRIL IS ARBORETUM MONTH

by Kitty Katzell

The monthly calendar is all in green because April is Arboretum month at Medford Leas. So check your calendar and get set for even more activity than usual. Every part of Medford Leas will be involved, but this column can mention only some highlights.

You'll want to attend the annual Lewis W. Barton Memorial Lecture on April 14. David Culp, vice president of Sunny Border Nurseries in Connecticut, will talk about how native plants harmonize with our natural environment and help to create sustainable landscapes. Earlier, on April 3, Jennifer Bulava, Burlington County naturalist, will speak on "The Secret World of Plants and Pollinators." Both will take place in the Theater.

On April 20, Bob Wells from the Morris Arboretum will talk about the rejuvenation of our meadow where we had "the burn" recently. After his talk, there will be a walk (or a short bus ride) to the big meadow by the silo where he will continue his remarks.

Dining Services is planning an Arboretum-themed dinner on the 19<sup>th</sup> and will celebrate Earth Day in the Coffee Shop on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Especially for residents in Assisted Living and Nursing units, but open to all, there will be walks with student and resident volunteers, classic movies with tree-related themes, and an educational program with the African Violet Society, among other things.

The biggest and best of the Arboretum events will be on Saturday, April 28 – An Evening in the Arboretum, from 6 to 9 pm, to which residents are invited. This is a fund-raising event for the Arboretum that includes a wine-tasting, hors d'oeuvres, live music, and a splendid silent auction. People enter their bids for things like vacation getaways, art works, dining opportunities, and special plants. All proceeds from the event benefit the Arboretum Fund. The fee for admission is \$85, which is not a great deal to contribute to help maintain the feature that makes Medford Leas the special place that it is, our home in an Arboretum.

## THE ARBORETUM BLOG

by Maggie Heineman

Last month's issue of *Medford Leas Life* had two of **Ralph Berglund's** Arboretum photos that are in the Medford Leas Arboretum Blog. Here is another. To see Ralph's photos large and in color, and many more Arboretum photos, first go to the MLRA website at mlra.org. The sidebar index has an item "Arboretum Blog." Then, at the blog, there is another index, with items such as "Ralph's Photos," "**Perry's** Photos," "**Jane's** Wildflower Walks," and "Maggie's Trail Walks."



Ralph Berglund

Camp Dark Waters trees are reflected in Rancocas Creek

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## APRIL 17 VOTE TO RAISE TAXES

On April 17 residents at Medford will be asked to vote on whether Medford can raise real estate taxes above the 2% limit. A new NJ law requires resident approval of any increase over 2%.

New residents on both campuses and residents who moved to the Medford campus from Lumberton must re-register with their new address. They may contact **Ellen Stimler**, 3162, to get a Voter Registration Application.

## EMPLOYEE SERVICE RECOGNITION

According to tradition, the annual Employee Service Recognition Dinner is held in March at Charley's Other Brother in Mount Holly, NJ. This year it took place on March 2, attended by six members of the Estaugh Board, the MLRA President, and about 100 employees and their guests.

Medford Leas is proud to have five employees who have worked here for 30 years or more. Two of these work in Environmental Services: **Doris Wallace**, manager, who has served throughout the 40 years that Medford Leas has been operating; and **Cheryl Smith**, with 35 years of service. **Mark Wick**, in Human Resources, has also been at Medford Leas for 35 years. **Mary Calabrese**, Central Supply coordinator, and **Mary Dolores Misner**, Assisted Living, have each put in 30 years of service. Other staff members were recognized for 25, 20, 15, ten, five, and three years of service.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the winner of the 2011 Recognition Program. During 2011, three employees had been recognized in each of the first three quarters for their suggestions for improvements and innovations at Medford Leas. They were **Herb Minkus**, **Donna Rossi**, **Marilyn Loftus**, **Debbie Lux**, **Anna Dickersbach**, **Anna Hernandez-Ocasio** and **Robert Berman**. The last two had been recognized in both the second and third quarters.



Susan DiIacomo

And the winner of the Recognition Program for 2011 was **Anna Dickersbach**. Anna is one of Medford Leas' companions; *Medford Leas Life* extends congratulations and best wishes to her.

K.K.

*Life Lines***OUR SPLENDID STAFF**

by Marcy Webster



I was in a daze when I moved to Medford Leas. But even in my foggy state, I knew quite soon that I liked it here and that the reason for that was the friendliness.

I don't mean the friendliness of other residents. I'd been led to expect that, and it's very real and immensely heartwarming.

But the reception that amazed and delighted me was the consistent and genuine warmth from the staff.

We've all been in the opposite situation, in restaurants or airplanes or hospitals, where we're as likely to get a scowl as a smile, and where we decide to remain in uncomfortable silence rather than ask for help.

It's not like that here. I've been trying to remember a negative response or an ungratified request, and nothing comes to mind. Instead I think of the time I poked my head around the closed Coffee Shop doors to ask for something and the only person I saw, a young man mopping the floor, cheerfully stopped what he was doing to find what I needed. That sort of kindness happens all the time.

But how does it happen? What makes these workers so willing? And what makes people who are too young to know what it's like to be old seem, amazingly, to know what it's like to be old? How do they learn to be sensitive to our needs and feelings?

Here's what I found out.

**Marie Cox**, head of Human Resources, thinks that the belief in Quaker values is so strongly

instilled here that it has become the accepted code of conduct. Newer employees follow the example of others as they watch them interact with residents. Of course, there is formal training, some of it required by law, and full-day orientations take place quarterly. **Rev. Jim Muir** contributes his wisdom and experience at those sessions, and **Dr. Allyn Rickett** has explained the physical and psychological effects of aging to staff at the Health Center.

Medford Leas employs 400 people. About 100 of them are new each year. When newcomers join the staff, they are given a cultural behavior model that highlights the importance of respectful and caring relationships between residents and staff, the emphasis on integrity and the positive work ethic.

Marie mentions that the lack of public transportation is a drawback for hiring but notes that the outstanding reputation of Medford Leas as a place to work is a huge advantage. Friends tell friends and family members encourage each other to apply.

**Lisa Heinkel**, Director of Health Services, started here in the dining room where her daughter Caitlin works now. Lisa likes to employ young people, "who bring energy, good communication skills and tolerance." She and her staff stress empathy and patience and work hard to recognize the uniqueness of each person in their care. To this end, they keep folders with the biography of each patient as well as details of that person's preferences.

In the dining rooms, **Christe McGowan's** motto is, "this is the residents' home." She and **Rachael Allen**, who does the training, emphasize attitudes of respect.

And **Gerry Stride**, when asked about hiring, had only one comment. She said, "I look for the heart." That pretty much says it all.

## 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA

by Kitty Katzell

'Twas a swelegant party, as promised! Some of the guys did wear tuxes, and the gals were all dolled up, too. The "cocktail parties" in the Activities Room from 2:30 to 4 pm, and the Holly Room from 4 to 5:30 pm, were jammed. There was wine, champagne, sparkling cider, and yummy hot hors d'oeuvres to whet our appetites while taped music from "our" era played in the background.



Margery Rubin

Harry and Lois Forrest

The dinner was really special, too. The menus were printed on gala paper with colorful balloons around the edges, and the wait staff were their usual helpful, attentive selves in the many venues where diners were served. The meal started with spinach salad with grapefruit sections, frizzled onions, and honey lime dressing. Shrimp cocktails could also be ordered. Three entrees were offered: Cobia, a special fish rather like swordfish; Roast beef tenderloin with béarnaise sauce; and Chicken Medford Leas, which turned out to be chicken breast stuffed with mozzarella, prosciutto, spinach, and peppers. Those who tried each of them gave rave reviews. The dessert was identified as a Petit Dessert Sampler, which was actually a small slice of chocolate-raspberry cake and one of mango-guava cheesecake, accompanied by a fresh raspberry and a blackberry, lying on a bed of raspberry sauce. Beautiful and delicious.

Little by little, people made their way to the Theater, where *The Next Generation Swing Band* played Big Band Music, starting with *String of*

*Pearls*, and couples danced. The toe-tapping tunes reminded residents of that great era 40 years ago when Medford Leas' first resident, **Gladys Fleming**, moved into Court 1.

It was a Happy Anniversary Gala.

*Note: Dozens of photographs of the gala were taken by Margery Rubin and by members of the South Jersey Camera Club. The photos were shown prior to the March 19 meeting of MLRA and an album of the photos will be placed in the library.*

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## JEANNIE ROLAND, PT

by Suzanne Frank

*(This article is the second in a three-part series on different types of expertise provided by the Genesis Rehab Therapy Department.)*



photo by Margery Rubin

Experience any long-term or acute physical problem with rotator cuff, back or knee pain, diabetes, or vertigo? Chances are that you will wend your way through the Medical Center to the door of Genesis Rehab Therapy, where **Jeannie Ro-**

**land**, a multi-talented physical therapist, will be waiting to do her best to heal you or at least help you cope.

Using her varied professional tools, she may treat those with *knee replacement* by teaching her patients to relearn to walk with the new knee on all different surfaces. For *back problems*, Jeannie says, "I usually concentrate on having you 'tighten your core' and learn the ins and outs of body mechanics through education, so as to avoid causing further injury." In the case of a *rotator-cuff tear*, she may use ultrasound to rehabilitate your arm and apply heat to the shoulder muscles in order to get motion back. Plenty of additional activity-

specific exercises may be recommended. And for those who experience *vertigo*, which may be caused by irritation to fluid in the ear canal or age-related structural changes in the inside chamber of the ear, she helps relieve the symptoms by using visual exercises.

A pioneer of sorts, Jeannie initiated the “diabetic shoe program” at Medford Leas, in which she has helped those with diabetes (residents she identified from all Medford Leas medical records) receive proper fitting shoes once a year through Medicare. “If they don’t fit, they go back,” she says. She also started a “diabetic skin-care program” focusing mostly on feet. Once in her program, residents are urged to check not only their shoes but the soles of their feet every day (those that can’t reach get a long-handled mirror) in order to prevent serious wounds from developing.

After receiving her master’s in physical therapy from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Jeannie spent her first ten years at Toms River Health South. Her last ten years have been at Medford Leas, where, she says, “every minute is filled.” Contrasting those two work experiences, she praises the excellent care residents receive here. “In Toms River, I would do stroke therapy and amputee therapy, each three times a week. Here, the incidence is very rare because problems are addressed before they get critical.”

Her ministrations take her to the whole community, including Lumberton – where she may have a follow-up visit to see if the resident’s house is in adequate condition for a transition from Woolman. Or, for those in the Courts, she may find it necessary to do repeat visits, depending on the individual case.

Jeannie is married to one of Medford Leas’ fitness gurus, **Ken Roland**, and they have two girls, aged 8 and 11. She supplements her full-time job here by working at Virtua Hospital in Mt. Holly on Saturdays, where some residents have seen her, not without some surprise. She is a fine example of an individual who exemplifies her own prescription for residents: Stay active both physically and mentally each and every day.

## ART GALLERY NEWS

by Helen L. Vukasin



On Monday, April 23, there will be a reception for the new exhibit of resident art work in the Art Studio Gallery. This show will feature the portrait work of **Alice Skidmore Culbreth**. During her long career, Alice has done a large number of portraits, especially of members of her family. This show will have

the portrait above of her mother, two of her sons, and a self-portrait in oils. There will be at least another 25 residents showing their equally compelling and diverse works. The reception on April 23, 10 am to noon, will offer homemade cookies and finger sandwiches.

In the Medford Leas Gallery outside the Theater, the work of staff and students of the Moorestown Friends School, entitled “Art from Moorestown Friends,” was shown in March and will continue through April. A reception for the staff and artists will be held on April 10 from 3 to 4:30 pm. Head of School Laurence Van Meter will speak at 3:30.

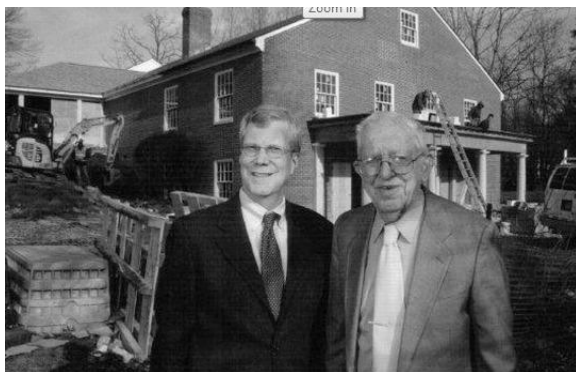
In the Art Gallery on the Lumberton campus, the unusual ceramic work of Diane Emerson will be shown through May. Drawing on our Native American roots and beliefs, Diane has created connections with the earth and plant life of our surroundings that also have an Asian overtone.

The April dates for the DVD series *The World’s Greatest Paintings* are April 3, “The Serenity of Poussin, Claude, and Watteau” and April 17, “In Contrast: Chardin, Tiepolo, Gainsborough.” They will be shown in the Linden Room at noon. Bring your lunch. All are welcome to this free program.

## HARTMAN HALL

by Ellen Stimler

A new mathematics classroom building at the Moorestown Friends School has been named Hartman Hall in honor of **Neil Hartman**. The School Committee cited Neil as “an iconic teacher, coach, and exemplar of Quaker values.”



Neil was more than amazed when he heard about this in mid-December, during a visit from Head of School Larry Van Meter. The news was announced to the wider school community in January at a reception at Medford Leas hosted by **Bud** ('41) and **Jean Stratton**. The official dedication of Hartman Hall will take place on May 4.

During his 33 years at the school, Neil became chair of the math department. He taught math, science and religion, and coached tennis. A long list of his extracurricular activities includes acting in faculty-student productions, teaching the May Pole Dance, co-editing the school's history and co-chairing the school's bi-centennial.

A special winter issue of the school's magazine has a picture of Hartman Hall and Neil on the cover and devotes three pages to Neil's contributions to the school community.

A number of his former students wrote appreciative comments for the love of math they took away from Neil's classes. A student who later won a Nobel Prize in physics said his school years “introduced me to the beauty and utility implicit in the basic laws of mathematics and nature. I've never lost that feeling of wonder.”

We at Medford Leas are fortunate to have Neil living among us and chairing the Diversity Committee.

## NOMINEES FOR MLRA COUNCIL

by Kay Cooley

At the regular meeting of the MLRA Council on Friday, March 9, **Anne Wood**, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the report of her committee (Anne Wood, **Betsy Snope**, **John Sommi**, **Loretta Strassler** and **George Walton**).

The six residents they nominated to serve on the Council from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014 are: **Tom Augenti**, Rushmore; **Beth Bogie**, Bridlington; **Kay Cooley** and **Jean Cronin**, Courts; and **Jean Jordan** and **Bob Rosvold**, Lumberton.

Having been approved by the Council, the six were presented to the regular monthly MLRA business meeting on Monday, March 19. The election will take place at the regular MLRA business meeting on April 16. After the election, the new Council members will be encouraged to attend Council meetings as observers until the beginning of their term on July 1.

The continuing members of Council are **Kit Eilenbogen** and **Julien Eysmans**, Courts; **Maggie Heineman**, Lumberton; **Herb Krakora**, Bridlington; and **Mary Lou Morrow**, Rushmore.

## MEDFORD U

### “Three Decades and Their Impact”

Jean Perry, who taught last year's course on “Women in American History,” will lead this course about the '50s, '60s and '70s.

Enrollment packets have been sent out. Enrollments, which are required, must be received by April 4. Classes will be held in the Theater from 3:30 to 5:00 on six consecutive Monday afternoons beginning April 9. Tuition is \$25. To learn more, call Kay Cooley, 654-3212.



## FOR “WANNA BE” MEMOIR WRITERS

by Helen L. Vukasin

Last year a very successful Writer’s Workshop was sponsored by the Creative Writers group and led by Darcy Cummings of Rutgers University. The group then decided to extend their boundaries and drop the creative label because so many people were really interested in memoir writing.

This year Darcy will return on April 11 to give a pro bono workshop for writers and new writers as part of her PhD program. She calls the workshop “Writing Memoirs or Family History.” She explains that “the two-hour workshop is for those who have wanted to write about an event or memory in their past but who just have not known where to begin.” Experienced writers are also invited and may use the opportunity to develop a new piece of prose or poetry.

The workshop will start from a memory, work through the senses and fragments of material, and end with a short piece that can be shared with family and friends. Simply bring paper and pen or pencil and one of your memories.

The workshop will take place in the Holly Room on April 11, 2012, from 10 am to noon. Refreshments will be available. Please sign up in the Atrium.

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## SPECTICAST: MOZART & MACKEY

by Beth Bogie

A concert by The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, under the baton of Dirk Brosse and featuring clarinetist Anthony McGill, will be presented here on Sunday, April 15, at 2 pm. They will perform two works by Mozart and a world premiere commission by American composer Steven Mackey.

The Specticast program was captured live on February 14 this year at the Temple Performing Arts Center, Philadelphia.

Steven Mackey’s works are influenced by rock and jazz, though in an avant-garde vein. Since

1985, he has served as a professor of music at Princeton University. Among his most notable awards are a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, two awards from the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the Stoeger Prize for Chamber Music by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Mackey was Composer in Residence at Tanglewood in the summer of 2006, and co-composer in residence at the 2007 Aspen Music Festival.

Anthony McGill is the principal clarinetist for the Metropolitan Opera. He considers the Mozart Clarinet Concerto he will perform to be “one of the most beautiful pieces ever written.”

Originally from Chicago, McGill attended the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia and is at present an instructor at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University and the Mannes College of Music in New York City. He is one of the few African American musicians to hold a principal position in a major orchestra. He performed along with Itzhak Perlman (violin), Yo-Yo Ma (cello) and Gabriela Montero (piano) at the inauguration of President Obama. McGill’s older brother, Demarre, is principal flutist for the Seattle Symphony Orchestra.

Flemish Belgian composer and conductor Dirk Brosse is considered one of Europe’s most talented composers. On the global stage, he has conducted the London Philharmonic, the Milan Symphony, the Rotterdam Philharmonic, and the Philharmonic Orchestra of Shanghai, to mention just a few orchestral venues. His compositions include songs, symphonic works, oratorios, chamber music and music for the theater and film. He debuted with the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra in 2009. (Source: Wikipedia.)

### IN MEMORIAM

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Floann Roberts</b> | <b>March 6</b>  |
| <b>Adele Scull</b>    | <b>March 8</b>  |
| <b>Christa Irick</b>  | <b>March 13</b> |

## TWO DAYS OF FUN

by Betsy Pennink

Think “Mardi Gras” and you’ll probably think “New Orleans.” This year, February 21<sup>st</sup>, the day before the beginning of Lent, saw New Orleans transplanted to the Activities Room, thanks to **Marcy Smith**, Estaugh Recreation, and her colleagues. Preparation for the festivities began in the morning when the residents made cupcakes. “They frosted the cakes in the traditional colors, yellow, purple and green,” Marcy said.



Mae Lundin

At party time the Activities Room was full of sound and color. Three musicians, the Mummies, arrived in their bright clothing and pleased everyone with their old-time songs. Residents put on bead necklaces, New Orleans style, and wore imaginative masks, as New Orleans revelers would do.

Then it was time to eat. As an imitation of the Louisiana crawfish, crab dip with crackers was passed round. Then there were the cupcakes, representing the typical Mardi Gras King Cake. It was hard to believe that we were still in New Jersey.

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In the "Cat in the Hat" by Dr. Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel) even the family goldfish knew that the appearance of the cat wearing the tall red and white hat meant trouble: “Make that cat go away. Tell that Cat in the Hat you don't want to play!” it said. But the children in the story could only watch

as their boisterous visitor turned the house upside down. (Luckily it was put back together before their mother returned.)



Jessica Martin

Thirty children from the local day care center, Just Children, listened raptly as **Linda Schultz**, Therapeutic Recreation, read the familiar story out loud. Afterwards, scattered among the residents at round tables in the Activities Room, the young children busied themselves making tall Cat in the Hat hats of white paper with red paper stripes. The residents made their own hats and gave some encouragement here and there when their small visitors needed it.

The low murmur became a contented silence when the apple juice and pretzels were served. It was a fitting way to celebrate the March 2nd birthday of the famous and beloved Dr. Seuss.

### SAVE THE DATE: MLRA PLANT SALE

Mark your calendars! The sale will take place Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> in the Estaugh Walkway from 8:00 am until noon. Residents using wheelchairs, scooters, or walkers may purchase plants the evening before, Wednesday, May 9, between 6:30 and 7:30. Questions? Call **Perry Krakora**.

Many volunteers will be needed on the sale days. Please give **Elly Elmendorf** a call at 3251. Proceeds will go to the Employee Appreciation Fund.

**WHO'S NEW – MEDFORD CAMPUS**

text by Ellen Stimler, photo by Margery Rubin



**Margaret (Pegi) Foyle Siegel**, who moved to Apt. 94 from Carlisle, PA, is a woman who has never stopped learning new skills. Starting with public health nursing, she went on to early childhood education, teaching art, and managing a puppet theater. She has

returned to her interest in music and the piano.

Pegi grew up in Philadelphia and went to local schools. After completing the nursing course at the hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, she worked as a public health nurse for two years. She married David Fields and they had four children. Single again after their divorce, Pegi went back to college at Glassboro State (now Rowan), where she earned a BA in health education. At Glassboro she also was certified as a school nurse and as a teacher in early childhood education and art. She took courses in puppetry and started a puppet theater with friends and students from the puppetry class.

Pegi gave up the puppet shows and took up quilting when she married Edwin Siegel. The new family moved to Medford and joined the Medford Friends Meeting. Pegi served on several committees of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Ed was an art collector, and he arranged for Pegi to study art and horticulture at the famous Barnes Foundation and Museum.

They sold their large Medford home in 1997 and bought a winter home in Florida and another house in Carlisle, PA, which was close to Pegi's daughter in Harrisburg. Ed died in 2004.

Single again in Carlisle, Pegi took care of a large garden, worked at her quilting, and started piano lessons. She also volunteered at a youth development center that was part of a juvenile prison, helping the inmates to pass the GED (high school equivalency) test and develop their skills in critical thinking and problem solving.

Now at Medford Leas, Pegi says she will need some time to decide on her "next new thing."

**WHO'S NEW – LUMBERTON CAMPUS**

text by Doris Brown, photo by Barbara Degler



**John Speirs** lived in Irving, TX, a suburb of Dallas, for 30 years, before moving to 39 Woodside Drive. He became interested in Medford Leas when visiting his sister **Janet Sprague** and her husband **Richard**, who had moved to Rushmore in 2010.

John grew up in Rye, NY, attended Bucknell University and graduated from University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in 1956 with a BS in economics. After receiving a military commission at graduation, he joined a reserve unit in New York City. At the same time, he entered Bloomingdale's executive training program in the Home Furnishing Division. His retailing career was placed on hold, however, when his reserve unit was activated in 1961 during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Upon his return to Bloomingdale's, he eventually became buyer of Summer & Casual Furniture, which included product development in Europe.

In 1969, he joined Scott Paper Company's Brown Jordan Furniture Division in southern California. He eventually became eastern regional, and later national sales manager. In 1982, John relocated to Texas, where he became manager of sales in four states in addition to the Dallas showroom.

After retiring in 1996, and a period of extensive travel, he began 12 years as a volunteer at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. John looks forward to more volunteer work in this area, in addition to spending time with his nieces and nephews.

**SPRING TEA**

2:00-3:30 pm on Tuesday, April 24  
 In the Holly Room and Activities Room.  
 Assorted hors d'oeuvres, finger foods,  
 and desserts. Coffee, tea, cider.  
 Wear your name tag.  
 Greet newcomers.

## APRIL CRYPTOGRAM

by Herb Heineman

VYP REPOV PGPWL MX VYP VEQVY  
 FD BPEL MXVPG GMV VYP SFP,  
 NPSFJPEOVP, UMGVEFBPN OGN  
 NFDYMGPDV, JQV VYP WLVY,  
 KPEDFDVPGV, KPEDQODFBP OGN  
 QGEPOSFDVFU.

Underline the name of the author:

RPMERP I. JQDY  
 CMYG X. TPGGPNL  
 OJEOYOW SFGUMSG

Below is the solution to the March cryptogram.

A SCHOOL WITHOUT FOOTBALL IS IN  
 DANGER OF DETERIORATING INTO A  
 MEDIEVAL STUDY HALL.

--VINCE LOMBARDI  
 --JOE PATERNO  
 --KNUTE ROCKNE

The correct solution was received from the following readers:

Catherine Barry, Maryann Beitel, Ruth Blattenberger, Judy Braddy, Marion Burk, Jody Cardona, John Caughey, Alice Culbreth, Doris Curley, Liz Dill, Linda Gorwood, Craig Gower, Barbara Heizman, Pat Heller-Dow, Sue Isaacs, Hugh Jenkins, Jean Jordan, Sarah Klos, Mary Hope Mason, Helen Peterson, Betty Preston, Doris Salati, Florence Sawyer, Peg Scott, Ellen Stimler, Miriam Swartz, Ellen Wiener. Fifteen correctly identified the author.

Please send your solution via campus mail to Herb Heineman, 121 WSD, Lumberton, or email it to [hsheineman@comcast.net](mailto:hsheineman@comcast.net) by April 10.

## MEDFORD LEAS LIFE

*Ex Officio:* Lefty Alderfer, MLRA President; Kit Ellenbogen, MLRA Sponsor

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



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