



# Medford Leas *Life*

VOL. XLIII, No. 10

December 2014

## Christmas Market in Medford

By Marcy Webster

Festive and colorful, travel brochures appear in my mail basket during the early fall. They all have the same theme: they're advertising the traditional markets that take place in the charming cities of central Europe during the weeks before Christmas. Like the markets themselves, the brochures are very appealing. They offer tours by ship or by motor coach and feature historic pageants, special crafts and local cuisine. But really, for the same experience and for a much better value, why don't you come with me to the Christmas Thrift Shop that takes place every Tuesday in November and December on the ground floor of Haddon?

Some of the European features are missing at the Medford Leas Christmas Market. The aroma of fresh baked gingerbread, bells caroling from ancient churches, crisp sprinkles of snowflakes; we can't provide those. And the wide sweep of a market square is only a dream. In fact the hazardous corner where two narrow corridors meet near the Haddon elevator and the Health Center is usually a frantic place with walkers and wheelchairs snarled in knots as staff members try to tend to their regular morning duties. When you add the bustle of shoppers anxious for a bargain, the congestion becomes almost frightening. More than once, someone has had to step in to direct traffic and clear the area.



Photos by Margery Rubin

But what we do have in that small, crowded space of holiday hustle is genuine Christmas spirit. We have music, twinkling lights, familiar faces and genuine warmth. The woman who makes this happen is **Pat Heller-Dow**. Now in her fifth year as the spirit of this amazing enterprise, Pat starts each new year in her crowded office/Santa workshop soon after Christmas when the first donations begin to come in. From that time on, through dreary winter days and even through the intense heat of summer, Pat spends about one morning a week at her cluttered card table sorting, pricing and repairing the merchandise that, come November, will be displayed in our Leas version of a Christmas marketplace.



On Mondays in November Pat, her husband **Walt**,



and a helper or two spend some time setting up and freshening the displays and incorporating anything new that's come in during the week. Everything has

to be ready because the crowd will be eager to get started each Tuesday morning. Walt checks the music and the lights, tweaks the ornaments on the handcrafted display board that he created, and tends to anything mechanical. It's Walter you want to see about such things as batteries and tree stands.

Speaking as one of Pat's helpers, I can tell you that it's fun to be on the team. We love to see eyes light up over the discovery of a treasure that will add to a beloved collection. On November 11, the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of his employment as a painter at Medford Leas, **Whitney Mapp** bought five carved wooden nutcrackers to add to the ones he already owns. Whit has a bow window at home and he's planning to make drifts of artificial snow, add special lighting and create a scene featuring all of his nutcrackers.



**MLRA MEETING SPEAKER**

**Mary Ann Flatley**, director, Residential Health and Wellness, will speak at the MLRA meeting on Monday, December 15. Each monthly meeting will have a different speaker who will be announced in *Medford Leas Life*. MLRA meetings are held the third Monday of every month, except August, at 7:20 in the Theater.

**David Eynon, president, MLRA**

**HOLIDAYS ARE COMING!**

Decorating Day for the Community Building will be December 2 from 8:30 am until about noon. Volunteers will beautify the Atrium, Lounge, Dining Rooms, Gathering and Holly Rooms and the Poplar Room. Danish, scones and coffee will be available in the Atrium for Santa's Helpers. We will take the decorations down on January 6th, 2015.

**Valerie Cross and Gen Farnath**



Decorative Artwork by Sally Brummer

**NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION**  
*Ring Out the Old and Ring in the New!*

*The New Year will be greeted by a party in the Holly Room.*

*Music by Joe Pantano on the keyboard for songs and dancing to begin at 7:45.*

*There will be eleven tables, each seating nine celebrants enjoying light refreshments.*

*The New Year will be welcomed at 10:00 pm with champagne and balloon-popping revelry. Questions? Contact: Bill Reifsteck, Chairman, Recreation Committee, X3696*

## GETTING A JUMP ON THE HOLIDAYS

text by Beth Bogie, photos by Margery Rubin

A good many residents started their shopping for Christmas and Hanukkah on November 5 in the Atrium, where the Gift Shop and the Knitting and Sewing Group unveiled their gift offerings. Tables around three sides of the Atrium were filled to overflowing with decorations, toys and jewelry and sweaters for infants and pre-schoolers. With such variety and good choices all of one's shopping could be done early and right here at home.



**Jane Bartram**, head of the Gift Shop, oversaw the hustle and bustle, while her assistant, **John Speirs**, helped each customer understand how an item worked or explained what an ornament was made of. The Gift Shop will be open on Saturdays starting in December up until Christmas, in addition to normal weekdays.



John showed off some of his favorite items. He especially liked the three-watt LED pop-up lantern, both compact and portable, serving as a flashlight, lamp or blinking light. There are the Perfect Pets, puppies or cats each curled up in its bed and looking lifelike, even to a sign of breathing produced by a battery. Vera Bradley designs came in small change purses and a little girl's cotton, flowered backpack. "Jody Coyote earrings

are delicate, beautiful and a good value," John said admiringly.

There were handmade ornaments from brushes – birds and woods animals -- and soft, stuffed animals, including a friendly looking alligator, elephants and, of course, bears. The Gift Shop once again is carrying the Fair Trade items, handmade from India. These include delicate, shiny animals – a rhino, elephant and ostrich – fashioned with metal strips from recycled cans.

Grown-ups would like the men's leather wallets and women's handbags, jewelry, coasters, dinner plates and greeting cards.

For the first time, residents of Estaugh and Had-don were invited to the sale to shop with "dollars" (reward points) that they had earned as prizes in their activities. Said Jane, "They seemed delighted to come, and had fun shopping!"



Across from the Gift Shop displays was the handiwork of the Knitters and Sewers, arranged on tables by **Wen Eby** and **Helen Hamilton**. Their members had worked all year to produce the lovely pastel sweaters, caps and blankets for babies and young children.

There were men's and women's sleeveless cable knit sweaters, the popular knitted neck pieces to keep out the cold, and colorful caps and gloves. The items will be available at the Craft Fair on December 6, but can also be purchased on Wednesdays in the Fiber Arts Studio.

After the Craft Fair, all of the remaining knitted items will go to needy families and the homeless, the real mission of the Knitting and Sewing Group. Proceeds from the sales of the Gift Shop and Knitting and Sewing this day went to the Employee Appreciation Fund. Later holiday sales of Knitting and Sewing will go to the Residents Assistance Fund.

## HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

by Betsy Pennink

“Isn’t it exciting, just talking about it?” asks **Art Hartwig**, referring to the Eighth Annual Medford Leas Holiday Craft Fair, which takes place on Saturday, December 6, from 9 am to 4 pm, in the Holly Room. The public is welcome.

Art and his Support Committee from the Lumberton campus have gathered together crafters within Medford Leas and outside to present their creative and artistic works, all of the high quality for which the Fair is known. One look at the floor plan on the centerfold of the colorful program (available at the door) shows the variety of imaginative articles offered.

Medford Leas is well represented with eight tables. **Dick Randolph** and his fellow woodworkers have been working on several objects that are both attractive and functional. Art himself will present his popular hand-crafted turned bowls. (“One Good Turn...”)

**Jeanette Muir** and the Quilting Group are offering professional-quality quilts of various sizes. The Knitting and Sewing Group will also have a display of their fine work.

**Ralph Berglund**, a professional photographer, will put up some of his photographs for sale. **Vince Menzel** and **Barbara Zimmerman** will return with new notecards based on residents’ artwork and photographs.

As usual, visitors should make a beeline for the table manned by **Debbie Lux** of Landscaping, to be sure to get one of her arrangements or decorations. They go fast!

The number of outside crafters increases each year as the Craft Fair’s reputation grows. This year there are 11, of which four are new. The “repeaters” include Katherine Cheetham, daughter of the late **Joe DePalma**, who translates her ten years as a commercial glass blower into unusual decorative glass. Harry Silvers is bringing his oval Shaker boxes again, including those with a music box nestled inside.

Sharon Turk will be back with her embroidered “Simply Posh Bags,” while her sister, Linda Weller, will offer “Beadwork Creations,” custom-designed and handcrafted jewelry. “Clean Bean Soaps” are made locally by Karla Clark from vegetable oils, and are not overly scented. Lovely weavings by Dianne Snodgrass have the motto: “One of a Kind....One at a Time.”



A new entrant is “The Jersey Farmhouse,” jams and fruit butters made with Jersey produce, brought by Danielle Brenner. Also new is “Doreen’s Decadent Chocolates.” Doreen Tancredi dips fruits and pretzels into delicious chocolate and creates attractive gift baskets.

Selena Braunstein (“Creatively Obsessed”) specializes in original jewelry from buttons, parts of pages of books, and other interesting items. “Art and Porcelain Creations” are made by Janet Cebular, who has already shown some of her exquisite work in the Art Gallery.

Not for sale, but a beauty to be admired, are detailed model boats displayed by **Joe Jordan** of the Lumberton campus. As for payment, **Jane Bartram**, aided at the cash table by **Joanne Thomas**, will be accepting credit cards.

Art’s enthusiasm for these creative artists knows no bounds. He has done a lot to make them happy, including bringing in a Boy Scout troop to help in folding up of the exhibits. He wants the entrants to say, “What a wonderful event!”

Meanwhile he and his team will have reached their twin goals of raising money for the Medford Leas Residents Assistance Fund and showing the public all that Medford Leas has to offer.

## PATHWAYS: “INCREDIBLE VARIETY”

by Beth Bogie

Many of the holiday programs at Medford Leas are offered also to the wider community under the banner of *Pathways to Learning at Medford Leas*. Wreathmaking, the Holiday Craft Fair, and Bach’s *Christmas Oratorio* presented by LeasMusiCast are major activities designed to put residents and nonresidents alike in a festive mood. The entire *Pathways* package is the creation of **Jane Weston**, director, Development and Community Relations. She, in turn, is supported by a committee of residents who offer their experience and ideas.



Wreathmaking, the popular holiday workshop of *Pathways*, is returning on Monday, December 1 on the Lumberton campus and December 2 on the Medford campus,

with sessions at 10 am and 2 pm each day. Once again the instructor will be **Debbie Lux**, Medford Leas horticulturist. She will provide the live materials – magnolia, boxwood, holly and other evergreens – much of it coming from the Barton Arboretum & Nature Preserve of Medford Leas. Participants are free to bring decorations from home to be attached to the wreath, making it a very personal creation. There is a fee of \$20; preregistration is required.

The Eighth Annual Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, December 6, from 9 am to 4 pm, in the Holly Room, is ideal for your holiday shopping with its wide assortment of high-quality, unique, modestly priced, crafted treasures (see page 4).

The beautiful *Christmas Oratorio* by Johann Sebastian Bach, performed by the Collegium Vocale Gent, and recorded live in 2012 in Brussels, will be presented on Saturday, December 13, at 2 pm in the Medford Leas Theater (see page 6).



No month goes by without one or more interesting lectures from *Pathways*. This month the Leas Forum lecture on Saturday, December 6, at 11 am, will bring Executive Director Carleton Montgomery of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance to the Medford Leas Theater to speak about challenges and opportunities for citizens who enjoy the unspoiled virtues of the Pine Barrens. Competing pressures from developers and other players in the economy continue to threaten this globally significant ecosystem. PPA is the only nongovernmental organization solely dedicated to its protection.

During the holidays and all year long Medford Leas benefits from interaction with many diverse outside groups. Individual residents of nearby neighborhoods play an important role in the success of *Pathways*. One of the biggest boosters is Tom Wright, a member of the Neighborhood Advisory Services Council, a Medford Township Committee, and a participant in other programs offering lifelong learning in New Jersey. He says of *Pathways*, “The variety is incredible.”

Through the Council, Tom develops programs for the Medford Senior Center. A year ago he invited Jane to partner with the Senior Center. *Pathways* now has a link on the Senior Center website and offers a program each season at the Center. “What Jane is doing,” Tom says, “adds a lot of value.”

Retired a year ago from AIG in Manhattan, Tom lives with his wife in Wyngate on Church Road, one of the three “55-plus” communities going up in Medford. He tells people about *Pathways* in these and two senior organizations. “This,” he says, holding up a *Pathways* guide, “is what’s available just down the street! I tell people how good it is.” The fact that the lectures and trail walks are right in their community makes *Pathways* especially attractive, he says. Right now, Tom is attending genealogy sessions and enjoying meeting other people in the community. He sums it up: “Medford Leas is a great place!”

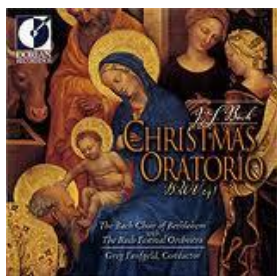
See the *Pathways* guide for more detail.

## LEASMUSICAST PRESENTS BACH'S CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

by Beth Bogie

Johann Sebastian Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, performed by the Collegium Vocale Gent, will be presented by LeasMusiCast on Saturday, December 13, at 2 pm in the Theater. Recorded live in HD from the Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels, on December 20, 2012, the work is conducted by Philippe Herreweghe, principal conductor of the Royal Flemish Philharmonic.

Four members of the Collegium will also be featured soloists: Dorothee Miels, soprano; Damion Guillion, counter-tenor; Thomas Hobbs, tenor; and Peter Kooij, bass.



The *Christmas Oratorio* was written by Bach in 1734 for performance in a church during the Christmas season. It is in six parts, or *cantatas*, each part intended for one of the major feast days of the Christmas period. The first

part (for Christmas Day) describes the Birth of Jesus, the second (for December 26) the annunciation to the shepherds, the third (for December 27) the adoration of the shepherds, the fourth (for New Year's Day) the circumcision and naming of Jesus, the fifth (for the first Sunday after New Year) the journey of the Wise Men, and the sixth (for Epiphany) the adoration of the Wise Men.

The original score was incorporated in the services of two churches in Leipzig, the St. Nicholas Church and St. Thomas Church.

The Collegium Vocale Gent was founded in 1970 by a group of friends studying at the University of Ghent, Belgium, on the initiative of Philippe Herreweghe. They were one of the first ensembles to use new ideas and baroque performance practice in vocal music. They have grown organically into an extremely flexible ensemble with a wide repertoire covering a range of styles, such as Renaissance music or German Baroque. They

have performed at concert venues and music festivals throughout the world.

Philippe Herreweghe, who was born in Ghent, has won praise for his innovative work. Since 2009, he and the Collegium Vocale have been working on the development of a large European-level symphonic choir. He is continually seeking out new musical challenges. He is in demand as a guest conductor with such orchestras as the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig and the Berlin-based Mahler Chamber Orchestra.

Sources: Collegium Vocale Gent; Wikipedia.



## DECEMBER MUSIC VIDEOS

Music Videos will begin in the Theater promptly at 7:10 pm.

- Thursday, December 4 – *Scheherazade*, Gimnazija Kranj Symphony
- Thursday, December 18 – *The Nutcracker*, Mariinsky Ballet
- Wednesday, December 24, -- *Mass of the Children*, Kennett Symphony Children's Chorus

Maggie Heineman

## IN MEMORIAM

Kathlyn "Kate" Mundy	October 18
James "Jim" Wasson	October 27
Stuart Palmer	October 28
Judith Obbard	October 30
Curtis Johnson	October 31
Harriet Stearns	November 1
Elsie Argabright	November 11
Allen Lewis	November 14

*Books to Enjoy****All the Light We Cannot See***

By Anthony Doerr

The memories we keep and share are part of our fabric as human beings. Anthony Doerr has captured this in his latest novel about a young, blind French girl and a German boy who is an orphan. Marie-Laure is 12 years old and has been blind since she was six. She lives with her father in Paris, where he is a locksmith in the employ of the Museum of Natural History. To help Marie find her way, her father has built an exact wooden replica of their neighborhood. She can now easily navigate every street and alley with her cane in front of her.

It is 1940, and the advance of the German Army on Paris forces Marie and her father to flee to her great uncle's house in San Malo. It is here that Marie must enter her own inner world of books, adventures written in Braille, and small sea urchins that she discovers at the seashore. As he had done in Paris, her father constructs a model of San Malo to help her get about. She soon finds herself helping the French resistance.

Werner, the German boy, is growing up with his sister, Jutta, at a German orphanage, the only home they have known. He also is only 12, but he has a talent for fixing things, especially radios. This talent helps him to be accepted into the Hitler Youth Academy program, and then into the German Army in communications, using radio signals to find the enemy.

The war slowly brings these two wonderfully described teenagers together. Though their time is short, what transpires is something you will not forget. Some may be distracted by Doerr's use of only a page or two for each full chapter, but the emotions portrayed are so intense, you forget the form he is using. Jutta sums it up: "Every hour someone for whom the war was memory falls out of the world." When you enter their world you will experience a light that you did not know existed.

*These books are in the Medford Leas Library.*

***The Goldfinch***

By Donna Tartt

The simple painting of a bird, "The Goldfinch," by the Dutch painter, Carel Fabritius (1622-1654), will change the young life of Theo Decker forever. Tartt is a wonderful storyteller, and though this novel is more than 700 pages, it is worth following to the very end.

Theo is 13 when he and his mother visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. As they walk through the galleries and view "The Goldfinch" his mother loves, tragedy strikes. A terrorist has set off bombs destroying many of the museum's galleries, killing scores of people, including Theo's mother. Through the dust and debris Theo survives and takes with him "The Goldfinch." Through all the chaos, he disappears into the hysterical crowd of people. Clutching the painting, he finds his entire life is to be reshaped.

At first he is taken in by the family of his close schoolmate. Here he finds loving care. This is interrupted by the arrival of his father, a man he has hardly ever seen or known, who takes Theo off to a new life in Las Vegas. It is here that Theo meets Boris, and their friendship will follow them into adulthood. They both eventually return to New York City. For Theo it's a return to old friends and a renewal of his earlier life. Theo, the man, finds that alcohol and drugs are the only things that calm his memories of that day of tragedy. But wherever he goes, "The "Goldfinch" is with him. Now his biggest dilemma is what to do with the painting. Eventually he finds an answer and with it he finds personal redemption for himself and the painting. His growing up – his salvation, if you want to call it that – makes him understand life and death, love and loss.

It is not hard to see why Tartt won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2014. It is literature at its very best. There is a bit of irony to ponder. Fabritius died in an explosion of the gunpowder magazine in Delft. It destroyed a quarter of the city along with Fabritius' studio and many of his paintings.

**George Rubin**

## PIANIST PETER BASQUIN WARMLY RECEIVED

by Joe Costanza



The newly named Guest Artists Series of the Music Committee presented renowned pianist Peter Basquin at its October 18 live concert in the Theater, featuring works by Mozart and Schumann. Mr. Basquin opened with *The Fantasia in C minor* by Mozart, an unfinished piece originally scored as a violin sonata with piano accompaniment, and later completed as a piano work by a student of Mozart. The evening's main work was the enigmatic and difficult *Kreisleriana*, Opus 16, by Robert Schumann, an eight-movement piece influenced by literary works of A. Hoffmann. Schumann considered it his favorite composition.

After several curtain calls, Basquin performed an encore, "Widmung" by Schumann, composed for his wife Clara upon their marriage and later embellished for piano by Franz Liszt. Mr. Basquin dedicated his performance to the memory of his friend, **Kitty Katzell**, who originally introduced him to Medford Leas.

Mr. Basquin attained prominence when he won the Montreal International Competition. Since then he has performed throughout the United States and in Europe and the Far East. He has played at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center and with notable conductors Michael Tilson Thomas, Gunther Schuller and Dennis Russell Davies. Mr. Basquin taught for 30 years at Hunter College, New York City, where he is now professor emeritus. He recently received a Distinguished Alumni Award and an honorary doctorate from Carleton College.

On Friday, December 12, the Cherry Hill West High School *A Capella Chamber Singers*, under the direction of Rachel Siegel, will offer an expanded Holiday program at 6:30 pm. The Music Committee is chaired by **Paul Ray**, who brought the South Jersey Wind Ensemble to Medford Leas on Sunday, November 16.

## Art Gallery News

### PHILADELPHIA CALLIGRAPHY SHOW A DECEMBER TRADITION

by Helen L. Vukasin

December is the month that we welcome the Philadelphia Calligraphy Society to the Medford Leas Art Gallery. This tradition started in the 1990s, when renowned calligrapher and teacher **Harry Forrest** brought his own imaginative work and that of his promising students to share the holiday season with Medford Leas. At that time and for some 20 years, his wife, **Lois Forrest**, was the executive director of Medford Leas. Now the Forrests are residents and Harry's legacy to us has been the continued presence of the artists he mentored in Philadelphia.

Chair of the Society Maureen Peters will be accompanied by other members at the opening reception on Tuesday, December 2, from 3:00 to 4:30 pm in the Gallery Lobby of the Theater.

At the Art Gallery on the Lumberton campus Community Center there will be a welcome return of the work of resident artists. The artist planning to exhibit has taken ill. The Art Studio group has agreed to share their new work with Lumberton. The show will be up from November 17 through January. Don't miss it. Your neighbor may be one of the exhibitors.

The opening of the resident exhibit in the Art Studio Gallery of paintings and photographs was an overwhelming success. More than 100 visitors attended on October 27 for the art and photography exhibit. Several distinguished new resident artists have contributed to the quality of the show. **Roberta Foss's** versatility with media and content created a great deal of interest. In the photographic section, the works of **Ralph Berglund** and **Joe Costanza**, nationally recognized wildlife photographer, added new quality to their category.





## TWO HOME HEALTH AIDES HONORED

text and photo by Mary Ann Flatley  
Director, Residential Health and Wellness

On November 12, two Medford Leas Certified Home Health Aides, **Regina Towell** and **Seretta Collura**, were honored at the Annual Home Health Aide Recognition Day being held by the Home Care Association of New Jersey. Seretta received a "Rookie of the Year" award, which is granted to an individual who has been a CHHA for less than two years but has already exhibited excellence and growth in the role. Regina received a "Home Health Aide of the Year" award, which is presented to the CHHA who has demonstrated excellence, leadership and compassion throughout her career.



Seretta Collura (left) and Regina Towell

Regina and Seretta shared the spotlight with awardees from across New Jersey and enjoyed a day of learning, sharing, and inspiration, along with an awards luncheon. They were chosen for their award through anonymous voting by the staff of Options and Outpatient Apartment Care. Staff members commented on their choices:

"Seretta Collura is a wonderful person. Her personality is such that she puts residents at ease as soon as she meets them. She truly listens and takes care of their wants and needs."

"Regina has a kind heart and a lot of compassion and empathy for others. Regina focuses on her residents' needs and learns their personality so she is able to help them the way they are comfortable being helped. She takes her time and the residents know they are important to her."

This is the first time that Medford Leas CHHAs have been honored by the Home Care Association of New Jersey.

## STEPHANIE LINTON, SOUS CHEF

text by Suzanne Frank, photo by Margery Rubin



She's not a "Jack," but a "Stephanie of all trades." This is how **Stephanie Linton** sees herself in her roles both as a sous chef and as a dining services supervisor. "I oversee what happens in production in the kitchen in a pretty much hands-on manner and work

with the staff as a team player. I jump in to do whatever needs to be done, as well as assisting catering. I also order produce and bread; I make sure that the coolers are clean and that everyone is doing his or her job. I need to see that everything is clean and organized."

Stephanie started work at Medford Leas when she was 15 years old and left when she was 23. At that time she took advantage of a Lois Forrest Scholarship she was awarded to attend a two-year program at Atlantic Culinary Academy in Mays Landing, NJ. After that she worked for a while at Emerald Fish restaurant in Cherry Hill and then at Ellis Meats in Mt. Laurel, where she learned a lot about breaking down meats, ordering, making sausage, scrapple and hot dogs. "I went there for the experience."

She's been back at Medford Leas for almost seven years, first as morning and lunch cook, which "I loved," and most recently was promoted to her present two positions.

She has a "wonderful" husband who is a crane operator, and they live with a chocolate lab ("my baby") and an African grey parrot in Hainesport. She and her husband like to boat and camp, and she enjoys reading and gardening. She is of Serbian/Croatian and Irish heritage and gets her penetrating blue eyes "from my mother." Asked what food is her favorite, she laughed and said, "I like everything."

## A RIVETING ROBERTS STORY

text by Judy Kruger, photos by Margery Rubin

“Hold the rivet gun like this,” **Tom Roberts** instructs, “and in your other hand press this heavy block against the back of the metal sheet. Now gently pull the rivet gun trigger.” The rivet, which is a small, short screw without threads, flattens to a mushroom shape. Pressure, not heat, is used in riveting.

This lesson was demonstrated on a practice piece of aluminum. The actual airplane that Tom is building, a two-seater, single Lycoming engine, Model RV-14, needs about 12,000 rivets to complete.

Tom, a retired mechanical engineer, and his wife **Floann** (who died in 2012) moved from Cherry Hill to Medford Leas in 2010. Early in 2014, Tom picked up his lifelong habit of building something that moves. In a garage bay near the workshop, Tom is building his airplane from a kit he orders in sections from Oregon. Currently, he is assembling the ribs of both wings in the garage, working roughly 10-12 hours per week. Next, he will apply skin with a tool that lines up all the holes. Airplane skin is an aluminum alloy with a pure aluminum coating.



Tom prepares a wing rivet

As a child, Tom made model boats and planes, starting with “pray and let go” free flight models which were not radio-controlled. His introduction

to actual flight came in childhood when a commercial flying service gave him 10 hours of instruction in a yellow Piper Cub. “At college, I raced sports cars. After graduating, I built an Autodynamics race car and raced up and down the East Coast as a hobby,” Tom says, “but I never raced or flew for my paid work in engineering.”

**Dick Randolph** provides occasional help holding large, awkward pieces. Tom may also ask for skilled help installing the electronics. This plane will have two 25-gallon fuel tanks, will allow about 1,000 miles of flight at 175 miles per hour. With a 27-foot wing span, “the sections will need to be assembled at whichever airport has an empty hangar to rent when I’m ready. I figure completion will take at least two more years,” Tom says.

Having already put in 70 hours of flying time, including his first solo, with an instructor at the Flying W airport in Medford, Tom must later pass a day-long, hands-on exam with an FAA tester, once his instructor feels he is ready for a license. He then hopes to fly to local airports in North Jersey, Maryland and the Poconos for “the typical \$100 aviator hamburger.” His dream, though, is to fly to San Diego, CA, to visit his daughter. What do Tom’s three kids think of this project? “They are all supportive, and when they visit I let them help me build my airplane.” How do Medford Leas residents react to the airplane project in the garage? “It’s running about half and half,” Tom laughs. “Please can I go?” or “Are you crazy?”



Cross section of a wing

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE NEW BUS DRIVER

text and photo by Betsy Pennink

**Lou DePasquale**, our new bus driver, pulled up to the Medford Leas front door right on time for the trip to Acme and ShopRite. True to the routine established by his predecessor **Jack McGowan**, Lou greeted the passengers with pencil in hand to note their names and their preferred stops.



Lou's friendliness created general goodwill and there was teasing and laughing among the 11 passengers. When it got down to the serious business of stopping at the Acme and the ShopRite, Lou made sure that the bus was close to the rows of carts. He helped pas-

sengers out of the bus and fetched carts for them.

As part of the trip Lou included some very much appreciated extra destinations (liquor store, dollar store, Radio Shack) and carefully planned the timing of his pick-ups. At each stop he popped out to help the residents back on the bus with their parcels. On returning to the campus, he followed a well-organized order for the drop-offs. At the end, in the main parking lot, he called out: "Red hydrant, last stop!"

"This job is wonderful!" says Lou. After working for SEPTA for 35 years, he knows a thing or two about driving. He began in 1978 as a trolley car motorman, then became a bus driver, a train motorman and conductor, and a driver of a trackless trolley (run on electricity). As he rose to manager and supervisor, the job became less satisfying, so he retired in October 2013 at the age of 55.

Lou found he couldn't just sit around and so he was happy to learn that Medford Leas needed a bus driver. "I love physical labor," he says, grinning. Here it's "taking packages on and off the bus." The hardest part of the job? Telling whose bags are whose! To that purpose, Lou carries a red pen to mark the bags with the owners' names.

Lou grew up in Philadelphia and although he studied electrical theory after high school, he preferred driving. He now lives in Maple Shade, NJ, with his wife Maryanne, a mortgage processor. They have two sons and two grandchildren. Lou says he especially likes working at Medford Leas because of all the friendly people here.



## RONA SHAHN OVERSEES MLRA PURSE STRINGS

by Beth Bogie

**Rona Shahn**, former assistant treasurer and clerk of the MLRA Budget and Finance Committee, has succeeded **Tom Roberts** as chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. For more than seven years, Rona has been responsible for collecting and depositing checks for the MLRA funds.

The Budget and Finance Committee prepares and submits to the MLRA Council and MLRA membership a budget covering all MLRA activities at the beginning of the fiscal year. Among other things, Rona will oversee the raising of money for the Activities Fund, which provides for the expenses of the MLRA, the Employee Appreciation Fund, and the Community Services Fund for the Medford campus. (The Lumberton campus has a separate Community Services Fund and an Activities Fund for its own activities. Many at Lumberton contribute to both Activities Funds.)

## FULLER, THE FAITHFUL

paraphrased from Kay and Vince's tribute to Fuller  
by Betsy Pennink

Fuller, **Kay Roberts'** wonderful service dog, passed away the morning of October 7. Kay and **Vince** had just discovered that Fuller had a large and fast-growing cancer. He died peacefully at their side at the vet's office, as they did not want him to suffer, which would have been the result of the other alternatives.

Fuller was 13, faithfully at Kay's side for 11 years – with his harness, helping her walk for eight of those years, and always providing emotional support. He truly had a calling as a service animal; Kay and Vince feel they both were blessed by his presence.

Many friends made a difference in Fuller's quality of life – whether a brief or long petting, a casual meeting on the Lumberton campus during the many walks Vince gave him, or just the smiles as he entered the Community Center or the Medford campus buildings. Some also walked him (which of course he never refused) on both campuses.

Vince and Kay send their thanks to everyone. “By adding to Fuller's life, you added to ours as well,” they write. “The last days have been very difficult for us, but reflecting on what Fuller has done for us and others has helped ease the pain.”

It will take a year before Kay will be able to have another service dog.



2001-2014

## WHO'S NEW - MEDFORD CAMPUS

photos by Margery Rubin

Brought up and educated in Buenos Aires, Argentina,



**Edward (call him Eduardo) Gaudy** has chosen Medford Leas to begin a new life here in Apt. 242. His new home reminds one of a micro art gallery with walls hung with creations he has fashioned in multiple media such as charcoal drawings, pencil portraits

and works in wood and paint.

Eduardo has a BA from the University of Buenos Aires as an agricultural engineer specializing in parks and gardens. Once in the United States, he applied to and was registered by the State of New York as a Landscape Architect, which allowed him to also work in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. After a decade of working for New York landscape architectural firms, he headed his own firm until retirement. He then was granted emeritus status by the American Society of Landscape Architects.

He married Celia Valls, a bookkeeper, in 1955 and "had a wonderful life." She died two years ago, after what was "57 years of bliss," he recounted. The Gaudys and **Carol and Joe Neil** became friends when they both lived in the Nyack, NY, area and "had a wonderful time sailing together for over 30 years."

After he retired, Eduardo concentrated his creative efforts on innumerable photographic endeavors, all under the professional name of Eduardo Vega. His close-ups of flowers are exquisite.

"Now I need a change in my life," he said. "When I came here originally I was overwhelmed by the incredible amount of nature all around compared to others (CCRCs) I had seen. When I first saw the workshop and the art studio here I got a rush. I want to live life to the fullest."

Suzanne Frank

**Sandy Patton** moved into 647 Rushmore in September. On an earlier visit, she felt a sense of peace, and she says she continues to feel comfortable here every day.



Sandy grew up in Delaware Water Gap, PA, and attended a three-room school there until entering Stroudsburg High School. She was an elementary education major at East Stroudsburg State College (now University), where she graduated with a BS degree. She then studied at

Penn State University, Main Campus, where she took liberal arts courses.

Sandy taught for a year in Rochester, NY, before accepting a position in Cherry Hill at the Erlton School, teaching third grade for four years before leaving to raise her two children. She resumed teaching ten years later in Pemberton Township, where she again taught third graders and later sixth-grade enrichment classes before retiring.

While teaching in Pemberton, Sandy lived on a five-acre Pinelands property in New Lisbon for 42 years before moving four years ago to an apartment in Mt. Laurel. She has two children and four grandchildren. Her son and his wife live in Wind Gap, PA, with their two children. Her daughter resides in New Hampshire with her children and her husband, the executive director of the Mt. Washington Observatory.

Sandy is a member of the Mt. Laurel Quaker Meeting and finds strength in meditation. Before moving here, she knew several current Medford Leas residents including **Carmen Kunyczka**, **Hannah Wilson**, **Janet Jackson-Gould** and **Roberta Foss**. Sandy is interested in backyard flower gardening, bird-watching and exercising in the Fitness Center. She was pleased to read in *Medford Leas Life* about the great horned owl whose call she has heard frequently while living in Rushmore.

**Dorothy Cebula**



She didn't know a soul at Medford Leas, but when she drove from Tuckerton to attend a Great Decisions program, **Dorothy (Bauder) Gehman** made her own decision. After 18 years of living at the Jersey Shore, including waiting out Hurricane Sandy in her home,

Dorothy settled into Apt. 11 in early November.

Activities enjoyed by this energetic resident include lap swimming, boating, fishing, gardening, and walking. "But I doubt the Fitness people will get me on those machines," she laughs. "I've already tried using a gym and I'll stick to the Medford and Lumberton campus pools."

Over the years in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Dorothy volunteered for the Girl Scout Council, Church Women United, and the Family Promise Program, in which member churches offer shelter, meals, and employment help to the homeless. She is still a trustee of the Barnegat Bay Decoy and Baymen Museum. Additionally, she volunteered for Habitat for Humanity. "It seems that no matter what organization I volunteer for, I end up in finance," she sighs. "I credit the Girl Scouts for my organizing skills, although I wasn't a Scout as a child."

Dorothy and her husband David, who died seven years ago, enjoyed collecting wooden duck decoys. "I've always loved folk art," she says, "especially carving done simply with a knife rather than with hand or power tools." Wintering on Sanibel Island, Dorothy appreciated similarities between patterns on shells and Native American art and artifacts. She is a big fan of the folk art collection at the Williamsburg Museum.

Dorothy grew up in a small town in southern Lehigh Valley, PA. Her mother's side of the family was Schwenkfelder. This is a tiny Protestant denomination which began in the 16th century in Silesia, Germany. Due to religious oppression, the main group immigrated together to the Philadelphia environs in 1751.

In Bethlehem, PA, David owned an auto service center, where Dorothy helped out. The couple's three children now live in Allentown, PA, Rochester, NY, and Bangor, ME.

"Won't you miss the ocean?" her Tuckerton friends asked. "The answer is yes. But it is lovely now to look at all these trees." Trails Committee, take note: Dorothy's landlubber skills are evidenced as she automatically picks up downed branches from trails as she walks.

Judy Kruger

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### WHO'S NEW – LUMBERTON CAMPUS

text by Barbara Zimmerman, photos by Joyce Koch

**Ava (Aafje) van Baaren** moved to 135 Woodside Drive at the beginning of September. She and her late husband, Gilbert, had lived in Medford for 37 years, but drove around our Lumberton neighborhood and thought it looked a little like Holland with its peaked roofs! The van Baarens had lived in the northwest part of the Netherlands near the North Sea.



Ava had been a teacher of second and third grades in her homeland, but when she and Gil arrived in Caldwell, NJ, in 1962, her teaching degree from Alkmaar Teachers College was traded for a dental assistant position.

From North Jersey they moved to South Jersey, where Gil worked as facilities manager for Lockheed Martin, Moorestown, for 20 years. Living in Medford allowed Ava time to work at the Medford Library for ten years and to volunteer at the Shawnee Library and for Interfaith Caregivers.

On the Lumberton campus, two families, the **Wythoffs** and the **Gyswyts**, were friends of the van Baarens. Ava and **Antoinette** (Wythoff) used

to play piano four hands together. These days Ava plays for her own pleasure.

A Rya rug depicting a Rune stone, handmade by Ava, hangs in her bedroom. There are lovely touches of family throughout the home. Plants seem to thrive in her sun-flooded sunroom.

Ava has a son with four children – “a lively family” – in Pittsford, NY. A daughter living and working in Philadelphia has offered much help and advice about furnishing and decorating the new home.

Ava describes herself as a fan of “natural nature,” so the pull toward living in an arboretum was strong. She loves the outdoors and has joined the Trails Committee. She enjoys the physical beauty and the friendliness of the Lumberton campus, and she describes the reputation of Medford Leas as “unparalleled.”

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After a lot of “looking” and listening to their many friends, **Herbert** and **Jean (Erskine) Thomas** moved in September into 186 Woodside Drive. They had lived in Mt. Laurel for 18 years and were ready for a smaller home with mostly one-floor living.

Both Jean and Herb were born in Newark, NJ, and were raised and schooled in Kearny, NJ.



When Herb graduated from Hobart College with a BA in American history and education, he was drafted to serve in the Korean conflict. On his return, he joined the Fidelity Union Bank, Newark, where Jean was also working. They met, quite by accident, while waiting for the bus! Herb became editor of the bank newspaper, and Jean was a reporter. They married in 1956.

Herb felt working at the bank was not his ideal position, and when he was asked to interview for a job at the General Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Manhattan, he

not only took the job but stayed for 35 years. During this time he received his MA in higher education at New York University. A special honor of his career was the first Clement Clarke Moore award in 2003 for service contributions to the seminary and the church.

Jean received her Associate in Applied Science degree from Essex County College, Newark, and was a physical therapy assistant at St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic for 20 years. During her time there, she attended Caldwell University and received her BA in English when she was 60!



The Thomases' daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, Jim Kehoe, live in Mt. Laurel. Liz is the owner of Thomas/Boyd Communications in Mt. Laurel. Granddaughter Kristen is a senior at the University of Delaware.

Herb and Jean have traveled extensively in Europe and in the United States. They both love to read and have enjoyed sports in the past. Inside information reveals that soon there may be a modest basement layout of trains!

Living on the Lumberton campus allows the Thomases to continue their participation in the Trinity Episcopal Church in Moorestown. They express a feeling of gratitude to be here in our community.

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### WELCOME TO THE COURTS

**Sue** and **Sandy Heath** lived in Bridlington for eight years, moving to the Courtyard Apartments in early September when "the time was right." A major part of the timing was that an apartment in Court 7 became available. Sandy had discovered the charms of Court 7 during the winter months when, forced from his beloved bicycle because of

weather, he had used his energy to explore the courtyards on foot. He filed a request with **Tammy Gerhart**, director, Resident Services, and when there was a vacancy the Heaths were ready to move.

During their time in Bridlington, Sandy, always an athlete, kept active. When he wasn't occupied with sports and games, he was tending to his volunteer job as treasurer of the MLRA, a task which he has just given up. Sue, meanwhile, wrote for *Medford Leas Life*. Sue and Sandy have three daughters – one in Salt Lake City, one in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and another who lives in Pennsylvania. They all share a summer home on Long Beach Island.

Both Sue and Sandy find that living in the Courts has a "different atmosphere." They mention dinner in the dining rooms as a plus and also appreciate the ease of access to the various events during their busy days.

Marcy Webster



### MOVIES IN THE ACTIVITIES ROOM OPEN TO ALL

Movie classics on Tuesday evenings at 7:15  
Complete with popcorn

Movies for December are:

- Dec. 2 We're No Angels
- Dec. 9 6:30 Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer  
7:15 The Bishop's Wife
- Dec. 16 Fiddler on the Roof
- Dec. 23 It's a Wonderful Life
- Dec. 30 Holiday Inn

Sharon Conway, Therapeutic Recreation

**DECEMBER CRYPTOGRAM**

by Herb Heineman

**FMC QWQ WV HSV RM KLVS RM RMMP?  
 WV'R PWHFV XSYMIS WV'R  
 LYVSIPMMP. QSESGXSI WR FSIS  
 XSYMIS WV'R AJPS. GT HMMQPSRR  
 FMC VFS VWGS FLR YKSCP. FMC QWQ  
 WV HSV RM KLVS RM RMMP?**

Underline or flag the name of the author.

**QI. RSJRR  
 QI. BWKQLIS  
 QI. PM**

Below is the solution to the November cryptogram.

WHEN THE PEACE TREATY IS SIGNED, THE WAR ISN'T OVER FOR THE VETERANS, OR THE FAMILY. IT'S JUST STARTING.

-- KARL MARLANTES  
 -- BARACK OBAMA  
 -- WOODROW WILSON

The correct solution was received from the following readers:

**Helen Anderson, Catherine Barry, Ruth Blattenberger, Mary Chisholm-Zook, Alice Culbreth, Doris Curley, Liz Dill, Barbara Fiala, Roberta Foss, Linda Gaylord, Neil and Marian Hartman, Barbara Heizman, Sue Isaacs, Jean Jordan, Mary Mason, Doris Q. Murray, Betty Preston, Ruth Quackenbush, Toby Riley, Doris Saladi, Florence Sawyer, Peg Scott, Louise Stiles, Miriam Swartz, Joanne Thomas, Ellen Wiener, Barbara Zimmerman.** Fifteen correctly identified the author.

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

**MEDFORD LEAS LIFE**

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Medford Leas Life is published monthly, September through June, by the Medford Leas Residents Association. Copies are distributed to all residents and administrative staff. Subscriptions are available to others at \$15.00 a year for ten issues by writing to Medford Leas Life, One Medford Leas Way, Medford, NJ 08055. Medford Leas can be reached by phone 609-654-3000; FAX 609-654-7894 or 609-257-0050. When using FAX, specify the name of the person to receive the message. The Administration website is [medfordleas.org](http://medfordleas.org). The Residents Association website is [mlra.org](http://mlra.org).

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

