



Medford Leas *Life*

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LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

text by Walt Dennen, photos by Margery Rubin

Like so many previous Employee Holiday Shows, the 2014 edition was a rousing success with a special caveat concerning a diminutive four-year-old heart breaker, but more on that later. As we entered the theater, glancing at our tickets we might have suspected we would receive an aspirin or another flu shot, especially when we saw a large center-stage screen reinforcing our ticket message: *Laughter is the Best Medicine*. Instead, we were led into a mood-setting sing-along with two classics: "When You're Smiling" and "On the Sunny Side of the Street."



The program quickly morphed into the evening's medical theme as **Dr. Andie Iannuzzelli**, complete with stethoscope and other medical accoutrements, took over as MC, supported throughout the evening by **Florence Heisler** as the silent sign bearer and **Doug Hacker**, Medford Leas interim CFO, as the mystery-voice announcer.

Dr. Andie may also have changed forever our perceptions of our Atrium receptionists, portrayed by **Lisa Branagan**, **Taryn Ericson** and **Carmen Smith** as gentle, friendly, helpful keepers of the gate, revealing their true natures as modern cave women. Ladies, be forewarned and watch your husbands the next time they cross the Atrium.

Dr. Andie followed the cave women with corrupted news reports by the Therapeutic Recreation "newsies" (**Gerry Stride**, **Linda Schultz**, **Marcy Smith** and **Lea Beckett**) who proved how unfit they are to contribute to *Medford Leas Life*.

But **Esther Benson** and her nine pious nuns from the Options Department brought a note of cheer and stability to the evening's proceedings with a rousing song and dance rendition of "Get Happy."

On the heels of the nuns, Dr. Andie announced a solo offering of "When I Just Wear A Smile," belted out by driving force/creator/script writer/producer of our show, Gerry Stride. It was difficult to determine whether her appearance elicited such applause because of her performance or because of her total involvement in the show, when obviously the applause was for both.



Dr. Andie next changed the pace with a dance routine by Assisted Living's 11-member chorus line, presenting four decades of memorable terpsichorean delights ranging from Glenn Miller's

1940's "Moonlight Serenade" through a jitterbug routine to the tune of "Rock Around The Clock" and "The Stroll," to the 1960's "The Twist," evoking audience memories of Chubby Checker, and concluding with the 1970's "Stayin' Alive." The dancers nearly had audience members joining them in the aisles, perhaps deterred only by too many knee replacements.

Dr. Andie then introduced the Therapy Department, led by manager **Dexter Hebron**, for their comic rap views of communication in the present and future eras. **Mark Wick** closed out this section of the program with his rendition of "Does Your Chewing Gum Lose Its Flavor on the Bedpost Overnight." Frankly, this song was a loser with this reporter because my brother and I were severely chastised whenever we put chewing gum on the bedpost.

It looks as though our CEO, **Jeremy Vickers**, is becoming a staple on this annual show, with his appearance this time to explain some of Albert Einstein's theories, as if our audience needed any such help. If an award were given for best costume or make-up, Jeremy



would have been the runaway winner for his wig and moustache. He was followed immediately by eight members of the Maintenance Department singing "Don't Worry, Be Happy," or at least a slightly altered, altruistic version of how they promptly, cheerfully, completely and successfully provide their services to residents. Audience reaction seemed to agree wholeheartedly.

Dr. Andie then brought out **Doris Wallace's** supporting cast of eight housekeepers for a rousing version of "Zip-a-dee-do-dah" with some of the audience joining in enthusiastically. This song was followed by Dr. Andie's plug for vitametavegamin, the panacea for all our ills and,

apparently, a nice source of endorsement income for Dr. Andie. Go get 'em, Doc. When we combine vitametavegamin with the professional advice as sung by the nursing staffs of Woolman and Estaugh ("Always Look on the Bright Side of Life"), including some solo verses by **Lisa Heinkel**, we may have a new approach to holistic medicine. The nurses and their assistants certainly brightened the stage with their T-shirts, fedoras and twirling umbrellas with smiling faces, which played off the evening's "happy-faced" logo.



Not to overlook the needs of new residents, Dr. Andie introduced the Marketing Department (**Annie Mazur, Kate DeSilva, Marge Sagett and Marianne Steely**) who treated the audience to some self-deprecating humor regarding definitions in their business. Along about this time, it had become quite evident that Dr. Andie had been nipping all evening at her bottle(s) of vitametavegamin (with its 29% alcohol content). Will she last to the end of the show? Will she be a true-blue trouper and be able to go on with the second show later this evening?

Without introduction, the curtain opened and Administration's five women and Mark Wick burst forth with a bodacious presentation of "Happy Days Are Here Again." That song, which drew a resounding hand from the audience, segued into **Tammy Gerhart** and Resident Services doing a bit of bragging about the new bus with an audience sing-along. Dr. Andie used the sing-along as a sneaky way to get the audience to accept **Bill Murphy's** version of "Pack Up Your Troubles," which fortunately was brief (his words) so that he could introduce his adorable four-year-old granddaughter **Charley Haines**. The little charm-

er was just that. Let's face it, she was in simple terms a first class scene stealer. If there was any drawback to her performance, it was that we will now have to listen to Gramps gloat over his darling granddaughter. Just remember, Bill, we already know she is.



Fitness & Aquatics (**Ken Roland, Rick Trendahl, Dana Jones, Mark Labajo, and Stephen Porter**) had the misfortune to have to follow Charley on the program but still performed creditably in stating its case of LEAS versus the YMCA via its version of the animated and traditional rendition of the 1970's song "YMCA," with their version of *the* Village People, even mimicking their costumes.



Debbie Lux, our courtyard and landscaping caregiver, followed to give us some musical pointers on caring for poinsettias, clearly an appropriate seasonal message. Although Debbie's routine was brief, the audience reaction matched the huzzas the Administration received.

Dr. Andie favored the show's closing act with a personal favorite, the Wellness Center, whose staff attired themselves in patient gowns, lab coats and nurses' garb to render an upbeat variation on "Accentuate the Positive." The routine was presented by **Mary Ann Flatley, Janet Rumble, Becky Castellanos, Maryanne Ocasio, and Heather Oesterle.**

The song and chatter melded into an original video, "Happy," created, choreographed, directed and produced for this evening's show by Marcy Smith, based on the song and dance created by Pharell Williams, which has gone viral globally. The central figure, known as "The Guy," was **Dave Bartram**, who wove in and out of departments, tying together the participants, including construction hard hats, employees in the laundry and our CEO Jeremy at his desk studying a spreadsheet. This video was the icing on the evening's cake.

The program concluded with the residents joining the cast in singing "Joy to the World." And the crowded theater emptied with happy remembrances of the on-stage performers as well as the unseen efforts by such contributors as **Joe** ("This is the best thing I do all year") **Pantano** on the electric keyboard and Mark Wick on the piano for their many hours supporting rehearsals through to the final shows, the numerous volunteers who help design and build props, create costumes, write scripts, paint scenery, print tickets and programs, tend the audio equipment, and handle any job that this reporter has failed to list here.



DECORATING DAY

photos by Margery Rubin



Top l-r **Joan McKeon** with miniature figures, **Sandy Patton** and **Betsy Snope** decorating tree in Colonial Room; double doors with swags. Middle: fireplace and tree in Lounge, **Dick Cross** and **Gordon Brummer** putting up swags. Bottom: tree in atrium, **Dick Sprague** decorating tree, **Steve Yann**i arranging his origami, **Bill Reisteck** hanging cards.

Undecorating Day will be January 6

*Life Lines***BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**

by Marcy Webster

It's likely that, if you live in Haddon, you are surrounded by doors. Or that, if you live in a courtyard, there are six or eight doors in your immediate neighborhood. The ubiquitous presence of closed doorways is a fact of our lives. Just on my daily walk to dinner I pass 32 separate entrances. They're pretty much identical. Each door is three feet wide. Sturdy. And they've been newly painted in a pearly gray color called Sand Castle. Some of them have something personal to set them apart, a wreath or a nameplate, but many do not. These doors have always fascinated me, not because of what they are but because of what they enclose. They hold the dramas of our lives and, writer that I am, I walk past them trying to get a sense of the story within.

I don't think I'm alone in this. Perhaps you remember the craze for doorways, maybe ten years ago, when there were photo essays of doorways everywhere, on posters, tee shirts, coffee mugs. Inspired, I climbed on the bandwagon and made collages which are still hanging on our kitchen walls. They are put together from the doorway photographs of our British travels and I can remember the provenance of almost all of those pictures: the smoky pub in Wales, the rented manse in Oban, the B&B on the quiet Belfast street. I remember them because of the interior stories attached. It's not the pub itself, I remember, it's the choral singing from a room behind the bar. It's not the manse as much as the drafts and moldy smells. The B&B, Rowan House, stays in my memory because of the tacky shower in a corner of the bedroom and the carefully guarded political correctness of the owners.

I think the fad for photographs of doorways caught on because people were tantalized by the hint of a secret, private place hidden from view.

Jane Bartram said it well. She was talking about the line of similar doorways at Lumberton as well as those at Medford Leas. She said, "No matter

how commonplace the doorway, the moment you open the door and step inside, it's a different world. No two households are alike. The entrance may be identical to its neighbors, but inside, each world is unique."

As Jane says, the interiors of our homes tell our stories. So, if I knock on your door some day and ask intrusive questions, I'm sure you'll understand.

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## **ELEGANCE STRING QUARTET TO RETURN**

by Joe Costanza

The Elegance String Quartet will return to the Medford Leas Theater on Saturday, January 17. With a repertoire that includes classical and popular pieces, the quartet has become one of the Delaware Valley's favorite ensembles.



Cellist Ray Bishel, a member of Symphony in C, formed the quartet 15 years ago. Other members of the quartet include violinist So-

fia Bishel, who has performed in many countries as soloist and concertmaster; violinist/violist Alfi Latypova, a soloist at the prestigious Mozarteum Summer Academy in Salzburg and a first prize-winner in several competitions; and violinist/violist Seth Rodriguez, also a prizewinning soloist who has served as concertmaster for international orchestras. The Elegance String Quartet performed here last year and was warmly received.

The concert is part of the Guest Artists Series of live performances presented by the Medford Leas Music Committee, chaired by **Paul Ray**. The program begins at 7:30 pm. Upcoming concerts include the Luba Agranovsky Trio on March 15, and the Wister Trio on April 15. The February concert will be announced.

## ESTAUGH AND HADDON ROOFS ARE UP AT YEAR'S END

text by Beth Bogie, photos by Jeremy Vickers

In September 2012, CEO **Jeremy Vickers** introduced Medford Leas residents to the proposed plans for the redevelopment of Estaugh, the long-term care unit, and Haddon next door, home of assisted living. They would be seeking state approvals through the fall and winter, he said. But, he added with pleasure, "This is the first time that it all has come together."

Today, at the end of 2014, he can look with satisfaction at the Estaugh and Haddon additions moving steadily toward their outward completion.

Construction actually started when site work demolition commenced on January 31, 2014. Soon work on Estaugh and Haddon went forward briskly. As we close out 2014 and enter 2015, the Estaugh addition is weathertight, and Haddon's extension is under its roof, with internal framing of its rooms beginning.

In Estaugh, 12 rooms are framed out with metal studs, the roof is secured and windows are in. The yellow external wall board is now covered with a blue thermal shield. This will then be covered by siding for the exterior walls. Indoors, electrical wiring is being inserted in the walls before more insulation is applied and then covered with sheet rock for the interior walls.



**Bill Murphy**, Operations director, spoke about the complexity of the wiring of these buildings, not only for electrical purposes, but also for fire alarms and security. Those systems, and chilled and hot water systems, also must be connected to the main building.

Work on Haddon was slowed when digging for an elevator shaft struck water. The hydrology problem was solved, but it put progress on Haddon a month behind Estaugh. Work-



ers in December were pushing hard to catch up. Concrete was poured for the basement and first-floor walls and structural steel was going up by mid-month. By year's end the roof was secured.

Indoors two corridors have been created between Estaugh and Haddon, on either side of what will be a garden courtyard, and three rooms have been eliminated in Haddon.

Bill speaks highly of Reeves Construction. "They're doing a real thorough job," he says. He goes to a construction meeting every two weeks. The engineers are there as well as the architects. He also goes to the site every day.

What's next in 2015? In the near-term, in Estaugh, sheet-rocking will be completed and ceilings and floors will be installed, as well as finished doors. In Haddon, framing of the rooms will continue and the sprinkler system will be installed. "These buildings will be very legal and very safe," Bill says. "Everything will be fireproofed."

The big news for 2015, however, is that both buildings will be opened, and residents and staff will move into their newly decorated quarters. One-half of those in Estaugh will remain in Estaugh, and one-half will move into Haddon.

Back in September 2012, Jeremy complimented the work of his 18-member planning committee, half staff and half residents. "Our goal was not only to have a plan" he laughed, "but to actually do it!"

Without question, they are doing it!

## CREATING WREATHS

text and photo by Betsy Pennink

Wreath-making at Medford Leas! What could be more appropriate? In a program offered by *Paths to Learning* to residents and outsiders alike, **Debbie Lux**, Landscaping, held a series of four hands-on workshops in early December. The purpose: all their participants, using imagination and the materials provided, could create their own individual wreaths.

Before the third session, Debbie had covered long tables in the Holly Room with evergreen branches, harvested by her from trees and shrubs on the campus. There was plenty of magnolia, arborvitae, Japanese pine, white pine, cyprus, juniper, yew and two kinds of holly. (The only item purchased – at Produce Junction – was Frazier fir.) Debbie had also brought a panel of bows made with different ribbons and materials, and boxes of Christmas ornaments of all varieties.



Susan Dowling at work

wiring small pieces of fir to the frames.

There was little talking as everyone concentrated on his or her creation. However, music in the background added to the holiday spirit. An hour later, the smiling participants left with their wreaths, no two of them alike.

After a short demonstration by Debbie of the wreath-making procedure, the 22 participants made their way around the room, gathering the materials they wanted. They then took their places at several round tables, where 18-inch-diameter wire frames waited for them. Soon all were working hard at the first step,

## MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE

by Dorothy Cebula

The Diversity Committee will recognize the Martin Luther King Day of Service by hosting a program with Camden's *Urban Promise*. Elementary and middle school children will present recitations and music that commemorate the goals and aspirations of Martin Luther King. The program will be held on Saturday, January 17, at 11 am in the Medford Leas Theater.

Since the day has now been recognized as a day of service, the Committee hopes that this program will stimulate residents to find ways to serve others, to grow in our understanding and appreciation of the diversity of the human family, and to take action to support and advocate for those who are victims of injustice in society.

*Urban Promise* was established in 1988 in East Camden. The mission "to equip Camden children and young adults with the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, spiritual growth and Christian leadership" has been successful in helping more than 85% of their school alumni graduate from institutions of higher education.

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JANUARY MUSIC VIDEOS

Thursdays in the Theater at 7:10 pm.

- January 8 – Debussy: *Prelude to Afternoon of a Faun*; Vivaldi: *Four Seasons*
- January 15 – Grieg: *Piano Concerto*; Mendelssohn: *Violin Concerto*
- January 22 – Tchaikovsky: *Violin Concerto*
- January 29 – Dixieland Jazz

Maggie Heineman

CRAFT FAIR ATTRACTS BIG CROWD

text and photos by Beth Bogie

Rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of residents and the public for shopping at the Holiday Craft Fair, now in its eighth year, four of them under Chairman **Art Hartwig**. People and gift ideas filled the Holly Room and Gathering Room and half of the Gallery lobby outside the Theater. **Judy Atwood** had organized the volunteers who handed out programs. Every exhibit was busy with eager shoppers and appreciators of high quality crafts that this show attracts each year.

The craft exhibitors seemed to be extremely happy in this marketplace. Nancy Salvatoriello of Red Dog Pottery, with its attractive designs which she produces in her studio at home, said this was her third year selling at this Craft Fair. "It's my favorite show," she said.



Doreen's Decadent Chocolates

One of the new exhibits was The Jersey Farmhouse, owned by Danielle Brenner who was selling her salsas and jams ranging from "Just Peachy"

to Cranberry Ketchup and everything in between. Another new exhibitor was Doreen's Decadent Chocolates, including chocolate-dipped strawberries and chocolate covered pretzels. Both exhibitors were doing "very well," they said.

Fran Webb and **Joan McKeon** were selling **Debbie Lux's** beautiful wreaths and arrangements as well as decorative holders of suet for birds. **Louise Tompkins** happily exited with one of the wreaths, saying how much she liked the dried artichokes nestled among the evergreens.



Louise Tompkins



Harry Silvers

Jim Knapp and **Tom Roberts** were manning the wood workshop output of bookends and other useful items. **Art Hartwig** showed his handsome, hand-turned and finished bowls. Also in the wood-working category were the beautiful oval Shaker boxes handmade by **Harry Silvers**.

One could hear shoppers exclaiming over the Christmas gifts they had managed to buy in just a few hours. **Marion Norcross** found presents for her music students and a wooden letter opener she needed. **Valerie Cross** came away with a ceramic decorated mirror, a clock set in wood from the workshop and note cards with resident art work and photographs, sold by **Barbara Zimmerman** and **Vince Menzel**.

Art Hartwig was "very enthusiastic" about the increase in sales over previous years, brought about by a ticket auction, which raised more than \$1,000. Proceeds will go to the Medford Leas Residents Assistance Fund.

He also was very appreciative of the help from Maintenance in setting up tables, and from the Boy Scouts in taking down the exhibits for the very happily weary exhibitors at the end of the day.

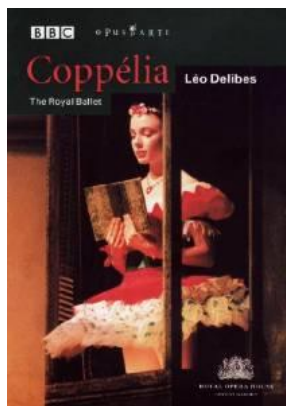
MLRA MEETING SPEAKER

Medical Director of the Wellness Center **Dr. Andie Iannuzzelli** will speak at the MLRA meeting on Monday, January 19, about her department and the newly appointed doctor, **Dr. James D'Amico**. MLRA meetings are held the third Monday of every month, except August, at 7:20 pm in the Theater.

David Eynon, president, MLRA

LEASMUSICAST PRESENTS *COPPÉLIA*

by Beth Bogie



The comic ballet, *Coppélia*, performed by London's Royal Ballet, will be presented by LeasMusiCast on Saturday, January 24, at 2 pm in the Theater. Broadcast live by BBC television from the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden in February 2000, this fanciful production was choreo-

graphed by Dame Ninette de Valoise, who was founder of the Royal Ballet. Set and costume designs are by the late Sir Osbert Lancaster, well known as a designer for theater, opera and ballet.

The score by French composer Léo Delibes was performed by the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House under the direction of Nicolae Moldoveanu, conductor of many leading orchestras throughout Europe.

Principal dancers of *Coppélia* are Leanne Benjamin as Swanhilde, betrothed to Franz, danced by Carlos Acosta. Luke Heyden, a comic actor and dancer, plays the eccentric Dr. Coppelius.

In this 19th century fairy tale ballet, *Coppélia* is a life-size dancing doll created by fanatical toy-maker Dr. Coppelius, who dreams of bringing her to life. Franz, a villager and Swanhilde's fiancé, cannot take his eyes off *Coppélia*, seated on a balcony overlooking the town square. Swanhilde, like Franz, thinks *Coppélia* is alive, grows jealous and curious, and with friends, slips into Dr. Coppelius' house when he is out.

Swanhilde and the girls discover a house full of mechanical dolls and are amazed to find that *Coppélia*, too, is a doll. Franz meanwhile climbs up to the balcony. Dr. Coppelius returns at that moment, is angered by the intruders and decides to draw life from Franz with a magic potion and transfer it to *Coppélia*. He is foiled by the mischievous Swanhilde, who masquerades as *Coppélia* and saves Franz from the doctor's magic.

Léo Delibes, creator of *Coppélia* in 1870, was a composer of ballets, operas and other stage productions, and much admired by Tchaikovsky, who exclaimed over Delibes' "wealth of melody." The St. Petersburg Imperial Ballet's staging of *Coppélia* by Marius Petipa serves as the basis for all modern-day productions.

Leanne Benjamin, an Australian who trained at the Royal Ballet School; Carlos Acosta, who studied at the National Ballet School of Cuba; and Luke Heyden, graduate of the Royal Ballet School who became principal character artist of the Company in 2000, all had numerous roles in their repertoires, including their parts in *Coppélia*.

The Royal Ballet was one of the foremost ballet companies of the 20th century, and continues to be one of the world's most famous. Founded in 1931 by dancer and choreographer Dame Ninette de Valoise, it became the resident company of the Royal Opera House in 1946, when the theater reopened as Britain's first permanent home of opera and ballet. The Orchestra of the Royal Opera House also was founded at that time. The Royal Ballet is the largest of four ballet companies in Britain.

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## WORKSHOP WIZARDS

Do you have articles in your apartment that need repair, repainting or refinishing? Do you have "family treasures" that could be restored to live another few years? Do you need a shelving unit, a small stool, a pet ramp, or a new parking sign? Check us out at the Residents' Workshop (3059) and find out if your needs can be met. We have a group of five "Wizards" who can usually save your treasure from a final resting place in the trash!

We are located under the Theater and are open M-F, 9 am-noon. Talk to **Alex, Andy, Dick, Jim** or **Tom** and see the shop for yourself! We will be happy to serve you.

**Dick Randolph**

## WANTED: PIANO LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME

by John Welch

Little did I know that so many music lovers and talented musicians reside on the two Medford Leas campuses! I moved to the Lumberton community over a year ago and, as a music lover and amateur musician, was delighted to find that I was surrounded by such like-minded neighbors.

Since then I have attended a number of events at the Lumberton Community Center and have been somewhat distressed to observe that the old Roland digital piano that has served so well is now worn out and no longer really adequate for such a musically appreciative community.

I believe a more appealing piano would encourage more musical participation by our residents, and could provide an additional focus for informal social gatherings. So I decided to try to do something about it and contacted my friend **Marc Mostovoy** for his thoughts. Marc, as many may know, was the founder and music director of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia for 40 years. He and his wife **Mi-Young** (a concert violinist) moved here about the same time as I did.

After reviewing the situation with him and discussing it with a number of other people, I was encouraged. I decided to reach out to the Medford Leas community to see if a resident might have, or know of, an instrument that was not needed or being used and that could be donated to the Lumberton campus for a possible tax deduction.

There are some constraints. First, there is not enough floor space for a grand piano because the Community Center is often filled to its limits by exercise classes or activities. A good quality upright, however, would fit and is perhaps the best choice for the limits of the building. A quality digital/electronic piano would be a second choice.

The advantages of acoustic pianos (normal pianos with strings) are twofold. They can provide better and more room-filling sound and they almost always have better keyboard response and feel,

which enables and elicits more artistic playing. While many upright pianos are not particularly appealing, especially small spinets and big neglected old ones, medium-sized consoles can sometimes be of good quality. There are also high quality uprights intended for discriminating users with floor space limitations. These are sometimes called professional uprights.

Acoustic pianos, of course, can be a problem because of the need for frequent and expensive tuning. In our case, however, it will not be an issue, because I have experience in tuning and maintaining pianos and can make certain that the piano for our Center will be kept performing at its best. It is hard for most people to envision that their fine acoustic piano may sit idle, largely because lack of tuning and action adjustment keep it from responding like a fine piano.

The second alternative, a modern digital piano, usually has the sounds of an exquisite grand piano recorded into its playback system. These also do not need tuning and typically provide other functions and many other musical voices besides the grand piano. They are particularly appropriate for home use where large-hall projection is not required and frequent tuning of an acoustic piano would not likely occur.

Digital pianos have two principal drawbacks, however. The first is a keyboard that typically does not provide the feel and response of a good acoustic piano. The second is inadequate sound amplification to emulate a real acoustic instrument. Some do a better job with keyboard feel than others, but emulating the sound of a large acoustic soundboard activated by 88 hammers requires space-filling and expensive amplifiers and speakers that are beyond the expectations and resources of most digital piano buyers. For these reasons we will consider a good digital piano only as a close second choice after a high quality upright.

So if you have, or know of someone who has, a piano that would enjoy an appreciative new home, please email me ([jwelch1433@gmail.com](mailto:jwelch1433@gmail.com)) or call at 856-235-8588 to arrange for an evaluation of its suitability for the Community Center.

**FROM CALLIGRAPHY TO BURMA AND BEYOND**

**THE LEAS ART GALLERY SCENE**

by Helen L. Vukasin and Joyce L. Sichel

The December reception for the Philadelphia Calligraphy Society’s 15<sup>th</sup> year of Medford Leas exhibits was both enjoyable and well attended. We were honored by the presence of the regional calligraphy’s founder, our own **Harry Forrest**. Artists in the Society are now drawn from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, although the artists showing here were all from New Jersey. The society’s chair, Maureen Peters of Woodbury, NJ, gave the guests a good overview of “beautiful writing,” accomplished with a variety of techniques, tools, and often additional artwork. Maureen and Veti Vasilion from nearby Marlton generously personalized complimentary gift tags with their flowing script.

Opening in January, Joanna Patterson will present a show of her photography entitled “Contemporary Burma at a Crossroads.” She is a world traveler whose trips have touched on all seven continents. She visited Burma at the end of 2013, traveled internally by air while there, and took a very large number of photographs of the country (in recent years often known as Myanmar). Ms. Patterson will tell us how struck she was by the graciousness and generosity of the Burmese people. Her photographs are also expected to convey her fondness for those she met and for their culture. In both her photographs and her talk, to be given at the opening reception on January 6, from 3:00 to 4:30 pm, she will share her observations and insights about changes taking place as Burma has moved since 2010 from dictatorship toward democracy.



Ms. Patterson will switch out some of the Burmese photographs after about two weeks of the exhibit, replacing them with other photos from her

wide travels. Many of our residents may also have taken trips to the places she will feature, so this will be a dynamic month in the main Medford Leas Gallery.

At the Lumberton campus Art Gallery, the exhibit of our Art Studio artists continues until the end of January. Check out the work of friends and neighbors, as well as some very talented newcomers to Medford Leas.

Catch new work of Art Studio resident artists while it is still mounted on the ground floor of the Arts and Social Wing. Do not overlook the photographic section of the show down the hall from the Fitness Center. The whole exhibit will be there until spring, when it will be replaced by these artists’ most recent work.

We offer a rich artistic winter for all tastes, so don’t let winter go by without checking out the galleries!

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**MOVIES IN THE ACTIVITIES ROOM
OPEN TO ALL**

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

Movies for January are:

- Jan. 6 *Forty-second Street*
- Jan. 13 *The Palm Beach Story*
- Jan. 20 *Meet Me in St. Louis*
- Jan. 27 *The Awful Truth*

Sharon Conway, Therapeutic Recreation

IN MEMORIAM

Genevieve “Ginette” Weld	November 18
Jane Spivack	November 19
Ross “Mike” Carrell	November 23
Anne Wood	November 24
Karl Lauer	November 27
Arthur “Art” Eldred	November 29

BIRDERS VISIT FORSYTHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

text and photos by Joe Costanza

Many of the residents and guests who made the Medford Leas Birders trip to the Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge on November 19 had something in common with the refuge. They and the refuge came into being about the same time. This year



“Brig,” as it is affectionately known by birders and photographers, celebrates its 75th anniversary. Established in 1939, two existing refuges were combined in 1984 and named in honor of Edwin B. Forsythe, the late New Jersey congressman and conservationist. Today the refuge includes 47,000 acres of protected coastal habitat. Our trip took place at the Galloway section of the refuge where the visitors’ center and headquarters are located, and where an eight-mile gravel road loops through a variety of ecosystems.

The habitats on both sides of the loop road attract an amazing variety of wildlife. Dikes were established to create freshwater and brackish impoundments, thus supporting a greater number of species than just the salt marsh alone. Water levels in the impoundments are seasonally regulat-



Tundra Swans

ed; drawn down to encourage plant life in the spring and filled in the fall for returning waterfowl. The refuge also

includes forested areas and meadows, with several interesting walking trails.

Forsythe NWR is a popular location for birders, and this was well evidenced by our trip. Organized by **Louise Tompkins**, 20 birders, including seven guests and *Pathways to Learning at Medford Leas* participants, made the trip despite a cold but sunny day.

Upon our arrival, we were treated to excellent sightings of a large bevy of Tundra Swans and seven of the dozen duck species we would eventually find. A few hours of birding usually produces a surprise or two, and this trip was no exception. A Brown Thrasher, typically well south by this time of the year, was an early sighting. And as we concluded our tour, a pair of colorful Eastern Meadowlarks, beautifully lighted by the afternoon sun, perched atop a pine tree and gave us a spectacular sighting.



Northern Shoveler

In all, we identified 49 avian species including Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Hooded Merganser, Northern Shoveler and a good variety of

passerines and waterfowl. A highlight for many was the over 100 Tundra Swans, also known as Whistling Swans. These magnificent birds migrate south from Canada and Greenland during the winter months seeking open water. After several hours at the refuge, we enjoyed a warm lunch at Shea's Cafe before returning home.

Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

~~~~~ CAT COUPLET

The raising of cats is a glorious thing.
They're born with intuitive knowledge.
They never ask for the keys to the car
And you don't have to send 'em to college!

*A prize-winning poem from a friend in Michigan, submitted by **Elizabeth Hicks**.*

WHO'S NEW - MEDFORD CAMPUS

photos by Margery Rubin

Mary (Kristjen) Lombardi moved into Apt. 105 in October and is impressed with the friendliness of everyone at Medford Leas. She moved here from Leisuretowne in Southampton, NJ, and says the contrast is great. Here there are always people to talk to when you walk around, and she has enjoyed dinners at the Friendly Table.



Mary was born in Warren County in northwestern New Jersey, a beautiful place with views of the Appalachian Mountains. It was a rural county with many farms and hills that invited children to get out their sleds when it snowed.

Mary's father began as a railway mail clerk, but fell in love with the area as his train went past. He bought a house and a farm, where he grew apples, pears, and quinces. Mary went to a three-room schoolhouse, then on to Phillipsburg High School.

She majored in home economics at New Jersey College for Women, later renamed Douglass College, in New Brunswick. Then, for over ten years, Mary taught home economics in Sussex Borough in Sussex County, NJ. That's where she met her husband-to-be. She and Nicholas were married in the 1950s. They moved to Riverside, NJ, where he taught English and Latin. Mary also taught home economics in Burlington City and Burlington Township.

After her husband's death, Mary and their daughter Marie decided Medford Lakes, NJ, would be the ideal spot to live. They enjoyed these new surroundings tremendously, and Mary loved working at the Pinelands Library in Medford. When Mary moved to Leisuretowne, Marie and her husband moved into the Medford Lakes house. Now Mary is back in the Medford area and not far from Marie, to the satisfaction of both.

Betsy Pennink

Eileen (Moffa) MacAlpine and **Sally Klos** were next-door neighbors on Taunton Lake in Medford for many years, so when Eileen decided to scale down, she knew she'd follow Sally to Medford Leas. About two decades ago, Eileen's mother-in-law, **Ruth Lewis**, had lived here, too. Eileen settled into Apt. 142 in November.

Before her three children were born, Eileen worked for what was then called Bell Tell as a service operator. These were the patient people who answered questions about bills, solved phone service problems, and gave out new phone numbers. Eileen remembered, "We tried so hard to be professional that one day, when we were really busy, a worker who had dashed back from her break, but missed her chair, toppled onto the floor, all the while advising a customer on the phone, who I'm sure never realized that anything had happened."



Eileen's gift for patient listening led her to volunteer as a group leader at CONTACT (United Way of Camden County). For 20 years, she taught phone volunteers how to handle every kind of call that came in on the hotline. "I remember once a distressed young person said that he was planning to break into some office building. I sensed that he really wanted attention, so I talked with him until he changed his mind."

The family lived in Rhode Island while husband Kenneth served as a Navy pilot. "He worked search and rescue for Admiral Fuchs on a South Pole expedition," Eileen says. "Once when I wanted to know when Kenneth was leaving for the Pole with the admiral, I sent a telegram to him asking when the admiral was due. Guess what. The admiral's name was misspelled on the telegram to the Navy. I never heard the end of it!"

Later, Kenneth's plane crashed in a whiteout blizzard and he was seriously injured. Despite Eileen's objections, "when he was well enough, Kenneth went right back to the South Pole."

Eileen now looks forward to plenty of reading time, strolls and swimming in the pool.

Judy Kruger

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**Bob and Joan (Malcom) Aljoe** moved to # 626 Rushmore from Harvey Cedars, NJ, in late October. They share their new home with a lively Chocolate Labrador Retriever, Chip (as in Chocolate Chip).

As children, they lived in Roselle, NJ, until they graduated from high school. Bob then entered the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. Joan attended Virginia Intermont College and Beaver College (now Arcadia University.) They married when Bob graduated.



After five years in the Navy during the Korean War, Bob was hired by Bell Laboratories and worked at various locations over the course of 30 years, completing his employment as director of operations at the Whippany, NJ, site. Their home was in Chatham, NJ, where they

raised three children: a son who now lives in Cedar Run, NJ, and two daughters in Georgia and the Carolinas. While in Chatham, Bob served on the Board of Education of Chatham Borough and was active in youth sports, managing a Little League baseball team for 13 years.

After retirement, they spent 30 years at their shore home in Harvey Cedars. Joan was active in the Long Beach Island Garden Club and was a member of the Hospital Boosters organization. Bob was a member of Kiwanis and a vestry member and senior warden of the Episcopal Church in Beach Haven. They were also members of the Beach Haven Yacht Club.

The Aljoes have ten grandchildren who loved spending the summers with them in Harvey Cedars. Four of these grandchildren lived in England at the time but made the Jersey Shore their

summer home each year. Since all the grandchildren are grown and no longer have the entire summer available for the seashore visits, Joan and Bob felt it was time to move from their large home.



They were pleased to learn that their former pastor was now the rector at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Medford. Joan is looking for opportunities to work with crafts, while Bob is interested in fitness activities and programs in the Theater. They hope to attend the Walnut Street Theater series in the future.

Dorothy Cebula

### WHO'S NEW – LUMBERTON CAMPUS

text by Barbara Zimmerman, photos by Joyce Koch

**Elizabeth “Betsy” (Corbin) Handlan** moved to 36 Woodside Drive TWICE, in August and September, from Ormond Beach, FL. “Twice” because the storage company “lost” many of her belongings. There had to be a second delivery to Woodside Drive.



Upon entering Betsy's home, one is surrounded by history. Many of the paintings are by her mother. There are pictures of relatives who lived “way back.” There is a family farm north of New Hope, PA, which was built in the 1700s. A book, *The Stovers of Tinicum Township*,

graces her coffee table and documents much of the family history in which she is fifth generation. It is natural that Betsy would have done extensive genealogy.

Betsy, a native of Montclair, NJ, met her late husband, Jay Handlan, while they were both in col-

lege, she at Southern Seminary and he at Washington and Lee. They married in 1952, the year of their graduation. She received her BFA and Jay was drafted by both the NBA and the NFL. He didn't accept those offers, but played semipro ball while working for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, Ohio.

Betsy and Jay lived in Akron, OH, Coral Gables, FL, Decatur, GA, Haddonfield, NJ, and Ormond Beach, FL. While in Georgia, Betsy obtained her real estate license.

She has five children and thirteen grandchildren. In the past, she has volunteered at the Evergreens in Moorestown and the Bancroft School in Haddonfield, and was a member of the Junior League in Miami. She is a member of the DAR, the Colonial Dames and the National Huguenot Society, and has held offices in those organizations. She also co-owned and operated the "Wooden Peg," an antique shop in Haddonfield.

Betsy had "always heard" of Medford Leas. Her daughter and son attended an open house on the Lumberton campus and thought it would be perfect for their mother. She agrees!



A lovely German accent resonates from both **Eric** and **Hannelore (Strassner) Hahn**, who moved into 179 WSD in mid-October from Woodcliff Lake, NJ. After they visited this community with its beautiful grounds and open areas that respect nature, they looked no further.

Hannie and Eric are both native to Germany, but did not know each other when they came to the United States. Hannie came to this country by herself with a job in administration and translation waiting for her at an import company, where she worked for three years. The two met while skiing and were married in 1966 by the mayor of Fair-

lawn, NJ, at Eric's parents' home and then went to meet Hannie's parents in Germany.

After a move to Huntsville, AL, Hannie did volunteering and teaching (German, Spanish and French). After returning to New Jersey, she did both public and private high school teaching. She holds degrees from San Jose University, CA, and a PhD in Spanish from Columbia University. She has taught at William Paterson University and Uppsala College. She then became department chairperson of the Foreign Language Department at the College of St. Elizabeth in Morristown, NJ. In addition to teaching and administrative duties, she founded the International Relations and Study Abroad Programs.

Eric came to this country in 1939 with his family to escape the Nazi regime and grew up in Washington Heights, Manhattan. His education includes degrees in physics and math from New York Uni-



versity, Duke and Stevens Institute of Technology. His military service was performed at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. The majority of his working career was spent at The Bendix Corporation, which later became Honeywell. His primary field of expertise was Attitude Control of Satellites, including Skylab, Space Telescope and the Space Station.

During his career, he lived ten years in Huntsville working on Skylab with NASA and four years in Sunnyvale, CA, working on the Space Telescope with Lockheed. He also performed feasibility studies of orbital satellites with aerospace companies around the country, both for NASA and the Department of Defense.

Both enjoy walking the campus and its trails with Orly, their 10-year-old rescue dog (who really wanted to be interviewed!). They may be involved with the Trails Committee and expect to enjoy gardening. Hannie is an avid reader who also enjoys music and opera. Eric will be investigating duplicate bridge and tennis as they settle into their new community.

**JANUARY CRYPTOGRAM**

by Herb Heineman

**BXBZV IBF VBQZ CBNCOB UQYB  
 ZBLNOMJDNI JN EAQIWB QLCBEJL NP  
 JABULBOXBL JABV HBODBXB QZB  
 IBWQJDXB. Q UQRNZDJV NP CBNCOB  
 ZBxBZJ HQEY JN ANF JABV FBZB  
 HBPNZB QIT PBBO ODYB PQDOMZBL.  
 JADL VBQZ D EAQOOBIWB VNM JN Q IBF  
 ZBLNOMJDNI. D EAQOOBIWB VNM JN  
 RMLJ HB VNMZLBOP.**

Underline or flag the author's name

**QII OQITBZL  
 QDLAQ BOTBZFYI  
 EQZO RMIW**

Here's the solution to the December cryptogram.

HOW DID IT GET SO LATE SO SOON? IT'S  
 NIGHT BEFORE IT'S AFTERNOON.  
 DECEMBER IS HERE BEFORE IT'S JUNE. MY  
 GOODNESS HOW THE TIME HAS FLEWN.  
 HOW DID IT GET SO LATE SO SOON?

DR. SEUSS  
 DR. KILDARE  
 DR. NO

The correct solution was received from the following readers:

**Catherine Barry, Maryann Beitel, Ruth Blattenberger, Alice Culbreth, Doris Curley, Barbara Fiala, Roberta Foss, Linda Gaylord, Neil Hartman, Barbara Heizman, Pat Heller, Sue Isaacs, Jean Jordan, Doris Q. Murray, Helen Peterson, Betty Preston, Toby Riley, Doris Salati, Florence Sawyer, Peg Scott, Joanne Thomas, Ellen Wiener, Barbara Zimmerman.** All but three 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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 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication

