



Medford Leas *Life*

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OUR NEW DOCTOR

text by Suzanne Frank, photos by Margery Rubin



Just call him Dr. James. Originally from Brooklyn, NY, **James D'Amico, DO**, comes to us with a full plate of experience in face-to-face relationships with seniors, which will no doubt benefit us all as he talks to us and treats us.

He claims he is a very lucky man. If he had not studied cell biology and worked in a genetics lab before being accepted into medical school, he would not have met his wife Rowena. And if his private practice in Turnersville hadn't "overprospered," he wouldn't have thought the time was right to make a change and accept Dr. Andie's invitation to interview here.

He graduated from Wagner College on Staten Island and received a master's from Rutgers in cell biology in 1991. He was accepted by UMDNJ (now Rowan University) and finished his residency in 1998. Since then he has been working in private practice in internal medicine, geriatrics, rehab, long-term care and hospice.

In his new full-time position here, Dr. James has been assigned to patient care in Woolman, and

then slowly he will take on patients of his own. Dr. Andie (Medical Director **Andrea Iannuzzelli**) has laughingly said that there is already a list of volunteer patients waiting.

Rowena D'Amico, his wife, is a radiation therapist who has worked for the Kennedy Hospital system for 20 years. Their daughter, Jacqueline, is 18 and a freshman at Muhlenberg College. Dr. James is waiting for his younger daughter, Jessica, 13, to graduate from grade school before possibly moving their home closer to Medford.



Rowena, Jacqueline and Dr. James

"The campus here is really beautiful," he said appreciatively of the beauty of nature at Medford Leas. And, of course, he is looking forward to making a positive contribution to the Wellness Center in its care of us all.

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## PATHWAYS TO GARDENS AND GARDENING

by Beth Bogie

“How deeply seated in the heart  
is the liking for gardens and gardening.”

Alexander Smith\*,  
from *Books and Gardens*

**A** is for April and Arboretum, a time and place residents look forward to as the first signs of spring appear, with daffodils the stars of the show along woodland paths. April also is going to introduce gardening in a major way in a **Gardening Guru Series** presented by *Pathways to Learning at Medford Leas*.

Other aspects of our lives are not neglected, however. In this issue you also will find descriptions of **Leas Forum** programs in April, a schedule of the **Great Decisions** presentations, an explanation of this season’s **Medford University** topic, an exhibit of **painting on silk** by artist Patricia Walkar, and an introduction to the opera *Fidelio*, presented by **LeasMusiCast** – all program components of *Pathways* and all the creation of Medford Leas residents.

The entire Pathways program has been put together by **Jane Weston**, Community Relations director, as well as head of the Arboretum Subcommittee, and the Pathways Committee of residents: **Barbara Trought, Kay Cooley, Jody Cardona, Mary Lou Morrow, Frank Snope, Vince Menzel** and **Dave Bartram**.



Medford Leas daffodils will kick off April activities with their return engagement, **“Daffodil Daze Walks.”** **Debbie Lux**, horticulturist, will provide a tour across the Medford campus to view thousands of daffodils, which got their start in 1978 with the Ilgenfritz Daffodil Collection, donated by a resident. (*The walks will take place on two Wednesdays, April 8 and 15, from 10 am to noon and will begin at the*

*Medford Leas Nature Center. Registration deadline: April 3.*)

The Gardening Guru Series will begin on Wednesday, April 22, led by Bruce Crawford, director of Rutgers Gardens, a 180-acre botanical garden. He is also adjunct professor in landscape architecture at Rutgers University. Prior to joining Rutgers he had his own design business for nearly 25 years, specializing in plantings for year-round interest. He will speak about **“Designing the Perennial Border,”** drawing on herbaceous plants, annuals, and a few woody plants for structure, combined for 12-month visual appeal.

Session two, **“Sustainable Garden Practices,”** Wednesday, April 29, will cover the timing and techniques for pruning, watering, weeding, fertilizing and planting. Kathleen Salisbury, an award-winning horticulture educator, formerly with the New York Botanical Garden, will provide information for use in personal gardens this season, in a way that is better for the gardener as well as the environment. Kathleen is horticulture educator for Penn State Extension in Bucks County, as well as co-owner of DeVosBury Designs, an ecological design and horticulture consulting firm.

For session three, **“How to Create a No-Fuss Wildlife Pond,”** on Wednesday, May 6, naturalist Pat Sutton will share her ideas for creating a wildlife pond without the need for running water, filters or fish. Learn which native plants to include and which to avoid. Soon, effortlessly, wildlife will appear at the pond. Pat was for nine years naturalist at the Cape May Point State Park and then, for 21 years, naturalist and program director at the Cape May Bird Observatory. She is a freelance writer, photographer, tour leader and wildlife garden consultant and has her own teaching garden featured on her tours. (*All three sessions will take place from 10 to 11 am in the Theater. The deadline to register is April 17.*)

The month will top off on April 25 with the annual Evening in the Arboretum (see page 8).

\*Alexander Smith (1830-1867), Scottish poet

## LEAS FORUM IN APRIL

Leas Forum talks usually take place on two Saturdays each month at 11 am in the Medford Leas Theater. The programs just ahead are:

### April 11

#### *Faces of Islam: From Sunnism to Wahhabism*

Rutgers professor Rafey Habib will give a brief overview of the fundamental beliefs of Islam and then outline the distinctions between Sunnism and Shi'ism, the mystical tradition of Sufism, and modern sects such as Wahhabism and various distortions. What will be stressed is Islam's connection with the other Abrahamic faiths, Judaism and Christianity, as expressed in the Qur'an and the essential moral impetus of Islam, which is oriented toward piety, charity and acting constructively in the service of both humankind and God.

### April 25

#### *Beyond the Peaceable Kingdom*

Gail Sweet, Penny Dwyer and John Connors from Penn Treaty Museum will highlight the legacy of the Treaty Tree at Shackamaxon in the Fishtown neighborhood of Philadelphia. The program begins with a brief account of the Native Americans who lived in the area. History reveals how a simple act of friendship under an elm tree between William Penn and Native Americans in 1682 became a catalyst for religious and civil liberty. The Quaker influence is, of course, the heart of the story. As the tale unfolds, this simple event based on a moment of peace shows how a small act can change history.

Unexpected artifacts uncovered in this area during the I-95 construction in recent years will be displayed.

**Barbara Trought, chair**

## GREAT DECISIONS TALKS CONTINUE

by Dorothy Cebula

Want to learn more about world affairs? What would you do if you were in a position to direct U.S. policy abroad?

If you want to express your opinions and hear what others think, attend the thought-provoking Great Decisions programs this month. A resident speaker will present the subject, show a DVD on the topic and lead the discussion.

Upcoming programs are:

Thursday, April 2 - *India Changes Course*,  
**Beth Wray**

Thursday, April 9 - *U.S. Policy Toward Africa*,  
**George Rubin**

Thursday, April 16 - *Syria's Refugee Crisis*,  
**Davis Henderson**

Thursday, April 23 - *Human Trafficking*,  
**Toby Riley**

Thursday, April 30 - *Brazil in Metamorphosis*,  
**Janet Jackson-Gould**

Each week the program will be presented in the Theater on Thursdays, starting at 10:30 and concluding at noon. Plan to attend one or all of the programs to contribute your knowledge, share your experiences and offer your views.

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A VERY SPECIAL DATE

Circle May 16 on your calendar! It will be a memorable date in the history of Medford Leas. At 10 o'clock that morning the Nature Center will be dedicated to Lois Forrest, our extraordinary Executive Director from 1979 to 2000 and leader in developing the arboretum. The gathering will be held outside the building, which will thereafter be known as the Lois Forrest Nature Center.

Betsy Pennink

IT STRIKES IT RICH

text by Walt Dennen, photo by Margery Rubin

Forgive the pun, but how could I not use one in the headline above when I'm writing about a new hire named **Marc Gold**? Marc joined the Medford Leas Information Technology department on October 6, assigned to supporting computer needs for Medford Leas staff. His assignment frees up **Brian Reilly** to concentrate exclusively on supporting residents in using their PCs.



Although Marc had never worked at Medford Leas, his joining us, in a sense, is almost like coming home for two reasons. First, despite being born in Philadelphia, his family moved to Medford when Marc was an infant, and he spent his entire childhood here. He continued his post-secondary education at Burlington County College, again a local move.

After concluding his studies, he joined the national computer-servicing Geek Squad, a unit of Best Buy, and spent eight years learning the workings of countless types of computers. From the Geek Squad, he really came home because his fiancée is Justine Wills, whose mother happens to be **Valerie Wills**, the billing clerk in Medford Leas Finance Department. While Marc enjoyed his diversity of assignments at the Geek Squad, he is relieved to have ended the travel his job required.

He will have more time to spend not only with Justine, but also for his other interests, which include hockey, playing his drums and working in the pit crew for a local racing car team. It's certainly a full plate for a young man.

Marc can be reached at ext. 3299 and Brian at his regular extension, 3340. Of course, both can be contacted via the IT hot line, ext. 3018, and **Russell Pepe**, IT manager, at 3292.

COUNCIL NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

by Dorothy Cebula

Ruth Gage, chair of the MLRA Nominating Committee that included **Ethel Cebra**, **Helen Hamilton**, **Dick Sprague** and **Barbara Trought**, announced the slate of candidates for the 2015-17 term at the monthly MLRA meeting on March 16. The election will be held at the general meeting on April 20.

The candidates nominated for the 2015-2017 term are **Gordon Brummer** (Bridlington), **Walter Dennen** (Courts), **Janet Jackson-Gould** (Rushmore), **Geno Mori** (Lumberton) and **Barbara Trought** (Courts).

Council members who will be remaining for a second year on the Council are **Doris Brown**, **Joe Costanza**, **Walter Dow**, **Carol Neil**, **Renee Slemmer** and **Hannah Wilson**.

Those Council members completing their service July 1 of this year are **Ellie Elmendorf**, **David Eynon**, MLRA president, **Ruth Gage**, vice president, **BJ Tetlow** and **George Trought**.

The Nominating Committee instituted for the first time informational workshops about the workings of the Council. These were attended by people suggested by residents and individuals considered suitable prospects by the Committee. Two workshops were held with 10 to 12 possible candidates attending each.

According to the Committee the reason for the workshops was the fact that "prospective nominees usually had very little knowledge of the responsibilities and functions of Council members. Once having been elected, they then had to spend what was essentially wasted time in 'on the job training.'" The workshops gave prospective nominees a chance to decide whether they wanted to run at all, or maybe not now but possibly in the future. Now "nominees who join the Council will already be aware of their responsibilities and functions," the Committee said.

FIVE-STAR EMPLOYEES

text by Suzanne Frank, photo by Susan DeJacomo

They walk and work among us. They are the ten staff members who recently received Five Star Recognition Awards for their high performance, strong commitment and exceptional ser-

vice to Medford Leas during the 2014 calendar year. Selected by Medford Leas department heads, they were honored during a Service Recognition dinner Friday, March 6, during which other staff members also were honored for their present and past service. Below are the ten honorees:



Pictured: Agnes Santore, Lori Jakelsky, Florence Heisler, Nicole Grexa, Arthur Jombe, Artika McGregor, Marcy Smith, Mary Gunter, Michelle Harding. Not pictured: Deborah Farley

MOVIES IN THE ACTIVITIES ROOM OPEN TO ALL

Movie classics on Tuesday evenings at 7:15,
complete with popcorn

Movies for April are:

- April 7 Singing in the Rain
- April 14 Father of the Bride
- April 21 The Sound of Music
- April 28 The Shop Around the Corner

Sharon Conway, Therapeutic Recreation

MLRA MEETING SPEAKER

Suzanne Frank and Dining Services Director **Jen Zdunczyk** will speak about recycling and composting requirements at the MLRA meeting on Monday, April 20. They will review instructions on how to dispose of all articles that may seem recyclable. MLRA meetings are held the third Monday of every month, except August, at 7:20 pm in the Theater.

David Eynon, president, MLRA

LEASMUSICAST: *FIDELIO*

by Beth Bogie

Ludwig van Beethoven's moving opera *Fidelio* was recorded live in HD at the Zurich Opera House, Switzerland, in October 2008, some 200 years after it premiered in Vienna in 1805. The production, led by Dutch conductor Bernard Haitink, will now be presented by LeasMusiCast on Saturday, April 18, at 2 pm, in the Medford Leas Theater.



Set in Seville, Spain, in the 18th century, the opera tells how Leonore, a noblewoman disguised as a prison guard, Fidelio, rescues her husband, Florestan, from death in a political prison. But the opera is more than about this storyline or the political movements in Europe at the time. It is a story of personal sacrifice, heroism and eventual triumph, with the underlying themes of liberty and justice. It is these themes that attracted Beethoven to an earlier French libretto performed in 1798.

The principal parts of Leonore and Florestan, played by soprano Melanie Diener and tenor Roberto Saccà, are said to be particularly demanding, requiring great vocal skill and endurance in order to project the necessary intensity.

Other Parts

Don Fernando,
prime minister
Don Pizarro, jail governor
Rocco, chief jailor
Marzelline, his daughter
Jaquino, Rocco's assistant
First Prisoner
Second Prisoner

Other Cast

Krešimir Stražanac
Lucio Gallo
Alfred Muff
Sandra Trattnigg
Christoph Strahl
Boguslaw Bidzinski
Morgan Moody.

The writing of this opera - Beethoven's first and only - is noteworthy in itself. There were three versions. The first, premiered in Vienna in 1805, was actually a flop. It was revised the following year (and performed with almost the same cast)

but did no better. Finally, revised again, *Fidelio* was introduced in 1814 and was a great success. All three versions were published together as his Op. 72. Beethoven also composed four different overtures, with the final one, the "Fidelio Overture," the overture heard in 1814 and today.

The problems had been with the libretto and Beethoven's difficulty composing for the stage. After its success in 1814, he wrote to a friend who helped him, "I assure you...that this opera will win me a martyr's crown. You have by your cooperation saved what is best from the shipwreck. For all this I shall be eternally grateful."

Unusually moving moments in *Fidelio* are the "Prisoners Chorus," an ode to freedom sung by a chorus of political prisoners; Florestan's vision of Leonore as an angel coming to rescue him; and the actual rescue which celebrates Leonore's bravery.

"Rescue" operas, very popular in post-revolutionary France, claimed a new interest as Napoleon's armies swept across Europe in the first decade of the 19th century. In fact, his troops had occupied Vienna only days before *Fidelio's* 1805 premiere. What would the censor say!

Bernard Haitink, conductor of the Zurich Opera House Chorus and Orchestra, was principal conductor for 27 years of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. Outside of the Netherlands, he was principal conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, music director of the Glyndebourne opera, music director of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and chief conductor of the Staatskapelle Dresden. He also had guest conductor roles with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, as well as appearances with other orchestras in the United States and Europe.

Sources: *Wikipedia*, *The Musician's Lounge (blog)*, *The Metropolitan Opera*, *Bolshoi Biography (Denier)*, and website of Roberto Saccà.

GUEST ARTISTS SERIES PRESENTS THE FLORIAN TRIO

by Joe Costanza

In a varied classical music program the Florian Trio will perform at Medford Leas on Saturday, April 11. The husband and wife team of violinist Nancy Bean and cellist Lloyd Smith will be joined by classical guitarist/composer Allen Krantz. The concert will include works by Fritz Kreisler, Fernando Sor, Carl Stamitz, Niccolò Paganini and Johannes Brahms.



Nancy Bean was assistant concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra until 2009, when she retired and devoted herself to chamber music. A native of Seattle, she is a graduate of The Curtis Institute of Music and has appeared as soloist with The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Seattle Sym-

phony, and the Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia. She has also performed in chamber concerts with renowned artists such as Emanuel Ax, Wolfgang Sawallisch and Christoph Eschenbach.

Lloyd Smith, also a former member of the Philadelphia Orchestra, was assistant principal cellist before his retirement in 2003. He has performed as soloist with The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Garden State Philharmonic, the West Jersey Chamber Symphony, and other distinguished ensembles. Mr. Smith is also a composer whose works include string quartets, a cello sonata, and a work for eight celli.

Allen Krantz, a graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory and Stanford University, has received acclaim as a composer, solo guitarist and chamber musician. Mr. Krantz has given performances at Carnegie Hall, the Saratoga Perform-

ing Arts Center, and the Phillips Collection in Washington, DC. His compositions include "An American Town," commissioned by the Village Bach Festival in Michigan, and "Woven Images," commissioned by Music at Gretna. He now heads the guitar program of The New School Institute at Temple University.

The *Guest Artists Series* offers live concerts of classical music and jazz at Medford Leas presented by the Music Committee chaired by **Paul Ray**.

THE PHILADELPHIA SOUND

Many residents from both campuses attend the Friday afternoon performances of the Philadelphia Orchestra. If you love good music and admire great talent, this might be for you. It's easy to purchase single tickets (available after Labor Day) or subscribe now to a whole series (6 to 9 concerts) to ensure getting your seat and concert choices. The Medford Leas bus takes us to the Friday, 2 pm, A or B series concerts.

If you are interested, call the orchestra office at 215-893-1955 to request a brochure, or go online, www.philorch.org, to select the concerts you wish to attend. But before you make your reservation, check for bus availability with:

Series A Jean/Bud Stratton, 654-3104

Series B Barbara Zimmerman, 265-2422

After reserving the bus seat, call the orchestra office, 215-893-1955, to order and pay for your tickets.

Series A bus leaves Medford Leas at noon, in order to hear a brief talk about the day's concert before the performance.

Series B bus leaves at 11:15 am in order to have a (self-pay) lunch in Philly before the program.

We hope you'll join us for the Philade!phia Sound.

Barbara Zimmerman

EVENING IN THE ARBORETUM

by Mary Dennen

The snow kept falling in early March. Temperatures stayed below freezing. Winter had us in its grip. But help was on the way. We were certain of it when we received our invitations to an Evening in the Arboretum. We knew that spring was just around the corner.

Saturday, April 25, is the date to mark on your calendar for a festive evening with heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine and sumptuous displays of food in both the Lounge and the Colonial Room. While enjoying a delicious culinary experience, you'll be able to participate in the popular silent auction featuring gift baskets, donations by local businesses and getaway packages displayed in the Atrium. This year the woodworkers, knitters and sewers have put together a grandparents package for a lucky preschooler. There will also be special emphasis on gifts for the gardener. All this for \$85.00 per person, a portion of which goes to the Arboretum Fund.

Leading up to the Evening of April 25 there will be several days of related activities. On April 21, the Thrift Shop will donate the day's proceeds to the Arboretum Fund, and the Gift Shop will do likewise on April 22. April 22 happens to be Earth Day, when we can all participate in supporting the Arboretum Fund by purchasing lapel pins with a floral decoration, each costing \$5, at the Reception Desk. The Coffee Shop will celebrate Earth Day with an Arboretum-themed lunch and dinner on that day.

The deadline for registering for Evening in the Arboretum is April 17. So sign up, bring the family and enjoy the festivities while supporting this worthwhile cause.

PROPOSAL FOR ONGOING FUNDRAISING PROJECT

by John McFee

In order to create a permanent income stream to meet ongoing funding needs of the Medford and Lumberton campuses of Medford Leas, a creative proposal is under discussion.

The proposal entails the revival and operation of small-scale working replicas of certain traditional Pine Barrens industries.

All labor to construct and operate those industries will be provided by residents. Supervision will be provided by the Fitness staff and the Business Office staff. Residents' life skills and physical abilities will be matched to jobs by the Human Resources staff. Residents not able to build or operate those industries will staff a store to sell the goods produced. The store will occupy the current Thrift Shop locations.

Berrying is a viable industry for both campuses. Flooding the Lumberton Meadow will create a cranberry bog, an ongoing local industry since the 1830s. Then, the Medford Leas garden plot ("The Farm") will be flooded for a blueberry bog. As well as producing a permanent income stream for the Leas, this bog would honor Elizabeth White, the Pemberton ancestor of recent residents **Tom** and **Virginia Darlington**. In 1916, White initiated the commercial blueberry industry in New Jersey.

A herd of sheep, to be managed by residents with herder dogs, will provide for the production of wool. Carding and weaving of the wool will take place in the Fiber Arts Studio. Traditional linen weaving may be added later. Alternatively, the Fiber Arts Studio may be used as a sail loft, sail production being a 100-year old Jersey Shore industry.

Leas residents may begin floating pine and cedar logs down the Rancocas Creek to a small-scale sawmill adjacent to the creek, reviving an industry that began in the early 1700s. Cedar shingles, ever popular due to their high resistance to rot and one of the first Pine Barrens products, will be

IN MEMORIAM

Robert "Bob" Payne	February 28
Nancy "Nan" Hall	March 9

made by residents initially. Later, residents may produce lath, shipboards and clapboards.

Although production of iron was a major industry since the 1760s in the Pine Barrens, current regulations prevent its revival. Additionally, such work may be slightly beyond the physical capacity of residents. And our Quaker affiliation, encompassing its peace testimony, would certainly prevent the making of iron cannonballs and shot, such as those forged in the Pine Barrens for the American Revolution and the War of 1812.

Residents who own boats at the Jersey Shore have been enthusiastically urging the revival of privateering, in which the governor licenses pirating of foreign cargo ships. However, international business ventures are beyond our capacity at this time.

Other traditional industries that may be considered in the future as permanent income streams for the Leas include moonshining, operation of a gristmill, papermaking, brickmaking, turpentine production, tavern-keeping (in what is now the Coffee Shop), salt production, harvesting pixie moss, salt haymaking, oystering and shipbuilding. Each industry would need to be evaluated for its economic potential.

Residents should expect to be interviewed for positions in our new fundraising industries beginning on April Fools' Day.

MEDFORD LEAS LIFE IN COLOR

Surprised? Yes, the day that the black and white print edition of *Medford Leas Life* arrives each month, a color version is posted on the MLRA website, Private section (password protected). Click on *Medford Leas Life*, Latest issue. You can then print it out to read at your leisure or send it to a family member or friend.

Beth Bogie, Editor

MEDFORD U. BEGINS COURSE ON ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

by Jody Cordona

Medford University will begin its six-session course this spring on the story of Abraham and Isaac and its role in Western literature and philosophy. The first class will meet on Tuesday, April 7, from 3:30 to 5 pm in the Theater and the course will continue on each successive Tuesday at the same time. The fee is \$35.00 per participant; the paid registration deadline is April 3.

It is hard to speak of the great Western religions and not mention Abraham. He is a central character of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. And God's demand that Abraham sacrifice his son Isaac, known as the binding of Isaac, is a central part of Abraham's life. What stories did the early rabbis tell to explain this demand? What stories did members of the religions tell in order for the story to make sense to them? What did Abraham's wife Sarah know and when did she know it?

Sarah Rosenson, the instructor, will discuss ways in which artists, poets and philosophers have used the story of Abraham and Isaac as a subject for their work down through the ages. The course will explore all aspects of this story.

A teacher of ethics and religion at Moorestown Friends School, Ms. Rosenson has a BA from Georgetown University, JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and a master's from Spartus Institute of Jewish Studies.

Medford University, under the guidance of a Medford Leas resident, offers college-level courses on a regular basis.

**Emergency: Call 3666
or 0 for Reception Desk
or 9-911(outside Medford Leas)
Obtain decal sticker for phone
with emergency number
at the Reception Desk.**

WALKAR SHOWS WORK ON SILK THE LEAS ART GALLERY SCENE text and photos by Joyce Linda Sichel



“Choosing” by Patricia Walkar

An exhibit entitled “People, Places, Things: A Retrospective by Patricia Walkar” can be viewed in the Medford Leas Gallery outside the Theater through April. The artist is featuring her paintings on silk fabric, some very large and mostly abstract, for which she has won numerous awards. The photo here is of a work called “Choosing.” At a reception on March 3, Ms. Walkar demonstrated how she stretches silk on a frame, applies liquefied wax where she wants white spaces, and vegetable dyes where color is to appear. Her aim in these works of the past several years has been to reveal “my own inner images and privately held voices.” Earlier works displayed are portraits and still lifes in oil and pastels.

Alice Kelly’s cut-paper show at the Lumberton Campus Gallery will also be displayed until the end of April. But there will be new exhibits to enjoy as spring moves into summer. **Harry Forrest’s** calligraphy is an always welcome highlight at Medford Leas and will appear at Lumberton through May, June and July.

The resident artists’ show in the Art Studio lower level gallery will be mounted at the end of April. The new exhibit of paintings and photography will open with a reception on Monday, April 27, from 10 am to noon. The artists will be available to answer questions, and refreshments will be served. One of the oil paintings, a still life of a shadow box with thrift shop finds, meticulously worked by **Pat**

Heller-Dow, is shown here. Very free-flowing large abstract pieces by **John Brzostoski** will offer contrast. There will also be striking new photographs on view from **Terry Foss, Ralph Berglund, Margery Rubin, Joe Costanza** and others.



Pat Heller-Dow’s Shadow Box

APRIL MUSIC VIDEOS

Thursdays in the Theater at 7:10 pm.

- April 2 - Mozart Coronation Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II, June 29, 1985 in St. Peter's Basilica, Berlin Philharmonic
- April 9 - Mozart Symphony #40 - Leonard Bernstein, Boston Symphony; Mozart Bassoon Concerto
- April 16 - Mozart Symphony #39; Mozart Clarinet Concerto
- April 23 - Mozart Piano Concerto #21; Mozart Flute and Harp Concerto
- April 30 - Bobby McFerrin & the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra

SPRING – A STATE OF MIND

by Herb Heineman

This year spring starts on March 20, summer on June 21. That makes spring, with 93 days, this year's longest season. Hurrah! Everybody loves spring, so of course the longer it lasts the better. And thanks be to the earth for slowing down at the right time to afford us that extra day of spring magic.

Sadly, 'tain't so. The earth plods along at a steady 66,600 miles per hour (give or take a couple, but who's checking?), no matter what the calendar says. The earth got here first and has claim to seniority, that's all there is to it. Trouble is, it spins as it goes and, at the precise moment it completes its orbit, it isn't facing in the same direction it was when it started. It can't seem to get its routine quite right – right being how humans define it. At the completion of its orbit it's off by a quarter of a rotation. But wait, we can fix that: Just add a day every four years, absorbing those four quarters! Now we're almost there, except that we're a wee bit off, albeit in the opposite direction, after a hundred years. We can fix that too: three centuries out of four we don't add the extra day to the year ending in -00. That should hold up long enough to satisfy even the longest-lived among us.

Why go into all this? Because the seasons don't change at midnight – not Eastern, not Pacific, nor Myanmar midnight. Day and night mark the earth's rotation; seasons mark its orbital travel. They change when the earth has traveled a quarter orbit since the last change; at that time day and night are either equal or most unequal. The midnight closest to either event defines the official beginning of the season wherever you happen to be. In reality, though, seasons change continuously; spring doesn't push winter aside overnight.

So hold your hurrahs. Spring 2015 will be just one-quarter of the year.

Then let's forget about schedules and think of spring as a special time of year. Perhaps more special than the others, because it's a celebration

of rebirth. After the dead of winter, rebirth is exactly what we need. Just think of frostbite, dry skin, flu, seasonal affective disorder, heating bills and so on. Yes, we do appreciate the coming of spring.

But does everybody appreciate spring equally? I think not. One reason is that some – maybe most – of us see each season not only for its own characteristics but also in contrast to the ones preceding and following. Depending on your personality, you may (1) be thankful winter's over, and enjoy spring that much more; or (2) live in dread of summer, which is closing in on us even as I'm writing, and allow your enjoyment of spring to be dampened; or (3) find something of beauty in all seasons, and enjoy spring as one of four seasonal gifts.

Unfortunately I'm a born pessimist. Already I sweat at the thought of summer.

But fall's coming!



Mark Your Calendars!

**The annual MLRA Plant Sale
will be on Wednesday, May 6.**

Spring is finally here!

JUST PADDLIN' ALONG

text by Walt Dennen, photo by Suzanne Frank

Let's start this article with a simple quiz. Q.1. Does Medford Leas have any canoes or kayaks for the use of residents? If you answered no, stop reading; you are disqualified and should go to the next article in *MLLife*.

If you answered yes, try question 2.

Q.2. Where are the canoes and kayaks kept? If you said they are kept in a clearing at the end of a black-top path opposite Parking Circle A (which services the residents in Courtyards 3 and 4), you are correct. But be careful. The path is not far into the woods. It is quite steep and could be very difficult for anyone with a walker or electric cart.

The clearing is at the edge of the south branch of Rancocas Creek and is very convenient for launching a canoe into a placid section of the creek. Launching is further aided by a specially built two-tiered wooden pier. The clearing contains rustic racks to support canoes and kayaks, which are inverted to prevent them from collecting rain and to avoid their becoming havens for those fuzzy, cuddly woods creatures that love to find new shelters for their nests.

Actually, when a resident wishes to go canoeing, his/her first step is to stop at the Reception Desk in the Atrium and sign out for a canoe key. No, make that two keys. The first key is for the padlock and chain that secures each canoe or kayak to its rack. The second key unlocks the door to a small reddish cement block building you have passed along the path. The building houses both paddles and life vests. Both are **mandatory**, but it does require two people to launch a canoe.

It is very simple to paddle to the broader reaches of the Rancocas. In fact, if you are incautious enough, you could paddle down to the Delaware River and never be heard from again. Please be certain to return everything to its proper place when you have finished. Oh yes, the storage room for paddles and life jackets does not contain either suntan oil or liniment.



At this moment, you will find four canoes and two kayaks at the clearing. But two of the canoes are the personal property of **Terry and Roberta Foss**, who live in Rushmore. Although they are a very nice couple, their canoes are not for public use. And that is easily handled; our keys will not open their lock.

If you happen to be a mite curious about who is responsible for the care of the canoes, look to the chief of equipment care-giving, **Bill Murphy**. His staff will tend to any damage you do, but he personally will not lead a search party for you. No, belay that. I'll bet he would.

This article allows me to slip in a pet peeve of mine. It is not addressed to those intelligent veterans who had the glorious honor of serving in the United States Navy or those courageous souls who have sailed the turbulent waters of Barnegat Bay. For other misguided persons, I pose the question, what is the difference between a pier and a dock? The answer: A pier is a man-made structure, usually of wood or steel, that juts out into the water, and to which ships and boats are moored. A dock is a body of water adjacent to a pier. A ship or boat rests **in** a dock while it is tied **to** a pier.



MEDFORD LEAS: *BELLA RISTORANTE*

text by Jane and Dave Bartram, photos by M. Rubin

Italy came to Medford Leas on March 3 and 4, when Dining Services launched a Special Event, called "Italian Night." For the occasion guests were served in the intimate Gathering Room. Executive Chef **Brad Mauger** and Dining Room and Catering Coordinator **Rachael Allen** had designed a six-course Chef's Table Tasting Menu, which was both unique and delicious.



Brad and Stephanie in the kitchen

The evening began with a first course of Panzanella, a traditional Tuscan salad featuring Heirloom tomatoes and cucumbers tossed with Italian bread and herbs. This was followed by Mushroom and Pea Risotto with scallops; Smoked Mozzarella-Stuffed Meatball; Branzino, European sea bass baked with lemon, fennel, and pancetta; and a Lollipop Lamb Chop with Pistachio Tapenade and Creamy Polenta. All of this was topped off with a fabulous dessert, a Trio Sampler which included Strawberry Gelato, Tiramisu-Flavored Eclair and a Cannoli Bite. People could bring their own wine.

As each course was presented, Brad, Sous Chef **Stephanie Linton** and Cook's Assistant **Nicole Grexa** took turns describing the dish, its ingredients and how it was prepared. Each night, three servers pleasantly and efficiently brought out and cleared the plates as well as attending to the needs of the diners. On Tuesday, the first evening, the servers were **Leah Modica**, **Kevin**

Modica, and **Dina Finch**. On Wednesday, the servers were **Erika Finch**, **Allison Kimenhour** and **Haley Clark**.

The second evening, we were among 19 guests from Lumberton, Bridlington, Rushmore and the Courts. The Gathering Room had been transformed by Rachael Allen into an Italian *ristorante*. As Italian music played quietly in the background, diners were seated around tables that were arranged in a rectangular shape to encourage sociability and conversation. Red and white checked runners atop white tablecloths, baskets filled with a variety of breads, and flowers arranged creatively in cheese graters were among the decorations that added to the ambiance.



Rachael carrying bottles

As the evening progressed and people became more relaxed and celebratory, conversation expanded to include everyone. Discussion was varied but not limited to Downton Abbey, Italian cooking and the Sopranos. At one point, upon hearing the familiar song from the '50s, "Volare," playing in the background, conversation abruptly stopped and everyone started to sing along.



Pepper offered to diners

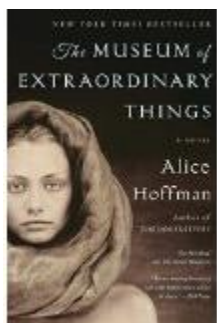
Participants agreed that it was a wonderful experience, and are looking forward to more Chef's tasting events in the future. Each course was better than the last; many of us ended up bringing home doggie bags!

Books to Enjoy**THE MUSEUM
OF EXTRAORDINARY THINGS**

by Alice Hoffman

It's a wonderful gift to be a superb storyteller, and Alice Hoffman does it so easily.

She takes us back, in this novel, to New York City in the early days of the 20th century. We enter into the lives of Coralie Sardie and Eddie Cohen -- lives that will be woven together by events that have an impact on the city.



Coralie is manipulated constantly by her father. Born with a defect in both of her hands, she is a perfect specimen for one of his acts at his Museum of Extraordinary Things in Coney Island, a showcase of human deformities that attracts and delights the multitudes. Eddie is a

Jewish immigrant. His father is a tailor on the Lower East Side of New York. Eddie becomes entranced by photography, then in its infancy, and the beauty of the images it produces. Coralie and Eddie, when their lives do intersect, find not only love but answers to the many questions they have about their birth, their families and their upbringing.

Two major events will shake up their lives, events that were real and played a very important part in the history of New York. One is the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, and the other the Coney Island Dreamland fire.

As Coralie will write later, "You are the one that taught me that love is never what we expected it to be and that was all we needed. For that and a thousand other things, I send my gratitude."

My gratitude to you as you read this novel and find its warmth and enjoyment.

In the acknowledgements there is a short history of the times and the books that can help you ex-

plore more details of the events that take place in the story.

This book is in the Medford Leas Library.

George Rubin

WHO'S NEW

photos by Margery Rubin



Catherine A. Bravo Costa moved the very short distance from Holiday Village East in Mount Laurel to Medford Leas' Apt. 413 on January 26. But it was just another in a seemingly endless chain of moves.

At the age of 16, Cathy, the youngest of eight children, rode her bicycle to her friend's home in Brooklyn and there she met her friend's older brother's best buddy named Joe Costa. A roller skating date followed. Shortly thereafter Joe entered the Army's Signal Corps but was attached to an Army Air Force unit. After WWII ended, Joe returned home. Cathy completed high school and obtained a clerical position at National City Bank (today's Citibank) in New York City.

In 1946, when Cathy turned 20, she and Joe were married and two years later their first of three children was born. Encouraged by her boss at the bank, Cathy enrolled at the George Washington School of Business in New York City. If she did well, the bank would remit her tuition. She did, and the bank kept its word. When she graduated, the bank promoted her to secretary and added a raise. Joe then announced he wanted to be an electrical engineer.

The family tightened its collective belt, Cathy became the primary breadwinner and Joe a full-time engineering student at Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. Following graduation, Joe embarked on his engineering career, working primarily in the defense industry for such companies as Martin

Marietta and RCA. The jobs entailed a family relocation to Willingboro, NJ, where Cathy ultimately found her niche in Democratic politics.

But first she tested herself as a real estate broker and licensed stock exchange representative. When she complained that Willingboro did not have a public library, the mayor told her she could have the basement of a public building. Joe and a friend built shelving, and she started the town library. With that taste of public service, she joined the activities of the local Democratic Party and soon became its head. She served as chairman for six and a half years and then became a candidate for the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders. She was elected as the first woman freeholder in the county, remaining on the board for 12 years.

For the last two of those years she also served in the New Jersey State Assembly as an assemblywoman. Next she challenged for a state Senate seat, and again she won. She served seven years, rising to become the first woman to serve in the Senate as assistant majority leader. After she concluded her Senate service, Governor James Florio appointed her a director of the Alcoholic Beverage Division and Commissioner of Amusement Games. She served in those capacities for nearly three years and then retired from public life in 1993. Cathy's husband Joe passed away in 2011.

Cathy plans on enjoying her hobbies of crocheting, quilting and painting while relaxing here at Medford Leas and is looking forward to many visits from her three children, their spouses and 14 grandchildren.

Walt Dennen



Claire Phillipbar Schmid moved into Apt. 162 on January 30 of this year. She had been living at Sagemore apartments in Marlton for 17 years when her daughter Valerie, "after careful investigation," urged her to move to Medford Leas.



Claire was born in Bradford, PA, and grew up with two brothers, now deceased. In 1947 she enrolled at Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA, north of Pittsburgh, graduating in 1951 with a degree in business administration. Around that time

she met Robert Schmid, who was in auto sales. They married in 1952, moved to Rochester, NY, and finally to Lockport near Niagara Falls. (Claire has a beautiful photo on her living room wall of the Falls quite spectacularly frozen in winter.) Bob ran his auto sales agency and Claire made use of her business education to run the agency's office.

The Schmidts had three children: Molly, who is single and lives in California; Mark, who is married with two children and lives in Maryland; and Valerie, who is married with two children and lives in Cherry Hill. Claire sees Valerie quite often, and Mark did the job of moving Claire from Sagemore to Medford Leas. Bob died in 1995: Claire remained in Lockport for two more years and then moved to Sagemore to be near Valerie.

Claire has been an avid knitter and sewer as well as a photographer for years, but physical limitations have curtailed these hobbies. She is looking forward to physical therapy at Medford Leas and eventual use of the pool. In the meantime, she remains a great reader and belongs to a book club in the area. She drives her own car but jokes that she has yet to find her way out of Medford Leas. She is settling in, meeting people and looking forward to great experiences here.

Mary Dennen

APRIL CRYPTOGRAM

by Herb Heineman

**BWLCL FE VH UMHCI FV EBPC HC
 NMHEEHZ BFMM MHHTLG SJHV NI P
 MHYFVU LIL; BWLCL FE VH
 DCPUCPVXL FV PJCFM NCLLOLE BFMM
 NCLPBWLG KFBW AHI PE BWLI
 KPVGLC NI.**

Underline or flag the author's name.

**KFMMFPZ X. NCIPVB
 THNL NCIPVB
 NLPC NCIPVB**

Below is the solution to the March cryptogram.

IT WAS ONE OF THOSE MARCH DAYS
 WHEN THE SUN SHINES HOT AND THE
 WIND BLOWS COLD: WHEN IT IS
 SUMMER IN THE LIGHT, AND WINTER IN
 THE SHADE.

**EMILY BRONTË
 CHARLES DICKENS
 EMILY DICKINSON**

The correct solution was received from the following readers:

Catherine Barry, Maryann Beitel, Ruth Blattenberger, Mary Chisholm-Zook, Alice Culbreth, Doris Curley, Liz Dill, Roberta Foss, Pat Heller-Dow, Barbara Heizman, Sue Isaacs, Jean Jordan, Joan McKeon, Doris Q. Murray, Marion Norcross, Betty Preston, Doris Salati, Florence Sawyer, Peg Scott, Joanne Thomas, Ellen Wiener, Barbara Zimmerman. Fourteen correctly identified the author.

Please send your solution via campus mail to **Herb Heineman**, 121 WSD, Lumberton, or email it to hsheineman@gmail.com by April 10.

MEDFORD LEAS LIFE

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