



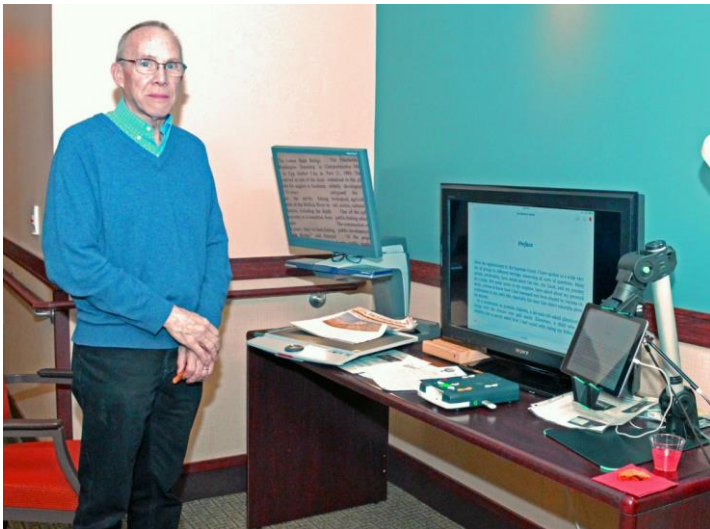
# Medford Leas *Life*

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*April 2017*

## LARGE PRINT LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE ATTRACTS CROWD

text by Beth Bogie, photos by Margery Rubin



Dave Bartram with CCTV and large screen

Here is a place where books and technology work amicably together, and the technology warmly welcomes users. A crowd gathered on March 8 to mark the opening of the Large Print Library, the hospitable creation of its head, **Miriam Feyerherm**, with important technical contributions from **Dave Bartram** and **Margaret Eysmans**. What was in its early days no more than two corridors crossing each other with the book collection on each side of the entrance has, under Miriam's guidance, become a warm and inviting space with the feeling of being enclosed and private. New desks and a round table in the center make it a real library and, most important, one to meet special needs.

"I think it's a wonderful idea," said **Jake Bennet**. **Chuck Woodard** was trying out a video magnifier, a screen that can be manipulated to enlarge the

already large print of the books or read other printed material like newspapers or the Medford Leas calendar. Next to the magnifier, **Jack McKeon** was trying out an iPad on a stand at eye level, whose screen was synced to a much larger TV screen sitting next to it. Jack was able to view material from the Internet on the TV screen. Next, up came the ebook *My Beloved World* by Justice Sonia Sotomayor. With these tools a wide range of visual challenges can be accommodated.

Next to this tech corner was another machine on wheels with a large screen, called the IN2L. The IN2L was on loan from **Gerry Stride**, director, Therapeutic Recreation, and has games and a flight simulator, which, we're told, **Ray Hoagland**, a former pilot, likes to demonstrate when it's in the Oak (Activities) Room. Users were assisted by **Bridget Pody**, a Therapeutic Recreation intern.



Miriam Feyerherm

At a desk on the other side of the room where books are catalogued, an Apple computer, with an

application set up by Margaret Eysmans, allows the user to locate a desired book without use of a password. Margaret created a code for the content of each book, such as "M" for mystery. In addition, a device attached to the computer allows Miriam Feyerherm to catalog incoming books simply by scanning the book's ISBN code.

Miriam always is thinking of a new activity for the enjoyment of users. A readers' club is one that is currently germinating. She is especially excited about the enthusiastic response of residents from Rogers Residence who, when she is reading children's books to them, will recite the closing lines of a favorite from memory.

One cannot overlook a special visitor at the Open House, "Bookworm," an imaginative puppet created by **Pegi Siegel** especially for the occasion.



Mark Your Calendars!

The annual MLRA Plant Sale  
will be on Wednesday,  
May 10th.

Spring is here!

## MEDFORD CAMPUS TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

by Vince Menzel

While technology is continuously changing, many of the needed changes take time to be incorporated into the fabric of any organization. A number of factors go into the adoption of any technology — cost, benefits, resources, priorities, training requirements, technical or business risk, etc. The time for technology improvements on the Medford campus has now arrived. Campus residents are likely aware that the following changes either have now been implemented or are in the process of rolling out throughout the campus. The areas of focus, because of the age of the buildings and the outdated technology and related services, are the medical and Community buildings and the Courtyard apartments.

The Information Technology (IT) Department under **Russell Pepe** with his staff of **Brian Reily** and **Marc Gold** has been addressing these changes by first installing fiber-optic cable to provide the communication infrastructure that will support the new services and devices. Following is an update on the status and further plans for the various services being implemented. All work, except for the phone system, has been or will be done by the staff.

### Call-to-Aid



This capability is enabled by a device worn either as a pendant or on a wristband. This system was trialed for more than a year in Assisted Living (AL) and Nursing (Woolman) and is now available to all residents on the Medford campus. It is currently able to locate someone physically present in their apartments and homes. It will expand by the end of June to locate people throughout the main campus, including on the trails and at the Farm, to within a 25- to 50-foot radius. Residents can test their devices at the Reception Desk. Batteries should last two years or more. In a later phase, the existing off-

hook phone service will be discontinued, replaced by this new monitoring service.

### **Phone System**

Mitel Corporation, a provider of telecommunications solutions for businesses, is the supplier selected to bring new capabilities to the campus buildings mentioned in the Call-to-Aid update. Among others, Mitel's customers include hospital industry organizations, as well as hotel chains such as Marriott and Sheraton.

Technology will be implemented which will enhance phone capabilities at a lower cost. Options will include caller ID, call forwarding, voicemail (with an option to give up to eight rings before answering), and unified messaging (which will provide for the integration of different electronic messaging and communications media such as email and voice mail). Extension 3666 will still work for call-to-aid. There will also be more reporting options provided to the IT staff, as well as Reception Desk monitoring of phones that go off the hook. Equipment is on order, with installation expected in May.

Phone usage will be down for a short period of time during installation, but advance notifications will be sent out. Residents will be able to keep their current phones.

### **Security Cameras**



A secure network using the fiber-optic cable and Wi-Fi capabilities will provide for additional security cameras in the courts and parking lots. The main parking lots are covered already.

### **Internet Access**

Free secure internet for residents will be provided with password protection. Guests will use the current open access guest network. Access to the entire campus is targeted for April 2018.

### **HVAC**

The new HVAC systems are connected to Wi-Fi through "smart" thermostats, so that Maintenance can monitor equipment and be notified if apartments are too hot or cold. Minimums and maximums can be set by apartment. Residents, of course, can set their own thermostat schedules with minimum and maximum temperature ranges. Implementation timing is being discussed.

### **Access Control and Resident ID/POS Cards**

All external doors will be able to be opened after hours with the new resident ID/POS (point of sale) cards. Main entry doors will have a call box, while others will not, depending on degree of usage. Main points of entry will be open 7:00 am until 8:30 pm. During other times, cards must be used. Capabilities will be in place in April.

Options are being explored for new door locks on Courtyard apartments. Options are locking and unlocking using the resident ID/POS cards, or possibly with cards or keys. Cards will eventually also be able to be used in the Gift Shop for purchases.



## **LEAS FORUM LOOKS AT GOATS**

by Dorothy Cebula

Yes, Goats: Amazing, Incredible and At Times – Misunderstood! Join us to learn more about some of the 8,000 goats that share space with us here in New Jersey. Popular speaker and photojournalist Jim DeGiudice will discuss some little-known facts about one of his favorite animals. This program will both amuse and inform you as we begin to appreciate spring.

Come to the Medford Leas Theater at 11:00 am on Saturday, April 8. All are invited to this program sponsored through contributions to the MLRA Activities Fund.

## THANKS BETH!

Since this issue of *Medford Leas Life* is my first as editor, on behalf of our newsletter's staff, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize and sincerely thank **Beth Bogie** for her tremendous contribution to the community in steering our outstanding newsletter for almost six years. Beth has retired to be able to pursue other personal projects, and enjoy friendships and the many Medford Leas programs. Thankfully her writing will still appear here from time to time. Her dedication has been much appreciated.

In addition, I would personally like to thank Beth for her terrific support during the past few transition months in patiently "showing me the ropes." From meetings to emails to phone conversations, Beth has shown unwavering support to help me understand the entire process. She has also offered to address a few outstanding administrative tasks (for which I gladly accepted her help) over the next couple of months to help me ease into the job.

Going forward, I am sure I will continue to reach out to Beth for her sound advice. One piece of advice she gave me was to always "keep an ear to the ground" for interesting stories to present to our residents. If I can even come close to filling Beth's shoes, I will be very happy.

Thanks again Beth!

Vince Menzel



## COUNCIL NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

by Dorothy Cebula



**George Rubin**, chair of the MLRA Nominating Committee that included **Dave Bartram**, **Suzanne Frank**, **Liz Knapp** and **Frank Snope**, announced the slate of candidates for the 2017-19 term at the monthly MLRA meeting on March 20. The election will be held at the next general meeting on April 17.

The candidates nominated for the two-year term are **Rene Dillon** (Courts), **Roberta Foss** (Rushmore), **Frank Snope** (Courts), **Murray Simmons** (Bridlington) and **Barbara Trought** (Courts), current Council president.

Council members who will be remaining for a second year on the Council are **Conant Atwood**, **Harry Forrest**, **Vince Menzel**, George Rubin, **Jim Smith** and **Marilyn Thomas**.

Council members completing their service July 1 of this year are **Gordon Brummer**, **Walter Dennen**, **Janet Jackson-Gould**, **Geno Mori** and Barbara Trought.

The Nominating Committee hosted orientation workshops concerning the workings of the Council. Workshops were attended by people suggested by residents who were considered suitable prospects by the committee. Two workshops were held with 10 to 12 possible candidates attending each.

The workshops were established to give prospective nominees information on the responsibilities and functions of Council members. Once having been elected, they then had to spend time learning the job. This year, the committee decided to implement a recently approved clause in the association's bylaws that allowed one current Council member to be nominated for an additional two-year term. The purpose of making this change allows the Council to opportunity to utilize the memory and experience of a member.

## PATHWAYS FOR APRIL

by Kathy Riley

Although March seems determined to go out like a lion, the April *Pathways to Learning at Medford Leas* programs begin by highlighting the outdoor activities in our community. On April 1, this year's **Lewis W. Barton** Lecture features Larry Weaner, who designed and directed the rejuvenation of the meadow on the Lumberton campus of Medford Leas. The goal of this project was to use native plants to provide a habitat for birds and butterflies that is easily managed and attractive year-round.



Jennifer Bulava

On April 3, Jennifer Bulava, park naturalist for the Burlington County Park System, will speak about birding, a popular activity on both campuses. The program is designed to recruit

new members for our already vibrant birding community, and Jennifer will explain how to get started. Birding requires very little equipment and can be done in all seasons and locations. It provides exercise and an opportunity to get together with others. Though the registration deadline has passed, there are still spaces available for this program. It's time to begin your lifetime bird sighting list.

Medford Leas horticulturist **Debbie Lux**, along with Medford Leas residents, will be conducting **Daffodil Daze Walks** on Wednesdays, April 5 and April 12, rain or shine. Please register today if you are interested in seeing Medford Leas' large and varied collection of this beautiful sign of spring.

On Friday, April 7, **Dr. Andie Iannuzzelli**, our medical director, will discuss the importance of sleep to our general health and share useful tips and strategies for us to get the sleep we all need. Among them are alternatives to using medication for a good night's rest.

Professor Jan C. Ting of Temple University will speak on the timely issue of immigration to provide an interesting current events lecture. In his return

visit to Medford Leas, he will tackle the question of whether we enforce numerical quotas on immigrants or allow unlimited immigration, as we did in our first century. The date for this lecture is Tuesday, April 18; the registration deadline is April 14.

Lumberton resident **Pete Obbard** worked with Brock Jobe at Winterthur Museum for ten years and suggested that he be asked to lecture on antiques, specifically "brown furniture," wooden furniture produced by good American cabinet makers of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century America. On Wednesday, April 19, Mr. Jobe will discuss the decline in popularity of such pieces, which he attributes to changes in taste and a shift in popular culture. He is an engaging speaker who encourages his audience to ask questions. Registration deadline is April 14.

**Wellness Care for Your Pet** rounds out the month on April 21. Members of HousePaws Mobile Veterinary Service will discuss ways to keep pets healthy and explain their mission of providing high-quality veterinary service in your own home. This should prove helpful to all of us who cherish pets.



Looking forward to *Pathways* offerings in May, mark your calendars. The first date, Monday, May 1, is the Medford University program "**The Anthropology of Food**," with Alan Mann, emeritus professor of anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania and at Princeton University. Medford campus resident **Kay Cooley**, former MLRA president and past Estaugh Board member, arranged this program, which is part of a recently organized lecture series by emeritus professors; we are among the first groups to take advantage of it.

On Tuesday, May 2, Lynne Gold-Bikin will present "**Communication Lessons We Should Have Learned in Kindergarten**." Two topics — "How to fight without destroying the relationship" and "Suggestions on how to keep close as the years pass by" — are particularly intriguing. Both of these programs have a registration deadline of April 28 and are already attracting much interest among residents.

## EVENING IN THE ARBORETUM

by Joyce Linda Sichel

By now you have received an invitation to the annual Evening in the Arboretum, the event to be held on Saturday, April 29. This evening is always festive and elegant. It is a fundraiser in support of our beautiful Barton Arboretum and Nature Preserve on both the Medford and Lumberton campuses. The evening will offer many culinary delights and libations in the Willow Room and Colonial Dining Room. As usual, the popular Silent Auction will be going on in the Atrium.



photo by Margery Rubin

Our new executive chef, Scott McMaster, is looking forward to creating distinctive arrangements of heavy hors d'oeuvres, working with the talented staff of our Dining Services department. Wines this year will again be hosted and provided by Medford Wine and Spirits. In addition to a wide assortment of wines, they will provide one new table of craft beers, which past attendees have requested.

The Silent Auction Committee is hard at work securing pieces for the exciting competitive auction, aware that each year there has been increasing interest in the plants and horticultural items on display. You will also have the opportunity to bid on visits to the Arboretum of the Barnes Foundation in Merion, PA, Chanticleer Garden in Wayne, PA, and Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, DE. Medford Leas is delighted that these companion botanic gardens have chosen to support us. A tour pass to Disney World will also go to the highest bidder. The auction will feature many gift baskets, donations by local businesses, and other items too numerous to

mention — all arrayed in the Atrium waiting for bids.

Leading up to the April 29<sup>th</sup> evening, there will be some Arboretum-related activities. Watch for dates when the Gift Shop will donate their proceeds to the Arboretum. Sign up for the Pathways programs with Arboretum themes.

The last day for responding “yes” to your invitation is April 21. Be a participant, splurge a little for this excellent cause, and bring family members who would enjoy themselves too.



## WHERE ARE ALL THE REPAIR JOBS?

by Dick Randolph



Until about six months ago, the craftsmen in the Residents Workshop saw a steady stream of repair requests. That steady stream is now a slow trickle! Surely we have not repaired or refinished every small furniture item on the campus.

In addition to furniture repairs, we also work on lamps and small appliances, mend broken knick-knacks, re-cane or re-rush chairs, sharpen knives, make parking signs, build wall shelves, repair shopping carts, assemble “kit” furniture, and repair luggage. Many unusual requests are also fulfilled.

If residents have items in need of repair and need to seek the opinion of one of our staff, call us at extension 3059. If necessary, we will come to your home and look at it. If it is too difficult to transport to the shop, call Maintenance at extension 3018 and request help. We have surprised and delighted many campus residents!

## FRED MOYER JAZZ TRIO COMING TO MEDFORD LEAS

by Joe Costanza

Medford Leas music lovers will remember Frederick Moyer for his high-tech and virtuosic piano performances of classical and jazz music. On Sunday, April 2, Mr. Moyer returns again to Medford Leas, but this time as part of a jazz trio. Accompanied by a bassist and a drummer, Mr. Moyer will perform jazz classics in a unique way. The concert will take place in the Theater and begin at 2:30 pm.



The Fred Moyer Jazz Trio can be safely called the only jazz group of its kind. Instead of relying on the jazz hallmark of free improvisation, the trio performs

note-for-note transcriptions of the best performances of historic piano giants such as Oscar Peterson, Ahmad Jamal, and Monty Alexander. Mr. Moyer transcribes every note of a favorite jazz performance. He then approaches that score as he would a work by Beethoven or Mozart, not changing the notes and staying true to style but interpreting the music in his own way. The result is a celebration of the best in jazz and an educational survey of some of the greatest of "America's classical music."

During his thirty years as a full-time concert pianist, Mr. Moyer has established a vital musical career with performances in forty-three countries and in such venues as the Suntory Hall in Tokyo, the Sydney Opera House, Windsor Castle, Carnegie Recital Hall, Tanglewood, and the Kennedy Center. As a soloist he has appeared with most of the major orchestras in the United States as well as many orchestras in Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and Australia. In 1992 Mr. Moyer founded JRI Recordings, which has produced numerous CDs by many world-class musicians.

Drummer Nick Costa is the percussion director at Villanova University and music educator for the

School District of Philadelphia. He studied at the University of the Arts, where he received an undergraduate degree in music performance and a master's in education. Mike Pope, an extraordinary acoustic and electric bassist, was raised by classical musician parents. At the University of Texas, legendary saxophonist Mike Brecker suggested he move to New York City, where he was soon playing with Manhattan Transfer, Blood Sweat and Tears, Gil Evans and many other jazz greats.

The *Guest Artists Series* of monthly concerts is funded by the MLRA Activities Fund and presented by the MLRA Music Committee chaired by **Marion Norcross**. The May concert will feature the piano/trumpet duo of Jeff Uhlig and Scott Marino, and in June the popular Blue Skies Jazz Quartet will return. The previously announced second concert in April has been canceled.

Source: [frederickmoyer.com](http://frederickmoyer.com)



## THE NATURE CENTER LIBRARY AT YOUR DOORSTEP

by Bill Brown

Most biographers of the Founders make reference to Mount Vernon or Monticello but concentrate on the man and the times. In *Founding Gardeners*, Andrea Wulf puts the emphasis on the gardens brought forth by men more esteemed for their political background. Students of history will find it refreshing and gardeners will be enchanted. Wulf's *The Brother Gardeners* brings to life the science and adventure of 18<sup>th</sup>-century plant collecting, telling the story of how six men created the modern garden and changed the horticultural world in the process.

The Lois Forrest Nature Center offers to Medford Leas residents a new service option, the **Forrest Runner**. Any book on the Nature Center library shelves can be delivered to your door. Find the book through an online search, call Bill Brown (ext. 3644), and the Forrest Runner system will bring you the tome. When you are finished with the book, return is easy via the same service.

## ITALIAN WINES WITH DR. JAMES

text and photo by Betsy Pennink

It was enough to draw you into the Oak Room. Italian music provided atmosphere. Individual tables were set with tablecloths, wine glasses, little glasses of water, oyster crackers, and in the middle, empty pitchers for any extra wine. Everything ready for a wine tasting.

In another of Therapeutic Recreation's Lifelong Learning programs, our Dr. James D'Amico was the leader. He took a group of residents on a tour of northern Italy's three main wine districts through the sampling of several of their wines.



Referring to maps in handouts and on the screen, Dr. James described the levels of quality each district had achieved in relation to quantity. For example, 84% of the wine produced in Piedmont, in the northwest corner, is of high quality. On the other hand, Veneto, in the northeast corner, produces the most wine in Italy, but only 34% is of the best quality.

As staff members poured chilled white wine into the glasses, Dr. James went over the "5 S's" of wine tasting – See (look at the color), Swirl, Smell/Sniff ("the Nose"), Sip (in order to coat the

inside of your mouth), and Savor (the lingering taste). It was decided that the wine from Veneto was less acidic and had more body than the wine from Piedmont.

On to the three red wines. The first was from the Barbera grape from Piedmont. It is considered a "workhorse grape" and is the most widely planted red grape in all of Italy. The wine is aged in oak for only 12 months so it can be enjoyed sooner than some other red wines from that area.

The next was a Valpolicella Ripasso from Veneto, made with a special technique where the grape juice is fermented with partially dried grape skins. It was a deep red.

Then the staff poured a Chianti Classico from Tuscany, a region on the west coast, which has been producing wine since ancient times. Here the "nose" was a little bit like leather, and the tannin (from the skin of the grapes) created more of a dryness on the tongue.

Dr. James said that Italian wines are competitive everywhere. Their main rival is France, but even China is putting land under vines. The Italian producers are now focusing on quality.

Italy, although it is one third of the size of California, produces many more liters of wine per year. Two-thirds of Italian wines are red and are made to accompany food. Most wines from Italy found here in stores are "fruit forward," meaning they can be drunk within three years of harvesting. It's "good to know the grape, the wine maker and the year," says Dr. James, who has been attracted to the study of wine by his Italian background.

### IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth Platt	February 22
Janet Sprague	February 26
Eugenia Phelps	February 26
Robert Minter	March 7
Robert Morrow	March 10
Paul Ray	March 12
Lois Rickett	March 17



## SATURDAY BRUNCH BUFFET A VERY POPULAR EVENT

text by Vince Menzel, photo by Margery Rubin

Once the flyers showing the menu for the Medford Leas Brunch Buffet were distributed, a number of residents predicted the March 11 event would be a can't-miss sellout. As it turned out, with a limit of 25 people (an increase from the advertised 20) for each of the three seatings in the Garden Dining Room, the brunch not only was a sellout of 75 residents, but it exceeded culinary expectations. In addition to the eye-appealing food arrangements and aromas, a bright sunny day helped to create a most delightful ambience.

Menu highlights included a unique set of dishes:

- crustless egg white quiche with smoked gouda, baby arugula and turkey sausage,
- skirt steak and fried egg hash with tri-colored fingerling potatoes, roasted pearl onions and white cheddar cheese, and
- an interesting offering of chicken and waffle sliders with strawberry butter.



**Steph Linton, sous chef, and Heather Defrancis, cook**

Also, off in the far right corner of the room was an "action station" which offered caramelized apple "Dutch baby" pancakes with maple walnut glaze. A Dutch baby pancake is a sweet popover-type delight, generally served with a fruit topping or syrup. Residents visiting the station were treated to yet another most flavorful dish.

There were also a number of accompaniments, including "real" mimosas for those interested; an asparagus, fennel and carrot blend; and salmon.

Afterwards, residents were effusive in their praise for the event. Echoing many residents, **Gordon Brummer** said he "sure hoped that it would be offered again." Later, Christine Stevens and Jen Zdunczyk of Dining Services mentioned that another brunch is definitely in their near-future plans. Great news indeed!



## APRIL MUSIC VIDEOS

by Maggie Heineman

The National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain played Gustav Holst's "The Planets" at the BBC Proms last summer. The high-definition video will be shown in the Theater at 7:10 pm on Thursday, April 13. The young musicians are a delight to hear and see.



April's jazz program on Thursday, April 27, will feature musicians at Jeff and Joel's 2016 House Party.



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.

## FEAST YOUR EYES THE LEAS ART GALLERY SCENE

by Joyce Linda Sichel

Anyone passing through the Main Gallery outside the Theater has been treated to beautiful watercolor paintings by Maria Payer, whose work will remain through April. Last month we featured one picture with the art scene article, and here you can appreciate another. It is titled "Curiosity and the Cookie," a lovely picture of a young boy whose attention is divided between the cookie he is enjoying and his desire to explore the outside world. When Ms. Payer spoke at our reception for her opening, we learned that she has broad artistic talents, is an excellent storyteller, and brings a great deal of enthusiasm to her work.



The next reception is for the Medford Leas Residents Spring Art and Photography Show. It will be held on the show's opening day, Monday, April 24, from 10:00 am until noon in the Art Studio. Refreshments will be served, as usual, at the reception. The range of work hung on the walls of the lower level in the Arts and Social Wing will be very broad and the quality excellent. Come and see what your friends and neighbors are presenting, and get to meet the artists! Most of the pictures will be for sale at reasonable prices.

Meanwhile, in the art gallery spaces at the Community Center on the Lumberton campus, the exhibition of Joyce Green's fine prints of nature will be on display through the end of April. If you recall, you can also commission original paintings by contacting this artist from her informational flyers, which you will find there.



## LET'S TALK GARDENING

Are you interested in having a raised bed garden?

Then come to the  
Lois Forrest Nature Center  
on April 7

Topic: Tabletop Raised Beds:  
Successes and Failures  
of the 2016 Season

Discussion led by Marilyn Flagler,  
Dorothy Gehman, Renee Slemmer  
and Ro Wilson

Time: 2:00 to 3:00 pm

Light refreshments

## CONGRESSMAN TO VISIT MEDFORD LEAS

U.S. Representative Tom MacArthur will address Medford Leas residents at the MLRA Annual Meeting on Monday, April 17, in the Medford Leas Theater.

The business meeting will begin at 7:00 pm and the congressman will speak at 7:30. Bring your new ID card with you.

## LEASMUSICAST PRESENTS TOSCA BY PUCCINI

by Beth Bogie



A tale of political intrigue and romance in June 1800 during the Napoleonic wars, *Tosca*, by Giacomo Puccini, will be presented by LeasMusiCast on Saturday, April 1, at 2 pm in the Theater. The opera will be performed in the actual settings in Rome in which the story takes place and at the times of day noted in Puccini's score. Maestro Zubin Mehta conducts the RAI Symphony Orchestra. The production was recorded live in Blu-ray and HD on April 29, 2013.

*Tosca* takes place at a time when the Kingdom of Naples' control of Rome is threatened by Napoleon's invasion of Italy, producing a struggle between royalists and republicans in Italy.

Featured artists:

Catherine Malfitano, soprano, as Floria Tosca, a celebrated opera singer;

Placido Domingo, tenor, as Mario Cavaradossi, her lover, a young artist and republican; and

Ruggero Raimondi, baritone, as Baron Scarpia, ruthless chief of police and royalist.

Viewers are not seeing the action against a set in one of the world's leading opera houses. Here is how Amazon's website describes this version of *Tosca*. "The action opens in Rome's beautiful 16<sup>th</sup>-century church of Sant'Andrea della Valle, where Cavaradossi (Placido Domingo) is innocently painting, moves to the Farnese Palace, where Tosca (Catherine Malfitano) dramatically stabs the lustful Scarpia (Ruggero Raimondi) and finally to the battlements of Castel Sant'Angelo at dawn the following day where Cavaradossi is cruelly killed, and Tosca takes her own life."

*Tosca* is one of Puccini's three most famous operas, along with *La bohème* and *Madama Butterfly*. Puccini composed *Tosca* based on a play by Victorien Sardou, a French melodramatist, who wrote

the play for Sara Bernhardt. The Italian libretto is by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa, who also collaborated with Puccini on *La bohème* and *Madama Butterfly*. After four years of adaptation and writing, *Tosca* premiered at the Teatro Costanzi in Rome on January 14, 1900.

While critics were lukewarm, *Tosca* was an immediate success with the public. It is admired for the power of its score and the inventiveness of its orchestration. Performers and audiences remain drawn to the dramatic force of the opera and its characters. It continues to be one of the most frequently performed operas.

Despite its violence, *Tosca* contains some of Puccini's best-known lyrical arias. Three of its greatest are:

- *Recondita armonia (hidden harmony)* sung by Cavaradossi about the contrast between the blonde beauty of his painting and his dark-haired lover, Tosca, in Act 1,
- *Vissi d'arte, vissi d'amore (I lived for art. I lived for love)*, sung by Tosca as she prays to God to save Cavaradossi from execution, and herself from the advances of Scarpia, in Act 2,
- *E lucevan le stelle (And the stars shone)*, sung by Cavaradossi, arriving as prisoner at the fortress and writing a letter to Tosca full of memories, in Act 3.

Placido Domingo, Spanish tenor, is known for his portrayal of Cavaradossi. Highly versatile, he has performed operas in six languages and recorded over 100 complete operas. Catherine Malfitano, an American opera singer and director, has sung the role of Tosca before in a 1992 production also using the actual sites of the story. Ruggero Raimondi is an Italian opera star and director, as well as film and television actor.

Although Puccini's early work was based on late 19<sup>th</sup> century romantic opera, he is considered one of the greatest exponents of operatic realism. He has been called "the greatest composer of Italian opera after [Giuseppe] Verdi."

Sources: *Wikipedia, Britannica, Biography.com, etc.*

**Books to Enjoy****THE GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT**

H.W. Brands, author



At times we tend to forget the lessons of history. With today's events unfolding so fast because of the latest modern technology in both military strategy and diplomatic communication, we lose sight of how close we came to a nuclear third world war just over 60 years ago.

H.W. Brands, with his deep insight as a historical writer, brings us back to that time and the confrontation between two strong individuals. One was the popular hero, General Douglas MacArthur, who secured the Allied victory in the Pacific, and directed the occupation of Japan, totally remaking that country.

The other was President Harry Truman, thrust into a role he was not prepared for. At the time he was the most unpopular president in US history. He grew in stature as he confronted the Soviet Union at the height of the Cold War, and declared to all Americans that "The buck stops here." It was something everyone understood.

In 1950, when North Korea invaded South Korea, MacArthur assured the president that China would never enter the conflict. But when it did, the president and the general were at loggerheads. MacArthur wanted a total war against China. Truman fully understood that this conflict was not where the power struggle needed to be focused, but that it should be directed at the Soviet Union. If total conflict broke out, it would be most likely be in Europe or the Middle East. This confrontation led Truman to fire MacArthur. The fallout is as compelling to read about now as it was over 65 years ago.

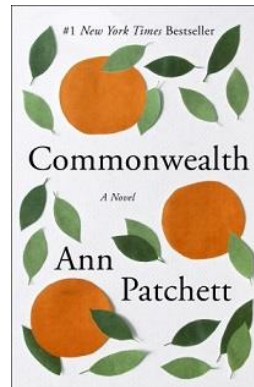
Brands brings all of the players in this drama to life as he says, "Six decades after the president and the general stood on the brink of Nuclear War... Six decades on whether the president or the general determines foreign policy... Six decades after Mac-

Arthur came home a hero and Truman was castigated as an appeaser and hounded into retirement... Six decades later, Truman's courage, decision-making and his wisdom are apparent now as well."

George Rubin

**COMMONWEALTH**

Ann Patchett, author



We all have stories about our families, and those gatherings for christenings, holidays, marriages and birthdays. Some good, some bad, but all are part of our life stories. Open to the first page of Ann Patchett's latest novel, *Commonwealth*, and you will find yourself immersed in the life story of two families and how a bottle of gin

at a christening will change everything for them and their children.

This novel cuts through time, skipping from the present to the past and then back again, but you never lose that immediate sense of drama as you follow these families for 50 years.

Ann Patchett's writing seems so ordinary that you are not aware of how observant and insightful her storytelling is until you finish the last page. You will find humor and compassion all through this novel and wonder how autobiographical it is and whether it parallels Ann Patchett's own life.

When we think about our own families, as we read this superb novel, we can sympathize with the closing words of her main character, Franny, that we all have stories we do not want to share, memories that happened to us and no one else. "She needs to keep something for herself." Don't we all.

Ann Patchett is the author of seven novels, as well as short stories and essays.

*These books are in the Medford Leas Library.*

George Rubin

## MAJOR SCHEDULE CHANGE TO ACCOMMODATE SLEEP PATTERNS

by Kudy Jruger

On April 1 there will be a major change in the scheduling of all activities at Medford Leas.

Medical director Dr. Andie Iannuzzelli commissioned a study from the ZZZ Institute of the sleep habits of residents over 70 years of age. The results clearly show that the majority of elders are awake in the middle of the night.

Therefore, it has been decided to move all activities at Medford Leas from daytime to nighttime hours. Programs will now be scheduled in the Theater from dusk to dawn. All nature walks will take place at midnight under the full moon each month. Movies will now be shown at 11 pm.

The meal schedule will be shifted accordingly. Breakfast will be at 6 pm. Lunch will be at 11 pm. Dinner will be at 4 am.

To enable quality sleep, blackout curtains will be installed in all windows and patio doors beginning with Court 200. Special blue light bulbs will replace all interior and exterior lights.

Grow lights will provide nighttime access to the Farm in season. All resident services will be available from 4 pm to 5 am.

“Although this change will present certain difficulties for staffers, we know that elders will be delighted,” noted Dr. Iannuzzelli.



## GREAT DECISIONS 2017 PROGRAMS CONTINUE THROUGH APRIL

by Len and Dorothy Cebula, co-chairs

After beginning the Great Decisions 2017 series in March, we will continue the programs throughout April. Programs will concentrate on the underlying dynamics of foreign policy driven by forces in this country and other parts of the globe.

A special experience this month will be the opportunity to hear from Dr. Kenneth W. Ford, a theoretical physicist and an outspoken critic of the use of nuclear weapons who worked on the development of the hydrogen bomb. Dr. Ford is scheduled to comment at the program on Nuclear Security on April 27.

The Great Decisions series offers an opportunity to become better informed about foreign policy decisions with implications for governments around the globe. The comprehensive and popular discussion programs developed by the Foreign Policy Association are open to all on Thursday mornings, starting at 10:30 am in the Medford Leas Theater.

In April, the programs will address:

- U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum – April 6 with **Dorothy Cebula**
- Latin America’s Political Pendulum – April 13 with **Toby Riley**
- Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan – April 20 with **Len Cebula**
- Nuclear Security – April 27 with **George Rubin** and Kenneth W. Ford

Residents and community visitors are encouraged to listen, learn and discuss these policy issues. Resident moderators offer an overview of the topic, followed by a recently produced DVD. The session concludes with an audience conversation. This series is supported through the MLRA Activities Fund and presented through the efforts of residents serving as moderators, committee members and theater technicians and ushers.

Join the discussions in the Medford Leas Theater. The programs are free of charge and open to all.

## WHO'S NEW – MEDFORD CAMPUS

photos by Margery Rubin

**David and Rosalind (Schneider) Steinberg** arrived via Clifton, NJ, and are now settled in Apt. 293.



Theirs is a romantic story. While David was in the Air Force, he flew 18,000 miles from Japan for a date with Roz! Back-story: David was in the aviation cadet program and was in an operating squadron out of Japan, California and Washington State. Meanwhile,

Roz was practice teaching in New Jersey when the principal asked her if she would like to be a pen pal with a flyer who also came from New Jersey. She said "Sure." David came home in '58, and they got married in '59.

They lived in Jersey City while David earned a degree in accounting from City College. He went into public accounting, which he did not like. He ended up working in the corporate world for Fabergé and loved it. They bought a home in Fair Lawn, NJ, in which they stayed for 47 years. Ultimately downsizing, they decided to move to an over-55 community called Great Notch in Clifton.



Roz received an education degree from Montclair State University. After some teaching, Roz raised her two children and for 17 years operated a store exclusively featuring children's shoes. Asked how she decided on what to sell,

she replied, "My father had a shoe business and he gave me any and every shoe I wanted. He spoiled me. And now I spoil my grandchildren."

The Steinbergs have a son, Bart, who is a cardiologist in Manhattan. He has two girls and a boy.

The Steinbergs also have a daughter, Julie, who is a school teacher in Cherry Hill and has two boys.

Suzanne Frank



**James (Jim) W. Lilley** has moved into Apt. 77 from Berlin, NJ, and has had a lot of help from his six children in getting settled. Unfortunately, his wife of 66 years was unable to move with him as she is in a nursing home with multiple health problems. Jim is a true native of South Jersey. He was

born in Pennsauken, where he got his early schooling and graduated from Merchantville High School. He received his BA at the then Glassboro State Teachers College, now Rowan University, and went on to Rutgers University for his M.Ed. degree.

After teaching for four years in Cinnaminson, Jim went to Cherry Hill, where he taught for one year and was principal for another. For the next 34 years he worked in Gloucester Township, first as principal and then as assistant superintendent. After seven years he became superintendent, a job he held for 27 years. He says, laughingly, that when they named a school the James W. Lilley Elementary School, it looked as if it was a sign for him to retire. This he did five years later, in 1991. At that point his was the largest elementary school district in New Jersey.

The Rotary Club has been central in Jim's life. For the last 57 years he has had perfect attendance at the weekly meetings and was even District Governor of South Jersey Rotary in 1981 and 1982. He has also traveled abroad, especially to England and New Zealand, on "exchange visits" when his team has taken young business people (not Rotarians) to see how businesses are run in other countries.

Jim's wife, Tina (Hasson) was born in Elizabeth, NJ, and grew up in Perth Amboy, NJ. Jim talks with pride of how she managed to teach and to bring up

the children at the same time. All four boys have businesses, but the two girls have followed in their parents' footsteps as teachers.

Jim says he enjoys doing things and wants to keep moving. "I would like to get involved with helping people" here, he adds. His goal has always been to do "anything that helps humanity," which was why working with children was so rewarding. An early riser, Jim has already taken a first step in meeting people by joining the breakfast group in the Coffee Shop.

Betsy Pennink



## WELCOME TO THE COURTS

Having lived on the Lumberton campus for 17 years, part of the time with her friend, Nancy Stevens, who had to move to Estaugh because of declining health in 2008, **Claire Engle** really knows her way around both campuses. So when she decided to move to the Medford campus, she chose apt. 153.

Claire was born in Summit, NJ, went to Cornell University, and then Rutgers University, where she earned a Master of Science and Ph.D. degrees in microbiology. Fittingly, her education led Claire to spend 30 years in the pharmaceutical industry. Recreationally, she and her friend Nancy spent summers in Youngstown, NY, a small village at the mouth of the lower Niagara River.

"I was meant to be here," Claire stated. She knows lots of folks here through Cornell connections and credits the recently deceased **Lois Rickett**, a relative, with influencing her decision to come here. For this she is forever grateful. Claire feels very much at home in Medford. Since her mother was born in Lumberton and her father in Medford, it is not surprising that she has discovered many distant relatives living in the area.

Suzanne Frank



## LOOKING FOR RESIDENT VOLUNTEERS

**THE THEATER COMMITTEE HAS A NEED FOR USHERS AND TECHNICIANS.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP OR TO LEARN MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH LORETTA STRASSLER OR DAVE BARTRAM.**

**TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED. FLEXIBLE HOURS TO FIT YOUR SCHEDULE!**

**THE FITNESS AND AQUATICS DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING FOR TRANSPORTERS TO ASSIST WITH BRINGING RESIDENTS FROM ASSISTED LIVING DOWN TO THE FITNESS CENTER AND BACK.**

**IF THIS SOUNDS OF INTEREST TO YOU, PLEASE CALL DANA JONES AT EXTENSION 3373.**



**APRIL CRYPTOGRAM**

by Herb Heineman

**PLBOPJONM LZ MTOON, MVO KVOTTS  
YLC JN VFYU CJMV GPLLH DPLYU MVO  
GLFUV, DYW NMDYWN DGLFM MVO  
CLLWPDYW TJWO CODTJYU CVJMO  
ZLT ODNMOTMJWO.**

Identify the author:

**DPZTOW OWCDTW VLFNHDY  
VOYTS WDBJW MVTLODF  
ZTDYRPJY WOPDYL TLLNOBOPM**

Here is the solution to the March cryptogram:

**IN THE SPRING I HAVE COUNTED ONE  
HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIX DIFFERENT KINDS  
OF WEATHER INSIDE OF FOUR AND TWENTY  
HOURS.**

**H. L. MENCKEN  
MARK TWAIN  
JOHNNY CARSON**

The correct solution was received from the following readers:

**Catherine Barry, Bart Bartle, Ruth Blattenberger, Mary Chisholm-Zook, Doris Curley, Larue Evans, Harry Forrest, Neil Fowser, Linda Gaylord, Yolanda Guastavino, Emilia Hart, Neil Hartman, Sue Isaacs, Jane Mahorter, Barbara Heizman, Pat Heller-Dow, Mary Hope Mason, Doris Q. Murray, Betty Preston, Deedy Roberts, Miriam Swartz, 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 April 10.

**MEDFORD LEAS LIFE**

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**Deadline for submissions:**  
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