

Emerald Court Newsletter

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Top Notch Events are Coming

By Peggy Schleicher

Your Social Committee, Club House Committee, Communication Committee, and Board of Trustees are excited to share these upcoming, top-notch events so that you can save the dates and enjoy entertainment. First, in May, is the **Kentucky Derby**. All the committees are working together to create this event on **Saturday, May 6 at 4:00 pm**. This event will include both real-time viewing and betting on the actual Derby and betting on EC's special horses in dice game races.

Also, the year's events will include EC's **Live Music Extravaganza**: three professional, musical shows. On **Saturday, June 3 at 2 pm**, EC will welcome **Lisa Johnson**, an enthusiastic singer/soloist who has performed professionally for all types of audiences. Lisa will help us celebrate Flag Day. She promises us a lively performance of songs we know and love.

The second performance in this three-part musical series is the **Eric Baldwin Trio**. This event is scheduled for **Friday, September 15 at 7 pm**. This jazz trio performs regularly in this area. Save the date so you can enjoy this delightful cabaret evening.

The third performance will be on **Sunday, December 17th, an afternoon event**. Emerald Court will welcome back **Ball in the House**. This R and B, soul, pop group is A Cappella at its best. They have performed locally and internationally, opened for famous acts, won harmony contests, and guested on TV shows. Their 2019 Emerald Court performance was a sell-out. Be sure to save the date for this foot-stomping show.

■ ■ ■

EC Clubhouse Fun:

This month's Social Committee event: Ranter and Pizza, Friday, April 14th at 6:30 pm - Tickets: Ginny Thomas (Unit 69) or Linda Carey (Unit 1221).

Next Clubhouse Breakfast is on the first Sunday of April. Info: Frank Carey (Unit 1221) - Magnolia; Ron D'Amato (Unit 16) - Villas.

Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7 pm in the Clubhouse. Info: Peggy Schleicher, facilitator: - (Unit 74).

Movie Group meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 1 pm in the clubhouse. Info: Linda Carey, facilitator: - (Unit 1221).

Card Games:

- **SCAT** - Mondays at 1 pm. Info: Bert Lyons (Unit 1230).
- **Cribbage** - Mondays at 7 pm. Info: Bob Schleicher (Unit 74).
- **Poker** - Tuesdays at 7 pm. Info: Betty Fulginiti (Unit 1211). *Men & women welcome.*
- **Texas Hold'em** - Wednesdays at 7 pm. Info: John Tellier (Unit 1226).
- **Bridge Group** - Thursdays at 1 pm. Info: Ginny Thomas, (Unit 69).

Games & Chat Groups:

- **Chat Group** - Tuesdays at 2 pm. For info, contact Dorothy Caterino (Unit 1214).
- **Mahjong** - Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. For info, contact Pat Stratis (Unit 89).
- **Rummikub** - Thursdays at 6:30 pm. For info, contact Kathleen Pimental (Unit 1105).

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Mark your calendar!

- **Kentucky Derby**, Saturday, May 6, 4 pm
- **Lisa Johnson- Celebrate Our Flag**, Saturday, June 3 at 2 pm
- **Eric Baldwin Trio**, Friday, September 15 at 7 pm
- **Ball in the House**, Sunday, December 17th afternoon

Meet Your Neighbor

By Bob Schleicher

Welcome to the next installment of “Meet your Neighbor”. Without further ado, here are more bios of our wonderful community residents . . .



Barbara Pothier (Unit #13)

I came to Emerald Court in November 2009 with my husband Dick (Benedict), since deceased in September 2022. He originally lived in Melrose and retired as a master electrician from Hewlett-Packard in 1990. I lived in Concord, MA for 40 years and worked at Sentry Insurance as a claims adjuster & trainer and retired in 1993. I remember the many trips Dick and I took to Nova Scotia where Dick was born in Wedgeport as well as our wintering for many years in Vero Beach, Florida.

I raised my three great children, two daughters and a son, and now I have 5 grandchildren, 2 granddaughters & 3 grandsons, as well as 2 great-grandsons, all of whom give me great joy. I'm called the “Traveling Gramma” since they live in Florida, Wisconsin and Colorado. But they like to visit beautiful Emerald Court whenever possible since the loft upstairs is perfect for company anytime!

My hobbies include traveling, reading, playing cards (ulcer rummy weekly), sudoku and volunteering over the years. I'm most thankful for the wonderful friends who live here at Emerald Court.



Jeanne & Tom Ricker (Unit #14)

Jeanne and Tom moved to Emerald Court in May of 2006 after downsizing from their home in Melrose, where they lived for 35 years with their four children. They met as after school employees at Kresge's 5 & 10 department store in downtown Malden, Jeanne as a cashier and Tom as a stock boy. The rest is history, culminating with their marriage in 1967. Jeanne had a successful career as a dental assistant growing to office manager before retiring. Tom joined Converse Athletic Footwear in Malden and over 35 years moved up the organization to eventually running the Retail Division of 30 stores across the U.S, before retiring. They have been “Snow Birds”, spending six winter months in their Florida home since 2005. Family, golf, and travel have been the major interests, with family, (that

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includes nine grandchildren) the dominating activity. Emerald Court has, and will be, their home to return to for its friendly peace and serenity.



Tom & Debbie Berrigan (Unit #15)

Deb and I moved to Emerald Court in May 2005 from Billerica, where we lived for 27 years.

I'm originally from Providence, RI, and, after college and serving 4 years in the Air Force, moved to Massachusetts in 1972 to work for New England Telephone Co. I began as a Programmer and retired as a Systems Analyst/Software Developer after 32 years. I then worked for G.E. and Objet, a 3D printer company, until my full retirement in 2013.

Deb grew up in East Boston and started working for New England Telephone Co. while still in high school. She worked in many different secretarial and administrative positions and retired after 30 years. She then returned as a consultant for several years before moving on to work for a financial planner, where she retired for good after 7 years. We have the phone company to thank for bringing us together.

Traveling has been our main interest for many years, with Hawaii and Italy being our two favorite destinations. We've been planning another visit back to Italy since 2019, but all the Covid restrictions have prevented us from taking the trip. Hoping this might be the year we make it. I keep busy in the summer golfing with other golfers from Emerald Court while Deb is an avid reader, enjoys puzzles and taking day trips with the friends she's made here. We also enjoy joining our friends for our

morning walk around the neighborhood, weather permitting.

What's not to like.



Ron & Diana D'Amato (Unit #16)

Ron & Diana moved to EC in April 2005. They previously lived in Malden for 21 years. Ron worked for Boston Gas as a customer representative for 30 years. Ron's hobbies and interests include golf, exercising and going out to dinner. Diana has spent years organizing off-site events and activities for the Emerald Court residents, the most recent being last New Year's Eve at the Greater Boston Stage Company and dinner at the Venetian Moon in Reading. She is always keeping her eye out for more opportunities that the EC community might enjoy.



Larry & Cheryl Cullity (Unit #17)

Larry and Cheryl join us from Medford. They chose Emerald Court to be close to Cheryl's cousin and their good friend, Diane Gray, who has since

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moved to Heatherwood. They have three sons and seven grandkids. Larry worked for Raytheon for 40 years as an electrician and Cheryl worked for ten years clerking for Dunkin' Donuts. Larry is interested in sports, old cars, 60's and 70's music, and drum corps music. Cheryl likes sewing, musical plays, and bag pipe music. They would love to know if any neighbors were part of a drum and bugle corps in the 1960's as they'd love to talk to them.



Frank & Rona Cavallaro (Unit #19)

Frank and Rona lived in Medford for most of their lives, and have lived at Emerald Court since 2019. They have three grown children. Their two grandchildren, Mia and Leo, and three grand-dogs, Brady, Roxy and Remy, can often be seen playing around the circle. They are both still working; Frank as a Project Manager at Teledyne-FLIR in Billerica, and Rona as a nurse practitioner in vascular surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital. In their free time, they love to spend time with their family, cooking, entertaining, and enjoy travelling (now that the pandemic is almost over!).

Check out the Emerald Court website:

ec-tewksbury.com



Mary Baker (Unit #18)

Mary is from Somerville and chose our community because she is fond of the area and likes the villas very much. She has two daughters and three grandsons, and now she lives close to them. She enjoys shopping, reading, and Foxwoods. Now that she is retired, she is happy to enjoy life with her grandkids. And with the summer weather approaching, she is looking forward to getting outside and enjoying some walks around the property.



Mary & Bob McCabe (Unit #1112)

Mary & Bob come to Emerald Court from Chelmsford. They chose our community while looking to sell their house in order to downsize. They have four children, three sons and one daughter; three daughters-in-law and one son-in-law; and eleven grandchildren, six girls and five boys. The oldest is 21 and the youngest is 7. Bob is a retired firefighter who worked for the city of Lowell, and Mary is a former teacher. They enjoy reading,

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walking, playing cards and playing golf. They spend most of the winter in Titusville, Florida.



Diane Fahey (Unit #1115)

Diane moved into Emerald Court in May of 2021. She joins us after spending most of her life in Somerville. She chose our community for a few reasons. As soon as she walked into her unit she felt very comfortable, at home. The size is perfect for her and she loves the openness, and all the storage. She loves the underground parking! Also, it's quiet, a big change from the city. The best thing is she's about 8 minutes away from many of her family members. Diane is the oldest of four, two brothers and a sister. All of them are married and have children. Her official name is Auntie Diane. Diane has had basically two full-time jobs. The first was for 24 years at Ginn & Company, which was the oldest reading textbook company in the U.S. She worked as the assistant to the Graphic Arts Department Manager and then to the Marketing Department Manager. Eventually, it merged out of existence and she went to work for Fr. J. Donald Monan, S.J., President of Boston College and when he retired, she also worked for the new president, Fr. William P. Leahy, S.J., for a total of 25 years. Diane loves reading, watching old movies, drawing (not really good, she says, but she likes it). She loves being with family, dancing, traveling. She really enjoys working out and she loves boxing! In conclusion, Diane says she is very polite but also a little bit of a wisecracker. She has been known to use swearwords from time to time and she likes a good scotch. Her hobbies and interests include reading,

dancing traveling, sports, drawing, skydiving and fast cars. She ends with the following: "More to come..."



Joan Duffy (Unit #1116)

After living 61 years in Burlington, Joan came to Emerald Court with her husband Jim, who passed away in January 2021. They chose this complex to move to as they believe it to be the most beautiful one they saw. Joan has two sons, both married. They have given Joan four granddaughters, three grandsons, and three great granddaughters! Joan's interests include bowling, traveling, card games, and jig saw puzzles. She is family oriented, fun-loving, and enjoys being with neighbors and friends.



Sylvia Usmari (Unit #1117)

For over 40 years I lived on the third floor in the city of Cambridge. I eventually moved to Chelmsford and then to Emerald Court. My first job was in the bookkeeping department at a bank in Boston. My

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mother had a hard time with the word bookkeeping and told her friends I was a **bookie** at a bank.

I spent almost 50 years managing a staff with Medicare and Home Care billing. At one point I became Director of Patient Accounts at a Psychiatric hospital. They felt I was qualified as a patient so they made me the director.

My success was not mine alone as I have always had staff that worked very hard for me. In fact I recently received a phone call from one who expressed over and over, "you were the best". Can you see the smile on my face!! ■■■

Did you know that the latest version of the Vendor List (1/30/2023) is at the bottom of the EC website "Home Page".

ec-tewksbury.com



HAPPY NEW YEAR

By Frank Carey

The last day of the 2022 year was cloudy with showers. The temperature was also a bit high for a December in New England. In fact the ice sculptures being carved for Boston's "First Night" had to be protected from melting to help preserve them for the evening's big event. Although a bit damp, it still wasn't a bad night to travel to Boston if that was where you had planned to ring in the new year.

Linda and I had made that trip to Boston's "First Night" a couple of times after we moved into Emerald Court, once in 2010 and then again in 2011. Because our trip by commuter train was a bit tedious, we never stayed until midnight. In fact we usually tried to get home by 11:00 pm where we would climb into bed with a glass of wine and watch the ball in New York City descend, welcoming in the new year.

But that was before we found out that each year Diana D'Amato, who was EC's "off site event person," would plan an early evening New Year's Celebration for the folks at EC. The celebrations usually varied between Boston Harbor cruises and performances at the theater in Stoneham. Once made aware of these trips, Linda and I attended and enjoyed each and every one of them.

This year, to celebrate the last day of 2022, and to pre-welcome the first day of 2023, Diana had planned and reserved for those EC folks interested, a row of front row seats at Stoneham's Greater Boston Stage Company Theater. The stage show was titled "Strictly Sinatra" and featured entertainer/singer Michael Dutra along with a seven-piece band.

The entire show was great fun with Michael singing so many of the songs Frank Sinatra had made standard throughout his long and illustrious career. Mike knew his own voice could never come close to that of the "Chairman of the Board" so he chose not to try and impersonate him, but instead dressed in Frank's style and copied his mannerisms while performing each musical selection.

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It was wonderful fun listening to those old favorites such as: "Gotta Crush on You", "Fly Away With Me", "Nice and Easy", and "Got You Under My Skin" among Michael's 20+ play list. He also chit chatted with the audience and told stories related to Sinatra's career.

The talented band provided the big band sound to accompany Dutra's singing. Each musician was also given the opportunity to showcase their instrumental talent with a solo during some of the arrangements.

Of course the audience could not leave without Michael performing "New York, New York", and the song that has become Sinatra's anthem, "My Way". It was a great closing combo to a very entertaining production.

As our EC group exited the theater we were each given a small bottle of Italian "Prosecco" wine with which to celebrate the new year when we got home.

But we weren't quite ready to head home. Diana had also made reservations at "The Venetian Moon", one of Reading's fantastic restaurants and one of our favorites. We have become so spoiled by this eatery, great service, great food, and separate checks. What's better than that?

But all good things must come to an end. With our heads full of wonderful songs and our mouths still relishing the taste of our last scrumptious bite, it was time to head home. I checked my watch/phone. It was still 2022 and only 9:30. How happy were Linda and I. Like back in 2010 and 2011, we could make it home, open our bottles of theater wine, jump into bed and hopefully stay awake long enough to see the ball drop in Times Square welcoming in

2023. Did we make it until midnight? We're not saying. You'll have to guess.

Thanks Diana. You're the best and we thank you for going out of your way, putting in all the effort and work that was required to make our early, off site, 2023 New Year celebration a very special and enjoyable event.

It was also great to see a couple of new EC faces at the celebration.

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**The last four issues of the EC
Newsletter can be downloaded from
the EC website.**

ec-tewksbury.com



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Social Committee Message: Mothers' Day Wish Bags

Your EC Social Committee is an active team whose goal is to help nourish community, connections, fun and caring at Emerald Court. We are a hardworking group who create and host many EC activities. We are always interested in ideas and suggestions from the Community. We value your input as we plan events for EC. Got ideas? Email peggyschleicher1@gmail.com or call 978-851-6569. We invite all ECers to join the fun at our events and activities.

For our 12th year, your EC Social Committee is inviting you to help with The Wish Project's Mothers' Day Gift Bags. The Wish Project shares that: "Many of the women helped have suffered a life altering crisis and struggle to make a better life for themselves and their families. Wish's goal is to give these women Mother's Day gifts bags to show them that someone cares." Our Emerald Court Community cares and can help. Wish and the Social Committee thank you!

To help, please fill a gift bag with the items listed below. Drop your gift bag off at Peggy's house #74. Got questions: contact Peggy. The **bags are due to Peggy by April 10.**

Here are the items needed:

- Pair of white socks/slipper socks
- Bath salts/bath bombs
- Body wash
- Women's razors/shaving cream
- Adult coloring books and colored pencils
- Lip balm/ChapStick
- \$5 gift cards (Dunkin', drug store, department store)
- Nail polish/remover
- Headbands
- Hairbrush/comb
- Deodorant
- Small notebook (or journal)
- Pens/pencils

Your EC Social Committee members are:

Peggy Schleicher, <i>chairperson</i>	Linda Martin
Betsy Travis, <i>secretary</i>	Kathleen Pimental
Ginny Thomas, <i>co-treasurer</i>	Sue Sandler
Diane Fahey, <i>co-treasurer</i>	Pat Stratis
Linda Carey, <i>Welcome Team Coordinator</i>	Regina Ugolini
Norm Johnson - <i>Board of Trustees Liaison</i>	

...

EC Welcomes New Residents

New residents to Emerald Court since January:

- Cynthia & Stanley Lee (Unit #1107)
- William Santoro (Unit #1219)
- Jan Sutton (Unit #1318)
- Anne & John McDermott (Unit #1321)

We at Emerald Court wish you all the happiness that we've found here.

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Computer Drop-In ...

Computer Drop-In is back in business. If you have computer questions / problems and are looking for a solution, stop by the Meeting Room in the Clubhouse on the 1st Friday of the month any time between 3:00 & 3:30 pm. We'll attempt to solve your computer difficulties - FREE!

...

2023 Emerald Court Annual Meeting & Board of Trustees Election May 6, 2023

Saturday, May 6, 2023 is the Emerald Court Annual Meeting. As usual, it will be held at the Tewksbury Senior Center, Chandler Street. The meeting will start at 9:00 am with the election of Trustees just prior to the Annual Meeting.

This year there are two Trustee seats up for election, one for Magnolia and the other for the Villas. Both seats are for a 3 year term. More information on this will be sent out to the EC Community by Silva Associates.

This notice is being written to alert anyone that may be interested in running for a seat on the Board. With 180 units here at Emerald Court, 87 in the Magnolia and 93 in the Villas, we should expect some interest in residents running for these seats.

The Board of Trustees meets once a month in Executive Session to review what is needed to keep Emerald Court the most beautiful Community in Tewksbury. The Board meets to review the monthly financials, review any contracts that are presented for approval, review the activity logs kept by the Property Manager, Jennifer Medeiros, plan projects for the coming year and any other matters concerning our Community.

The Board will be asking our Property Manager, Jennifer Medeiros, to give the EC Community a report on what has been accomplished this past year and information as to what needs to be accomplished for this year.

This is an "open meeting", questions are usually asked by the residents in attendance and answered by the Board or the Property Manager. This is also the Election of Trustees, Magnolia and Villa, so keep the date open, Saturday, May 6, 2023 @ 9:00 am. See you there!



Peter McCoy, Trustee
Chairman, Board of Trustees

LRC - Left, Right, Center (Held January 27, 2023)

By Frank Carey

One thing is for sure, the folks who showed up in the EC clubhouse for the Social Committee's "Left, Right, Center" game event were ready to have a good time. Nothing but happy chatter, laughing, and big smiles were heard and seen as EC residents positioned themselves around the tables.

In the center of each table was a small silver dish, printed directions on how the "LCR" game is played, and the Social Committee's standard bottle of hand sanitizer. In the kitchen, tables had been covered with an array of pastries, an urn full of coffee, a pot of hot water for tea, and plenty of plain old cold water.

Everything, the people, the tables, and the clubhouse kitchen were definitely ready for an evening of good old fashioned neighborly fun. The atmosphere was filled with wonderful beautiful vibes. At 7:00, Social Committee Chairperson, Peggy Schleicher, let everyone know that she would be calling table numbers which would allow for a controlled flow of folks to the kitchen to pick up snacks and drinks, after which each table could start their play of the five LCR games scheduled for the evening. She said there would be no further interruptions and people could visit the kitchen for more refreshments at their own discretion. Fun and relaxation were going to be the evening's theme.

The simple game instructions follow:

LCR is strictly a game of luck. People and or tables are not competing with each other. Winning a game is totally reliant on the rolls of dice by each person around a table. Three specially marked six sided dice are used to play the game. Each side of a die is marked with either an "L" for left, an "R" for right, a "C" for center, and a "Black Dot" for neutral. The game can be played with tokens of no value or with chips or coins with a monetary value. On this night the game was played with each person using three quarters. A designated player starts the game by rolling the dice and moving one or more of their quarters in the direction shown on the dice. "L"

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meant you moved a quarter to the person on the left. An “R” meant you moved a quarter to the person on the right. A “C” would require the person to place a quarter into the silver pot dish located at the center of the table. A black dot meant you didn’t have to move a quarter in any direction. Play would continue around the table until only one person had a quarter left in front of them. That person won all the money in the center pot dish.

Not a very complicated game but one filled with excitement each time the dice were rolled. And the sound of that excitement from all the tables permeated the entire room throughout the evening. Noise levels from each table rose and fell depending on the results of a roll by a person at a particular table. Laughter and trash talk were constant.

As Peggy S. had stated at the beginning of the event, once started there would be no further instructions or interruptions during the games. As tables finished their five games they started putting away their chairs and cleaning up the area.

The 50/50 raffle was called while folks finished up their games. Lucky Norm Johnson went home with the big money.

Did you know that the Emerald Court calendar can be downloaded from the EC website “Home Page”.

ec-tewksbury.com

Before leaving for home, many of the folks hung around a bit chatting with neighbors who had been at other tables.

Thanks Social Committee for a super game night and for planning events that always bring fun and laughter to all those folks who attend. You are an exceptional group of people.

I think it would be hard to find another neighborhood that could measure up to this one here at Emerald Court. The dedication of our volunteer committees and individual residents who provide

Emerald Court with so many events and activities is truly special.

It was a fairly large group of ECers that attended this “LCR” event. But we’d still love to have more people join us at these functions.

Please, **“COME AND PARTICIPATE.”** ■ ■ ■



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When Sad Things Happen

The Emerald Court Community is saddened to learn of the death of Jan Urquhart (Unit #1209). Jan passed away on Saturday, February 18th, 2023. Our sympathy is extended to her entire family.

We are also saddened by the passing of Janice Kelley (formerly Unit #1116). Janice passed away on Tuesday, February 21st, 2023. Our sympathy is extended to her entire family.

Again we are saddened to learn of the passing of Mim Winn (formerly Unit #57). Mim passed away on Wednesday, March 8th, 2023. Our sympathy is extended to her entire family.

Because we care about our community, if you are aware of the passing of any of our neighbors, please inform us at bobschleicher1@gmail.com so we can get the information out to the community in a timely manner. One person’s loss diminishes us all.

■ ■ ■

When patronizing any of our advertising sponsors, be sure to tell them that you saw their ad here in Emerald Court’s Newsletter.

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New Resident Snapshots

Social Committee member, Linda Carey, introduces you to another new resident of our community. See a brief profiles below. You may have met them already. We are always confident to encourage new neighbors to join in the many social activities available in our community as we are sure of the big welcome you will give them.

Linda Carey



Donna and Ed Coleman (Unit #1306)

- Ed and Donna have joined our community and had to travel only a short way from Brown St. in

Tewksbury. They were happy to find one level living in a familiar area. Donna was a teacher at a preschool for 50 years, and Ed was a machinist for many years. Donna enjoys baking and Ed loves to cook. They both enjoy walking and I have had the pleasure of bumping into them on occasion walking

for exercise in the Magnolia garage. They describe themselves as quiet, introverted people. ■■■



OMG!!

By Frank Carey

It's March 11th and I just got home from getting my car washed at the "Tidal Wave" automatic car wash on Main Street here in Tewksbury. I have used the car wash many times with no problems.

Today I drove up to the kiosk, rolled down my window, gave my credit card to the machine, then went through the process of selecting my car wash, and requesting a receipt.

The door was opened and the machine told me to drive into the car wash, the door closing behind me. I placed my credit card back into my wallet and pulled up the power button to close my window.

OH NO, the window did not go up. Maybe it was the wrong button. I frantically pulled up on all the buttons. No window response and the automatic car washing machine was starting.

WHAT SHOULD I DO????? The front door was closed and the door behind me had closed when I drove in. I yelled for help just as a spray of soap hit me in the face. I tried to get out but the car door was too close to the wall to allow me enough room to squeeze out. I kept yelling for help as a second coat of soap hit me.

I tried to climb over the middle console trying to get away from the next rotation of the machine but wasn't successful as a spray of water hit me in the backside wetting my butt and back.

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Trying to keep as much of the water out of the car as possible, I quickly took off my jacket and held it up over the window as the second rotation of water sprayed the car. A final spray of a protective liquid was applied while I continued to hold my jacket over the window.

I was so happy when the power air blower started up. I just sat there while the air drying machine passed twice, fiercely blowing the jacket I was holding like a flag on a windy day.

Finally, everything stopped, the front door opened. The computer lady told me to drive slowly out of the car wash. I immediately headed for home with my back side soaked and soap still on the dash, steering wheel and seats.

What an experience that **didn't** happen. It's something you only see in cartoons or in comedy movies which is where I got the idea for this "April Fool" article.

APRIL FOOL. Hope you enjoyed the fake story and have a smile on your face. ■ ■ ■

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Get Yourself Published

"Writer's Window" is still looking for budding writers. It is an open space for airing the **creative talents** of Emerald Court residents. If anyone has an interest in seeing their own article appear in the Emerald Court Newsletter, send it to bobschleicher1@gmail.com or call him at (978) 851-6569. It will appear in a future issue. It can be 'fact' or 'fiction'. ■ ■ ■

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

By Frank Carey

What's better than sitting in front of a large screen TV, with a bunch of your neighbors, munching on popcorn and candy, while watching the laugh out loud romcom movie "Moonstruck."

That was what occurred in the EC clubhouse on the evening of February 17th, when the Social Committee held their planned Friday night movie event. The purpose for showing this particular movie, was to celebrate "Valentine's Day", and for those that attended, the event provided a really feel good and fun evening.

The EC clubhouse seats had been set up theater style, facing the large screen TV. Popcorn and mini candy bars had been placed on a table and were offered for free. WOW, we didn't have to pay those crazy theater prices for simple refreshments. That in itself was a terrific treat.

But the movie "Moonstruck", which starred Cher, Nicolas Cage, Olympia Dukakis, and other notable actors, was worth every penny we didn't spend. Many of the folks in attendance had seen the movie once, twice, and even more times on HBO, Netflix, or other cable services. But they just couldn't resist enjoying and sharing this romantic fun movie one more time along with their neighbor friends. Was it really that good? YES!!

The film had been chosen by a vote of Social Committee members from a list of possible romcom movies appropriate for their February "Valentine's Day" event.

The movie itself was perfect for the Emerald Court age group. The film was released in 1987 and told the story of a widowed woman, Loretta, who is engaged and willing to wed a man she doesn't love because she is getting older, and he's convenient. Her fiancée makes a request that she personally

invite his estranged brother to the wedding. When she and the brother meet they are immediately attracted to each other and fall in love. The movie also portrays the troubled relationship between Loretta's mom and dad.

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The story, directing, and acting was great from beginning to end, evoking some dramatic and thoughtful moments that were all laced with the humor that dominated the film. The movie was really a lot of fun.

The Valentine's movie night event was a very large success with everyone hoping another movie night would be planned in the near future.

Following up on this wonderful evening was Linda Carey who invited all attendees to attend her movie club group on Tuesday afternoon, February 28th when they could join members who would be discussing the movie and offering opinions regarding the film.

At the Movie Club meeting there were only positive comments regarding all aspects of the film. However, a number of questions arose from the discussion: Is a generational change taking place in Hollywood and are movies like "Moonstruck" a scarce and/or a thing of the past. Are computer generated and digitally enhanced films replacing the types of movies many of our generation grew up with and still enjoy viewing?

Are movie theaters a thing of the past? Is streaming of films the way of the future? Can a movie club exist if its members are required to subscribe to those streaming services which may limit a films' audience?

So many questions with so few answers. An interesting proposition was made during the discussion. Wouldn't it be interesting to have a sample of young people (18-25 years of age?) view the film "Moonstruck" and then poll their reactions. Hmmmmm.

Thanks Social Committee for choosing such a super movie for your "Valentine's Friday Night Movie" event. It was not only a highly entertaining movie but a healthy one as well. Healthy because it made us laugh and everyone knows laughter is the best medicine for what ails you. Loved the popcorn and candy as well.

Also a big thanks to the Movie Club for the follow up discussion of the movie "Moonstruck" which produced an interesting dialogue regarding the

types of future films produced as well as how and where they're shown.

■ ■ ■

Photos from Greenswap (A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words)



Anne & John McDermott (just moved in)!



Pat Stratis wins the "Pot of Gold Raffle"



**Nothing traveled more than the Irish bread
... at least 6 stops!**

LILIANA “THE WAR YEARS”

By Frank Carey and Elaine Williams

In the January issue of the EC Newsletter, we chronicled the young life of Liliana Cohen (Unit #1127 Magnolia) whom we learned was born in 1930, in Salerno, Italy. She had a pretty comfortable and typical young life doing things most kids do during their youth. Things changed a bit when in 1940 Italy decided to join forces with Germany and Japan which became known as “The Axis Powers” who would be fighting against the allied forces of France, England, the Soviet Union and the United States. Liliana’s brother, Mario, and her sister’s husband, Americo, enlisted in the military. Americo in the Italian submarine service and Mario in the Italian Army.

Liliana’s mom and dad read and listened to the reports regarding Italy’s involvement and movements in the war.

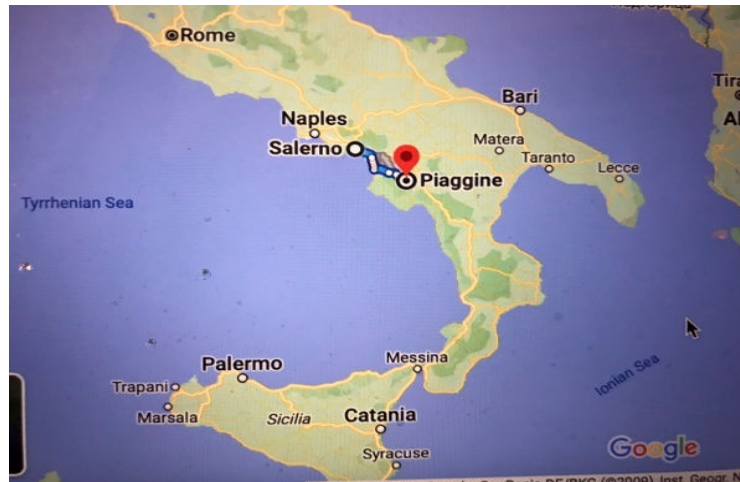
In July 1943, the allies invaded Sicilia (*Sicily*). Prior to that invasion, the allies conducted air raids on Napoli (*Naples*), located approximately 35 miles north of Salerno. Napoli was a prime target because of its location, being a center of industry and communication, and harboring an Italian military fleet.

Liliana, now 13 years old, remembers the night her mother sent the children to the basement of their apartment as allied planes flew overhead. She gave them wet cloths to cover their nose and mouth to protect them from the possibility of poisonous gasses. She remembered the sounds of bombs exploding, the shaking of the building, and the fear exhibited by all those clustered together in that basement.

That same night Liliana’s father, Angelo, decided the family must leave the area. He immediately set out to find a means by which his family could make an exodus to a safer place. He returned with the owner of a horse and wagon, who had agreed to transport Liliana, her mother Anna, and her sisters, Rosetta, Anna, and her pregnant sister, Rachele, to the town of Piaggine where Liliana’s father’s siblings lived. Because of the importance of his job at the railroad, her father, Angelo, would remain in Salerno.

The need for a quick escape and limited space on the wagon meant her mom could only pack the most necessary of items.

Many families in the area were also starting to leave while others, because of economical difficulties would have to stay behind. Most of those leaving were women and children. The men stayed behind to fight in the war. Liliana remembers there were a number of people traveling on foot who asked if they could ride on their wagon. They had to refuse because of the added burden it would put on the already overtaxed horse.



Travel away from Salerno was during the day. On the first night Liliana and her family slept either on the floor of the wagon or on the ground. The sounds of the bombing in Napoli could be heard in the distance and flashes in the night sky could be seen.

On the second day Liliana’s mom saw a house with a woman sitting outside. She asked the woman if she and her family could spend the night. The woman was more than generous. She allowed them to stay for the next two days. She fed them and although there weren’t beds, they did sleep in chairs and on tables.

After being able to rest from their quick,

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emotional and stressful exodus they again set out on their trek to Piaggine.

That night the family found a dry river bed where others, also fleeing, were taking shelter. Liliana described that evening as being very uncomfortable. The ground was very damp and buggy. She could not sleep. During the night while others slept, Liliana crept up the side of the river bed to a large open field. She walked around the field where she spied a light in the distance. She walked to the light which to her surprise was located inside a small house. The door was unlocked so she entered finding no one at home. The home was tidy and there was a bed which had not been slept in. She crawled up onto it and fell asleep.

In the morning voices from inside the room woke Liliana. It turned out to be her mom, Anna, and the owner of the house. They were discussing Liliana. Anna was apologizing for her daughter's brazen intrusion. Liliana and her mom returned to the family's wagon. To Liliana's surprise her mom never reprimanded her for such a dangerous and irresponsible action. They continued their journey without further talk of the incident.

Later when reflecting on the incident and her mother's reaction to what she had done, Liliana has concluded, "When time is of the essence you do what you need to do. There was no time for little things when they were escaping a war."

Liliana said her memory of the next day or two of travel are very vague. She did remember having to sleep outside for at least a couple of nights and having to stop at farm houses along the road to ask for food and drink. She remembers being given melons. The wagon driver, her mom and sisters would eat the flesh of the fruit and then give the rind to the horse. She also said that as they traveled the sounds of the bombing got fainter until it could no longer be heard.

Piaggine was located in a mountainous region so travel became more difficult due to the incline, but they finally reached Piaggine, tired, hungry, and dirty but relieved.

Liliana thinks that her father must have gotten word to his relatives, through his railroad

connections, because when they arrived people would wave to them and they were shown to a furnished house, ready for them to live in. Liliana also said that the horse that pulled the wagon and delivered them all to a safe place, died a few days after their arrival.

While war raged in southern Italy, life in Piaggine became much more normal. Liliana befriended a family that lived close to their house. They were American tourists. The husband was originally from Piaggine and they were visiting the town when they became stuck there because of the war. They had a daughter with whom Liliana became a good friend.

In August, Liliana's pregnant sister, Rachele, gave birth to a baby boy, Feliciano. Rachele's body could not produce milk for the baby who was very lethargic. Liliana remembers her mom taking the baby and racing through the street looking for a wet nurse. A woman volunteered and kept the baby, nursing him at her home, saving his life. Liliana's mother went to the house daily to help the woman.

Meanwhile the tide of the war in Italy was changing.

After a successful military campaign by the allies in Sicilia, an attack on Italy's mainland began with the allied forces invasion at Salerno on September 3rd, 1943 resulting with the Italian government surrendering to the allies on September 8th. The Germans, however, did not surrender thus they became enemies of the Italians resulting in horrible massacres taking place in the north of Italy. (Montecassino and Fosse Ardeatine Massacres).

The Italian army and the allies fought together against the Germans many of which began to retreat bringing some of the Germans into Piaggine.

On one day Liliana said Germans in 4-5 open Jeeps circled the piazza. They stopped and talked with each other, appearing angry and confused as to which way to go. The residents in Piaggine were scared, went indoors and closed their doors. Liliana, however went into her house and with the help of her mother put together a plate of food which she offered to the German soldiers in one of the jeeps. She said they waved her off. Not being discouraged she placed the plate onto one of the Jeep seats. Shortly

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thereafter the Germans left the area with the plate of food.

It wasn't long after the Germans left that American soldiers came to the piazza. They appeared happy and friendly, playing loud music with American songs and handing out chocolate. The residents of Piaggine welcomed them. She also remembers one of the songs she heard. It was one she had heard played and sung by German, Italian, and then the allied forces, titled "Lili Marlene". (*Google it. I think you'll recognize it.*)

In October of 1943, there was information that the war had moved north and it would be safe to return to Salerno. A multilingual speaking friend arranged with American soldiers for Liliana's family to be transported back to their home in Salerno.

When they arrived home they found that life had changed dramatically. Salerno itself "was a mess" with damage from the war. Few stores were open and schools were closed. Luckily, their apartment building had been damaged by the bombing and fighting but was livable. Nearby farmers brought some produce to Salerno to sell, but since things were scarce, they were also very expensive causing further hardship to many in the community. Aware of the problem, Liliana's relatives in Piaggine sent staples to the family.

Liliana's sister's baby, Feliciano, was still in need of milk so every morning Liliana would walk to a nearby hilltop where a farmer kept his cows. She was able to buy milk from him which her mother would boil so it would be healthy for the baby.

The American and English soldiers were friendly, and had taken over a building near the apartment buildings which housed the railroad employee's

families. The soldiers often spent time in the large open area in front of Liliana's apartment. Her family invited some soldiers to visit their apartment to talk.

Things were continuing to improve until on March 17, 1944, Liliana and her family woke in the morning to total darkness outside, although the sun had already been up for a couple of hours. They went outside where the streets were covered with a brownish sand-like ash. People had gathered and were nervously excited and trying to understand what was happening. The question was answered when they realized that nearby Mt Vesuvius had erupted.

While Vesuvius claimed no military fatalities during the eruption, twenty six Italian civilians were killed and nearly 12,000 were displaced. Most died near Salerno, where heavy ash collapsed roofs. (*Wikipedia) Prior to this day, the volcano had not erupted since 1929.

Despite the setback Salerno slowly started to get back to normal. More stores opened and Liliana remembers

going to the theater to see movies.

In 1944 Liliana returned to school. She said her teacher and the students each shared many stories of their war experiences, some very traumatic for the people telling them.

At some point people could again travel in and out of Italy. Liliana's uncle, her father's brother, came to visit. He had moved from Piaggine to Brooklyn, NY years before the war. He told many happy stories about the wonders of living in America.

Liliana listened intently to these stories and over the next years thought about traveling to America. In 1949 at 19 years old Liliana made that trip, *alone*.



Mt. Vesuvius volcanic ash being cleared from streets by military forces.

To be continued in the July EC Newsletter.