

Emerald Court Newsletter

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January, 2024



Addicted to Lists

By Peggy Schleicher

I think I might be addicted to list-making. I make lists and put them on my kitchen counter, on the cork board, on my desk next to my computer, in my purse. When I go grocery shopping, I always take my list. I arrange my grocery list in the order that the items are shelved at the store. I make a daily list. I was thinking that I might add “drink coffee” to that list so that I get at least one thing done every day. I would never forget to drink coffee. I like coffee as much as I like lists. Also, I really like highlighters which are great when used in conjunction with lists because I can highlight a few items on my list, for emphasis!

I like crossing things off. Sometimes I write things on the list that I have already done just so I can cross them off. If I write “make a to-do list” as the first item on my list, then I can immediately cross it off. Right off the bat, I have achieved something and feel productive. My Mom liked lists so I get this trait via my genes. She had a big list with a magnet on the refrigerator and she never left home without that list. Here is where I am going with this list thing. It’s a new year and that means New Year resolutions. So, make a list of your resolutions for 2024. At the top of the list write and highlight: get more involved at EC; attend the events, have fun. Happy New Year!

■ ■ ■

EC Clubhouse Fun:

Upcoming Social Committee Events: LCR (Left, Center, Right) Night, Jan. 19th at 7:00 p.m. **Next Clubhouse Breakfast** is on the first Sunday of January. 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).

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 . . .



Jane Rosato (Unit #33)

Jane moved to Emerald Court in December, 2005 with her mother, Yolanda. They moved from Lexington, where they lived for over 50 years. Yolanda passed in December of 2021. Jane has three brothers and one sister, all of whom live nearby, except for one

brother in Idaho. She's also an Aunt to six, and a Great Aunt to ten. She was fortunate to take early retirement in 2005. She worked as a Contracting Officer at Arthur D. Little for over 20 years, then at

iRobot for 2 years before retiring. Jane's passion is her annual road trips that she's taken every spring and fall for almost 20 years. Her ultimate goal is always to visit her brother in Idaho, but she makes stops at every National Park and Wildlife Refuge all across the country. And when travelling with Mom early on, they also stopped at every Casino along the way too (Mom's passion). Jane spends her time hiking, wildlife and bird watching, cooking, reading, doing puzzles, and she'll admit to her guilty pleasure of watching Hallmark movies with a glass of wine.

Mark and Dee Delorenzo (Unit #36)

Mark and Dee came to us from Andover. They were attracted to our community by the well-maintained property and loved the design and layout of their villa. They have two sons; Christopher and Anthony. Mark is a manager at Tufts Health Care and Dee works for the Andover Public Schools in the Assistant Superintendent's Office as an executive assistant. They spend their free time on Cape Cod. Their interests are many; Mark enjoys golf and biking and Dee loves to read, walk, bike, and working on arts and crafts. They are very impressed with the many opportunities in our community to interact and socialize.

Mary Ann Famiglietti (Unit #37)

Mary Ann moved to Emerald Court from Saugus in February, 2006. She has one daughter, and three sons. She moved to Tewksbury to be closer to her kids and nine grandchildren.

Mary Ann is a Registered Nurse, and before retiring held leadership positions at Mass General Hospital, Danvers Home Care, and the Saugus School System.

Mary Ann likes to stay active, and does so by going to the gym several times a week and walking. She also enjoys reading, cooking and gardening at





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her sons' homes. She also likes to travel, and this past summer traveled to Ireland with her son Tom, Tom's wife and daughter.

More than anything, Mary Ann loves spending time with her family, and playing cards with her grandkids



Betsy Kelly (Unit #38)

Betsy moved to Emerald Court in February, 2006. Originally from Cambridge, she lived in Somerville for two years before buying her first home in Billerica, MA. After Billerica she brought her children up in Tewksbury where she lived for 28 years and then on to

Emerald Court. Betsy worked for Verizon Communications as a National Rights of Way Manager. She retired in 2011 after 25 years and she has been a consultant for six years since retiring. Betsy has two married children and five grandchildren. She attends many of their sports and activities and in general, enjoys spending time with her family. She is a member of EC Movie Club and attends many of the EC Socials.

Jan Ball (Unit #39)

Jan joins our community from Andover, MA. She was attracted to Emerald Court because of the people here and her familiarity with the area. Jan has two stepsons, one son, and one daughter. Her close knit family includes her brother and two sisters. She worked many years in the high-tech industry building computers. Her interests include sewing, counted cross stitch, and knitting. Be sure to say "hello" when you see her out and about. She's the lady frequently walking an adorable little white dog.



Mary Ann Buczak (Unit #40)

Mary Ann moved to Emerald Court in June, 2007. Previously she lived 13 years in Plymouth, MA. For the past 25 years she has been working as a legal assistant at Goodwin Procter in Boston. Mary Ann has two children, six grandchildren and her King Charles Cavalier "Dano". She loves spending time at the ocean. Her favorite spot is Eagle Beach, Aruba.

Mary McElroy (Unit #1201)

Mary moved to Emerald Court in March, 2021. She lived in Hanover, MA for 45 years and then for ten years in Methuen before finally moving to Emerald Court with her husband, Richard, who passed away in June of 2021. The move to EC made her closer to her children and her grandchildren. Mary was employed in the banking industry for 17 years before retiring in 2010. She enjoys traveling with her family.



Sona Kazanjian (Unit #1202)

Sona moved to our community from Greenport, NY. She was attracted by the quality of the building and the design of the units. In addition, the location close to family was a big factor. Sona worked in Human Resources and Banking. She is interested in photography,

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literature, grandchildren and great theater and the arts. She has participated in some events since her arrival and likes the nice mix of things to do here at Emerald Court.

Ray and Sarah Adams (Unit #1203)

Ray and Sarah moved to EC in June 2007 from Tewksbury where they lived since 1965, with the exception of 5 years in Kansas City, MO. Ray was vice president for 17 years at Lasermax Roll Systems, a mainframe, high speed printing & graphic arts company. Sarah graduated from Waterville HS, Waterville, KS. She was in the Drama Group, a singer, played the flute in the HS Band and also played the piano. Sarah graduated from Business College in Topeka. Her business experience is insurance, finance and she was a Dental Assistance for 25 years prior to retiring. Sarah & Ray have seven children, fourteen grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. They spend a lot of time with their family.



Sarah was very involved with Arts & Crafts. Ray is interested in boating on Lake Winnepesaukee, spending time with their grandkids, and DAV (Disabled American Veterans). Ray spent four years in the US Air Force, Strategic Air Command Reconnaissance. He grew up in Somerville and Saugus. Ray has been on the Emerald Court Board of Trustees since 2009.



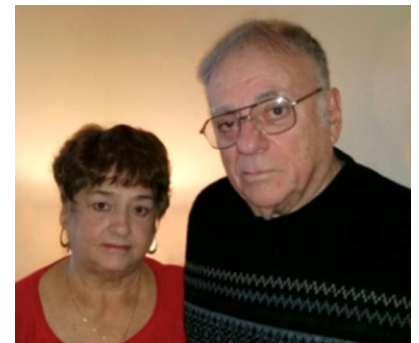
Evelyn Weed (Unit #1204)

Evelyn moved to Emerald Court in March of 2007, after living in Woburn for more than 23 years. She was fortunate to be close to her daughters as well. She also lived in Burlington for over 25 years, where she and her husband Ken, raised their three

children. Before retiring at the age of 84, Evelyn worked at Universal Testing Services in Stoneham, MA for over 33 years. Evelyn loved to travel with her late husband Ken, and also enjoyed traveling with her sister and children. Evelyn has five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, who she enjoys spending time with. She enjoyed all the social activities that Emerald Court offered, especially playing cards with her friends.

Joe and MaryAnn Puntonio (Unit #1205)

Joe and MaryAnn come to us from Cambridge after being introduced to our community by a resident and family member, Alice Dale. They have four daughters, many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Joe was a self-employed Heating Technician, and MaryAnn worked as an Accounts Payable and Payroll Clerk. Joe likes to relax and watch TV, while MaryAnn enjoys crocheting, reading, and playing cards. From May to October they both really enjoy going to their summer place in Maine with their family.



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Top Row: Ron Blanchette, Kevin Walsh, Tony Deloia, Al Miano, Peter McCoy, Jim Korba, Bill Travis, Ray Adams, Dean Gibbons. **Seated:** Alan Katz, Ralph Parla, Jack Dempsey, Norm Johnson

Emerald Court Gives Thanks To our Veterans

*Article by Frank Carey
Photos by Norm Johnson & Bob Schleicher*

We at Emerald Court are so appreciative of all the veterans who have served or are serving in our country's armed services. They have all taken an oath to protect our country's constitution and our many interests around the world. To show that appreciation, Emerald Court's Social Committee holds a special event each year to honor all veterans and especially those that live here in the EC community. This year the committee was fortunate enough to be able to hold the event on the actual National Veteran's Day holiday, November 11, 2023.

As in previous years the tables in the clubhouse were decorated with red, white, and blue table cloths. Small American flags were placed in the center of each table. A "Missing Man Table", also known as a



"Fallen Comrade Table", was set up in the corner of the clubhouse, in honor of the fallen, missing, or imprisoned

military service members.

The event was well attended with over 25% of the participants being EC veterans.

The afternoon's agenda started with a light food menu of sandwiches, potato chips, pies and drinks. SC Chair Peggy Schleicher then presented a program of patriotic songs, poems, and readings. Communication Committee Chair Bob Schleicher had created a computer program which was shown on the clubhouse TV, allowing everyone to see the words of each song sung with very beautiful and

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touching back-grounds suited to the event's purpose.

The evening's finale included the singing of our National Anthem and the recognition of the EC veterans who served in one of the five branches of the military.

The evening was, once again, a wonderful tribute to all who serve in our military. Thanks to the EC Social Committee and Bob Schleicher for planning a program allowing us to give a proper thanks to our EC veterans.



Also the newsletter would like to recognize Elaine Williams, an EC resident and expert quilter, who for a second year designed and created a "one of

a kind" Veteran's Day quilt which she donated to the event. A veterans' only raffle was held and the quilt was won by Army veteran Peter McCoy.

I would like to end this article with the following poem:

On Veterans Day we honor
Soldiers who protect our
nation
For their service as our
warriors
They deserve our
admiration.

Some of them were drafted
Some were volunteers
For some it was just
yesterday
For some it's been many
years.

We owe so much to them
Who kept us safe from terror
So when we see a uniform
Let's say "THANK YOU" to the wearer.



Written by Joanna Fuchs

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When Sad Things Happen

The Emerald Court Community is saddened to learn of the passing of Ron Blanchette (Unit #93). Ron passed away on Monday, November 13th, 2023. Our sympathy is extended to Carol and her entire family.

We are also saddened to learn of the passing of George Hallisey (Unit #1101). George passed away on Sunday, December 10th, 2023. Our sympathy is extended to Jerri and her entire family.



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How Penny Lambroukos Saved EC's Social Committee's "Movie Night"

By Frank Carey

Question: What's better than sitting in the clubhouse with a bunch of neighborhood friends, watching a fun movie while munching on popcorn and candy?

Answer: Nothing!!

With that question and answer in mind, the Social Committee's plan for a free "Movie Night" event on October 13th, was a really good one. Their movie choice was the 2002 comedy hit and academy award nominee "My Big Fat Greek Wedding".

Social committee member, Linda Carey, had taken on the responsibility of securing the movie DVD from the library. On the day of the event she and her husband Frank, went to the clubhouse to test EC's DVD system to be sure it worked. They were satisfied when they were able to play the first couple minutes of the movie without a problem.

At 6:45 pm the EC folks who signed up for the event were settling into the clubhouse seats that had been arranged, in theater fashion, facing the large screen TV. Free bags of popcorn and various bite size candies were passed among the attendees.

At 7:00 pm Linda introduced the evening's movie by giving a brief overview of the film's plot. Lights were shut off and with a push of the clicker button the movie began. Within the first two minutes of the movie, viewers were already laughing. The event was destined to be a fantastic success.

BUT OH NO!!!!!! Fifteen minutes into the movie the film's sound went silent. There was video but no sound. **WHAT HAPPENED?** Linda's husband Frank tried to rescue the situation, but after pressing almost every button on each of the four clickers necessary to operate the DVD, he gave up.

Meanwhile Social Committee Chair, Peggy Schleicher frankly searched the EC DVD video selection for a replacement hoping to save the evening. She found the DVD "Seabiscuit", another "Best Picture" nominated film. However when placed in the DVD player the results were the same; A picture with no sound.

The evening's well planned event seemed lost.



*While I'm not a superstitious person I was thinking that the event was being held on Friday the 13th in the month "Halloween" was also being celebrated. Was our situation just a coincidence or were we being plagued by an evil aura of bad luck that is said to beset each "Friday the 13th" calendar day?

BUT WAIT, from the clubhouse entrance came Penny Lambroukos. She had quietly left the clubhouse, gone home, and returned with her personal copy of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding". The disk was placed into the machine and it started without a problem. Again laughter ensued as folks cautiously watched and listened to this hilarious film expecting a DVD glitch at any time. But none came and the audience finally relaxed and enjoyed a very fun EC Social Committee "Movie Night" film event.

The movie was great. The plot basically revolves around a romantic relationship between two people with different cultural backgrounds. Toula is from a Greek Orthodox family whose father wants her to marry and have children, but only with a Greek man. Her love interest, Ian, has geeky type parents without

any feeling of cultural ties. The film follows them through the difficulties they encounter while their love grows stronger, culminating in a marriage proposal by Ian and acceptance by Toula.

The situations that follow are hilarious as Toula's father continues to have difficulty accepting his daughter's marriage to a non-Greek man even while the marriage plans are being made. He finally relents and embraces the union.

The movie is full of laughs as Ian is introduced to Toula's very large Greek family and relatives concluding with a huge happy wedding ceremony and a moral message about cultural acceptance.

So, even with all the initial problems, the Social Committee's, Friday the 13th "Movie Night Event" was a total success.

Thank you Social Committee for planning this entertaining evening and for supplying the free popcorn and candy. Also a gigantic "THANK YOU" to Penny Lambroukos for saving the evening with her personal DVD copy of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding".

EC Welcomes New Residents

New residents to Emerald Court since October:

- Ralph & Mary Parla (Unit #1209)

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

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Thanks for Caring

by Peggy Schleicher,
for the Social Committee

Thanks to the caring people at Emerald Court, 50 amazing holiday gift bags were delivered to the Wish Project. Wish is a local organization serving the Merrimack Valley. Every day, dozens of needy clients are referred to Wish by partner agencies: local homeless shelters, elder services, veteran programs, early intervention programs. Wish provides: bedroom, living room and kitchen furniture, rugs, dishes and all kitchen goods, appliances of all sizes, towels, beds and bedding, and more. Wish also coordinates a project each month to assist the homeless and home-bound. This year Wish's Holiday Bag Project, that we at Emerald Court supported, provided gift bags to home-bound senior citizens. On behalf of the EC Social Committee and Project Wish, thank you for doing good; thank you for the kindness and caring that makes the world a gentler place, one person at a time. ECers also participated in a monetary donation to the Tewksbury Community Food Pantry. We donated **\$1,827!** WOW! THANK YOU!

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	
Victor Corbin - <i>Board of Trustees Liaison</i>	...

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

ec-tewksbury.com



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!

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New Resident Snapshots

Social Committee members, Peggy Schleicher and Linda Carey, introduce you to more new residents of our community. See 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 all of our new residents.



**Kendra & Rick Sheehan
(Unit #1218)**

Kendra and Rick lived in Randolph, MA before coming to Emerald Court. Randolph was a convenient location for their commutes to work. Rick is originally from Cambridge and

Kendra is from Brighton. They moved here to be closer to family and friends. They shared that they were impressed with Emerald Court the minute they saw it! They were delighted EC is a 55+ condominium community. They are ready to forego snow blowing and yard work. They have three granddaughters ranging from age four to age eight. Their family is scattered from Maine to Texas. After 43 years, Rick has recently retired from a career in Commercial Refrigeration Maintenance. Kendra is currently working for Curry College in Milton where she is a Senior Budget Analyst. They enjoy spending time in Maine. Rick notes that he likes to fix things. Kendra enjoys reading and being with friends. They shared that they are delighted with the friendliness and helpfulness they have experienced at Emerald Court.

**Dean & Marcia Gibbons
(Unit #1310)**

Dean and Marcia joined our community after living in Methuen for 30 years and then for a few years they lived at Joan's Farm in Tewksbury. They love the spacious condo and the lovely grounds. They were also impressed with the welcoming residents they met while touring Magnolia. They both have brothers and sisters in New England as well as a niece and nephews.



Marcia is a retired teacher from Reading and Dean is a retired electrician from MIT. He is a Marine veteran and served in the Vietnam conflict.

They enjoyed sailing for many years and also enjoy a family home in North Falmouth, MA. Their other interests include reading, dining out, PBS nature and history shows, and the company of great friends. Everything seems perfect here and they look forward to the many ways there are to enjoy the company of fellow residents.

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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'. ■■■

Writer's Window ...

Choosing a Name

By Elaine Williams

It is no easy task choosing a name when you become a grandparent.

My grandson's other grandmother Ann had been a grandmother for many years and was called Nana. I wanted to be Nanny as that was what my wonderful grandmother was called. However I thought it would be unkind to choose a name so close to Nana.

My children called my Dad "Perky". He was supposed to be Grampy but my daughter's first attempts at saying it were quite garbled. Dad was a very energetic, perky fellow and her words were close to perky so that is what he was called. My children said it was hard getting him cards because he didn't have a traditional name.

So I went to a Hallmark store and looked at the cards to grandmothers to see which was the most common. It was Grammy. So I chose that. My reasoning was that at some point my grandson would not be making his own cards to give to me and would be going to the store to find one. I wanted to make it easy for him.

This however seems to have backfired on me. Since Justin has been middle school aged he calls me Gram instead of Grammy. One day he asked me if I had noticed the change and I acknowledged that I had. He explained that since he was older it was more grown up for him to call me Gram.

If you know me well enough you probably know that after hearing that I took another trip to a

Hallmark store to check out cards that say "Gram". Well, there aren't very many!!!!

He still makes his own cards for me so I am all set so far. We will see what the future brings. ■■■



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Thank You For Your Years of Service!

By Bob Schleicher

For almost thirteen years we have been privileged to have Frank Carey as our newsletter writer. Frank moved here in September, 2010 and by April he was writing articles that captured the life and activities of Emerald Court. I'm sure he would say that the hours he spent writing were a reward in itself, but the truth is, it did take hours to do what Frank did. We on the Communication Committee are so thankful that he was part of our



staff and our entire community has been made richer by his dedication. And now, after years of service, Frank is stepping down but has promised that we have not seen the last of him. He will continue to write the occasional article on some aspect of Emerald Court life. Frank, enjoy your retirement. You deserve it.

And now, here is my plea to the Emerald Court community. If you have writing ability, and are willing to be part of a team, let me know. Because, that is exactly what it will take to replace Frank. Ideally, we are looking for three people that can each write up one of the monthly events for the newsletter and work as a team. Think about it. We need you! Contact me at bobschleicher1@gmail.com or call at (978) 851-6569.

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Happy New Year from the Emerald Court Book Club

by Peggy Schleicher

Founded in November, 2005 by Kathy Walsh, the EC Book Club is still going strong. Over the years, we have read 216 books and nourished many friendships. The book group meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. New members are always invited to join. Taking turns selecting the book to read and discuss, the group agrees that we have read many, varied books and expanded our thinking. We use a book rating system. Each member ranks each book read on a scale of 0 to 10 with ten being a “*wow*” book.

Our top-ranking books in 2023 were:

- How the Penguins Saved Veronica *by Hazel Prior* 9.1
- Small Things Like These *by Claire Keegan* 9.0
- Lessons in Chemistry *by Bonnie Gamus* 8.5

We invite you to join us in the new year! Start the year off with a resolution to try something new: join the book club. Come and check us out!

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Ball in the House Returns to EC

By Elaine Williams



Jon Tyler Kevin Journey Wallace

Remember the times when you have been entertained and it was so enjoyable you didn't want it to end? Well, I had that very good feeling on Saturday, December 16, when I joined many other Emerald Court folks in the Clubhouse listening to the a cappella group called Ball in the House.

The group is based in Boston but performs extensively throughout the country and has had many engagements worldwide. They are known for their ability to sing soul, pop and rhythm and blues. The five men have harmonious, heavenly voices. One of them, when not singing, makes drum-like sounds with his mouth, called "beat boxing".

The group members come from a variety of places. Jon, a tenor and the group beat boxer, is from MA and is one of the group's original founders. Kevin is also from MA and is the bass. Journey comes to the group from CA and is their baritone. Tyler and Wallace are tenors with Tyler coming from RI and Wallace from FL.

The group began with Christmas songs and interspersed them with their pop and soul songs. These included: Angels We Have Heard on High; Happy Holidays to You; All I Want For Christmas is You; Deck the Halls; Merry Christmas to You; I Only Have Eyes For You; Hound Dog; My Girl; and Stayin' Alive.

Besides singing to us, they sometimes invited us to join them for some of the choruses. They also taught us the hand movements they do for the chorus of Dancing in the Streets. I was sitting in the back and was impressed with our EC participants' moves.

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After beat boxing through several songs, Jon explained how he does the vocal percussion of beat boxing and taught us how to make one of the sounds. He said it is much easier to make the beat with his mouth than carry around a drum set. He has perfected this so well he can beat box for the group's entire performance.

Early in the performance Wallace was singing a solo when his adorable little daughter decided she wanted her Daddy. As soon as he saw her coming he bent down, scooped her up with one arm and continued singing without missing a beat. His warmth and joy was an example of that which emanated from all the Ball in the House members throughout their performance to give us a wonderful afternoon of entertainment.

And here are some of the 44 EC Residents who enjoyed the afternoon's entertainment:



Barbara Pothier, Rose Antonuccio, Ginny Thomas, Dee Vanderburg



Betty & Jack McDonough, Tony & Annette Deloia



Mary & Al Miano, Andy & Pat Russnok



Linda & Jack Dempsey, Ralph & Mary Parla



Betsy Kelly, Mary Ann Famiglietti, Anne & John McDermott



Betsy & Bill Travis, Claire & Farhad Shoae



Pat Stratis, Linda Martin, Sue Sandler, Diane Fahey



Bert Lyons, Kathy Walsh, Ruth Mosey, Denise Abels



Peggy Schleicher, Jan DiPietro, Sandy Rosenbach, Elaine Williams

The Communication Committee wishes each and every one of you a *Happy & Safe New Year!*