



## If Not Now, When?

By Peggy Schleicher

The other day I heard a song sung by Carrie Newcomer, a poet, songwriter whom I enjoy. Hearing the lyrics to her song, *If Not Now*, I got to thinking about the chorus: *"If not now, tell me when. If not now, tell me when. We may never see this moment or place in time again. If not now, if not now, tell me when."* I decided to google the phrase, "If not now, when?" The website quora.com dates the phrase's origin between the third and fifth century. The quote is often considered to be a call to action, to seize the day, carpe diem. Now, I am really interested so I kept googling. The internet is both amazing and terrifying. I ended up on Amazon, no kidding. Amazon sells bright pink notebooks featuring the inspirational quote "**IF NOT NOW, WHEN?**" on the cover. And that's not the only vendor. You can also buy a pin on Redbubble. Who ever heard of Redbubble, right? Oh, and Etsy has a bracelet. Clearly this phrase is well-known and well-marketed. Then I got serious again because I came across a poem by Mary Anne Perrone. She wrote: *"I am no longer waiting for a special occasion; I burn the best candles on ordinary days. I am no longer waiting for the house to be clean; I fill it with people who understand that even dust is sacred."*

So, here's the thing. Why wait? Do something that makes you smile. Maybe join the events and activities at Emerald Court. If not now, when? This question is an invitation to join in. As comedian/author, Lorreta La Roche, wrote: "Life is short, wear your party pants." If not now, when?

■ ■ ■

## EC Clubhouse Fun:

**Upcoming Social Committee events:** Elegant Gathering, Sunday, April 14 at 3:00 pm. Ranter, Friday, May 17 at 7:00 pm.

**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).

## 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 . . .



### **Bob & Penny Anderson (Unit #42)**

Bob and Penny moved to Emerald Court in 2004 when they both retired. Bob had lived in Dracut for 30 years and Penny lived in Lowell. Bob worked for National Grid as an Engineering Assistant for 41 years and Penny worked at Hewlett Packard (formerly Compaq/Digital Equipment) as an Administrative Assistant/Project Specialist for 25 years.

In 2004, when the condos at EC were being built, there was a delay in construction, therefore we volunteered to move in a month later as we stayed at our home in Old Orchard Beach which we recently sold.

Between us we have two sons, Robert Anderson, Matthew Kydd, and a daughter, Melissa Anderson, and 3 grandchildren. Two of our grandchildren had the pleasure of being at Emerald Court during the construction of the Villas and the Magnolia. They loved seeing and naming all the construction equipment, seeing ducks etc summer activities in the yard and sledding down the hills in the water retention areas in the winter.

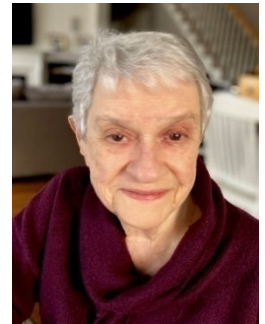
We travelled to Greece, Italy, and other countries, many cruises to the Caribbean Islands and visiting Bob's family in Key West, along with staying at our summer home.

Bob had joined the Clubhouse Committee as Treasurer. We did a few activities, Texas Hold'em, Poker, Bingo, and Mahjong, plus 45 and Cribbage at the Senior Centers. Bob was in the EC golf league

where he got a Hole in One, and Penny was in the EC bowling league where she got the Woman's High Single one year. We thoroughly enjoy our time at Emerald Court.

### **Phyllis Harrington (Unit #43)**

Phyllis and Frank moved to Emerald Court from Bedford where they lived for eight years. They moved here to be closer to their kids. Prior to moving from Bedford, they spent 28 years in Lexington where they raised their three children. Frank passed away 9 years ago and Phyllis says that she wouldn't dream of being anywhere else. She has ten grandchildren, five great grandchildren and she enjoys getting together as much as possible. This July marks her 20<sup>th</sup> year at Emerald Court. Phyllis is still so very impressed with the many opportunities in our community to interact and socialize.



### **Betty & Al Doucette (Unit #45)**

Betty and Al moved here four years ago from Winchester where they lived for 54 years. They have three daughters, ages 58, 57, and 47. They also have a son age 44. In addition, they are proud of their seven grandchildren, the oldest is 25 and the youngest is five. Interestingly these two (the oldest and the youngest) are sisters. Two of their daughters live in Tewksbury with their families. Al and Betty say that they had them in their villa before they could think about it! Al is retired from work in Sales, Insurance and Investments. Betty is retired from working on payroll. Betty spends her time with grandchildren and playing Mahjong. Al enjoys karaoke, reading, and music. Also, Al is interested in finding others who would like to chase after Karaoke venues with him.





# Emerald Court Newsletter



## Sue Pinto & Jay Richard (Unit #46)

Sue was born and raised in Tewksbury and spent the first 20 years of her life here. So she has done a full circle and returned here in June of 2008.

Prior to that Sue lived in Westford, MA for ten years.

Growing up in Kansas City, Missouri provided Jay with mid-western values, a sense of humor and music appreciation. Taking a break from college he ended up in the Army Security Agency in Southeast Asia. His first few months in the Army were at Fort Devens and his introduction to Massachusetts.

Sue worked in Information Technology for over 30 years and spent the last ten years before retiring as Infrastructure Support Manager for Harvard Pilgrim Health. In 1970 Jay started his 45 year

career in computer technology and management at MIT testing IBM future systems and software. He was fortunate to be able to leverage his technical knowledge and business acumen as a senior manager in several Fortune 500 and three of his own companies.

Sue has two daughters and Jay has three daughters. They share six grandchildren ranging in ages from two and a half to 33. There is always something going on and always entertaining!

Sue enjoys playing golf, reading and playing cards and games with her many cousins. (She has 51 cousins just on her father's side). Jay has enjoyed his guitars and music at home and concerts, restoring and collecting antiques, along with saltwater boating/fishing. Since retiring he focused on wildlife and landscape photography establishing <http://www.JayHawkphotography.com> working with several photographers, clubs, libraries, Audubon, etc to share knowledge and provide photographic services.

They enjoy live music, dining out, spending winters in Florida, along with traveling near and far.

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# Emerald Court Newsletter



**Liz & Sam  
Vucina  
(Unit #1206)**

Liz and Sam were at Balsam Place in Tewksbury for a year until they found Emerald Court in March of 2019. Previously they spent forty-five years in their home in Keyport, N.J. They each have a daughter, one in Tewksbury and one in Delaware. They also have three grandchildren. Liz is from Long Island, NY. Sam is from Brooklyn. Before retirement Sam was a truck mechanic and worked on dredges. Liz worked as a secretary, then as a realtor, until she and a friend opened a shop called Chocolate Village (sounds delicious!) Sam is interested in music and was a D.J. He is good at electricity, plumbing, and woodworking. Liz enjoys crochet, cards, and T.V. She is a longtime Yankee fan. During their D.J. days they played music and danced with special needs kids every week. They love it here, and don't have to mow the lawn or shovel snow anymore.

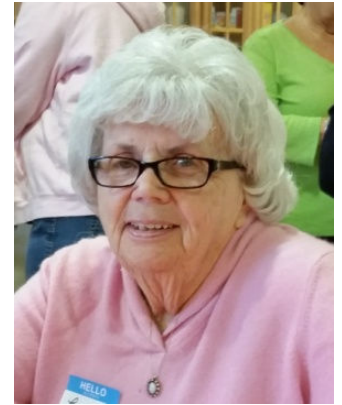
**Carol Ferry  
(Unit #1207)**

Carol joined our community in June of 2013 after living for 47 years in South Weymouth. She feels very secure in Emerald Court and appreciates the pretty look of the grounds. She is a widow with three daughters; in Tewksbury, Connecticut, and Illinois. Each of her girls has three children making Carol the proud grandmother of 9! She was an administrative assistant before having her children and returned to work for a chiropractor when her youngest was in kindergarten. She loves to read, travel, quilt, play cards, and solve puzzles.



**Lucille Lyons  
(Unit #1208)**

Lucille comes to us after making her home for forty-five years in Wellesley. She chose our town to be near her family. Lucille has three children, five grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Her daughter lives in Andover, one son lives in Effingham N.H., and the other lives in Natick. Four of her grandchildren live in the area; in Tewksbury, Lee, and two in Natick. One lives in Oxnard, CA. Lucille was chairman of the Foreign Language Department at the High School in Granby, MA, for 12 years, and at Woburn Senior High School for 22 years. During that time she taught French and introduced many student exchange programs with France and Germany. She counts among her closest friends some of the teachers she met. Lucille usually spends six to seven months in her home in Florida. Lucille's hobbies include bridge, reading, knitting, and travel.



**Betty Fulginiti  
(Unit #1211)**



Betty moved from a Townhome in Tewksbury to Emerald Court in July 2015. She has lived in the town for thirty years. She retired ten years ago from Wingate at Andover and from Wingate at Reading as their Hairdresser for 30 years. For fifteen years Betty was on a bowling league in Billerica and she also likes playing poker.

•••



# Emerald Court Newsletter



By Bob Schleicher

After January 19's LCR night I got to thinking ... How do I describe the wondrous time that everyone had? The best I could hope for was to capture some of the great expressions exhibited from table to table. Here is my attempt at showing ECers having a fun-filled evening and a great time.



Diane Fahey reminded me that the most important thing to bring to a night like this is NOT the LCR dice, but a smile and a sense of humor. And that was certainly evidenced by people who came to play.

Smiles were seen all around. Kathleen & Peter Pimental as



well as Peter McCoy, Al Mahoney & Al Capone are all examples of that.



Now as far as the actual game goes, everyone has their own way of throwing the dice. The difficult part is catching them on film. I can imagine Jack Dempsey thinking that it's all in the wrist. Elaine Williams demonstrates what her



follow-through looks like, while Ginny Thomas shows us a version of her own follow-through.

And then I'm reminded that you've got to let people know what you want! Tell them what you



need and reach out for it. That's exactly what Pat Stratis, Linda Bishop and Linda Langone are doing.

Elena Mahoney, under the careful eyes of Linda Ricciardi, tests out the theories. Win or lose, it was a great evening.





# Emerald Court Newsletter

Again, it was delightful seeing so many smiling faces. Every table had its winners and its losers, but



at only seventy-five cents a game, the evening was so worth it. Wanda Corcoran, Bert Lyons and Marcia Gibbons were certainly enjoying themselves.



Bill Travis, Marcia Gibbons and Al Capone give it their best shot. Whether the system works or not, they're more than happy to give it a try.



With the end of the night, one lucky ECer walks away with the "Split the Pot" winnings. January 19<sup>th</sup> was no exception. The lucky recipient was Jack Dempsey.

As an added bonus to the night, information was leaked that Laura Thursby was celebrating her birthday. How could it be any better.



## When Sad Things Happen

The Emerald Court community is saddened to learn of the passing of Bob Wilson (Unit #3). Bob passed away on Monday, (Christmas Day), December 25th, 2023. Our sympathy is extended to Midge and her entire family.

We are also saddened to learn of the passing of Norm Johnson (Unit #1102). Norm passed away on Monday, January 22nd, 2024. Our sympathy is extended to Norm's entire family.

Again we are saddened to learn of the passing of Liliana Cohen (Unit #1127). Liliana passed away on Tuesday, January 30th, 2024. 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](mailto:bobschleicher1@gmail.com) so we can get the information out to the community in a timely manner. One person's loss diminishes us all. ■■■

A graphic for "A New Attitude HAIR SALON". It features a teal and black color scheme with a woman's profile icon. The text includes the salon name, the name "Shannon Anderson", the address "616 Main St. Tewksbury, MA Unit-5", and the phone number "978.459.3373".

A smaller version of the "A New Attitude HAIR SALON" logo.

(Cut out and save.)

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# Emerald Court Newsletter

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April, 2024



**Social Committee Members Left to Right: Diane Fahey, Ginny Thomas, Betsy Travis, Sue Sandler, Linda Martin, Pat Stratis, Linda Carey, Kathleen Pimental & Peggy Schleicher**

## Happy Birthday Emerald Court

*By Wanda Corcoran*

*Baby boomers were abundant but condo living was rare*

*Just a few spots were around for living without care. Then along came a woman who when she did arrive Said let's build homes to suit them, those over fifty-five*

*So Maureen DiPalma gathered all the permits to build*

*And with the company she owned our dreams she fulfilled*

*Her vision was strong and she fought without fear Thanks to her we get to celebrate EC's twentieth year.*

On February 16, 2024 a special birthday event was held in the Emerald Court clubhouse. Our community gathered to celebrate the 20th birthday of Emerald Court with a drop-in celebration. It was planned, decorated and hosted by our hard working Social Committee, emceed by Peggy Schleicher and photographed by Bob Schleicher. Fifty one residents attended and shared a morning of socialization and reminiscing. Most who attended stayed to share stories with each other, become acquainted with new residents and partake of the coffee and pastries which were provided.

As a newbie resident (*three years this coming*

*April*), I chatted with many and learned more about this wonderful community. Most of the residents who attended have lived here for over 15 years and many of them moved in as construction was ongoing. When I asked about their experience living here, the answer was always the same, "I love it here". Those who know me know that I totally concur.

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During the event a slide show was continuously playing on the big screen. Photos taken during the many events which have occurred throughout the past twenty years flashed on the screen. In the room, I often heard the sound of laughter when residents would see a picture which included themselves or someone they knew. The laughter would swell when they would share other moments of fun they had experienced at an event.

At one point our emcee Peggy led us in a rousing version of Happy Birthday to Emerald Court and



# Emerald Court Newsletter

cheers for its continued existence. A good time was had by all and I for one, look forward to our next event.



**Top Row: John & Anne McDermit, Larry & Cheryl Collity, Penny Lambroukos, Betsy Travis.**  
**Middle Row: Linda Martin, Elaine Williams, Jack & Linda Dempsey, Mary & Tom Loguidice.**  
**Bottom Row: Frank & Linda Carey, Sandy Rosenbach, Jane Cassidy, Betsy & Bill Travis.**



**Top Row: Bert Lyons, Ginny Thomas, Sarah & Ray Adams.**  
**Middle Row: Al & Mary Miano, Pat Stratis, Paul Costantino, Bert Lyons.**  
**Bottom Row: Barbara & Dick Cuoco, Peter & Kathleen Pimental, Sandra Poole & Pat Smith.**

Thank you to all who planned and executed this birthday event and to all who attended and shared in the festivities.

...



**Top Row: Jan DiPietro, Wanda Corcoran, Sharon Lopes, Jane Cassidy, CP Poliquin, Linda Langone.**  
**Middle Row: Betty & Jack McDonough, Sandy & Tom Aylward, Peter & Lucille McCoy.**  
**Bottom Row: Diane Fahey, Laura Thursby, Helen Wythe, Barbara Pothier & Gay Padur.**

Check out the  
Emerald Court website:

[www.ec-tewksbury.com](http://www.ec-tewksbury.com)



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# Emerald Court Newsletter

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## Invitation to Help *the Wish Project:* Mothers' Day Gift Bags

*By Peggy Schleicher,  
for your EC Social Committee*

For our 13th year, your EC Social Committee is inviting you to help with the Wish Mothers' Day Gift Bags. On its website, The Wish Project shares that: "Many of the women we help have suffered a life altering crisis and struggle to make a better life for themselves and their families. Our goal is to give these women Mothers' Day gifts bags to show them that someone cares." Our Emerald Court Community cares and can help. Please note this year Wish has three ways to help. Donate complete bags with the items below. Donate individual items for bags and Wish will assemble the bags. Donate \$50 to sponsor a bag. Peggy will deliver the completed bags, individual items and checks. If you decide to donate by check, make the check payable to: The Wish Project. Drop your donation off at Peggy's house #74. Donations are due to Peggy by April 10. Questions: contact Peggy Schleicher at 978-851-6569 or email [peggyschleicher1@gmail.com](mailto:peggyschleicher1@gmail.com)

### Items needed this year:

- 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' Donuts, drug store, grocery store, etc.)
- Nail polish/remover
- Headbands
- Hairbrush/comb
- Deodorant
- Small notebook (or journal)
- Pens/pencils
- Lotion

Thank you for caring and helping!

## 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	Kathy Walsh
Victor Corbin - <i>Board of Trustees Liaison</i>	

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## EC Welcomes New Residents

New residents to Emerald Court since December:

- Gene Sdoia & Lennie Digiorgio (Unit #27)
- Arthur & Florence Correa (Unit #1116)

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

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# Emerald Court Newsletter

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

[www.ec-tewksbury.com](http://www.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!

...



## 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](mailto: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 ...

### Spring is here. Tweettweet.

*By Jack McDonough*

Spring is here and my little feathered friends are back.

Just the other day I saw two or three of them in the bare branches of some bushes near our front walk.

We've lived here for twenty years but it's only in the last couple that I've become fascinated with the little birds that fly around our "six-pack."

They dart up to roofs, to trees, to gutters and to bushes where they have nests. At least, I think they have nests in there. I thought birds had their nests only in trees. But my avian knowledge clearly is lacking.

For example, I can identify only a robin (the red breast is a giveaway), an owl, a pigeon, a hawk or an eagle. That's about it. I didn't even know what my little friends in the bushes were until wife Betty said they're sparrows.

Anyway, they're small and they're cute and they fascinate me. I always wonder what goes on in their little bird minds.

They flit constantly from place to place. Much of the time they perch in the gutters of the unit next door. I often don't know they're there until I hear them pecking on the metal. I have no idea why they do that. Seems to me it would hurt their beaks but apparently not.

Half the time they're flitting from place to place, often with a friend. In some cases, I suspect it's a



male bird chasing a female but that's none of my business.



Once in a great while a whole cloud of birds -- seemingly nearly a hundred -- will appear swooping down to a tree at

the end of our driveway. Minutes later, at some apparent but silent signal, they'll all fly to another tree nearby.

Regardless of where or why they do it, here's my question: Do they *enjoy* flying? It looks like fun to me but they've been doing it all their lives so it probably doesn't strike them as a big deal. You do have to wonder, though, when you see a hawk a hundred of feet or so in the air, gliding along, back and forth, on a pleasant breeze.

The whole topic of birds is important for a lot of people. They tramp into the woods or along the seashore with binoculars and cameras draped around their necks, hoping to find and report the presence of some exotic species.

They're not looking for robins. Not these people. If you check out the Bird Sightings column in The Boston Globe you'll find that they're looking for Evening grosbeaks, Red-necked grebes, Black-legged kittiwakes, Vermillion flycatchers and a few dozen other types.

The editor of that paper was interviewed on the radio a few years ago after the daily had revamped its format, changing or eliminating some features. One that was eliminated was Bird Sightings. The changes brought a lot of reader comments, he said, but none greater than that from birders. They were furious. The feature was quickly restored. Lesson learned. Don't mess around with that birder crowd.

So, with the arrival of spring, I'm ready to greet my flitting little friends. I won't need binoculars. Their nests are right there in the bushes next to our walkway. At least, I think they are.

■ ■ ■

## EC Communication Team has Grown!

*By Bob Schleicher*

In the last issues of the EC Newsletter, I made a plea for writers. I am happy to announce that the call was answered. I'd like to introduce to you our new team of writers, Wanda Corcoran, Mary Ann Famiglietti and Elaine Williams. The team is thrilled to have them on board and I'm sure you will appreciate their articles in this and future issues.

*And now, I have another request for the Emerald Court community.* We need an individual who is proficient with Microsoft Word as a **back-up** for putting out the newsletter. We also need a person who is either familiar with WordPress or is interested in learning how Websites are put together. Think about it. We need you! Contact me at [bobschleicher1@gmail.com](mailto:bobschleicher1@gmail.com) or call at (978) 851-6569.



### EC Communication Committee

Top Row: Bob Schleicher *Chairperson*

Alan Katz *Secretary/Treasurer*

Pat Stratis *Tech Team*

Middle Row: Wanda Corcoran *Writer*

Mary Ann Famiglietti *Writer*

Elaine Williams *Writer*

Bottom Row: Peter McCoy *BOT Liaison*

## 2024 Emerald Court Annual Meeting & Board of Trustees Election ... May 04, 2024

Our Annual Owners meeting will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024 @ 9:00am at the Tewksbury Senior Center, Chandler Street, Tewksbury.

This Annual Meeting encompasses the Election of Trustees, usually one for the Magnolia and one for the Villas. However, because of the passing of our dear friend and Magnolia Trustee, Norm Johnson, there will be two seats on the Magnolia Board to be elected. Usually, the seats to be elected are for a 3 year term both for the Magnolia and the Villas, however the seat that was held by Norm Johnson will be for the remainder of his term which is 2 years.

This Notice is being written to alert any unit owner that may be interested in running for a seat on the Board of Trustees. There are 180 units here in Emerald Court, 87 in the Magnolia building and 93 in the Villas. That said, we should expect some interest in an owner running for the open seat(s).



The Board of Trustees meets once a month, in Executive Session, on the second Tuesday. Meetings start at 6:00pm in the Conference Room

and generally last less than 2 hours. The Board discusses many topics including the Emerald Court financials, any contracts due for renewal and projects that are required to keep Emerald Court the best 55 condominium community in Tewksbury.

Jennifer Medeiros, Property Manager for Emerald Court, keeps an activities log that she presents to the Board monthly for our review and discussion. The Board will have our Property Manager give an update as to what has been accomplished and what is in the works for the rest of the year.

This is an "open meeting", questions are asked by the owners and answered by either the Trustees or Property Manager. This Annual Meeting is required by the Emerald Court By-Laws in conjunction with the Election of Trustees for the Magnolia and Villas, so please keep the date of May 4, 2024 open and we will see you at the Tewksbury Senior Center!

Peter McCoy, Trustee  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

...

## Clubhouse Flag

By Mary Ann Famiglietti

We have a new American Flag in Emerald Court's Clubhouse. This may be a good time to review the history of the American Flag.

The flag of the United States is a symbol of freedom before which Americans recite the pledge of allegiance.

The flag's 13 red and white stripes represent the 13 original colonies. Its 50 white stars and blue background represent the 50 states.

Each of the colors on the flag has a meaning:

- Red - valor and bravery
- White - purity and innocence
- Blue - vigilance, perseverance, and justice

A star is added to the flag when a new state joins the United States. The flag was last modified on July 4, 1960 when Hawaii was incorporated as a state.





The American flag flies at half-staff or at half-mast when the country or a state is in mourning. The president, a state governor, or mayor of the District of Columbia can order the flag to fly at half-staff.

There are certain guidelines and laws for displaying and handling the US flag. Traditional guidelines care for displaying the flag in public only from sunrise to sunset. However, the flag may be displayed at all times if it is illuminated during darkness.

The flag should be displayed often, but especially on national and state holidays, and special occasions. It should be displayed on or near the main building of public institutions, schools, and polling places on election days. It should

be hoisted briskly, and lowered ceremoniously. ■■■

## Tewsbury's Resident Sculptor Mico Kaufman and His "Water" Sculpture

By Frank Carey

It's funny how many of us feel we need to go to a museum in order to see great art when often times it might be right in front of us. That became very evident when my wife, Linda, and I started to notice

the 5 sculptures located, sporadically, along the side of route 38 in Tewsbury stretching from Vic's Pancake House to the South Street Fire Station.

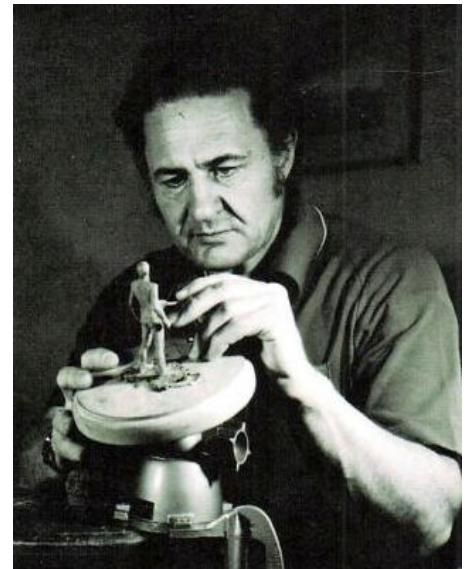
We decided to stop to get a closer look at each sculpture. We were a bit disappointed to find only the title of the sculpture, the name of the artist, and the names of those people who had monetarily contributed to the making and placement of each piece. Absent was a description or explanation regarding the meaning and purpose of each sculpture.

Curiosity getting the best of me, I decided to do a little research and seek out the "How and Why" these particular sculptures existed in our town.

What I found was very interesting and what follows is the information I garnered and would like to share with the community through this EC Newsletter.

First I wanted to know more about the artist, *Mico Kaufman*, who created these five Tewsbury sculptures. When I *googled* the artist's name I found the following *Wikipedia* paragraph. It's a very brief description of who he was, but the last sentence in the paragraph, was a big surprise to me.

***Mico Kaufman*** (1924 - 2016) was a sculptor. Born in Buzău, Romania in 1924, Kaufman was best known for making inaugural medals for United States Presidents Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, and George H. W. Bush. He survived a Nazi labor camp during World War II and in 1951 immigrated to the United States. He lived in Tewsbury, MA and died on December 12, 2016, at the age of 92. (He actually lived in Tewsbury from 1964 until his death.)



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WOW, what a thrill to be made aware that a renowned artist/sculptor had lived in Tewksbury and had left his mark through sculptures located within the town.

Seeking more information about who this person was and what his motivation was for creating these sculptures, I went to the Tewksbury Library where one of the wonderful librarians directed me to Mico Kaufman's autobiographical book, *A Chiseler's True Story*.

In it I found that like most artists, Mico's fame did not happen overnight and he struggled trying to financially support himself, his wife, and children.

After immigrating to America and settling in Tewksbury, he became well known in the area of medallic sculpture, winning awards from the American Numismatic Society as "Sculptor of the Year" and the International J. Stanford Saltus Award for Signal Achievement in the Art of Medal. The

Boston Globe also published an article about him titled "Tewksbury medalist considered one of the world's best".

Internationally recognized and financially successful for his skill in medallic sculpture he decided to express and extend his sculpturing talents into the area of monumental sculptures. One of his first large sculpture commissions came from the Lowell police department. It was a request for a police memorial sculpture in the name of "Officer Christos Rouses", who had been killed in the line of duty. (Located in the Lowell town center.)

But why did Mico Kaufman create sculptures for the town of Tewksbury?

To answer this question I again referred back to information I found in his autobiographical book. It mentioned that Mico had been looking for a way he could do something for the town while also leaving a bit of his legacy to this town where he would probably live out the rest of his life.

The book goes on to tell the reader that during his time in Tewksbury, Mico Kaufman, had joined the Tewksbury Rotary Club, an organization known for its philanthropy. During his position as president of the club, a request for a new washing machine came from the "Anne Sullivan Day Care Center", located within the Tewksbury State Hospital. The request was filled, but Mico wanted to know more about who Anne Sullivan was and why the day care was named for her.

He writes in his book, that he discovered Anne Sullivan, who had become blind at the age of five due to a disease called trachoma, had been abandoned and placed in what was called at the time "The Tewksbury Almshouse." The house was a place for the mentally and physically disabled, and the poor. Anne lived at the Almshouse for four years but was eventually sent to the Perkins School for the Blind in Boston where she graduated Valedictorian. During her stay at Perkins her sight was partially restored at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

In 1886 a request came to the Perkins School for the Blind from the parents of a deaf and blind child. That child was Helen Keller. They wanted to hire a person who would work with and educate their child.



Rouses Memorial, Lowell MA



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Anne Sullivan was chosen to fill the position. Although Helen was deaf and blind, Anne Sullivan did a miraculous job helping Helen to understand and react to the world around her by teaching her the alphabetical letter shapes formed by her hand. (The story of this relationship was made into the movie "The Miracle Worker".)

After discovering the story of the relationship between Anne Sullivan and Helen Keller, Mico decided he would sculpt a monument of this incredible twosome for the town of Tewksbury. This would be Mico Kaufman's first Tewksbury sculpture. The finished sculpture depicts Anne Sullivan alongside a deaf and blind Helen Keller. Anne is signing letters to the word "water" on Helen's hand.

The significance of this simple signing is explained below in a segment I found while reading a Wikipedia article about Helen Keller. Some of the statements are direct quotes from Helen Keller's autobiography, *The Story of My Life*. I have highlighted the segment that relates to the sculpture's title "Water".

*Sullivan arrived at Keller's house on March 5, 1887, a day Keller would forever remember as "my soul's birthday". Sullivan immediately began to teach Helen to communicate by spelling words into her hand, beginning with "d-o-l-l" for the doll that she had brought Keller as a present. Keller initially struggled with lessons since she could not comprehend that every object had a word identifying it. When Sullivan was trying to teach Keller the word for "mug", Keller became so frustrated she broke the mug. Keller remembered how she soon began imitating Sullivan's hand gestures: "I did not know that I was spelling a word or even that words existed. I was simply making my fingers go in monkey-like imitation."*

*The next month Keller made a breakthrough, when she realized that the motions her teacher was making on the palm of her hand, while running cool water over her other hand, symbolized the idea of "water". Writing in her autobiography, "The Story of My Life", Keller recalled the moment:*

*I stood still, my whole attention fixed upon the*

*motions of her fingers. Suddenly I felt a misty consciousness as of something forgotten - a thrill of returning thought; and somehow the mystery of language was revealed to me. I knew then that w-a-t-e-r meant the wonderful cool something that was flowing over my hand. The living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, set it free!*

*Keller quickly demanded that Sullivan sign the names of all the other familiar objects in her world.*

The sculpture "Water" is located on the Tewksbury town common on the left side of the town hall, nearest route 38.



I suggest you stop by the Common and enjoy this marvelous piece sculptured by Tewksbury's resident and renown sculptor, Mico Kaufman.

**More about Mico Kaufman's Tewksbury sculptures in the next EC Newsletter. ■■■**

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*Wanda Corcoran*