

Emerald Court Newsletter

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Coffee

By Peggy Schleicher



I really like coffee. It is part of my morning ritual. I am addicted. The smell of the brew, the taste with just the right amount of creamer, start my day. I am a coffee enthusiast. So, it is not surprising that I was delighted when I came across a coffee gnome in a quaint shop at the Cape. I purchased him.

My gnome is precisely three inches tall including his hat with the white pompom on top. This hat covers his whole face down to his nose and a full, coffee-colored, Santa-like beard goes down to his feet. He lives on the window sill and I see him when I walk on my treadmill.

The other day while walking, I started to think about my coffee gnome. That led to googling gnomes. Turns out coffee gnomes are rarely solitary and believe that community is important with coffee being a bridge to connections. They offer wisdom as they focus on finding joy, warmth, teamwork, and magic in daily routines. They invite us to embrace the small moments of the day with as strong a smile as we can muster. They believe that working together can have big results.

Here at EC, we often share a cup of coffee: the Clubhouse breakfasts, the Social Committee events. We sip. We talk. We care about each other. We are a lot like Coffee Gnomes. We work together, we play together, we care together. EC is a great place to live. Thank you for making it so. (BTW: Twice while writing this, I had to refill my coffee mug.) Enjoy your coffee.

■ ■ ■

EC Clubhouse Fun:

Clubhouse Breakfast is on the first Sunday of the month. Info: Frank Carey (Unit 1221) for Magnolia / Ron D'Amato (Unit 16) for Villas.

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

Book-share Social meets on the first Thursday of every month at 1:30 pm in the Clubhouse. Info: Peggy Schleicher/Sandy Rosenbach: - (Units 74/83).

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 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. For info, contact Kathleen Pimental (Unit 1105).

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Lidia the Tattooed Lady

By Frank Carey



Linda and I often spend an hour or so in the Tewksbury Starbucks cafe, sipping a cup of decaf coffee while chatting and people watching.

Most of the folks we see are much younger than we are, usually running in to pick up their pre-ordered coffee order and quickly returning to their cars. Others come in, place their order and wait for it to be made.

Then there are others who come in with their computers and settle in for a few hours doing whatever. Some carrying on conversations with whoever is on the other end of the computer.

Then of course there are the younger set of schoolbag kids who, after school, stop in, get a drink (often just ice water) sit and chat, giggle, and enjoy the comfortable space.

But whatever group we observe while we enjoy our coffee, I would say that 15-25% of them have at least one visible tattoo on their body.

While I just mentioned that many of the folks have at least one tattoo, it amazes me how many have multiple tattoos, and when I say multiple I mean that the number of connected artistic tattoos on a person often disappear behind the clothes they are wearing. One extreme example I've observed started at the neck, then disappeared behind their shirt and shorts only to reappear on the exposed areas of their arms and legs.

Now I'm a somewhat curious person and I just know there are stories attached to all that ink but I can't just approach a stranger and ask them about

their body art ... can I?

Well maybe I can if I'm polite, or even better, a little familiar with the person.

With that thought in mind and against Linda's wishes, I decided to give it a shot. I was very surprised at the positive response I received from those I asked.

I started my questioning in what I considered a safe place; Starbucks.

I noticed one of the baristas had three bees tattooed on her arm. When asked about them she said she was a beekeeper right here in Tewksbury. She had a couple of hives and sold the honey at flea markets and such.

Another barista had her whole arm tattooed with what appeared to be fictional characters. She related to me that she was a fan of Japanese animation called "Anime" and decided she wanted her favorite Japanese comic character "Jujutsu Kaisen" tattooed on her arm.

Oddly enough, the following day Linda and I visited a Barnes and Noble bookstore in Salem NH. When checking out I couldn't help noticing a bit of



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body art on the cashier's arm. Feeling very confident now, I asked her about her tattoos. Again, this person was very happy to explain each of the inked figures. The first represented a Japanese artist who was famous for creating some of her favorite Japanese comic characters. The second was a design she and her best friend decided to have done together, and the third, located on her other arm depicted a "Disney" character. She said she loved "Disney" and she had other figures which represented "Disney" on her leg as well as other places on her body. (I was afraid to ask, "what other places?").

While having lunch at a restaurant in Newburyport, I noticed our waitress had a tattoo that filled a large portion of her forearm. While this person was a complete stranger to me, I decided to ask about it. I apologized first for the question but to my surprise she was happy I asked. She said it was a collection of the important women in her life; her mom, sisters, and a couple of people who had an affect on her life. Her explanation was so touching it almost brought a tear to my eyes. (Seriously).

Next, Linda and I were at a little family gathering when I asked the tattoo question. OMG. What a discussion ensued. My granddaughter, her friend and my daughter-in-law were more than happy to share their tattoo experiences.

My daughter-in-law's first ink art was the infinity sign with the words "love", "family" and a feather intertwined within it. It signified going off on her own but that family and their love would always be with her. But the one she is most happy with is a Guatemalan bird located on her back. The Guatemalan bird represents a non profit, "Worthy Village", that she helped to start. The



Guatemalan bird is the company logo. At this place, she worked with orphaned kids which helped her decide what she wanted to do as a career.

My granddaughter and her friend had one of their first tattoos done together. Both had "I live, so I love" written in script on the underside part of their elbows. The line was taken from a song by the South Korean boys band "BTS" whom she loves. (Google it. It's an interesting phrase.)

My granddaughter, over the next year or so, also had a butterfly inked on the inside of her left arm, just above the elbow, and a moth inked on the same area of her right arm. She said they represented opposing forces such as "positive / negative", and "light / dark" which coexist to create balance and harmony; (too heavy for me to completely understand.)

She also did a bit of traveling during her junior semester of college. Thus she decided to create a memory of her travels by having a tattoo of a "Koi Fish" as a permanent memory of this exciting time in her life. (The koi fish represents perseverance, strength, and overcoming obstacles.)

My granddaughter's friend had a tattoo of the planet "Pluto" put on her forearm.

I believe she had it done in support of the planet, which was removed from "Full planet status" in 2006, to a mere number, 134340 and categorized as a dwarf planet. (Not as important to astronomers as we previously thought.)

It is amazing to me the number of tattoos people are putting on their bodies. And how many of those people are females.

When I was growing up my only exposure to people with tattoos were men and they usually had only one. Most of the time that one was related to their time in the military.

The only tattooed ladies I saw were in the circus or part of a show at one of those carnivals that traveled to various cities during the summer. Thus the title of this article, "Lidia the Tattooed Lady" a song made famous by comedian, Groucho Marx, in a 1939 movie called "At The Circus".

But we have to acknowledge that times have changed, and the tattoo is now accepted by both

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genders. Surprisingly to me, the decision to get a tattoo by both males and females, seemed to be occurring at a much younger age.

But then again maybe not, e.g. We were at “Seasons 52” with a friend where I noticed our waiter had a tattoo of a spider on his wrist.

No longer skittish, I felt very comfortable asking him about his inked spider. While his story was very interesting he expanded his discussion about tattoos, sharing with us how his mom, and her three sisters, all in their 50’s and 60’s, decided, one “St. Patrick’s day”, that each of them would get a four leaf clover tattooed on their arm to celebrate their Irish heritage. It was a fun story but what made the story even more interesting was that their 91 year old grandmother decided to go with them and get the same tattoo herself. WOW!!!

I have many more tattoo stories but not enough space, so in closing, I’ll just say that it’s been a fun experience to speak with so many people who have decided to have one or more tattoos inked onto their body and their willingness to share the meanings behind their choices.

Right now, I’m presently trying to gather up enough courage to talk with one of those people who appear to be covered from head to toe with tattoos. If and when I do speak to such a person, you will hear their story first, right here in the EC Newsletter.

Question: Why tattoos on the face? I guess I’m going to have to admit that I may be getting older and out of touch with this modern generation.

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Did you know that the latest version of the Vendor List (5/18/2026) is at the bottom of the EC website “Home Page”.

<https://ec-tewksbury.com>

 **Happy Summer!** 

Whether you're curious about your home's value, planning your next adventure, or know someone looking to join our wonderful community — I'm always here to help. Don't hesitate to reach out!



Greetings from Your Social Committee

by Peggy Schleicher

Your EC Social Committee is an active, twelve-member 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.

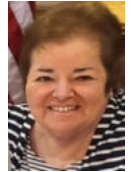
Your EC Social Committee members are:

Peggy Schleicher#74chairperson
Betsy Travis.....#77secretary
Ginny Thomas#69co-treasurer
Linda Martin.....#25co-treasurer
Linda Carey#1221 Diane Fahey...#1115
Kathleen Pimental ..#1105 Pat Stratis.....#89
Sue Sandler.....#1323 Valerie Capone ...#52
Linda Sheehan#1303 Denise Abels.....#59
Victor Corbin..... Board of Trustees Liaison

...

In Our Easter Bonnets

By Wanda Corcoran



We got together once again to celebrate an event for Easter to share the goodies that the Easter Bunny had sent.

On the seventeenth of April we all gathered at the clubhouse.

Some folks came single and some came with their spouse.

The invite said for all to wear a bonnet if they had one

but if you didn't, come anyway and revel in the fun.

Many came with hats they made which showed the spirit of the day

and others, although hatless, came to share the fun and play.

Thirty-seven of us filled the tables ready for several games.

Some knew each other, but no matter, we soon learned each other's names.

One of our own serenaded us with his accordian play Joe DiSerio by name, got us singing which really made our day.

We proudly sang the songs we knew and even when we did not

we hummed along and put in a word or two hoping it was in the right spot.

One game we played as each table had an envelope to pass around

like musical chairs but seated and as much fun we soon found.

The 50/50 winner was Gloria DiSerio on this happy night.

Hope she shared it with her Joe, don't you think that's only right?

So another fun evening we spent together with friends both old and new.

We're hoping the next time you join us so you can have fun too.

Check out the great hats worn by these fun loving ECers



Linda Sheehan

Joe & Gloria DiSerio

Lennie DiGiorgio

Mary McElroy

Denise Abels



Pat Stratis

Linda Martin

Lucille McCoy

Wanda Gibbons

Ginny Thomas

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2nd Place

Sue Sandler

1st Place

Marie Dello Russo

3rd Place

Fred Dello Russo

Allen & Val Capone

Laura Thursby



Chick & Linda Langone

Gerry & Jane Corbin

Mary & Tom Loguidice



Bob & Peggy Schleicher

Bill & Betsy Travis

Alan Katz & Donna Davis



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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'.

...

GAME NITE AT EMERALD COURT

By Wanda Corcoran



On the 28th of May a gathering of 30 from EC came together at our Clubhouse for a \$5 fee. They played games with others and laughed and had fun.

The point was being together and not if they lost or won.

Five tables were filled each deciding on a game. Ended up all different, no two tables chose the same. There was Rummy Cube, Skip-Bo and Blank Slate and Bingo and Phase 10 on this particular date. Again the Social Committee provided snacks for each guest.

On behalf of us all may I say you're the best.

A 50/50 raffle was chosen during the night.

Linda Sheehan, the winner, thought that was surely a delight.

So as we all look forward to summer and better weather.

Thanks again to all who did the planning and got us together.



Linda Sheehan, winner of the 50/50 raffle.

...



When Sad Things Happen

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Evelyn Weed (Unit #1204), who passed away on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. 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.

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EC Welcomes New Residents

New residents to Emerald Court since April:

- Nancy O'Donnell (Unit #4)
- Gerard & Andrea Kilroy (Unit #91)
- Joseph & Brenda Towne (Unit #1217)
- Ken & Sylvia Griggs (Unit #1224)

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

...

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Need Computer Help?

In an effort to make the Communication Committee's Tech Team more available to you, we are now offering a "Call to Schedule Appointment" format. That way we can service your needs in a way and time that is convenient to you – and it's FREE.

For Help with Android Products Call:

Bob Schleicher (978) 851-6569 - or -
Alan Katz (978) 851-3852 - or -
Steve Rosenbach (443) 510-4123

For Help with Apple Products Call:

Pat Stratis (978) 851-6206 - or -
Alan Katz (978) 851-3852 - or -
Steve Rosenbach (443) 510-4123

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Book Share Social

by Sandy Rosenback



Our book share group meets the first Thursday of each month at 1:30. The group has been meeting for over a year now and we have enjoyed discussions of poems, art and a multitude of book shares, one even written by one of our members. Here are just a few of the books that have been shared and discussed:

Joy Span: The Art and Science of Thriving in Life's Second Half

by Dr Kerry Burnight

A practical guide that offers a radical and optimistic approach to longevity.

West with Giraffes

by Lynda Rutledge

An emotional, rousing novel inspired by the incredible true story of two giraffes who made headlines and won the hearts of Depression-era America.

Convenience Store Woman

by Sakaya Murata

An exhilaratingly weird and funny Japanese novel about a long-term convenience store employee

Kin

by Tayari Jones

An unforgettable novel that sparkles with wit and intelligence and deep feeling about two lifelong friends whose worlds converge after many years apart in the face of a devastating tragedy.

The Language of Flowers

by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

A mesmerizing, moving, and elegantly written debut novel, *The Language of Flowers* beautifully weaves past and present, creating a vivid portrait of an unforgettable woman whose gift for flowers helps her change the lives of others even as she struggles to overcome her own troubled past. . . .

**Check out the
Emerald Court website:**

<https://ec-tewksbury.com>

New Resident Snapshots

Social Committee member, Peggy Schleicher, introduces you to more new residents of our community. See their brief profiles below. You may have met them already. We are always happy 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.

Joseph & Brenda Towne (Unit 1217)

Joseph and Brenda did not travel far to reach Emerald Court. Previously, they lived in Billerica. They wintered in Florida. Emerald Court met all of their specifications. They love having a balcony and wanted the open concept layout. They have two sons and two daughters with ten grandchildren and two great grands and a third on the way! Before retirement, Joe was a tractor-trailer truck driver and Brenda was a registered nurse. They enjoy playing cards.



Ken & Sylvia Griggs (Unit 1224)

Ken and Sylvia are pleased to be here at Emerald Court. They had



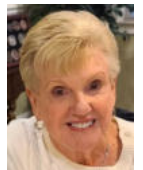
a dear friend who had lived here. Ken originated

from the Boston area and Sylvia from Newfoundland, Canada. Their journey to EC took them from Wilmington, MA to Windham to Laconia. They have two daughters, a son, and five grandchildren. As well as being a mom, Sylvia worked for many years in customer service. Ken was employed as a medical book store manager. Ken enjoys cribbage and is a retired ten-pin bowler. Sylvia enjoys crafts, especially knitting.

■ ■ ■

Aloha, Emerald Court

By Mary Ann Famiglietti



Summer is here, and Emerald Court hosted for the first time a Luau on Friday, June 19, 2026. Thirty-six residents attended the Luau party.

I have never attended a Luau, so Google gave me an idea of what to expect at a Luau party.

In Hawaii, a Luau is completed with yummy food, hula dancing, and music. Luaus are usually held outdoors, but we don't live in Hawaii so the Emerald Court Recreation Room is also a good place to hold a Luau party.

The goal should be to create a tropical ambiance - and thanks to Sue Sandler - who did all the decorations - the Recreation Room was filled with tropical ambiance.



In Hawaii, food served at a Luau is usually Polynesian. We don't live on a tropical island, so we

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substituted Chinese for Polynesian food. The food was delicious. More than a meal the food embodied ALOHA.

Aloha is a word used in Hawaii. It means love, companions, and welcoming.

Luaus are also known for their performances, and that includes music and dancing. Linda Sheehan played the piano while Allen Capone, his wife Valerie, and Peggy Schleicher sang and did the hula dance wearing grass skirts.

The evening ended with Phyllis Harrington winning the 50/50 raffle.

Nowadays, a Luau can celebrate anything. Some things can change over time - but the performances, delicious food, and joyous feelings of togetherness remains at Emerald Court. ALOHA!



50/50 raffle winner - Phyllis Harrington.

(Check out the other ECers below!)



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