

# Emerald Court Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue 2

April, 2022



## Ruth Bader Ginsburg Quotes:

1. "Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time."
2. "So often in life, things that you regard as an impediment turn out to be great, good fortune."
3. "Reacting in anger or annoyance will not advance one's ability to persuade."
4. "When a thoughtless or unkind word is spoken, best tune out."
5. "Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."
6. "You can't have it all, all at once."
7. "I'm a very strong believer in listening and learning from others."
8. "In the course of a marriage, one accommodates the other."
9. "In every good marriage, it helps sometimes to be a little deaf."
10. "If you want to be a true professional, do something outside yourself."
11. "Reading is the key that opens doors to many good things in life. Reading shaped my dreams, and more reading helped me make my dreams come true."
12. "Don't be distracted by emotions like anger, envy, resentment. These just zap energy and waste time."
13. "You can disagree without being disagreeable."
14. "Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception."
15. "I would like to be remembered as someone who used whatever talent she had to do her work to the very best of her ability."

■ ■ ■

## EC Clubhouse Fun:

***This month's big event:*** Social Committee presents **Afternoon Elegant Tea**, Sunday, April 10th at 3 pm - Info: Peggy Schleicher - (Unit 74).

**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, host: - (Unit 1221).

**Clubhouse Breakfast** is on the first Sunday of each month, 8 to 10:30 am. Info: Frank Carey (Unit 1221) for Magnolia; Ron D'Amato (Unit 16) for the Villas.

### Card Games:

- **SCAT** - Mondays at 1 pm. Info: Roberta Caruso (Unit 1107).
- **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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**Bob Anderson (Unit #42)** - Bob is the treasurer for the Clubhouse Committee. Before moving to EC in July 2004, Bob lived in Dracut for 30 years and in Lowell for 3 years. Bob worked for National Grid as a Engineering Assistant for 41 years. He retired in 2004. He is interested in

playing golf, watching all sports, traveling and enjoying his summer home in Maine.

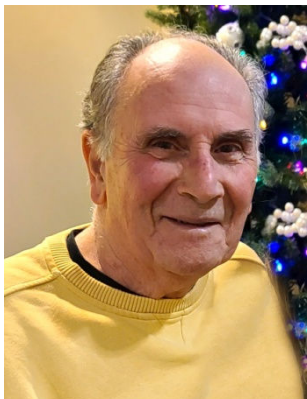
## EC's Volunteer Committees

*by Bob Schleicher*

In the past two newsletters, we introduced you to the members of the Communication Committee and the Social Committee. In this issue we will dive into the Clubhouse Committee. And in the July issue you'll meet the members of the Board of Trustees.

After that, we'd like to introduce you to the community at large. We'll put a section together in each issue entitled: "Meet Your Neighbor!" If you would like to be part of the newsletter, this is your chance. we'll let you know what is needed. Here's a big "Thank You" in advance. And now, here's your Clubhouse Committee.

## Meet Your Clubhouse Committee



**Ron D'Amato (Unit #16)** - Ron moved to EC in April 2005. He previously lived in Malden for 21 years. He worked for Boston Gas as a customer representative for 30 years. Ron's hobbies and interests include golf, exercising and going out to dinner.



**Wayne Anderson (Unit #68)** - Wayne holds the distinction of being among the first to arrive at Emerald Court. He moved here in February 2004. Previously, he lived in North Reading where he spent 18 years. For 30 years, Wayne was employed by Verizon as a

cable repair person. Wayne enjoys golf, travel, and helping his kids. You can see Wayne in action serving waffles and pancakes at the monthly clubhouse breakfasts.



**Frank Carey (Unit #1221)** - Frank moved into Emerald Court in Sept. of 2010. He previously lived in Reading, MA for 42 years. Before retiring, Frank was a special needs vocational teacher in Somerville, MA for 30 years. His hobbies are golf, bowling, travel, partici-

pating in EC committee events and having fun socializing with the folks at Emerald Court.

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## **Jerry Tirella (Unit #75)**

- Jerry has lived at Emerald Court since December, 2013. Prior, he spent 13 years in Wilmington. For 25 years, Jerry worked as a building supervisor at Boston College. Jerry enjoys playing poker and golf. Jerry shares that moving to

Emerald Court is one of the best things he has ever done.



## **Ray Adams (Unit #1203)**


- Ray is the Board of Trustee's liaison to the Clubhouse Committee. He moved to EC in June 2007 from Tewksbury where he lived since 1965, with the exception of 5 years in Kansas City, MO. He was vice president for 17 years at Lasermax Roll Systems, a mainframe, high speed printing & graphic arts company. He is interested in boating on Lake Winnepesaukee, spending time with his 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.



## **Rich Humphrey (Unit #1108)**

- In the summer of 2006, Rich moved to Emerald Court. He was not a new comer to Tewksbury where he had lived for 12 years before the move. Rich retired in 2003 after 20 years from the City of Somerville where he was in charge of recycling. He

lists golf, travel, and socializing among his interests. Rich spent 8 years in active service for the United States Air Force. He was stationed in Greece, California, and New Hampshire. His oldest son was born in Athens, Greece.



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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](mailto:bobschleicher1@gmail.com) or call him at (978) 851-6569. It will appear in a future issue. It can be ‘fact’ or ‘fiction’.



## **John Tellier (Unit #1226)**

- After living in Lowell for 49 years, John moved to Emerald Court in July of 2012. As a longtime employee of National Grid, he worked in the overhead line department. John shares that his interests and hobbies include family, travel, and cards.

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## Emerald Court Annual Meeting & Board Of Trustees Election. May 7, 2022

May 2022 is fast approaching and this is the month the EC Community elects Trustees for the open seats that make up the 7 member Board along with this being the Emerald Court Annual Meeting!

We will have the Annual Meeting at the Tewksbury Senior Center @ 9:00 am, with the Election of Trustees prior to the Annual Meeting!

This year along with the usual two "open Seats", one each in the Magnolia and the Villas, there is an additional seat in the Villa that must be voted on. Currently, it is being occupied by a unit owner appointed by the Board of Trustees and now the seat is up for a vote. A vote that will fill the remaining term which will expire on May 2023. The two "open 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. Every election is important and this one is no different. As of the writing of this notice, there has not been any unit owner to place their name in contention for one of the two "open seats." This is hard to believe especially because the EC Community is 180 units strong ... 87 in the Magnolia and 93 in the Villas. Certainly, there has to be

someone from either unit to have an interest in sitting on the Board of Trustees.

The Board meets once a month, on the second Tuesday in executive session to review what is needed to keep our Community as beautiful as it has been for the past 16 or 17 years. The Board meets to review the monthly financials, review any contracts that are presented for approval or denial, review the activity logs kept by our Property Manager, Bob Cormier, plan projects for the coming year and any other matter concerning our Community. No one on the Board has to be an expert in running a community the size of Emerald Court; this is why we have Silva Associates and specifically, Bob Cormier as our Property Manager.



The Board will be asking our Property Manager to give the Community a report of what we have accomplished this past year and some information as to what we will be looking to accomplish this year, 2022.

This is an open meeting and the election of trustees. Keep the date, Saturday, May 7th. We need volunteers to be on the ballot and every unit owner to vote!

Peter McCoy, Trustee  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

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## Drifters

By Frank Carey

Diana D'Amato, EC's off-site event planner, has been organizing "New Years Eve" events since I don't know when. But, I do know that since moving here in 2010 Linda and I have had so much fun participating with our fellow EC neighbors in commemorating the ending of one year and the start of a new year. With that said, let me just say that Diana's 2021 into 2022 New Years celebratory event was, once again, totally enjoyable and fun.

The event started with dinner at EC's favorite Italian restaurant, "The Venetian Moon" in Reading. Diana had once again worked her magic by requesting the owner open up a bit earlier than normal, so as to allow EC folks to enjoy a relaxing dinner before attending the "Greater Boston Stage Company Theater" in Stoneham for the 6:00 performance by the legendary singing group "The Drifters".

There is a reason the "Venetian Moon" enjoys EC's "Favorite Status"; the menu is diverse, the service is wonderful, the food is excellent, and the cost is reasonable. The restaurant has never been a disappointment and our dining experience on this last day of December 2021 was no different. It was a wonderful way to start our yearly New Years Eve ritual.

"Drifters", a rhythm and blues group that originated in 1953 with Clyde McPhatter as their lead singer. At dinner some of us mentioned that we really didn't know what to expect from the evening's performance due to the fact that the history of the "Drifters" has been very complicated. Over the years members of the group left and a number of different "Drifter" groups had been formed. But even with all the changes, most of us remembered the music and sound created by the "Drifters" during the 50's, and 60's and were looking forward to reminiscing while listening to that great sound. What we found especially interesting about this evening's "Drifters" performance was that the original "Drifters" lead singer Clyde McPhatter's son was going to be the night's lead singer.

At the theater, Diana had again secured EC folks front row seats into which we quickly settled while chatting and sizing up the audience. At 6:00 pm, right on schedule, Sharee (I didn't get her last name) introduced the "Drifters" individually while a five piece band played in the background. After the introductions any concerns we had regarding the evening's show were completely eliminated when the "Drifters" opened their evening's musical set with their 1963 hit "On Broadway". The look and sound was just the way we remembered. The rest of the evening went by very quickly and had everyone dancing in their seats, and sometimes singing along with those old favorites; "There Goes My Baby", "Save the Last Dance For me", "Up On The Roof", "Under the Boardwalk", "This Magic Moment", and "Money Honey" just to name a few.

Oh, and of course it was so much fun to watch the backup singers doing their synchronized, choreographed dancing behind the lead singer while they added harmonious tones to each song. The group also included in the set their popular seasonal song "White Christmas" which they performed a cappella.

Near the end of the night's extravaganza, Ron McPhatter chatted about the influence his mom and dad had on him. He also talked about his parents and their many music legends friends who also



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Finished with our coffee and dessert, it was off to the theater where we were all anticipating seeing the

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helped shape his musical career.

This personal chat led into a rollicking rendition of "Mustang Sally". No one in the audience could sit still. As I looked around, people were swaying, swinging their arms and just having a rhythmic great time.

A standing ovation followed this exhilarating musical performance after which the "Drifters" led the audience in the singing of "Auld Lang Syne".

No one wanted the music to end and yelled for more. Not wanting to disappoint the crowd but needing to leave and get ready for their late night show, they ended their performance the way they had started, with the singing of "On Broadway".

It was a great evening and was made even more special when, as we left the theater, we were given a split of champagne and a sweet treat to take home. YAHOO and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Diana, we had a great time and thank you again for the hard work and time you put in planning these "New Years Eve" events for us. While we don't say it enough, we want you to know we do appreciate you. Not only for these great off-site events but for who you are as a person. We love ya, kid. Thanks again.

...

## Paying it forward

My sister Evelyn called me the other day and told me this heart-warming story.

She was out to lunch with a friend and they were seated at the counter because all the booths were taken. My sister looked around and saw a woman seated across the counter from her who was staring at her. She turned back to her friend and continued talking with her. When she looked back at the woman she saw that she was crying. Concerned, Evelyn asked her if she was all right? Could she help her? The woman said she was sad. The woman told Evelyn that she looked just like her daughter. My sister has red hair and the lady said her daughter did as well. The woman said her daughter had died 6 months ago. She then asked my sister if she would

do her a special favor. She asked that when she left would she please say "Goodbye Mom"? Evelyn felt bad for her so when the woman stood up to leave Evelyn said "GOOD BYE MOM." The woman then said "goodbye honey" and left the restaurant.

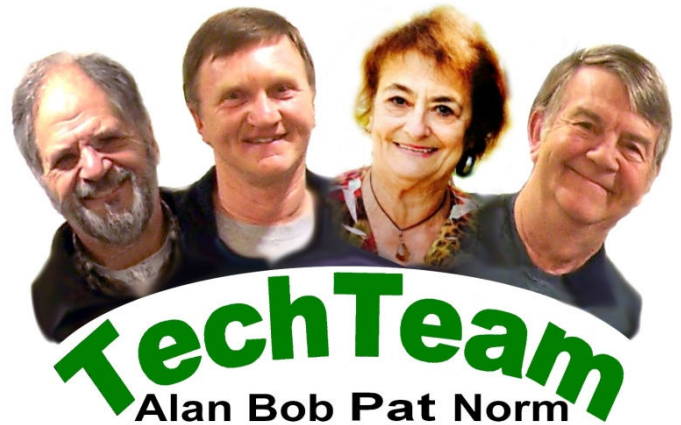
A few moments later the waitress came over, gave Evelyn the woman's check, and said "your Mother said you would pay for her check." Evelyn was shocked. She looked out the window and saw the woman starting to get into her car. So she ran out of the restaurant grabbed the woman by the leg and pulled it, just like I'm pulling yours.

April fool.

FYI: My sister did tell me this story years ago and I was taken in by the story just as I'm hoping you were.

By Ruth Mosey

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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!

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## “Writer’s Window”

### Trees

by Peggy Schleicher

A few months ago, when Bob asked me to consider writing something, anything, for this April newsletter, I said I was having an idea drought. That is, no ideas about what I could write. But I woke up one morning thinking about drought. Yes drought. Stay with me here. I know that is a little quirky, but it is how my brain works. The word “drought” made



me think about trees. I really like trees. Lots of tree-related memories popped into my head. When I was young, I remember a friend who taught me the joy of hugging trees. I still like to do that. I also remembered the poem *Trees* by

Joyce Kilmer. My much-loved, grade 3 teacher shared that poem. This is the line that I remember: “I think that I can never see a poem lovely as a tree.”

We have lovely trees here at Emerald Court. Throughout Emerald Court there are many, beautiful flowering trees. I do have a favorite specific EC tree but that will remain my secret.

Growing up, my family celebrated birthday parties under our big backyard tree. It was a huge tree with lofty branches. My grandmother had a cherry tree and she allowed us to eat as many ripe, red cherries as we wanted. Sometimes my cousins and I ate too many, if you know what I mean. Of course, trees were great for playing hide-and-go seek with our grandkids.

Not too long ago, I read the book, *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate*, by Peter Wohlleben, a famous German forester and author with a rare knowledge and understanding of the inner life of trees. I learned that trees are more social, alert, and intelligent than I ever thought possible. I mean, I never gave trees that much deep thought. I appreciated the shade and the good memories. But I never thought of them as socially interconnected.

Wohlleben spent years studying trees. He began to “know” them. He wrote about two special trees. He noted: “These two are old friends. They are very considerate in sharing the sunlight, and their root systems are closely connected.” Learning this, I try to no longer take trees for granted.

This got me thinking. Emerald Court is like a grove of trees. Emerald Court is like a community of trees. Emerald Court is a “tree-munity!” We too are interconnected. We too have roots that go deep. We too welcome new comers who are like saplings that add to the community. I am trying to never take trees or our EC Community for granted. At EC, we need all the folks who live here to work to maintain this thriving community. When you see an opportunity to spread your branches and reach out, think like a tree. Each and every one of us has a role in building our supportive community network, the one we call Emerald Court, the one we call home.

♦ ♦ ♦

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## Ask Your Doctor

By Jack McDonough

The advertising and marketing industries have always fascinated me, going way back to the book "Hidden Persuaders" by Vance Packard.

As I remember it, Vance told us that products packaged in red and white tend to catch the eye of shoppers, whereas something with a brown or other dark colored package wouldn't do as well.

But there was a corollary to this in some cases. It was thought to be a good strategy to produce potato peelers with a brown handle on the chance that the woman preparing the meal might accidentally toss out the peeler with the peels because the colors blended together. That presumably could lead to the sale of another peeler. To avoid the stigma of a brown colored product, the peeler could be attached to a bright colored (red and white?) display card.

(It should be noted here that saying it was a "woman" preparing the meal was acceptable way, way back in the pre-sexist times when buffalo still roamed the plains.)

Perhaps no product in the history of mankind has been advertised as much as the automobile.

It comes as news to no one that cars and trucks are *always on sale!* Yes, America, hurry in today. The big summer sale ends in 48 hours. Don't be left out. We're selling these babies for only \$43,000. How can you pass up that?

Now, I ask you. Does anyone ever "hurry" anywhere to drop forty-three large on anything? Not me. My high performance, two-door, four-cylinder, fire engine red 2004 Honda Civic is doing just fine, thank you very much.

But wait! Those who miss out on the summer sale are in luck. The Labor Day Sale begins as soon as the summer sale ends.

This will be followed by the big Halloween sale and then the big Thanksgiving sale. And on and on.

In most cases, these are not merely "sales," either. These are sales **Events**. What makes them Events? I don't know but I doubt if there's free food and an

open bar involved. So, if you plan to take advantage of one, don't bother bringing napkins.

You may be persuaded by the fact that the car you're looking at has been rated number one in the industry by J.D. Power and Associates. But I've always wondered. Who is this J.D. Power and who are these people he associates with? And can he and his "associates" be trusted?

Another product line that may be advertised as much as or more than cars and trucks is pharmaceuticals. There's a pill or a powder or a soothing cream for everything.

When the new wonder drug is being hawked on TV, it often is described by the guy who won the Fastest Talker contest in broadcasting school. If you record this spiel and play it back at normal speed you'll find that while this new miracle drug will help remove ear wax, it also might cause migraine headaches, nausea, hair loss, gas pains, hearing loss, double vision, cardiac arrhythmia, night sweats, aching joints, memory loss, kidney failure, hemorrhoids, diarrhea or a runny nose.

But big pharma doesn't expect you to take their word for it. In fact, they tell viewers to "ask your doctor if this medication is right for you."

That's a good idea. I'm sure that most doctors are sitting around the office just hoping some patient will call with questions about the latest medical miracle.

If that doesn't work, maybe try asking the salesman down at the car dealership if it's OK for you to take that pill. You know he'll answer the phone. He may even have a great deal for you. But you'd better hurry.

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



## A Short Pre-Article, Article

Before I begin this article about the Social Committee's February event I'd like to mention that in spite of the reoccurring constraints placed on us by the persistent COVID virus, Peggy Schleicher has been doing her best to keep all of us here in the EC community connected, informed, and laughing through her online "EC Connection Weekly". Along with her own interesting and up to date facts and trivia, Peggy includes riddles, jokes and other contributions emailed to her from the EC community. It's a fun read. Thanks Peggy.

### Zoom Bingo

By Frank Carey

During the last few months of 2021 we were lucky and happy to have a short stint of regular Social Committee events that were held in the clubhouse. But the reemergence of a COVID variant caused a cautionary pause to those monthly gatherings.

Despite this problem and still wanting to keep EC folks involved, Peggy S. and her Social Committee, decided they would return to their previous approach to COVID. They would use the Zoom app to implement their planned events for what they hoped would be a short break in their regular clubhouse in-person event calendar.

To be sure, Zoom events cannot replace the social interaction that in-person gatherings provide, but Zooming can still be very entertaining and has been a great way to stay connected with EC friends and neighbors during this stressful time. Case in point was the Social Committee's "Zoom Bingo" event which they planned and held on February 11th.

Prior to the event the committee sent out an announcement inviting the EC community to sign up for the event. Those that wanted to participate were sent, by email, a set of 5 personal and different bingo sheets with which to play. A day or two prior to the

event Peggy S. sent out, to those who signed up, a computer link to the Zoom Bingo game.

On the evening of the game it was fun sitting in front of my computer waving and verbally greeting each of the 28 EC participants as they clicked on the link and were individually welcomed by the Zoom host. What a wonderful technology.



Once the players had all signed on, host and Social Committee chair, Peggy S., explained the format for the event: hubby Bob Schleicher would be the number caller for each game, there would be 5 Bingo games played, each person would use only one of their individual bingo sheets for each game, and rib-tickling jokes would be told between games. Cash prizes would be awarded and personally delivered to the home of the winner of each game.

The rest of the evening went just as planned. The

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games went well with amusing, spontaneous ribbing and comments. Of course there was the usual “awwww,” and “I just needed one more number” after someone yelled “BINGO !”



The winners of the 5 games were: #1 (reg. Bingo) Roberta Caruso, #2 (4 corners) Linda Dempsey, #3 (reg. Bingo) Linda Martin and Wanda Corcoran, #4 (reg. Bingo) Betsy Travis, #5 (small square) Alan Katz, (Lg. square) Elaine Williams and Pat Stratis, (cover all) Elaine Williams. Congratulations to all.

It was a fun evening. Even the jokes told by Bob Schleicher, Elaine Williams, Frank Carey, and Peggy Schleicher got complimented by an email which read “finally, some new jokes.”

(Hmmm, was that a compliment or just a statement of relief?)

Thanks again, Social Committee, for your hard

work and effort in trying to keep us connected and socially active during COVID. Over these past years you have been like an elusive breath of spring that we continually looked for, hoping for relief from a terrible winter that just never seemed to end.

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## EC Welcomes New Residents

New residents to Emerald Court since January:

- Robert and Mary Ellen McCabe (Unit #1112)
- Elisabeth Desmarais (Unit #1315)

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

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## When Sad Things Happen

The Emerald Court Community is saddened to learn of the death of Yolanda Rosato (Unit #33). Yolanda passed away on Thursday, December 23rd, 2021. Our sympathy is extended to Jane and her entire family.

We are also saddened by the passing of Marie Loughlin (formerly Unit #1301). Marie passed away on Tuesday, February 23rd, 2022. Our sympathy is extended to Karen and her entire family.

Again we are saddened to learn of the passing of Terri Pina (Unit #1109). Terri passed away on Saturday, March 19th, 2022. Our sympathy is extended to Lou and Andrea and their 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.

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## Social Committee Message

by Peggy Schleicher

The 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 try to host an event each month. We are always interested in ideas and suggestions from the Community. With the pandemic, many things have changed, and we strive to make any adjustments needed to ensure fun times at EC. We value your input as we plan events for EC. Got ideas? Email: [peggyschleicher1@gmail.com](mailto:peggyschleicher1@gmail.com) or call 978-851-6569. We invite all ECers to join the fun at our events and activities.

### Your EC Social Committee members are:

Peggy Schleicher, <i>chairperson</i>	Diane Fahey
Betsy Travis, <i>secretary</i>	Linda Martin
Ginny Thomas, <i>Co-treasurer</i>	Sue Sandler
Roberta Caruso, <i>Co-treasurer</i>	Pat Stratis
Linda Carey – <i>Welcome Team</i>	Regina Ugolini
<i>Coordinator</i>	

Norm Johnson - *Board of Trustees Rep*

## Mothers' Day Gift Bags for Project Wish

by Peggy Schleicher  
for the Social Committee

The EC Social Committee offers a giant thank you to the folks at Emerald Court who created beautiful gift bags for some of the Merrimack Valley Moms who are served by the Wish Project. These Mothers' Day bags brightened the faces of Moms who are working hard to provide for their children's needs and their own. 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. When this newsletter went to print, **37** gorgeous bags were ready for delivery! THANK YOU. ■ ■ ■

## GREEN SWAP

By Frank Carey

March 2022 is such a transitional month. "It Comes in Like a Lion and Goes Out Like a Lamb." It is also a month when many things occur and are celebrated during its 31 days. It's the month that welcomes the spring Equinox and the month when "Daylight Saving" begins. Christians observe the beginning of Lent. It is also "Woman's History Month" celebrating the major role women have played in our American history. In March, Massachusetts' Suffolk County celebrates "Evacuation Day", the day that commemorates the evacuation of British forces from the city of Boston. The list goes on and on but here in the USA, one March observance that stands out and is celebrated by most folks regardless of a person's heritage is "Saint Patrick's Day". St. Patrick's Day observes the death of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. The holiday has evolved into a celebration of Irish culture with parades, special foods, music, dancing, drinking **and a whole lot of green**. Thus the EC Social Committee each year has held an event to celebrate this fun and happy March Irish holiday. This year it was in the form of a "Green Swap".



**Cheryl Cullity      Larry Cullity      Peggy Schleicher      Barbara Swansburg**

It's really wonderful when the folks who sign up for these affairs get into the spirit of the event. It was a wonderful sight to see the display of green attire worn by the 23 individuals who entered the EC clubhouse on Friday, March 18th. Each person as they entered placed a green package/bag onto a long table which had been covered with a green table

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cloth especially for this event. Each of the items placed on the table were unmarked and contained an unidentifiable item for the swap. Each person then picked a number from a basket held by committee member, Linda Martin. The numbers were from 1 to 23 and had been jumbled up to assure a random pick by each participant.



**Frank Linda Linda Jan  
Carey Dempsey Martin DiPietro**

Everyone made their way to the seats around the tables that had been covered with green and white table cloths. On each table was a vase with green carnations, green plates, napkins, and a large plate of various white and chocolate chip cookies. The SC had prepared coffee, tea, and water in the kitchen that would be available whenever folks desired.



**Elaine Gay Regina Diane  
From Bayberry Padur Ugolini Fahey**

At 7:00 SC Chairperson, Peggy Schleicher, began to welcome everyone when she was interrupted by Elaine, the reappearing roaming Bayberry lady, (*Elaine Williams #1110*). She had heard about the Green Swap through the Bayberry grapevine and decided to check it out. She came dressed all in green including her hair. The cane she used while

walking was also trimmed in green. Not caring that she had barged in on our festivity, she began telling us about her latest experiences. One being that she had decided to go to an exercise class. She said she didn't expect it to be so tough. She complained about how she had to bend, stretch, twist, turn, pull and push. And that was just to try and get her leotard on. She also mentioned that she had named her bathroom "Jim". She told us that because she used the bathroom so often that it would sound better that when she needed to go, if she told people she was going to the "Jim". She also told us about a friend of hers named Luigi who had taken his wife to Italy on their 25th anniversary. Now on their 50th anniversary he was going to go back and bring her home. A couple more stories and Bayberry lady had to leave to go to the "Jim". She is a character and it is a treat when she appears at our SC events.



**Roberta Ginny Bob Kathleen  
Caruso Thomas Schleicher Pimental**

Peggy S. finally got things back to normal and explained how the green swap worked. Most were familiar with the rules but Peggy did a quick review which follows:

The person who had drawn the #1 slip from the basket would be the first to pick from all the wrapped items on the green table. That person would unwrap the item and show it to everyone. The person with the #2 slip would then go to the table, choose a wrapped item, unwrap the item, show to everyone and then decide whether to keep the item or swap it for what #1 had. The person with #3 would repeat the process and would make the decision of whether to keep the item they had chosen or to swap it with one of the items that had already

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been exposed. This process would continue until everyone had chosen an item from the table, revealed what it was and made a choice whether to keep their item or to swap it for one of the other items that had been revealed. After everyone had made their choices the person who had the #1 slip would then have the final choice whether to keep the item they had or to swap from among all the exposed items.



**Penny Lambroukos Pat Stratis Ruth Mosey Linda Carey**

Rules explained, the swap event began. Among the items unwrapped were mugs, craft cider, hand soap, hand cream, debit cards, various candies and gum, a candy dish, maple flavored beef stick, lottery tickets, and cash. WOW! Keep or swap? It was great fun watching each person make that decision. As the evening progressed I noticed a couple of people trying to hide their picks so as to prevent someone from swapping with them. Lots of fun and laughs.

Incorporated into the swap action was a number of Irish Sing-A-Longs. Bob Schleicher had

programmed the music and lyrics so they could be played and shown on the clubhouse TV. I could say that everyone sang off key but that would be a compliment. Just kidding of course, everyone sounded beautiful. It was so nice to raise our voices and sing happy Irish songs. Bob S, Jan DiPietro, Ruth Mosey, and Frank Carey also contributed a few rib-tickling jokes.



**Joyce McKenna Elaine Williams Helen Wythe Peter Pimental**

The final song for the night, “7 Old Ladies Locked in the Lavat’ry” was sung by the entire Social Committee with each member reciting one comical stanza and everyone else joining in to sing the chorus.

The song was followed by the 50/50 raffle drawing which was won by lucky Jan DiPietro.

It was another fun night in the clubhouse. It’s so enjoyable to get away from the news media for a lighthearted evening with friends and neighbors. Thanks, EC Social Committee, for providing us with another wonderfully entertaining event. ■■■



**Social Committee members singing “7 Old Ladies Locked in the Lavatory” – From left to right: Regina Ugolini, Linda Carey, Pat Stratis, Diane Fahey, Linda Martin, Ginny Thomas & Roberta Caruso.**