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## Dining Room, Front and Center

By Robert Elkin

In just one month, Dining Director Eli Ayoub has shaken the establishment, with the promise of more to come. Beginning with a critical review of our menus, Eli found they needed to be changed to provide balanced, varied, nutritious meals. At five meetings with residents in one week, he spoke about his plans. His key words were fresh vegetables, nutritious and balanced meals, home baked instead of frozen deserts, table service instead of buffet, healthy, tasty meals, and attention to special dietary problems.

He plans to do away with the rotating menus repeated every so many weeks. Instead, he plans an interesting and varied menu plan that includes surprises according to what the market offers. Lunch and dinner menus will be different with three specialties at each meal. The bigger news is that he plans to shift from buffet service to ordering from the menu to our servers. He explains, "Eating is a time to relax and share with friends. It is not a time to stand in line for a buffet."

After people pick up their salad and soup, if they want them, they can order off a menu.

If some people are in a rush, they can go to the new express comfort food kitchen. For that, they'll sit in a special section and pick up from limited offerings that don't dry up on a steam table. Illustrative meals are spaghetti with meat sauce, meat loaf, and Shepherds Pie.



Eli Ayoub

The system for picking-up meals will be altered to accommodate residents. He plans to change the dining room approach to serving meals on the fourth floor in the health units.

At lunchtime, with no buffet, residents will order from a menu with about 13 entrees. At lunch, three items will change daily. In the summer, five entrees will be salads. He's working on inventing a Collington burger he claims will challenge the McDonald's burger except that it will be healthier. Using a Kaiser roll and good quality beef, he'll turn out a delicious sandwich.

At dinner, three entrees will also change each day. Instead of a daily chicken dish, he'll vary poultry with turkey, duck, or others. All meat will be choice quality that includes tenderloins and porterhouse. He'll reduce the number of cream soups. For vegetarians, a special menu will be inserted into the general menu. A variety of vegetarian meals will be offered, with special orders welcomed.

If someone wants a simple sandwich or salad and doesn't want to use their meal credits, they'll be able to go to the Ivy Room and pay for their order.

In response to questions, Eli explains that there will be 11 servers in the evening and five at lunch to take orders and serve residents. Servers will use new order forms so they don't have to write out resident's orders. They'll take these into the reorganized kitchen where problems in deciphering handwriting will be eliminated. The servers are being trained in their new roles. Special attention will be paid to receiving residents into the dining room for seating promptly.

Eli predicts many changes. Already he has initiated hors' d'oeuvres in the Ivy Room in the late afternoon. He wowed residents with an outstanding Mimosa Brunch for Mother's Day. And, we all got a taste of what Eli could do earlier in the month when a Marketing event was opened to residents. For us, he earned the title of Chef with his delicious offerings; lobster salad, cheese blintzes, and imaginative, tasty pastries.

Eli was born and raised in Lebanon to parents heavily involved in the food business. His parents came to America, where his mother became chef to the French Embassy in Washington. Later, they established two restaurants in the area. Eli stayed in Lebanon where he volunteered for the Lebanese Christian Army. His army stint included training by the Israeli Army and fighting along with Israeli soldiers. He was wounded three times.

After an associate degree at American University in Beirut, Eli came to the States where he finished his degree at Cal Polytechnic in Pomona. In the food business he worked in several country clubs before moving to organizations for

the aging in several states. He connected with Collington when he became bored with his job and saw an ad for dining director on the Internet. Good luck, Eli. Our taste buds are waiting. Eli says, "I want to make a difference in every resident's life, giving quality service."

## Send in your Photos

All residents are encouraged to send in photos they took over the summer, or whenever. Send photos of people, places, things that you think are interesting or beautiful or historic, or whatever. This is the third year the Collingtonian will publish resident's photos in a September issue. Submit photos as an attachment to email to [robertelkin@comcast.net](mailto:robertelkin@comcast.net), or place copies in mail slot 4111 any time before August 15. Photos will not be returned. Call Bob Elkin at 7359 with questions.

## We'll see you again in September.

**The Collingtonian takes off  
July and August.**

### ***The Collingtonian***

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Editor: Robert Elkin

**Staff:** Curt Bury, Gloria Ericson, Jarvis Freymann, Jean Getlein, Jim Giese, Faith Jackson, Lee McKnight

**Photographer:** Robert Elkin

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## Collington's Grounds Committee

By Jarvis Freymann

Beautiful as they may be, Collington's ecologically balanced and well-manicured grounds have not been easily come by, nor are they easily maintained. Although much of the credit for their meticulous upkeep goes to Collington's Plant Operations Director Tom Connelly, our Grounds supervisor Roy Jenkins, and our "Lasting Impressions" landscape contractor Ed McCain, a fair share of praise must be reserved for our Grounds Committee and its predecessor Landscape and Trails Committees.

Since replacing Pat King as Grounds Committee Chairman earlier this spring, Bill Preston—a trained horticulturalist and tree expert—has worked tirelessly with some twenty other committee members to ensure that our trees, shrubs, flower borders and lawns are responsibly protected from erosion and other such indignities. Pesticides, herbicides and other potentially harmful chemicals are used sparingly, if at all. Close attention is given to the choice and placement of trees, shrubs and plants, and to their continuing nurture, particularly in the vicinity of our lake.

As Bill Preston reminds us, "going green" means much more than merely sitting back and savoring the beauty of a great expanse of verdant growth. It also takes careful study, hard work and planning. Fortunately for us and the world we live in, many of our residents—including such hard-working role models as Pat King, Mary Olmstead and Art Longacre—have voluntarily shouldered their fair share of environmental responsibility. Rarely does anyone take a walk in our woods these days without retrieving some small broken branch or random piece of trash for proper disposal.

In addition to providing invaluable advice and assistance to the small army of Collington residents who plant and tend their own gardens, the Grounds Committee—who sometimes like to refer to themselves as our "Green Thumb Society"—play an important role in keeping the grounds around our apartments and cottages looking their best, even when vacant.

Much of what our staff, Grounds Committee and Lasting Impressions personnel do is, quite literally, "subtle in nature" and not immediately apparent to the casual passer-by. For example, they are making an ongoing (but largely unnoticed) effort to curb the advance of invasive plant species such as Kudzu and Poison Ivy throughout our campus. They are keeping a close eye on potential sources of harmful erosion, and on the continuing accessibility and safety of our woodland walkways and trails. Many new plantings are now being added, including, most recently, two long rows of young Willow Oaks and Autumn King Maples that will further beautify and strengthen our lake's earthen dam.

The Grounds Committee also conducts an active educational program, inviting residents to participate in periodic tours focusing on our many varieties of trees, plants, birds and other wildlife. Residents are encouraged to use the Committee's informative Pocket Guide and trail map when walking our woodland paths.

As a part of the Grounds Committee's efforts, Bill Preston prepared a comprehensive survey, map and count (over one hundred species, thus far) of Collington's many varieties of trees—everything from Atlas Cedar to Yellow Birch. He has also taken a lively interest in devising more humane and effective means of dealing with our White Tail Deer overpopulation problem, which has become a source of serious concern for many of our gardeners, particularly those who plant such deer favorites as Hostas, Hydrangeas, Pansies and Phlox. The Grounds Committee encourages the planting of deer-resistant plants and has compiled a list of such.

Considering Collington's remarkable natural beauty, it is not at all surprising that even its earliest English settlers—at least as far back as the 18th Century's Waring Family—chose to name this piece of land their "Heart's Delight." The mission of Collington's present-day Grounds Committee is to do everything in its power to keep that name apt and befitting for many generations to come.

## Varieties of Religious Groups

By Marjorie Hyer

Eight or nine chairs at the front of the Walker Inter-faith Chapel were pulled from their usual tidy ranks into a small circle in front of the altar. The moveable sign out front said "Worship Service in Progress", but there were no music, no hymnals, no prayer books. But for an hour, the occupants of that little circle sat in total silence, heads bowed in prayer.

It was the monthly gathering of Collington's Quaker prayer group, one of a number of groups from various religious backgrounds who gather regularly to pray and worship in the style and tradition that is familiar to them.

Although Collington was founded by the Episcopal Church and retains ties to that denomination, there are no religious requirements for admission. As a result, our population includes persons of many religions - Protestant, Catholic and Jewish. Many find their religious needs met by the established churches of the surrounding community. Others seek a closer religious fellowship within what is now their primary community, or lack transportation to neighborhood institutions, and find the small, in-house groups fulfilling.

"There are only a few of us, but we like to get together once a month," says Marney Akins, of the Quaker group. For the Quakers, known formally as the Religious Society of Friends, adapting to the small group style of worship comes easily. Although the group meets in silence, any member who feels so moved may rise and briefly share a concern with the others. But at the end of the hour the meeting is finished and the participants move off to the dining room to share a meal together.

The informality of the Quakers is in sharp contrast to the Unitarian Universalists who gather a few days later in the same Chapel for their monthly worship session. As each enters the Chapel, he/she is handed a printed order of service and a Unitarian hymnal. Louise Huddleston at the piano provides the musical framework for the service. Louise also introduces the visiting preacher, this month, the Rev. Fred K. Muir, a Unitarian Universalist clergyman from an Annapolis congregation,

who preached a sermon on "Lame and Blind," an exploration into how religion and science can work together in the modern world. The service also allows time for meditation and expressions of concerns. At the conclusion, the worshippers gather up their hymnals and, like the Quakers, move off to the dining room for a meal together.

Not all who attend the group are Unitarian Universalists. "We go to the United Methodist church in Bowie and go to Bible study there every Thursday," said Corrine Preston. But she came to this service because the sermon title "looked interesting." "I like to look at things from all perspectives."

The largest fellowship group is the Episcopalians. They meet in the Chapel every Tuesday morning for a full service from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. Like many things in Collington, explains social worker Roger Barnes, "this has a history." When Collington was being established, he explains, "it was decided not to have a chaplain on staff. Instead, the rectors of the surrounding parishes came to an informal agreement that among them they would provide a priest every Tuesday morning for a worship service."

Under Episcopal Church law, only an ordained priest can distribute holy communion, which good Episcopalians should receive regularly, so the plan for regular clergy was essential. And given the number of wheel chair-bound residents at Collington, the provision of a weekly in-house service and distribution of the sacrament was vital.

While the founders made provisions for the spiritual needs of Episcopal residents, Roger said, at the same time they wanted to encourage an ecumenical atmosphere. Other Christians who are not Episcopalians are welcome to receive the sacrament at Collington's altar, and many do.

Other groups crystallize and subsequently go dormant, as the population shifts. A Jewish group was active in celebrating the high holidays until their coordinator suffered a stroke and is currently recovering.

There is no on-campus fellowship group for Roman Catholics but transportation to celebrate the Mass at a nearby parish is provided every Saturday evening. Providing for group meetings for any denomination is easy, says Stephanie Dalton, residential services director.

## June Turner

By Jim Giese

June Turner came to Collington about two years ago. She is fortunate in that her sister-in-law, Birdie James, lives here in her own nearby apartment. June is frequently seen in the dining room having dinner with family. She is also fortunate in that her daughter, two of her three sons and six of her nine grandchildren live nearby.

Henry, Jr. and his family now reside in Upper Marlboro. He retired from the army after 22 years of service in the Quartermaster Corps where he became an Acquisition Corps Officer with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He does similar work for the Pentagon and is active in county politics. He recently declared his candidacy for County Executive, currently one of six candidates seeking that office in the Democratic primary this year.

Ingrid, June's second child, was appointed to the Naval Academy. She became a Judge Adjutant General officer and held the rank of commander when she retired after 20 years service. A resident of the Highbridge section of Bowie, she successfully sought election four years ago to the Prince George's County Council. She is up for reelection this year.

Twins Eric and Michael received their appointments to West Point. Each has achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel. After his retirement, Eric became a civilian employee at the Pentagon performing similar work. Michael is still in the military. He holds a PhD in Psychology from the University of Alabama and teaches at West Point.

June was born and raised in Denver, Colora-

do, the youngest of 11 children. She attended Wilberforce University in Ohio and then Denver University where she obtained a B.A. degree in Social Work. However, she soon realized that she preferred teaching to social work. It was in Denver that she met and married a young soldier, Henry Turner, who was stationed at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital. While Henry pursued his military career as an optometrist, she became a teacher and a mother. Henry's service took the



Eric, Ingrid, Henry Jr. and Michael Turner with June

family to Heidelberg, Germany, Fort Riley, Kansas, Fort Dix, New Jersey and then to Walter Reed Hospital where he became Chief of Optometry. Upon retirement, he entered private practice. He died in 1996. The Turners were married 38 years.

June found work teaching at the family's many locations. She last became a second and third grade teacher at St. Gabriel's Catholic Elementary School in Washington. June has been an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha service sorority for over 50 years. Earlier, she volunteered to help in the youth organizations involving her children. "Her willingness to keep active helping others rubbed off on us kids," Ingrid Turner said, "and is the reason we have become involved in the community."

She loves cards and entertainment. She plays bridge with a regular non-Collington group three times a week. She also plays bridge Thursdays at Collington and sometimes on Fridays. June regularly attends entertainment events here and mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Largo. Welcome June, we're glad you chose Collington!

# Faith's Gardening Notes



## LETTER TO GOOD FRIENDS AT 10450 LOTTSFORD ROAD:

Happy July and August. While the Collingtonian goes on vacation, many of you go on vacation, many stay home, and stay cool, swim, read, and enjoy the gardens you have made. Not to mention the vegetable pros who plant the Hilltop plots and greenhouse bins to supply us annually with glorious produce – true heroes in the hot sweat-months, no shade in sight, Lettuce came in like gang busters in the last few weeks, and I am waiting impatiently for Art Longacre's lima bean crop!!

The birds are about in greater numbers, have you noticed? It would be kind of you to make sure they have some clean water for daily splash and drink. But, before you settle down on the chaise lounge, our indefatigable garden expert, Bill Preston has a couple of chores to suggest,

In case you didn't get to it last month in our craziest May in recent memory, rain, cold, rain, cold! Bill suggests that you "choose a dry day, put on your gloves and gently brush off the old flowers on your azaleas that are now brown and look bad. The bushes will be clean looking and healthier [as] the brushing allows more light into the lower leaves and guarantees better blooming next year. This small effort also reduces the likelihood of petal disease during the next season." Thank you, Sir! I went right out and tried it, and felt very smart.

Is there anyone nearby who has not been eval-

uating deer damage and plotting what to do? Bill has been thinking hard about planting boxwood as an excellent repellent. "Boxwood has a lingering odor," he says, "that repels deer." Some people agree; it smells like wet cat. I'm with Bill. I love boxwood. "The low growing plants are expensive," Bill says, "but boxwood has always been a stunning ornamental that adds greatly to your property." I planted several along the edge of my patio several years ago, and I have never been sorry.

This brings up, inevitably, the subject of what sort of changes would you like to make in your garden this fall, if indeed you want a change? If certain plants have not done well by you for one reason or another, maybe it will be the time to dig them out, move them somewhere else, or give them away and invest in something new. Maybe everything pleased you, Happy Day! Enjoy!

I cannot let you go without sharing this.



Claudia

One hand clutches her mother, in case of bears. In the other is my watering can and she goes from one bush to another and sprinkles carefully. All the time she does this she is sing-singing softly, "This is the beautifullest garden I ever seen." She is Claudia Luna Jackson. She is barely four. Before she goes home to New York she plants three geraniums in three pots, accepts a purple basil plant in a new pot of her choice, and selects a rock from what I put before her. A rock, you ask? Right. There is significance to this ceremony that you may pursue if you wish. It is part of my bursting pride that I now welcome the fifth generation planter in my family, from my grandmother, Louisa, to my first great granddaughter, Claudia, the beautifullest girl I ever seen.

## The Queen and Me

By Stewart Ramsey

This month marks the 40th anniversary of the time I attended Queen Elizabeth II's birthday party on the grounds of Buckingham Palace in London. (Although the Queen was actually born in April, the birthday party is always held in June—probably due to England's unpredictable spring weather.)

I had come to Britain in 1969 as Business Week magazine's chief correspondent in London. I joined the American Correspondents Association, which met irregularly at the Savoy Hotel. At one of those meetings I won—or obtained by some now forgotten means—an invitation to the Queen's 1970 birthday celebration.

I became elated. My colleagues at the McGraw-Hill bureau in London urged me to go to Moss Bros. to rent special clothing for the occasion. Moss Bros. (popularly known as “Moss Cross”) was an institution in London, the traditional purveyor of formal wear to the English gentry — what's left of it. For me, attending a royal birthday party meant renting a top hat, waistcoat, swallowtail coat and pinstriped trousers. So, I did. The cost was not trivial, and the swallowtail coat was made of such heavy wool that I felt like a turtle in a shell.

On the appointed day, I showed up in front of Buckingham Palace, dragging along a photographer to record the occasion. A small crowd had already gathered, and as I joined them I mused over what it would be like to meet British royalty. Being an American, I assumed I would not be required to bow—perhaps a simple handshake would do. If the line moved slowly enough I might fall into conversation with the Queen's husband, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. He had

been born on the Greek island of Corfu, known for its soft breezes and gentle climate. As I had once visited Corfu, we might share our memories of that special place.

But, before I knew what was going on, I was swept along with dozens of other birthday guests through a portal that took us to the grounds behind the palace, the Queens' enormous “backyard”. In a large pavilion there I was handed a sliver of cake and a thimble-sized glass of warm fuzzy liquid that may or may not have been champagne. With glass in hand, I strolled about the grounds in my finery, looking for familiar faces. There were none. But, why were most of the other men wearing plain dark suits? I began to feel increasingly conspicuous. As the afternoon wore on and the temperature rose, I also began to sweat in my heavy wool attire.

After what seemed an interminable length of time, a guest in military uniform rushed up to greet me as if we were old friends. He introduced himself as the Bulgarian military attaché. When I told him I was an American journalist, his face fell. Was he expecting the Prime Minister? It's hard to say which of us was the more disappointed. As for me, I began questioning why I was there instead of at my office writing an overdue story for Business Week.

At about 3 pm, Queen Elizabeth and the Duke appeared on a balcony. They were so far away they looked like tiny matchstick figures. A cheer went up and there were royal waves. After a couple of minutes, the Queen and the Duke disappeared back inside “Buck House.” Another birthday had been celebrated.

I never rented formal wear from “Moss Cross” again.



## EDNA LINGREEN

### Attorney-at-law and World Traveler

By Gloria Ericson

Collington offers accommodations in independent living, assisted living and nursing care – the latter two options housed on our 4th floor. Residents there may have limited opportunities to circulate among their former confreres – who may not even realize they are still at Collington. The Collingtonian is seeking to rectify that by highlighting such individuals on these pages. I've been given the honor to start off with interviewing Edna Lingreen, who for many years was a leader in community affairs at Collington. The problem here is how to tell in a short article the story of her fascinating life and career.

Edna was born on a farm in Iowa. During the Depression she worked her way through the University of Iowa, one of her jobs there being secretary to Dean Wiley Rutledge. When he moved to Washington D.C. to become a Justice in the Supreme Court, he asked her to come with him as his secretary, which she did. His picture, especially autographed to her, hangs today on her wall in the Health Center. As her mentor, he encouraged her to take classes at the George Washington Law School and she took his advice. Going to school at night while she maintained her secretarial job, though, meant it took quite a while to obtain her law degree. When she did, she went to work for the Justice Department in their Antitrust Division. Her energies and interests were such that when it came time to retire from there she did not give up her lawyering – she became a volunteer attorney representing neglected children in a D.C. court, a rewarding but sad undertaking. Volunteering must be Edna's middle name: she has spent some 2,000

hours during a period of 20 years recording legal texts for blind or dyslexic students at Recording for the Blind.

Edna moved to Collington in 1990. In October she will celebrate her 20th year here. Her list of volunteer work at Collington is long – really long. For years she recorded The Courier on tape so that those with low vision could hear it read over the phone; she headed the Know Your Neighbor Committee for a while; she was active in the newly formed Unitarian Universalist Group; she drove sandwiches made by the Outreach Committee on Fridays to the Community Café in Hyattsville; she was chairman of the Hospitality Committee. And, along with all these “good works” she also found time to do “fun” things like direct Cole Porter's “Private Lives” starring Jack and Eva Yale! However did she find the time?

One of her interests throughout her life has been in traveling and she and her sister traveled the world together. But she says her most interesting trip – and her last big one – took place when she was 90 years old (she is now almost 99!). I knew the trip was to Africa and called it a “safari,” but she assured me that was not the proper term – it was a “tour” arranged by the Smithsonian in which they had their own private train, with stewardesses in each car standing by to offer them champagne after a hard day's sightseeing. She waxed eloquent over one view: Victoria Falls – higher than Niagara Falls. It fell from such a height that its spray could be seen from 30 miles away as a “cloud.” She also appreciated seeing the island where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 27 years.

Edna has no near relatives and says she sometimes regrets not marrying and having a slew of children. But on the other hand, she says, brightening, she's had a wonderful life of almost 100 years!

## Just Looking About

By Jeanne Gart

Visitors to Ainslie and Sue Embree's cottage immediately notice the extensive collection of art and artifacts from India. The small clay object pictured, just 2 ¾ inches high, attracts further attention. In 1968, when Ainslie was a research scholar at Columbia University and president of the American Institute of Indian Studies, he visited Benares, India. One aspect of the Institute was to subsidize art collections, and an archaeological dig was then in progress – a dig which was unearthing many pre-historic art objects. This clay mother goddess, that was presented to Ainslie, is believed to date from about 1000 B.C.,



## Comments by Gloria Ericson.

Eli Ayoub, our new Dining Director, has exploded on the Collington scene like a visitor from a planet far, far away. Such concepts! Such innovative ideas! Such charisma! Any of you who have attended one of his “Food for Thought with Eli” sessions know what I’m talking about: Potatoes not from a box but only just removed from their own skins.

Wow! Meat cooked so that the natural salts will come out rather than requiring extra salt. Wow! Fresh fruit and vegetables rather than canned or frozen ones. Double wow!

As we filed out it was obvious there were Doubters: “He can’t come up with everything he’s promising...”, a subset of doubters, the Wistful Doubters: “Well maybe he can...”, and then there were the rest of us, Instant Groupies: “We believe, Eli, we believe...”

## Collington's Award

Pat King (right), past chair of our Grounds Committee, holds the handsome award received from The Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards. The organization presented its highest-level PLANT (People Loving and Nurturing Trees) award to Collington for its exemplary work in managing, conserving, and enhancing forest resources in Maryland. The plaque will be placed on permanent display. (See related Grounds Committee story page 3.)



# Chatter Box

The Amish Turnip. A recent addition to the dining room menu. Who discovered it? How is it made? He or she deserves an award. Yum!



Curt Bury reports that further progress has been made on Collington's Wi-Fi installation since our brief article in the May issue. All areas of the Collington campus, including our cottage areas, now have Wi-Fi coverage. Work is being completed to improve signal strength to acceptable levels everywhere. When completed and fully tested, a page containing the terms and conditions for the Wi-Fi service will first be presented.



With national attention being given to a replacement for Judge John Paul Stevens for the Supreme Court, many of us are celebrating Stevens' outstanding tenure on the Court. Recently on the Newshour, David Brooks mentioned that Charles Percy had suggested to President Ford that he nominate Justice Stevens. Channel 7 also ran a photo of Charles and Stevens with its story. Thanks, Charles, for an outstanding recommendation.



Residents taking the Autobiographical Writing Course, a Sage class, feted teacher Abby Bardi in the private dining room on the occasion of her

retirement from teaching the class. This completes Abby's four-year stint teaching the Course here at Collington. She also teaches creative writing and English at Prince George's Community College. She told her students at the last session that she especially enjoyed hearing our tales of the Great Depression and World War II, as her own parents didn't speak of their experiences. The Autobiographical Writing Course has been given at Collington for 18 years under auspices of Prince George's Community College. Another teacher will be assigned by the College for the fall. Frances Kolarek arranged the party.



Pat King and Jarvis Freymann tell the following tale that occurred to an anonymous couple. The lady had climbed the hill to cut yucca leaves for flower arrangements when she fell backward in the thick mulch. Because of the mulch and soft dirt and steep hill, she couldn't get up. She called for help from cars as they whizzed by. Finally, she caught the attention of a Collington resident who came walking briskly along on his daily exercise. The fellow gallantly trudged up the hill and, standing behind the lady, tried to lift her. However, the soft mulch and incline sent both of them down on top of each other. By this time, both were laughing hysterically and couldn't even attempt to get up. Finally, the hero was able to conquer the mulch, incline, soft dirt, and laughter and get both up on their feet. Indeed, the rescue of a damsel in distress.



For those of us who prize our friend Beulah Harrod in the dining room, this is to let you know that she will be out for some time with a broken ankle. Heal well, Beulah and come back soon!



An anonymous friend was given a Topsy Turvy tomato plant. This plant grows down from a large planter that he has hung on his second-floor balcony. He follows instructions to water daily and to fertilize weekly but to date hasn't observed any tomato blossoms. He's not sure the plant will produce with the limited sun his balcony receives. However, this watering and feeding a planter high on his balcony is a precarious sport, not for those with fear of heights. Each day, he climbs to dizzying heights to water or fertilize and, unfortunately, always catches some of the liquid on his face and clothes. He's optimistically hoping for a satisfying tomato crop and feels that he is ready for any mountain climbing task that may come his way.



Rosemary Robinson was one of several seniors honored by the diocese of Washington and Seabury Resources for Aging for their contributions to the community. The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane, Bishop of Washington, officiated at the May 6 celebrations at the Washington National Cathedral.

Rosemary, a lifelong Episcopalian, has been a dedicated member of the Church of the Atonement in Washington D.C. since 1956 and raised two children there. Her commitment and dedication to the Church spanned over a half-century. She directed the youth choir and taught Sunday school. She started an annual tea for the Episcopal Church Women and facilitated the Sunday Adult Bible Class. She was selected as Woman of the Year. She remains active in the Church as a member of the Altar Guild. Rosemary moved to Collington in October 2008.



When John Firth (aged 99, living in the Health Unit) lost his favorite tie clip, he became upset. He had received it for service to the East Rockaway Fire Department. John's granddaughter, Isabella Firth, sought to replace it by contacting the Fire Department. The 3rd Assistant Chief, Steve Torborg, consulted senior members of the Department but none could recall John from their past. However, they were able to figure out that the cherished tie clip came from Vigilant Engine Company as a commemorative gift given to the company members to celebrate the company's 50th anniversary in 1943. Ex-chief Mike Martin took up the cause of confirming Firth's membership. Working with other senior members, old records were pored over and sure enough, Firth was a member of Vigilante Engine Company from 1944 through 1959. His service predated most all of the living members and dated back to a time when the company was virtually stripped of manpower as members were off fighting in World War II.

With a strong sense of pride in having rediscovered this long lost member, a "care package" of past and current Department photos, patches, and other items was put together and sent off to him. John was pleased and excited to receive all this attention from the guys at ERFD. As for the tie clip, while no other examples of the treasured item are known to exist, the company has taken up the cause of creating a new company tie clip for each of its members, and naturally, one will be sent to John.

# Fit with Fun



Bob Chessler, Joan Hult, Ron Blackman, and Marion Henry, Part of the Table Tennis Crowd.



Lynn Bernstein celebrates a good Bocce throw. She's coordinated a bunch of activities and welcomes all comers to play current games or to start something new. Hoorah for Lynn!



Jack Yale practicing at the croquet court. He's recruiting new players, hoping to build another team to challenge other organizations.

Bob Chessler (below) is seeking new chess and checker fans.



Doris Baster and Paul Poole complete their Bocce throw with good form



Anna Shea plays Shuffle Board (left) while Emily Torbert recalls that she stood on her head for her 80th Birthday.

