



West Medford Community Center Newsletter



Winter 2015

COMMUNITY IS OUR MIDDLE NAME

IN THIS ISSUE

Fall Fashion Extravaganza

The always involved and engaged West Medford Senior Club held its 4th Annual Gala Fashion Show Fundraiser on September 27, 2014, before a packed audience in the historical Council Chambers at Medford City Hall. It was a dynamic, multi-cultural fashion celebration with great music, local youth and adult models, and terrific entertainment, all to benefit the programs and services of the WMCC, Inc. The show was emceed by the Center's Director of Elder Services, poet and author Terry E. Carter and featured a remarkable Lion Dance opening by the Lion Dance Company of NE under the direction of Bruce Lee. It also showcased fashions from Bride-N-Belle Boutique of Medford, Jason Anthony Formal Wear, and Chico's of the South Shore Plaza. Local MHS student

designers included Faith Milligan, Amanda Ruocco, Richama Joseph, and Eunice Bruno. A silent auction featuring sumptuous food baskets, overnight hotel stays, jewelry, and a New England Patriots football autographed by Tom Brady, definitely a highlight of the evening.

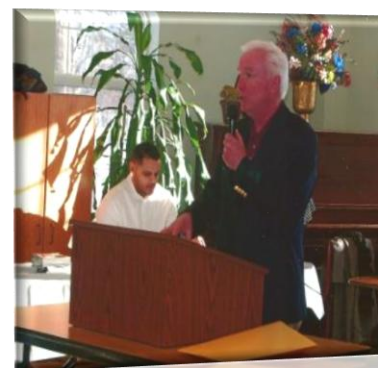


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Girl Scout Troops 65264 and 68137 not thwarted by winter chill.



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The Center hosts its 2nd Annual Black History Event and engages the community.

Youth Committee Getting Busy

WMCC Youth Committee ended 2014 with a quote "the center is back". We held fund raisers with a Halloween party as well as supported the senior's indoor flea market with our own WMCC YC table.

WMCC YC is focused on raising funds as well as awareness for both the youth and community as a whole. The holidays we were able to partner with Titus a local group who caroled throughout the streets of West Medford, then ended the evening at the center for refreshments and the WMCC 1st annual Christmas tree lightening.

WMCC YC enrichment program is growing and welcome the youths of the community to come and see what we have to offer.



Saturday dance classes @ 2:00 p.m., homework club each day after 3:00 p.m., movie night on Fridays, game night @ 7 p.m. each first Saturday of the month and the Karate academy (contact Loring Green for details). WMCC Youth Committee partners with Team Medford, TITUS and the West Medford Lobsterfest all that have Medford and West Medford Youth and the community best interest.

We have a full calendar for the next 9 months so please stay in touch. Attend our monthly meeting held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. down the center. The old term always comes to mind... "it takes a village to raise a child".

We are now preparing for our 2nd year of our Girls Basketball at Dugger Park that is slated to begin right after the July 4th Holidays. On Tuesday July 7th, the first practice will take place at 6:30 pm and will continue each Tuesday and Thursday during the summer vacation. The season will terminate in the 1st Frances

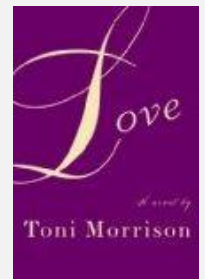
Cooper Berry Memorial Championship on September 6th during our Labor Day Block Party at Dugger Park.



GREAT SUMMER READ

Love

A major addition to the canon of one of the world's literary masters.



by Toni Morrison ▾ (Author)

★★★★☆ ▾ 120 customer reviews

PETIT BOUTS PRE-SCHOOLERS ENTERTAIN THE SENIORS



For the third year since we've had the Petits Bouts French Pre-School residing on our second floor, the "little bits" as the name implies have continued to entertain and delight our Elders on holidays and others occasions.

Most recently, they presented a rousing selection of French language Christmas songs to an enthusiastic audience of our seniors. We never understand everything they sing, but we always see their spirit and enjoy what they choose to share.

Thanks to their teachers, Cathy and Anne-Isabelle for preparing them for the impromptu concert and Joyeux Noel, P'tits Bouts!



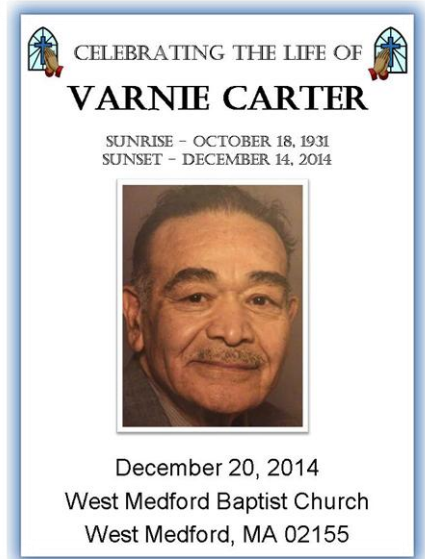
IN MEMORIAM

At approximately 3:00 a.m. on the morning of December 14th 2014, the Lord of Hosts indeed determined in all wisdom and grace that the hour of His pleasure had arrived. In peace and quietude, He lovingly took His good son, Varnie Carter, home to a rest on high. Thus the long, harsh night of his family's travail softened in dignity and love. In Massachusetts, Varnie is survived by his loving wife Jean and five grown children, Jordan, Crystal, Terry, Candace and Scott, as well as his four grands and one great grandchild.

Varnie's immediate family wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and sincere condolences. They have been warmed considerably by the outpouring of love and sympathies shown for "Pap", as he is lovingly referred to. His legacy is assured in all that he represented to their family, this community center, his church fellowship, and the Greater Medford area.

The Celebration of Life was held at the West Medford Baptist Church on Saturday, December 20th. The viewing was from 9:30 am until 10:30 am and the lovely and intimate service began shortly thereafter. In true testament to Varnie's impact on the community, the church sanctuary was full to overflowing. Interment followed the service at Oak Grove Cemetery in Medford and a vibrant repast followed back at WMBC. Final arrangements were made by the Cincotti Funeral Home of West Medford.

Varnie's family asks that ongoing donations be made in his name to the West Medford Community Center, Inc.



WELCOME BACK CHERYL

Cheryl Shaw's record of volunteering at the Center includes her efforts in leading the Drill Team, a marching dance troop that participated in Medford's Memorial Day Parades back in the 1970s. She's back with us providing kids dance classes, and line dances for all ages.



2nd Annual Black History Event at The Center

High snow mounds and cold winter temperatures didn't prevent local residents and friends of West Medford from coming out to participate in the Second Annual Black History Event on Saturday, February 28, 2015. The festivities kicked off with Jarrett Lovett who is a founding member of Titus, welcoming guests and introducing Mayor McGlynn. Mayor McGlynn presented Stephanie Caines and Carol Rickenbacker with certificates of recognition for thirty plus years of service teaching in the Medford Public Schools.

Several talented people entertained the guests with stirring music, powerful poems, dances, Black History trivia and facts. The keynote speaker, Dr. Omar Reid, challenged the audience to adopt healthier lifestyles and pursue their dreams by becoming business owners. A gifted orator, Dr. Reid promised to come back and offer workshops at the community center. After the presentations, Titus members served residents traditional Southern cuisine buffet style. Most participants remained for the three-hour event and left with filled bellies and high expectations for the third annual Black History event.



Dr. Omar Reid, Keynote Speaker for the WMCC hosted event



Smiles and readings from our community's youth



Members of Titus, L-R, Mary Edouard, Melinda Rhone, Ruth "Cherry" Youngblood, Julia Davis, Malikka Jones, Joanne Bell, Dr. Omar Red



A multigenerational and diverse audience stands for prayer

Brownie Power

This past fall, Daisy Troop 68137 blossomed into a dynamic group of Brownies. A staple at the West Medford Community Center, these 10 girls are certainly ready to tackle a new year together as Girl Scouts.



The season began full of giggles and excitement as they completed steps to earn the Girl Scout Way badge. Under the watchful eyes of co-leaders Rebecca Scott and Gretchen Gringo, this first badge was the perfect way to focus on the Girl Scout Law and Promise and learn Girl Scout traditions.



The next order of business was for the troop to decide the path for the rest of the year. The girls voted on which badges they wanted to earn as a troop. The winners? Pets, Painting and Potter—three badges sure to afford opportunities for creativity and caring. So far, they've visited the Arlington Center for the Arts for a pottery class, and the schedule's packed with other activities for their Brownie journey. But, of course, it's not all work and no play. There certainly aren't any dull girls in Troop 68137. In October, they went on a night "Halloween Hike" at Camp Cedar Hills sponsored by the Girl Scouts of Eastern Mass. Then in December their sister Brownie Troop 65264, which also meets at the WMCC, brought the girls one step closer to earning their Making Friends badge with a games night/holiday party.

This group of girls is excited about their upcoming adventures as new Brownies. You might say, they think it's pretty sweet.



Medford Girl Scout Brownie Troop 65264 remains ever grateful to the West Medford Community Center for providing our girls with a safe place to grow and learn, especially in these last few cold winter months. In February, we had a great time with Medford Daisy Troop 68137 -- which also uses the Center -- on a special skating afternoon. As troops that both meet at WMCC we have something special in common, and we're look forward to finding ways to do more joint events and "pen-pal" type projects together with the Center as our home base.

Being Brownies, our girls have badges to earn, including one for "Snacks" and the "Dancer" badge. For Snacks, the Girls had a great time sampling new homemade sodas, making vegetables into faces -- then devouring them! -- And a very special birthday party for one of our Troop members, who was turning 8. We called her birthday cake our "sweet snack" requirement!

Also, we had a lot of fun working on our "Dancer" badge, learning to walk with proper posture, do a curtsy and a deep curtsy. For proper posture we shared a couple of the books off the WMCC bookshelf to put on our heads so we would walk tall and carry ourselves well.



Bringing the Salon to the Center

On October 29, 2014, a group of six aspiring cosmetologists from the Medford Vocational Technical High School's "Mystic Waves" beauty training salon took their show on the road and stopped by the West Medford Community Center to provide excited seniors with an afternoon of pampering. More specifically, they performed manicures as a part of the community service and neighborhood outreach component of their academic requirements.

Under the watchful eye of instructor and program coordinator Sandra Gianino, the young ladies professionally and personably interacted with the folks from the WMCC's weekly Elder Services program, while performing the well-received beauty and grooming regimen. It was a fun and functional activity with a multi-cultural, multi-generational flavor, a great gathering that both parties look forward to doing again. The group of MVTHS students included Ariana Buelto, Jasmine Bell, Meghan Follis, Emily Hogan, Grace Owens and Katelyn Zizzo. Special thanks also to MVTHS coordinators Sandy Gianino and Janice DePace.

WMCC Seniors Host Annual Holiday Party

Medford City Councilor Rick Caraviello joined a about 50 WMCC seniors, family and friends and for a festive and delicious luncheon celebrating the Christmas holidays on December 17, 2014. Rick, who is a great friend of the Elder Services programs, was instrumental in arranging the catering for the sumptuous meal. The menu included Chicken Marsala, roasted vegetables, salad and all the fixins'.



Funding for the special luncheon was donated by Rick and his associates from the Medford Kiwanis chapter, including Dr. Bill Wood and Sam Tarabelsi of Hallmark Health Systems. Local musician and performer Fred Zielke played a great selection of holiday standards and lively carols for the afternoon. The celebration culminated in a hilarious "Yankee Swap" for those attendees who bought gifts and chose to participate. As always, these Seniors, who come out to support WMCC regularly, really know how to have a good time!



Let's Go Green!



In partnership with the Boston Celtics Basketball Club, WMCC Elder Services sponsored a diverse group of 32 seniors, adults and kids for the team's annual "Massachusetts Night" event at the TD Garden on February 6, 2015. The mounting snow subsided just long enough for our group to take the Commuter Rail into North Station for the Friday night tilt with the entertaining Philadelphia 76ers, who feature the local Everett rookie Nerlens Noel on their up and coming roster.



Participants in the event were able to purchase heavily discounted game tickets, and also received free T-shirts and other goodies from the Celts ball club. It was also a great night for the local boys in green and white as Jared Sullinger led six Boston players in double figures with 22 points, adding eight rebounds and seven assists to send the Celtics to a 107-96 win.



Truly a good time was had by all! Thanks to Celtics Community Sales Rep Matt Tardiff for making the outreach to WMCC and providing us with excellent customer service!



Afternoon Youth Club Activities

Afternoon youth activities at the West Medford Community Center (WMCC) have restarted for the 2014-2015 school year, and are taking shape under a new name: the West Medford Afterschool Youth Club (AYC).

The AYC offers Medford students a safe, healthy, learning environment for a variety of activities intended to inspire and challenge them to study, stay active, socialize, and share skills, expertise and ideas. It is currently managed by Medford in the Middle, Inc. (MinM) with the participation and assistance of local seniors, parents and college students from Tufts' Leonard Carmichael Society and the Tufts Literacy Corps. Every school day afternoon between 2:45pm and 6pm, multiple student Leaders and other volunteer Leaders are on hand at WMCC to assist youth with homework, provide tutoring, supervise computer use, and facilitate sports, games, musical fun, discussions and other activities according to youth interests and needs.

Special programs and activities unfolding over the next few months include Loring Greene's Tang Soo Do class, Math Games with Brian Collins, Discovering Politics with Attorney Neil Osborne, and Presentation Skills with Maria Scott. Youth will also have occasions to earn a Red Cross babysitting certification, plant bulbs for a WMCC Spring garden, watch movies, and enjoy other learning opportunities.

Since there are many new faces among both AYC youth members and Leaders, we are working together to reestablish a supportive

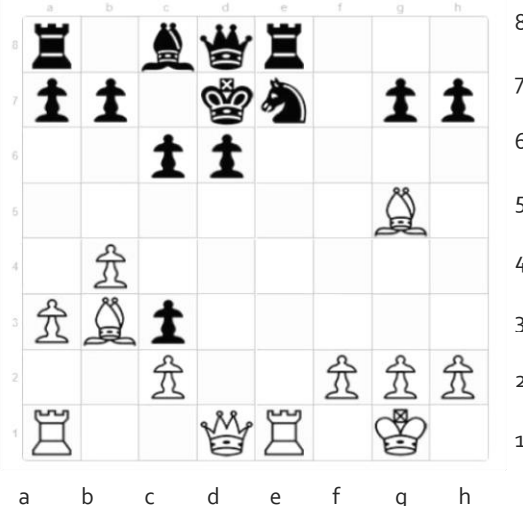
and productive club culture and environment. This includes formalizing and standardizing our practices and procedures to ensure we continue to operate safely and effectively.

The AYC is still enrolling members for 2014-2015. It is targeted to Medford students aged 10-14 years or grades 5-8, however it welcomes Medford high-schoolers seeking tutoring help. It can also accommodate children over 8 years who are ready to handle the relative freedom of a "drop-in" program or who come with a parent volunteer. WMCC is served by the Medford Public School buses (#5 from the middle schools, #7 from Brooks) making it an easily accessible afternoon resource for kids.

Organized as volunteer-supported community cooperative, the AYC is grateful to its volunteers for their time, energy, and commitment to the safety and growth of our Medford youth. **NEW ADULT VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!** If you are able and willing to help out, even a few hours a month – for example, to share career experiences or demonstrate a hobby—please contact Deborah Soule at MinM.



CHESS PUZZLE: WHITE TO MOVE



Find checkmate in 3 moves

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

2		4	9					5
			7		4	2		
	6	5	1		2		8	
3	7					8		4
	8	1		4			6	2
	2	9			5			
	5		4		1			7
9				2		6	4	1
	4	2	6	7			9	

Test Your Logical Thinking

WHICH DAY

Which day comes three days after the day which comes two days after the day which comes immediately after the day which comes two days after Monday?



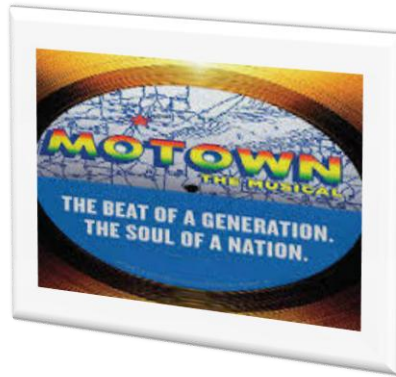
Answers given on the last page ...

Seniors Make Way to the Motown Sound

Our intrepid Senior Club was on the move once again in late January, making their way by Joseph's Limousine and Transportation Services to Boston's renowned Opera



House Theatre to see the highly successful and thoroughly entertaining stage play "Motown: The Musical!" A total of 22 Senior Club members and invited guests traveled to see an afternoon matinee of the crowd-pleasing show which featured a dazzling cast of actors, singers and dancers performing the greatest hits of the Tempts, the Tops, the Supremes, and even the Jackson Five. The song-filled saga revolves around the loosely told story of Motown founder and R&B impresario Berry Gordy. The traveling revue has been making its way around the US and with the help of WMCC Elder Services, the Senior Club pulled out all the stops to get



a fun group together for the nostalgic and energetic trip down Memory Lane. According to Gayle Thomas "It was captivating and really flowed." Rachel Tanner said, "It really took me back to those times when romantic slow jams really got things going."



VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUTS

Without U, there's no US

Bill Tanner

Mimi Olivier

Valerie Rice

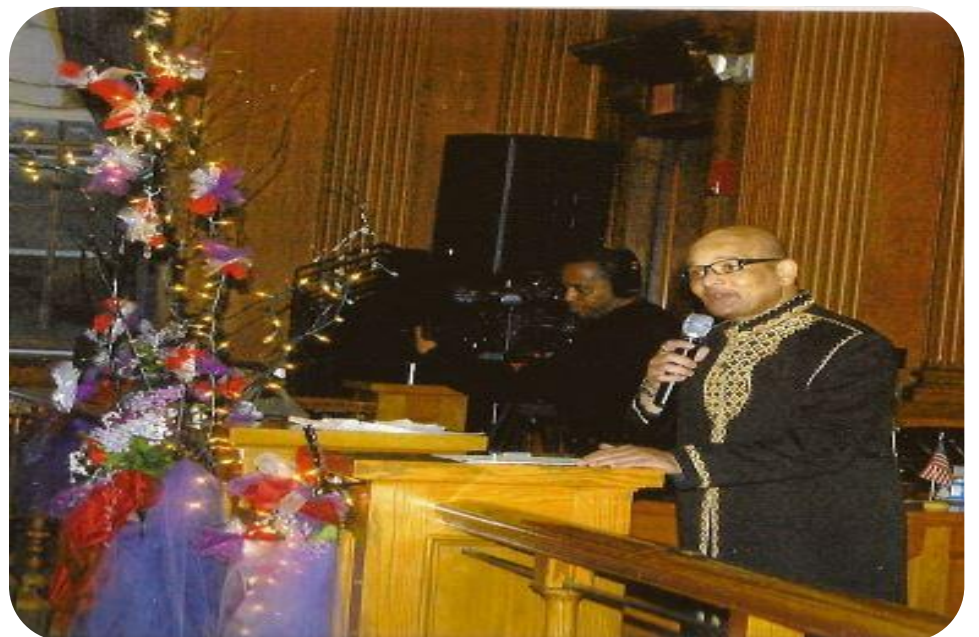
Beverly Rice

Leigh Canada

Joe Jones

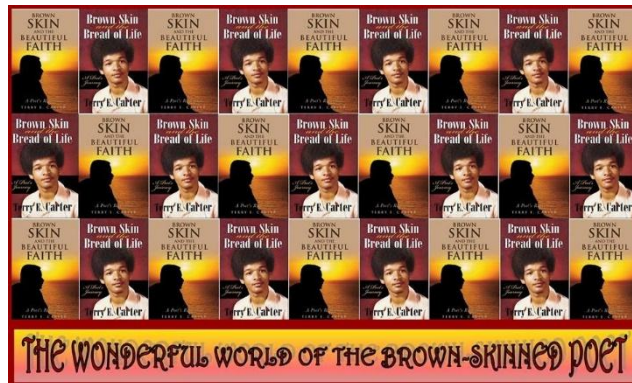
Ann Thompson

Eric Reed



WMCC Receives Two Tufts University Grants

WMCC received two checks totaling \$700 from the 2014 Tufts University Neighborhood Service Fund (TNSF) this past January. The funds were grant awards to Elder Services (\$300) and Youth Programs (\$400) for various program improvements. TNSF provides a number of small to medium sized grants to Medford, Somerville, Grafton, and Chinatown community-based organizations who successfully apply for the funding in the late fall of each year. The grants are funded by the annual Tufts University Appeal in which university employees contribute to charitable organizations of their choice. WMCC enjoys a great relationship with the local college and has a number of Tufts students volunteering weekly as tutors and mentors in our popular After-School Youth Club (AYC). Thanks to Barbara Rubel, Director of Community Relations at Tufts University, for keeping WMCC apprised of potential partnerships with the school and consistently looking for ways to promote the programs and services of the Community Center among the University's many constituencies. Said Rubel of these 2014 TNSF awards, "The range of proposals we receive reflects the diversity of the communities that Tufts calls home...We are proud to support organizations so deeply committed to fulfilling unmet needs and making a difference."



Fall Fashion Extravaganza

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The program raised over \$6,000 for WMCC and a good time was had by all. Special thanks to Mayor Michael J. McGlynn and the folks at Medford City Hall for providing an elegant and expanded venue for the evening's festivities.



**West Medford Community Center
Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors wishes to thank all of our sponsors, volunteers and members who have helped us deliver our message and move us forward. Special thanks to Terry Carter, Medford In the Middle, Leigh Canada and Jarrett Lovett for their contributions to our newsletters.

Not me, we



Brian Collins
President



Neil Osborne
Vice President



Lovita Strain
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Carolyn Rosen
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David Kilpatrick



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Stacey Moore



Loring Green



Jarrett Lovett



Dorothy Tucker



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HOW DID YOU DO?

Chess puzzle:
1. Q x d6+ K x Q
2. B f4 + K d7
3. B e6#
Checkmate!

Sudoku Solution

2	1	4	9	8	6	7	3	5
8	9	3	7	5	4	2	1	6
7	6	5	1	3	2	4	8	9
3	7	6	2	1	9	8	5	4
5	8	1	3	4	7	9	6	2
4	2	9	8	6	5	1	7	3
6	5	8	4	9	1	3	2	7
9	3	7	5	2	8	6	4	1
1	4	2	6	7	3	5	9	8

Which day?
Tuesday.



Mystic Valley Area Branch of the NAACP
Serving the towns of Arlington, Everett, Malden, Medford, Winchester, and Woburn

Coming Soon to the WMCC



See our website: wmcc.us for more information about upcoming events and potential new partnerships including:

- Community Breakfast Forum: Saturday, June 27, 2015
- Senior BBQ: Saturday, July 25, 2015
- Girls Basketball League Starts Tuesday, July 7, 2015
- Labor Day Block Party, Sunday, September 6, 2015

Check us out and like the WMCC on Facebook!



**Thanks for your ongoing support of the West Medford
Community Center, Inc.**