



*The Tree Unites the
Branches; The Branches
Bear the Fruit*

The ORANJ TREE

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PLENARY MEETING OCTOBER 2022

by Barbara Trought

The ORANJ Executive Committee followed public health advisories for two years: no large meetings. Then in October 2022 we came together once again for a Plenary Meeting.

More than 100 residents from New Jersey CCRCs arrived in Basking Ridge by buses and cars. And once again Fellowship Senior Living proved to be an excellent venue for our meeting. Volunteers, guided by RAC leaders at Fellowship Senior Living, welcomed us just as well and as warmly as they had in 2019.

NaCCRA Board Member Dan Seeger taught us about Decision Making Pathologies, using examples of bad decisions with which we were familiar, such as the NASA tragedies, New Coke, and the Bay of Pigs invasion. Good intentions can still lead to bad decisions.

Dan listed the causes of decision making pathologies and concluded by asserting that “we owe it to our organizations and our organizational colleagues to be quite conscientious about avoiding decision making pathologies.” Dan’s talk is at the top of the ORANJ Publications page at oranjccrc.org/publications/

After lunch, local police officers and a USPS security officer taught us how to counter new scams that bad actors perfected during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A very satisfied attendee wrote the following:

“The plenaries of the day were most informative and interestingly presented. The lunch was appetizing and very well presented, and for once I had the opportunity to walk around and see some of the program sites. I had attended the ORANJ meetings before, both the Spring and the Fall sessions every year, for quite a few years, until the breaking out of the Pandemic. I was so happy and grateful that we could resume this year after the sad break. It has always been interesting to meet and sit with the residents of the other CCRCs. ... The wonderful and extremely helpful Fellowship Village volunteers were very friendly and not tired of being repeatedly asked for directions.”

All in all—an excellent day for ORANJ and its members.

2023 PLENARY MEETING

OCTOBER 18 AT

MONROE VILLAGE

Executive Committee

RON WHALIN, *Fellowship Village*
President

VACANT
Vice President, Northeast Region
VACANT
Vice President, Northwest Region

RICK OBER, *Stonebridge*
Vice President, Central Region

BARBARA TROUGHT, *Medford Leas*
Vice President, Southwest Region

GARY BALDWIN, *Seabrook*
Vice President, Southeast Region

PAUL BASHAM, *Wiley Christian*
Secretary

WENDY GANSBERG, *Meadow Lakes*
Treasurer

RICK OBER, *Stonebridge*
Legislative Committee

MAGGIE HEINEMAN, *Medford Leas*
Communications

Members

Allegra at the Fountains, *Atco*
Applewood, *Freehold*
The Atrium at Navesink, *Red Bank*
Bristol Glen, *Newton*
Cadbury at Cherry Hill, *Cherry Hill*
Cedar Crest, *Pompton Plains*
Crane's Mill, *West Caldwell*
Crestwood Manor, *Whiting*
The Evergreens, *Moorestown*
Fellowship Village, *Basking Ridge*
Friends Village, *Woodstown*
Harrogate, *Lakewood*
House of the Good Shepherd,
Hackettstown
Lantern Hill, *New Providence*
Laurel Circle, *Bridgewater*
Lions Gate, *Voorhees*
Meadow Lakes, *East Windsor*
Medford Leas, *Medford*
Monroe Village, *Monroe Township*
The Oaks at Denville, *Denville*
The Pines at Whiting, *Whiting*
Seabrook, *Tinton Falls*
Stonebridge at Montgomery, *Skillman*
Wiley Christian Retirement
Community, *Marlton*
Winchester Gardens, *Maplewood*

ORANJ contact

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ORANJ ZOOM CONVERSATIONS SINCE APRIL 2022

by Andy Kleppe and Maggie Heineman

ORANJ now has monthly Zoom conversations. Before Covid, leaders of residents associations would get together in person at regional meetings, but with only varying degrees of success. An attempt at Zoom in the fall of 2020 failed. By April of 2022, the technology was well known and our monthly Zoom conversations have made it possible for us to become connected as never before.

Maggie Heineman is the host who sends Zoom invitations to presidents and other leaders of residents associations. Barbara Trought is the moderator, and Andy Kleppe posts a recap of each meeting on the ORANJ Blog. The topics discussed are indicated below along with links to Andy's recaps. To follow the links in this article, you will need an electronic version. It is on the Publications page of our website and each association president will receive both paper copies and an electronic version to relay.

[Wednesday, April 13](#), Ten residents associations were represented at the ORANJ Zoom Conversation. One participant wanted to know how other communities handled staff appreciations gifts; another asked whether other residents associations had formal or informal audits of their books.

[Wednesday, May 11](#). Fourteen associations were represented. Topics included staff shortages, outsourcing of Springpoint food services, acquisition of Friends Village by Fellowship Senior Living, the upcoming research survey on 2022 occupancy data, and Rick Ober's appointment as VP for the central region.

[Wednesday, June 8](#). Reps from thirteen associations were present. The conversation was an extended discussion of legislation concerning refundable deposits. For an understanding of this topic, go to the website oranjccrc.org/legislation/2022-refundable-contracts/

[Wednesday, July 13](#). LeadingAgeNJ/DE Leaders James McCracken and Megan Glaser along with Brian Lawrence and Liz Fandel from Fellowship Village were guests and spoke to residents from thirteen residents associations. The topic was the workforce crisis in the senior living and health care industry.

[Wednesday, August 10](#). Fifteen of the 25 residents associations were present. The Pines has been acquired by Fellowship Senior Living. There was a discussion about chaplaincy services.

[Wednesday, September 14](#). Thirteen associations. One topic was a request for suggestions about welcoming newcomers, which led to Paul Basham's article on page 4 of this newsletter.

[Wednesday, October 12](#). Fourteen associations. Residents reported on what their CCRCs are doing to reduce plastic waste. Mimi from Cedar Crest told us about Beyond Plastics, an organization that works to end plastic pollution.

[Wednesday, November 9](#). Eleven associations. There was lots of praise for the successful plenary meeting at Fellowship Village.

[Wednesday, December 14](#). Twelve associations. Gel Pens and a spirited discussion of the number of security personnel on duty during the day, and a suggestion for a survey on this topic.

[Wednesday, January 11](#). Eighteen associations. Topics included the Department of Community Affairs, the problem of mobility devices at dining buffets and Premier Cadbury in Cherry Hill.

NOMINATIONS

by Paul Basham
Committee Chair

Our ORANJ Nominating Committee is looking to fill the following three vacancies on the ORANJ Executive Committee:

Vice President for the Northeast Region

The CCRCs in this region are Laurel Circle, Fellowship Village, Lantern Hill and Winchester Gardens.

Vice President for the Northwest Region

The CCRCs in this region are UMC Bristol Glen, Cedar Crest, Crane's Mill, The Oaks at Denville and the House of the Good Shepherd.

Vice President of the Southeast Region

The CCRCs in this region are Seabrook, Harrogate, Crestwood Manor and The Pines.

If you or a resident you know would like to apply to serve on the ORANJ Executive Committee from the Northeast Region, the Northwest Region or the Southeast Region please send this information to

Paul Basham, 14 Privet Court, Marlton, NJ 08053 or email him

pjbasham@gmail.com.

A TRIBUTE TO CHAPLAINS IN OUR RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

by Paul Basham

Chaplains in retirement communities have a golden opportunity to help residents stay connected with the faith traditions in which they feel most comfortable. Even some residents who shun organized religion may welcome a chaplain on their own terms.

Some retirement communities have established prayer gardens as a place for meditation and spiritual reflection.

Chaplains will visit the sick and sit with families at the bedside of the dying.

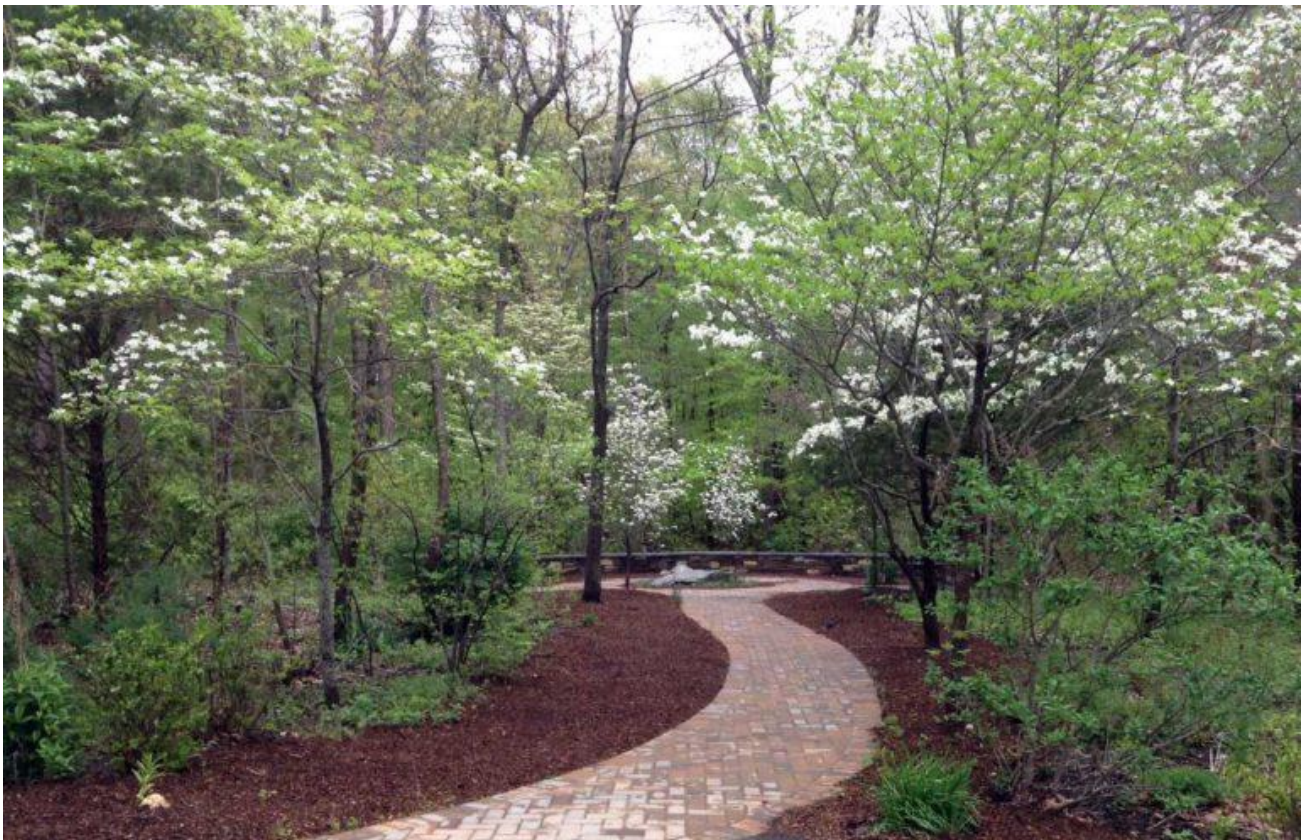
The duties of a chaplain in a retirement community may include roundtable discussions, hospital visits, bereavement support, interfaith worship, musical concerts and being available for personal counseling. In addition, they may participate in programs on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and 9/11 Remembered.

One chaplain helps to collect used clothing for a local thrift shop.

With a wide spectrum of religious traditions among the residents and even greater diversity among the staff and some who claim no faith at all, one chaplain said, "I find that my personal contacts with residents and staff throughout the day is my greatest value to a retirement community."

Even retirement communities that have no chaplain on their staff may arrange for clergy from the community to visit their campus on a regular basis.

As we reflect on the impact that Covid had on our residents and staff, we pay tribute to our chaplains who have helped us navigate through these troubled times.



Meditation Garden at Medford Leas

HOW RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

by Paul Basham

You have heard the popular saying, "You have only one chance to make a good first impression." This applies to the admission process of our CCRCs. I received responses from 16 retirement communities, and I learned much about the ingenious and creative ways CCRCs help new residents to join the family.

All the CCRCs recognize that new residents, on arriving at their future home, might be overly tired from the emotional and physical preparation for moving-in day. If new residents and their families get off to a rocky start, their distrust is heightened, and minor errors will be magnified. Most retirement communities avoid bombarding new residents with more details than necessary but supply them with just enough key information on "day one" to make them feel they are in good hands.

All the CCRCs that responded provide a packet of information for the new residents to digest at leisure and to be a resource for future use.

Moving-in day can be exciting not only for the new resident but also for the current residents who are wondering what changes the new resident will bring to their neighborhood. As moving vans come and go and as new people show up in the dining room, there is excitement in the air as the status quo is challenged.

Thanks to our correspondents for their responses:

Our welcoming team meets with the new residents and writes a page long story about them for our directory. David Watral, **Friends Village**

Our hospitality committee assigns each newcomer to an old timer who takes them to dinner and helps them meet residents with common interests. Jan Shannon, **Harrogate**

Name tags are important, but often overlooked, not only for the new residents but also for the long-term residents. Steve Smith, **Evergreens**

Under consideration is a New Beginnings dining room table for our new residents to meet other residents. Barry Falk, **Monroe Village**

Small things matter, like a potted flower delivered from a local florist to new residents on the day of their arrival. Laura St. Onge, **Wiley Christian Retirement Community**

Our welcome committee keeps tabs on all our new residents until they are comfortable here. Marjorie Macartney, **The Pines**

All recently arrived residents can meet other residents by attending our Chat Group that meets twice a month in the library. Beverly Glockler, **Stonebridge at Montgomery**.

Our welcome committee gets to meet prospective residents to answer their questions before they move in. Eva Herink, **Crestwood Manor**

We take great pride in our community and try to make our newcomers as comfortable as possible. LaVerne Miner, **Laurel Circle**

Our Director of Resident Activities invites new residents to a wine and cheese gathering where they can ask their questions. Anne Wolfe, **Meadow Lakes**

Welcome Committee members are asked to find out the interests of the new residents and connect them with residents of similar interests. Keesie Spector, **Lions Gate**

Potential residents are offered a limited stay in one of our guest apartments to give them a taste of Applewood living. Frances Cohen, **Applewood Estates**

New residents that are helped by our Friendly Visitor Program are soon out and about enjoying the new life they have joined. Kathleen Tarr, **Medford Leas**

The president of the Resident Association, Audrey Haimowitz, delivers a welcome letter to each new resident. Grace Flohr, **The Atrium at Navesink**.

Current residents who volunteer to be Angels can develop close bonds with a new resident that can last for years. Dr. Tom Vona, **The Oaks at Denville**

The **Crane's Mill** welcoming committee introduces new residents at the Residents Association meeting and posts their bio and photos in the library for all to see.

With the sun setting on the first day of a new chapter in a person's life, a knock comes to the door which swings open wide. There stands a neighbor, who with a smiling face, simply says "Welcome." All is well with the world. The first impression has been good, both for the resident and the community. The piles of boxes cluttering the room can wait for another day to be unpacked.