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Roosevelt Residents Favoring the Flavoring of Tea

MIDDLESEX COUNTY – Residents of Roosevelt Care Center in Edison did their part to revive a 17th Century English tradition earlier this month.

Approximately two hundred residents from both of the long-term care center's buildings attended a "high tea," with sessions from the three-day gala spanning between July 30 and Aug. 2.

A first for Roosevelt and most of its attendees, the event was an opportunity for residents to gab with family, friends and neighbors, try their knowledge at some historical and cultural trivia and taste test more than a dozen varieties of the British-favored beverage.

To the delight of residents and visitors alike, traditional settings and menu items were carefully situated on the linen-swathed tables, including, china, scones, Devonshire cream and appetizers.

"It was something different," said resident Roberta Loewenberg, who sipped on a steeping cup of her favorite earthy black tea. "They had all kinds of teas, cakes and cookies and the tables were decorated so beautifully. I had a wonderful time."

Keeping with a refined theme, many of the men sported suits, ties and boutonnieres; while most of the women showed-off their corsages, dresses and of course, hats– as any proper English gathering might require.

"A tea party that coincided with the London Olympics was a great idea," said Roosevelt Recreation Director JoAnne Franklin, praising administrators for first making the suggestion. "It's similar to elegant dining – where residents dress-up and gather with their families for a nice meal – except that the high tea was less expensive and had a larger turnout."

Operated by the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, Roosevelt and its recreation program, continues to receive some of the highest marks achievable from state surveyors year after year. Officials from both organizations say its superior ranking is a credit to Roosevelt's dedicated employees, volunteers and management.

“It’s about changing sceneries, evolving interests and improving our senior’s quality of life,” said Roosevelt Administrator Dr. Frank Damiani. “With those aims in sight and in reach, Roosevelt’s Recreation Department doesn’t leave much to be desired.”

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