



Rossmoor IN News

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The Columbia House in Cape May is ready for the Christmas season. See story, page 2.

Pioneering research on plants by a Rossmoor resident cited in magazine

Christine Wilson is an active and energetic resident of Rossmoor. At 95 years of age, she remains a remarkably alert and interested observer of the scientific world. Her contributions to that world were recognized in an article in the November issue of *Africa Geographic*, a prestigious, beautifully illustrated magazine published by National Geographic.

The article, entitled "A Meeting of Minds ---Tapping Africa's Seam of Botanical Gold," cites Ms. Wilson's pioneering work, published in 1947, when she was a biologist working for Merck & Company in New Jersey.

"In 1942, Merck and the New York Botanical Garden responded to a request to find a new malaria drug to replace quinine, which had become unavailable as the result of enemy interference in shipping," writes Cheryl Lyn Dybas, author of the article. She quotes Ms. Wilson: "A new

suppressive or prophylactic agent was essential to protect our troops in South-east Asia and other parts of the world where the risk of malaria is high ... we looked at plants from all over the world, including many from Africa, and screened almost 600 species."

Though no viable drug was found and Merck dropped the project in 1948, the research, largely forgotten for some 60

years, has been rediscovered and is being used as a resource for exciting new studies of African plants.

Scientists from Rutgers University; the University of Cape Town, South Africa; and North Carolina State University are following up on 200 of the plants. Supported by the non-profit Medicines for Ma-

Pioneering research continued on page 8



Christine Wilson's work is featured in *Africa Geographic*.

Holiday book drive is underway at library

Donations of new hardcover and paperback books suitable for children from preschool through adolescence are being collected at the Monroe Township Public Library. These will be distributed to disadvantaged children throughout Middlesex County during the holiday season.

The program, "Books to Keep," is in its 19th year. Since its inception, more than 140,000 books have been dis-

tributed. Books may be brought to the library through Tuesday, Dec. 15. To contribute toward the purchase of additional books for distribution, checks may be made payable to "Libraries of Middlesex" and mailed to Leah Wagner, Monroe Township Public Library, 4 Municipal Plaza, Monroe Township, NJ 08831, or brought to the library.

Church is collecting warm coats for needy

Give a gift of love . . . and make space in your closet at the same time.

Are you cozy and warm when you go out? Some folks aren't. Do you have to decide which coat to wear? Some folks don't even have one coat. With the cold winter weather approaching, we'd like to help them.

The Rossmoor Community Church is sponsoring a community-wide collection of gently used, clean warm jackets and coats for distribution to the needy through the Jersey

Cares Coat Drive. Bring your donations -- adult or children's sizes -- to the big box marked "Warm Coats for the Needy" in the vestibule of the Meeting House between Thursday, Nov. 12 and Monday, Dec. 14. The coats will be delivered to the needy before the holidays.

You might call it just an old jacket; the person who receives it will call it love! Thanks.

For further information, please call Alyce Owens at 860-0866.

Natural supplements to be aired at SPUH lecture

The last lecture for 2009 in Saint Peter's University Hospital's lecture series is "The Green Pharmacy---A Guide to Popular Herbs and Natural Supplements" by Mary Monaghan, RPH. Mary will review many of the popular common natural supple-

ments. She will discuss what they are used for, their side effects, and drug interactions. The lecture is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 14 at 1 p.m. in the Ballroom. If you are interested in attending, please call the Health Care Center at 655-2220.



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