

A Pandemic from the Perspective of a Sophomore in High School

Written by: Nazli Mohideen

Friday, March 13th, 2020

7:20 am

I race up the flight of stairs to English class and put my phone on silent before it has the chance to beep

I open my iPad to do essay research and draft an outline while my teacher sips on her Dunkin Donuts coffee and grades quizzes

I lazily open websites and read articles about the dreams of various authors when my only dream was to be able to still be in my bed asleep

8:27 am

I am stuck in a backed up stairwell going to second block, worried if I will be able to sit in my seat on time

I pray for people to move faster and for the halls to clear so I can run towards the art wing

Half awake and hungry, I grab my iPad and a charger to import my photos and edit them online

9:30 am

I fish out a pen from the bottom of my bag to take notes and discuss parenting styles with my group from childhood until all the way grown

We go to lunch and come back only to continue our conversation on mental health. Nervous to talk to the people in my group and scared of getting the wrong answer, I sat there wishing I was able to do it alone

11:27 am

I go into the locker room and change into proper clothes and sneakers for the dreaded pacer test

I stretch my legs nervously and am disappointed to find out that I did worse this time around than the last

Walking back to the locker room, I am annoyed that I now have to go home with sore muscles and shortness of breath

Not realizing that the second I left the building, I had no idea if or when I would return. Not realizing that the reality of a global pandemic would soon consume everyone's daily lives. Not realizing that there are people in hospitals who are falling asleep and not waking up, not realizing that people in crowded settings are contracting this virus and are now fighting for their lives, not realizing that people's mental health are deteriorating and depend on support lines as their only company, not realizing that people with shortness of breath today could easily be another number in a death toll tomorrow. This pandemic has taught me many lessons and not ones of how to navigate through a chaotic grocery store or manage online classes, but one that will forever stick with me: life itself is a precious thing that we should never take for granted. Live in the moment because we never know when it will be our last.

MY QUARANTINE EXPERIENCE

Before the pandemic hit, I was your average 15 year old girl who went to school, loved spending time with her friends, and stressed out over assignments. Now, I'm a 16 year old who has grown to obsess over news updates, gets out of the house by going on walks, and looks forward to the next time where I'll be able to see my family. My quarantine experience has been similar to many: lonely, boring, and repetitive. Although I have never lived through anything like this before, this whole pandemic has made me treasure a lot of the little moments in life.

I picked up new hobbies and I've been trying to learn more skills to pass by the time at home. I've been practicing photography, going on sunset walks around my neighborhood, and learned to navigate through zoom calls to keep in touch with people. I started digital art which is something I now love and even vlogged my last week of online school so I can in the future, I can remember what this pandemic was like. I've learned to venture out of my comfort zone by trying new things, but always find myself returning to the things I've always adored as well like baking and fitness. I've had painting sessions with my sister and found myself trying to be as creative as possible during this quarantine.

This doesn't go to say that quarantine has brought on some obstacles as well. Everyone is missing out on social interaction and normalcy. I've missed out on an end to a normal school year and even my family members were not able to have a full "senior experience." The new additions to my family this year- well, I missed out on a lot of their lives because I've been stuck at home and right after they were born, the pandemic hit.

Whether or not I live through another pandemic in my lifetime, it is safe to say that the coronavirus has taught me to live in the moment and go with the flow of life, rather than try to always plan for things in the future. A ton of the events I was looking forward to got cancelled because of the coronavirus like March Madness, the 2020 Olympics, and my cousin's graduation to name a few. Even though I was upset, I've learned to appreciate beautiful sunsets and family time and in general- life.

Some of my family members have actually died because of the coronavirus and others I know are still fighting it. Some of my family members are working the front lines at hospitals and are essential workers at places like the post office. And then there are also people like me. People who are simply observing the crazy world right now and writing it all out for you to somehow comprehend, although I can't seem to comprehend it myself.

I've always loved how photographs are able to capture moments of life along with the emotions of people. I hope more than anything, that this little entry served as a snapshot, or photograph, of my life right now. I hope that you were able to see that even though there was a negative situation, that I tried to make the best of it, and even though there has been losses to life, I have grown to be so appreciative of life as well. Coronavirus, you were definitely one for the books.

~nazli mohideen~

April 13, 2020

Like many of you reading this post, I have cobbled together a stay-at-home routine, the loose-leaf kind - plenty of pages, easily reordered. Thanks to a call from my daughter early on in the COVID-19 crisis, I was able to secure a supply of elastic, pull fabric from storage tubs, grab additional yardage from the thinning shelves at a local store and begin to sew and donate masks to St. Peter's Hospital and other essential workers. Three layers, two pleats and washable, handmade face coverings have become the everyman's PPE -- hiding smiles and dimples and the nose I never liked.

I find sewing cathartic. Sitting in my mother's old chair, leaning into the shadows cast by the machine's carriage light, the click of its needle pierces the fabric and secures elastic for unknown ears. There is the steady whirl of the washer and dryer sloshing and tossing fabric for a next batch of masks while an unattended flat screen provides a soundtrack of body counts, hotspots and *would've, should've, could've*s.

It is a weird time, a sad time, a time my mother would have dubbed "a test of faith." My father would have advised us all to "pull together and just work through it." They were hardworking, loving and tough. Wars, the Great Depression and poor health had shaped them into the most resilient, persevering, faith-filled parents that a now grown daughter could have ever hoped for. And, during a time like this, we all need hope.

I grew up on a small truck farm in rural Pennsylvania where a sewing machine was a must. Resources were modest, bartered or simply shared. Farm life may sound utopic, but really it is a difficult and precarious dance with Mother Nature as this pandemic affirms daily. Drought, blight, floods, disease, you name it and farmers have had to endure -- finding work arounds, banding together and at times, going out of business.

Fall meant harvesting the crops, freezing and canning and bedding the farm down for winter. It was also back-to-school and a much anticipated trip to the Old Trail Fabric Store for a few new McCall's patterns,

material and notions. Our clothes were mostly home sewn or hand-me-downs in good repair, nipped and tucked to fit the next in line.

My mother, Emma, was a talented, expert seamstress -- anal by today's standards, matching even the finest of plaids regardless of a zipper lap or sleeve cuff. She had worked in a dress factory in Northumberland, Pennsylvania that cut and sewed L'Aiglon dresses, a line of women's clothing catapulted by the Post WWII economic boom of the 1950s and women's desire for runway fashions on modest budgets. There was no room for sloppy sewing; jobs were important and coveted. One employee perk was access to scraps of fabric or bolt 'ends' that employees could sort through and take home for personal sewing projects. Until the day we sold the farm in the late 90s, the attic was filled with boxes of fabric she had gathered over the years and used to skillfully piece together hundreds of clothing items for family and friends, perfectly matched and beautifully sewn.

But, her attention to detail was most likely honed much earlier. During World War II, she worked in a retrofitted Westinghouse Electric factory where she tested battleship and submarine panels for the United States Navy. You may remember J. Howard Miller's iconic, "We Can Do It" poster created for the company and designed to spur on the thousands of women, *manning* the factories, to work harder for our boys -- their boys, fighting abroad. She was part of that female fueled workforce, tirelessly working long hours, on and off the clock, to ensure that each and every panel operated perfectly. Perfection was not just a standard, it was a must. "Our boys' lives depended on it," I vividly remember her saying. Whenever she spoke of that time in her life, I think her 4'11" stature swelled at least an inch with the pride she felt in her contribution.

So, what does all of this have to do with the day? Today would have been my mother's 97th birthday -- a Friday in 1923. She always regarded Friday the 13th as a lucky day, her lucky day. Today, April 13th begins another week of sheltering in place and flattening the curve. Although I am certain my sewing does not meet her standards, I am sure she is looking down from above, approving the effort. Happy birthday, Mom!

submitted by - Tammy K. Mitgang

I work in Monroe Township and I tested positive for Covid-19. This is my experience:

April 18, 2020

At first I, like many people, did not take the virus seriously. As time went on I started to watch more and read more. I wanted to try and educate myself on this killer virus. As more time went by it all became very frightening to me. As directed I began staying home and I did social distancing as much as I could. My mother is 80 years old and lives alone. She has health issues and I feared for her because I am an only child.

I started to get sick in the beginning of April. I thought it was the flu. I thought there was no way I had COVID-19. Still, I went to get tested and quarantined myself. It took over a week but I got the call, "you are POSITIVE for the corona virus". I cried. My life changed. Two weeks I spent alone, sick and scared. I have two married sons and three grandkids who all called twice a day and continue to call everyday even though I have recovered. My poor mom was worried sick too. All I could do was just pray that I would be okay and that she would be okay. I was so sick. I thank God I did not have to go to the hospital. I will forever be grateful for my husband, family, and friends for their caring words and constant calls to make sure I was ok. I recovered.

My life after COVID-19 will definitely be different. I will love and appreciate the simple pleasures life has to offer. I will not take so much for granted again. The highlight of my day are still the calls everyday from my sons, my grandkids, friends, and family. I hope even when things go back to normal they continue. I hope everyone stays safe and healthy xx

April 18, 2020

I am totally humbled by all the Birthday wishes this year!!



It's been a different type of "Birthday experience" being quarantined with family...

Grocery shopping online for my own cake mix and frosting and even after waiting two weeks for

my order to come; I recieved only 1 can of frosting and no cake mix
Cheese cake came to the rescue!!!



I also had a few bananas  that my friend Hitesh Patel had suggested adding a candle to it and blowing.

"44" has never felt so good...



Fortunate for turning another year and to be able to celebrate this year reflecting on life, the universe has shifted causing a sense of feeling as though being in one of the episodes of "Lost "

just reflecting back on past life and other days feeling like as though on the Titanic...



But on the flip side, I am more grateful to embrace life's simpler pleasures birds, the sound of water, the fresh spring filled air and for every moment sec /min/hour/day spent knowing I have

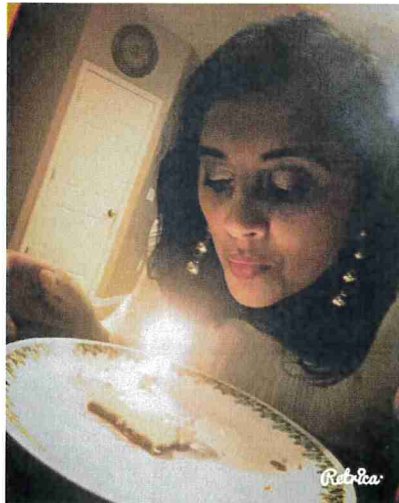
great family and friends who make my day so special



So this year my wish is for you...

I blew out my Birthday candles wishing for all my family and friends to stay much healthy and happy.

Pragna Raval



Heroes do not always wear capes

Brian Dunn is an assistant store manager at the ShopRite of Carteret and has been leading the store during the coronavirus crisis.

Dunn greets the early morning customers every day as they line up outside the store. He gives them regular updates on the deliveries so the customers are better informed of the food or supplies they need. Dunn was also instrumental in installing plexiglass at all of the checkout lanes weeks ahead before it became a law in NJ to have them. Dunn also lead the efforts to establish customer limits and checking employee temperatures before work.

Dunn was born in raised in Carteret. He has worked at the ShopRite of Carteret for more than 30 years. His leadership qualities began as an Eagle Scout when he was a child. The Sitar family who owns the ShopRite of Carteret commends Dunn as an essential food worker during this crisis.

From Judee Dunn

April 28, 2020



The Spring of 2020

Twas the Spring of 2020 when an evil came among us
Sprung from the East, it covered the world, they called it coronavirus
At first they kept it quiet but they couldn't keep it hidden
For the fevers and coughs and loss of taste had thousands more bed ridden

No one knew exactly how this COVID would unfold
News stories flooded airwaves as both truth and lies were told
Travel plans were cancelled, no more flights or sailing foam
But it wasn't just long distance trips, we were told to stay at home

The schools were closed and teachers had to teach their kids online
And non-essential businesses all put out their "We're Closed" signs
The restaurants and the theaters told us all we could not come
But the liquor stores were open for vodka, beer and wine and rum

We were told to stay apart from groups of 50 friends or more
Then that number dropped to 10, then 2, we had to close our door
The Grandparents were broken hearted, they couldn't see grandkids
While Moms & Pops were stuck inside trying not to lose their lids

We're using sanitizers, wipes and gloves as we go about our tasks
And now we're told that everyone must wear protective masks
But we're being innovative since being told not to leave our room
As we share a laugh or cocktails on our laptops all through Zoom

We're also spending much more time on FaceBook on our cells
Where all are posting comments that are giving away their tells
We never really talked about our thoughts on political trends
But we'll have to put that behind us and remember that we're friends

Now the group that we're most proud of are the nurses, techs and docs
Who are taking care of patients in the ERs round the clocks
They are gowning up and covering, working every night and day
And we know they're front-line heroes in each and every way

The truckers keep on truckin', the cops still walk their beats
Some over-restricted areas are bringing protestors to the streets
But we must be careful, people, states will open when they choose
For we want a good tomorrow, one in which we all won't lose

Our leaders try to calm us, giving hope and calming fears
But we find two sides who disagree amid the cheers and jeers
The experts seem to change their models each and every day
So we hunker down and look ahead to a very different way

It's early May, the sun is out, we see robins and a lark
The golf courses are all opening, we can take a walk in the park
We still must social distance, wear our masks into the stores
And hope and pray the virus ebbs and leaves our hallowed shores

But in the end remember, we're One Nation Under God
One family of Americans through the easy and the hard
We need to pull together, beat this nasty enemy
For the USA is home to all the brave and all the free

Brian Cardew -- 5/5/20

Lune Poem about the Pandemic

(English language haiku)

Can no longer be

All that was

Live and forge a new.

Lune poem by Jake Loarca

May 5, 2020

Flushed With Pride

by Maxine Kasdin

May 7, 2020

The beginning of 2020 has certainly been a learning experience. We speak with a whole new vocabulary: Covid-19, Corona Virus, social distancing. Pandemic, quarantine, virology and shelter in place. We behave as we have never behaved before. The further away our friends stay, the better we like them. Life as we know it now is peculiar at best and scary at its worst. My life, alone in my house, has become a learning experience as well. The people I have come to rely on are social distancing and I am trying to become more self reliant and self sufficient. This is great in theory but not necessarily in practicality. Case in point..... Good Friday. As is my daily routine, I woke up Friday morning, brushed my teeth and used the bathroom. Much to my dismay, it is a holiday morning in the middle of a pandemic and the toilet doesn't flush. I spent the next six hours repeatedly doing things that had worked in the past. I flushed every fifteen minutes and the water would go slowly down and make cute little gurgling noises but I knew that wasn't adequate. When I wasn't flushing, I was plunging, but that didn't make much headway either. I finally resorted to dumping buckets of water down the the toilet. No success! When all else failed, it was time to consult an expert; so I googled "how to unclog a toilet". After watching four YouTube videos, I realized that the experts' ideas were no better than mine. I then went to the garage to look for a better plunger, but instead found an old dust covered plastic shell. So old, that when I tried to open it, the brittle plastic crumbled. Inside, was something called Kleer Drain that looked like part of an old pogo stick. It claimed to be an instant drain opener. At first it seemed worth a try. Then I read the directions and scared myself half to death. They listed all sorts of safety precautions like taping a splash shield to the toilet and being sure to protect your eyes. The more I read the directions, the more frightened I got. They told of the power disk that would pop and the compressed air that would shoot through the pipes. Sounded like a nuclear explosion. I wasn't really sure that I wanted to do this. I thought again.... this is the holiday season when we celebrate the bravery of so many... what the

heck. I reread the directions several more times, taped the splash shield to the toilet, put on a pair of sun glasses, put the gizmo into the toilet, pushed hard and held my breath. There was a small pop followed by a soft gush of air. The toilet flushed!! If there was no pandemic, no social distancing and no holiday, I might not have been quite so brave. But, as it stands, my toilet flushes and I have earned my certificate as a HAP! (Half assed plumber)

To: Monroe Township Library Diary Project
From: Andrea Berke (*anjer @ verizon.net*)
Date: July 30, 2020

Andrea Berke's Pandemic 2020 Diary

Most people call me Andy. I was born in 1941 in Philadelphia, and my husband & I have lived at the Encore community since its very beginning in 2002. We are retired. I worked at a central NJ High School over 30 years, retiring in 2000. My husband retired in November 2001, shortly after 9/11 which he witnessed from his office.

Our retired lives thru the beginning of March were very full. Jerry played the trumpet in three local bands, golfed, bowled, entertained as a lecturer/performer at local venues. I was active in a few not for profits, played cards, belonged to two book groups & a discussion group, led discussion groups, participated in Encore community activities as the retired do. We went into the city & dined out often, visited friends & family.

We traveled extensively and just returned from a winter road trip which included a Caribbean cruise on a mega ship in late February, RT from Fort Lauderdale.

We arrived home March 5 and shortly thereafter, life as we knew it ended. This is the 120 day diary I wrote March 21 through July 30. Many of us think of it as Ground Hog Day as most days are pretty much the same. Sometimes only the diary helps me with what day of the week it actually is.

We have been fortunate on the face of it. No one in our immediate family has contacted the virus. We live in our own home and have not been affected economically.

We are overwhelmed by the political & social divisiveness and are aghast over the weakness and irresponsibility of our national leadership. I taught history for many years and never imagined the future of the republic could ever be in danger. This having marched protesting the Viet Nam War, teaching in an urban high school, surrounded by the National Guard following racial unrest. And, of course, 9/11.

And now, for all practical purpose, we are confined to our homes -except for occasional forays & video conferences-watching this catastrophe which is the

summer of 2020. unfold. And there is no guarantee that we will ever return to any semblance of the lives we led.

Day 1: March 21, 2020

Shirley Santos, the Encore community manager suggested in a post that we keep a daily diary during this lock-down period. So here goes. First case detected March 4.

It's early so haven't done much today other than be freaked out by the crisis in the Manhattan hospital ER's. Nj started drive-up testing in Paramus yesterday, ran out quickly. TV ran negative reports about it.

Also enjoyed neighbor Jeff Elkin's hilarious tour of Encore vis-a vis community e-mail.

We had great personal success yesterday. Found TP at Stop & Shop...and Jerry vacuumed. Neighbors are walking, but I think they are too close when stopping to chat. I went over to Gita & Ed's patio and visited-staying 6 feet apart. She asked what we are doing to keep busy.

Somehow we are filling up the time.

Started a Hot Topics e-mail stream. Lots of venting! Made a list and called everyone on it. You can hear the birds early each morning drowning out the roar from the Turnpike...Trees are about three days from full bloom.

March 22

Yesterday we learned to use Zoom. Connected Dave and we had a great video visit for @ 30 minutes. Doris Kastan called and we chatted. She is almost a prisoner in her assisted living facility in Alexandria. No visitors, meals in her apartment, temperature check if she goes outside

Texted Geri who is still in rehab. Also eating all her meals in her room.

Played Sequence for the second night in a row. Have to get Jerry to play more than one round. We are even in in games won. He went on You Tube and escaped into his world of music documentaries and practiced his trumpet. I watched Madame Walked mini-series on Netflix, but it bored me as did Second Chance with JLo. Finished Sophie Kinsella lighter than light novel. Checked out Facebook, e-mailed Sy Marsh-sad story with his wife Lynn, spoke to Sheila and they're doing well-even taking an art class on Zoom. Made delicious pizza using cauliflower crust for dinner! The mail is much lighter.

The kids are all ok. Maybe we should all set up a Zoom meeting! Sent a contribution to Joe Biden's campaign. Andrew Cuomo is emerging as a true leader as is our Governor Murphy.

March 23

Lots of phone calls today. Dave seemed in better spirits, Emma drove to the supermarket on a pork chop run to Candy's with her Dad, Shelley is in the midst of selling & buying house. The selling is not going smoothly, Marylynn & Bernice have postponed return North

indefinitely. We had Nathan's pigs in blankets for dinner & played Sequence & Jerry is now in the lead. Watched Spenser at Diana's rec. Nice escapist violent entertainment. The hero, Mark Wahlburger looked fit, but got beat up a lot. Boston is very realistic looking in this. This is two for two where Jerry & I spent the whole evening doing something together-a game and a movie! The Gursky's told us about ordering from Shop-Rite on line with curbside pick-up. Will try tomorrow Sherry & Elliot are freed from self-isolation and can now walk in the neighborhood and get take-out. They got Margaritas to go-I'm jealous.

March 24

Listened/watched Kelly & Ryan. Must be difficult skyping from your kitchen for an hour chatting about nothing. Savannah & Hoda are also chatting. It must be some kind of company for those alone.

BNC Exec board Zoomed yesterday for @ an hour. Cancelled all programs thru May. Went thru the list and decided who gets refunds and who gets credit. Lots of work for Eleanor & Dian.

The next meeting will be on an as needed basis. We will postpone developing the Summer/Fall Bulletin

once we have a handle on when people get back to work.

Tried to order groceries for curbside pick-up. Shop-Rite is booked for the next 10 days and is not taking further reservations. Stop & Shop canceled its store pick-up.

Tried to get some interest in on-line live canasta. Flamed out of that one. We played Sequence after dinner.

The Olympics are postponed for one year. The President wants to get the nation back to work sooner rather than later. Congress is still dithering about the bailout bill. It should get to the Prez today.

Turns out the President loves his daily turns at briefings and loves being President. But the messages he sends are confusing and change with the wind.

March 25

The Congressional Bill is ready to be voted on & passed. Two trillion dollars. Andrew Cuomo has become the must see briefing of the day. Terrific job. Watched a history lecture zoomed by the library.

This Is Us was really good last night. Season finale. We skipped Sequence last night. Gabi suggested we "happy hour" at 4 ish this afternoon. President predicted massive suicides if we don't get the economy working-he wants crowded churches on Easter Sunday. Spoke to David. He & his neighbors seem to be walking...more than here. We had lunch on the patio..cool but nice warm sun.

March 26

Watching Kelly & Ryan. Interesting point- the importance of giving the day and the date as it's so easy to lose track. Happy Hour didn't happen yesterday. Gabi had to go to Shop-Rite to pick up her on-line order. Long lines!!!!!! Rescheduled for Friday. Misunderstood her. She meant long wait to get reservation for order.

The Rescue bill passed the Senate last night, waiting for the House & the Prez. Hopefully will help the growing throngs of unemployed. It rained all day, but tomorrow we plan to walk. We are no longer watching TV after 11

And I've weaned off a lot of the news shows..

Big event! Washed the floors-first time in 17 years. Not so bad..and we put Sirius on hold for 6 months.

Spoke to Naomi & Henry last night. They had to cancel their Passover get together. Henry told a funny story. In a search for retired doctors they found him and reached out to him. Turns out there is another retired Dr. Henry Cherrick , but he's in his 60's. But they called at 3 AM. They still support the President, and Naomi can't stand Cuomo. Dr.Fasci was on with Chris Cuomo. He is obviously close to the family and convinced Chris to send his family away from him because of his contact with the public.

March 27

Actually got take-out last night -sandwiches for D&T. Several of us sat in Linda's driveway yesterday

widely apart and chatted mostly about the frustrations of shopping . Sondra and Shirley are trying to instigate a 1 PM neighbor greeting, I was it on Daisy Court,. But I think it will pick up. The Temple will zoom services tonight again.

Spoke to Marylynn last night. Turns out there is now a shortage of her Lupus medication as they are trying to use it for the virus. She has two months supply.

The President's attitude is so detrimental to the welfare of this country. Totally undermining the security of this country.

Tentatively will "happy hour" with Gabi later today.

Not calling around as much as we were in the beginning.

Saturday, March 28

We were invited to a Zoom Meeting with Dave, Barry & Debbie, It was fun. Decided not to go to a supermarket. The numbers of cases & deaths rose precipitously. Input my up-dated Hot Topics

e-mail list and sent inquiry if they want to try a Zoom Meeting on Monday. One new member asked to be removed from the invitation list.

Went for a walk around 1 PM. Did the whole circle (1&1/4 miles) Greeted several neighbors. It was nice.

Happy Houred with Gabi. Micheal is chafing under the in place regulations.

She is driving herself crazy.

The President signed the Rescue Bill-\$2 trillion and signed an emergency order enacting the National Emergency Act which empowers him to direct industries to manufacture needed materials.

He leads these briefings with inaccurate information and totally confuses everyone. Had he taken these actions two or three weeks ago the materials might be in place instead of in the pipeline for delivery whenever. The virus is sweeping the country and no one knows how many people have it. There appears to be a second wave in China. People are coming out of retirement to assist..and the President appears to be astounded that ordinary citizens are stepping forward.

We watched CNN Town Hall Meeting with Joe Biden. He was well prepared, articulate and responded well to the viewer questions which were skyped to him and Anderson Cooper. He was moved when speaking about those who have had to die alone. Mayor Garcetti of LA was interviewed in the following hour by Chris Cuomo. Cuomo has been doing an excellent job...very intense & precise. Garcetti was articulate and empathetic. Both men are photogenic to say the least. Anderson looks frightened.

I had planned to sing-along with Jerry and try to get a delivery shopping slot, but I could feel my tension level & blood pressure rising so I finished reading Lady's Man on the Kindle. It was ridiculous and very funny.

Sent a check to Maria for March. Texted Geri in answer to her questions.

Steffi called after dinner. We are going to try Zoom a family Seder on Pesach.

Sunday, March 30

Tried to place an order on Shop-Rite at midnight last night. Somehow or other my reservation never registered.

I find this very frustrating. We had a quasi Pu Pu platter last night for dinner. Watched part one of Unorthodox on NetFlix.

Sharon & Clive called early this morning and shopped for us and brought it down. It was really a wonderful surprise. We did find a box of gloves in the garage closet and even ordered face maska on

Amazon. There is now a voluntary order requesting that we not travel out of the state. The shelter in place is strongly underlined.

Amzon notified us that the face mask order has been withdrawn by the manufacturer. Jerry found another source. We'll see.

Sent out the invitation to tomorrow's Hot Topics meeting at 11 AM on Zoom. I am not good at figuring this out. Hope it comes off.

Day 10, Monday, March 31

The news is horrifying. Videos of refrigerator trucks loaded with black body bags outside of hospitals

are gut-wrenching. The constant pleas from mayors, governors, and families of those suffering fill the airwaves. And yet the president offers no understanding of what's actually happening. Dr Fauci & Dr Birxi apparently convinced him that lifting shelter in place /social distancing could lead to over 1.000,000 deaths. Best case scenario, 100,000-200,000

deaths. Restrictions are in place for at least another month. Yet, Trump goes on Fox and Twitter and spins nasty comments about political opponents. So discouraging.

The media is presenting interesting presentation using Skype and linking us to those on the front lines.

Imagine the Javits Center jammed with beds, a tent hospital set up in Central Park, And yet, thank goodness, we feel sheltered in our bubble wrap of a community. I hope our long-term planning has protected us so far. But I think that a little more than a month ago as this was gearing up, we were on a ship with 2500 people and lived in hotels the entire month of February. We haven't been out of the community for over a week except for a sub run. If it clears up later, we'll walk the circle.

Looking forward to our BNC Hot Topics Zoom meeting to see if I can pull it off.

The meeting was a great success and fun, too. We scheduled for next Monday again.

Quiet day otherwise. Laundry again, of course.

Texted with Maria. She received our check.

An example of the great job Shirley is doing.

Shirley Santos

Dear Residents:

This email is being sent in response to calls and an email requesting information on the virus in the community. Our Association counsel, who has advised that we will not identify any diagnosed individuals to protect their privacy. Any disclosures that are necessary to protect the public will be left in the hands of public health officials. Further, this information would not help you protect yourself because testing in New Jersey is only available to individuals who are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness. The public health recommendations for self-protection remain exactly the same whether or not certain individuals in the community may have contracted the virus.

The reason this notification is being sent to the community is to emphasize the necessity and importance of adhering to the recommendations of the CCD and the Government.

Day 11, Tuesday March 31.

The last day of March. We have been in this house in self-isolation since @ March 10. We returned from our drive home from south Florida March 4, including an overnight at Jay & Diana's. We realize that we are so lucky that we avoided the coronavirus epidemic while we were away. I cannot imagine being stranded away from home at this time. Nancy Pelosi is being interviewed on Morning Joe. She is magnificent, speaking clearly, frankly and affirmatively. Gov Cuomo was on with Lawrence O'Donnell last night. They were both moved as they signed off.

Spoke to Dave at length last night. It is tough being stranded in his home with so many memories popping up unbidden. Fortunately, he enjoys cooking and spends time preparing meals. Go know he would be the one inheriting Mom's culinary skills.

Finished a foolish Sophie Kinsella novel, joining the list of books I read and forget rapidly..Today I will carve out time of which I have an excess, to take the AARP driving course. Never happened. Maybe tomorrow.

We are staggered by the loss of life and widespread infection, and this morning retailers furloughed hundreds of thousands workers. This means they are eligible for unemployment and right now their benefits stay in place. I fear that the economy will never recover from this.

Stephanie Ruhl is on right now talking about the difficulty about actually getting money that will help pay the April 1 bills. Furthermore, she pointed out that the president does not support any oversight on the \$50 billion dollars business fund.

Day 12, Wednesday, April 1 April Fool's Day

The President's Daily Press Conference was more solemn than before. He laid out the terrible two weeks before us. The number of predicted virus infections & deaths has reached a dreadful level. It is predicted that projections indicate a possible 100-200,000 deaths and possibly more in the next few months. Some states seem to have flattened the curve-California & Washington instituted early stay at home orders. There is a battleship which has an outbreak and Holland America's Xandam & other cruise ship are searching for berths to dock with sick passengers and 4 corpses aboard. Gov DeSantis is very reluctant to issue a statewide stay in place order. The President still resists centralized distribution of materials -ventilators and PPE. Joe Biden was on with Brian Williams, but the Democrats are eclipsed by these daily press conferences. And the President and McConnell have decided to blame their lack of attention early on to the corona crisis to the time consuming Impeachment trial.

We are now advised to have face covers when we go outside.. Chris Cuomo moderated his show from his basement where he is self-isolated. Has the virus.

So, we're staying home, which can be dangerous itself. Jerry tripped over a floor mat in the garage yesterday afternoon. He had difficulty getting up and didn't call for me. Fortunately, he pulled himself up and only scraped his knee. I tripped off the top step the other day without injury. But we both have to be very cognizant from this point onward. I threw the mats away. We watched an one hour lecture sponsored by Brandeis University on the history of Yiddish culture in Israel. Interesting! She pointed out that the haredi use of Yiddish in Israel does not apply to Yiddish culture as they consider literature & theater frivolous.

I see the sun out the window. First time in days.Lots of e-mailing yesterday. Set up an Encore Book Club vis-a-vis Zoom for this evening.

Diana is going to set up one today or tomorrow . Oh, we are tech geniuses!

Day 14: Thursday, April 2

Book Club was a great success last night. Then Jerry & I watched Tiger King on Netflix. Weird documentary about the strange personalities who inhabit the world of trading in exotic big cats. Like carnies almost who gather groups of the lost around them. Murder, mayhem & mystery, indeed.

It's fun getting together on Zoom, but I think I will start calling again. But I am looking forward the zoom meeting with the family this afternoon.

Short entry today. I completed the AARP Driving Course. Dropped off the contribution to the community "chipp in" for the First Responders and walked the circle. Family Zoom was fun. We are going to do in Thursday at 5 for the time being!

Day 14. Friday, April 3

It's almost 3 PM. Much later in the day than I usually post. I actually got dressed and washed my hair today. Looks good.

Spoke to Marylynn last night and she said the Z-pak was helping her bronchitis. The medication being touted for the virus is her long-term lupus stalwart. She's worried she won't be able to get it. We had great success with Pop's Farm Market digital ordering. Just one little glitch. I ordered 1 lemon & 1 lime. I got 11 limes...everything else was perfect. The bread & the donuts was delicious. Looking forward to the giant cookies & the blueberry pound cake! Fruit and veggies look great, too.

Took forever to clean the fruits and vegetables. I think I wore gloves for 3 hours! The virus is spreading rapidly. The NYT did a four page spread on Paterson. There were also mind boggling graphics on the changing distances traveled in the states and the equally mind-boggling unemployment figures. The government has been inefficient and woefully slow in protecting the supply chain and feeding the unemployed. I am very worried as are we all. The Holland American ships docked in Fort Lauderdale, but not everyone disembarked.

The Zoom meetings proliferate. Sherry & Elliot invited us to their seder on Wed at 6.

Don't know what time the kids are planning ours. The Temple is doing one the second night and we have Hot Topics Zoom on Monday and Chauverim Zoom the first Sunday in May.

Sent a contribution to the Central Jersey Food Bank and a condolence card to Gayle Halbfish. It is sad enough, to lose Murray, but not to have the comfort of visitors is really tragic. Have a call scheduled with Gabby tomorrow, She's so busy working herself to a frenzy listening to political calls, finding jokes, forwarding anti-Trump articles.

Lila posted an adorable little video on Facebook.

Day 15, Saturday April 4

9:30 AM: Just had a shocking phone call. Lou died suddenly. of a massive heart attack. The shock and the logistics in the middle of all of this are overwhelming.

Made a really good chicken dish for dinner last night, using the thin sliced chicken breasts Sharon bought last Sunday. The produce we picked up at Pop's yesterday is terrific...so many veggies for the salad and wonderful baked goods. Still haven't heard from the kids about the seder get together on Wednesday. The calendar is filling up with Zoom dates.

Am going to sign up for lectures online Monday afternoons at 1. Carol A is a font of info. Great news from Shirley Santos- Encore is virus free! Lecture series is sold out.

Watched a little of Jimmy Fallon broadcasting from his home. His kids are really funny. Not much on the to do list today. Tomorrow night we light the yartzeit candle for Mom & Jack. So odd it is the same date.

Day 16, Sunday April 5

Presidential announcement that the next week will be the worst. The township sent out a list of local restaurants who deliver- on their website. Had another good dinner last night- Jerry grilled steak. Two for two.

Yesterday was a day of lots of phone time. The shock of Lou Friedlander's sudden death reverberates. The impact on funerals & shiva is so devastating. Jerry spoke to Bruce, Len and Shelley. I spoke to Sheila, Geri, Doris, Gabriela & David. Messaged Jay Lurie & Sy Marsh. We watched Netflix documentaries together last night: short gems on Luna a maxi-marathon champ, runs in sandals and a traditional Chihuahua skirt, the making of Unorthodox, the first mini-series partially in Yiddish, and a beautiful video essay on foods of China.

Lit a yartzeit candle for Mom & Jack.

It occurred to me that I have changed my morning pattern to adjust to the virus. I shower every other morning and take my pills before I pick up the paper...then, of course wash my hands again. Doing the laundry much more often. Just watched another advisory on disinfecting the house. Especially shoes and outerwear. Glad we've been so vigilant about staying inside. Each Walmart store is allowing a maximum of 5 people per 1000 feet. Social distancing marked out for those in line. One way aisles. The lines outside of stores seem daunting. Heard that the line out of Trader Joe's in South Brunswick on Route 1 was out to the highway!

Just tried to get on the Shop-Rite site on on-line ordering. *There is a 10 minute wait.*

Checked last time we were in a market was March 21.

Day 16: Monday, April 6

Somehow filled the 2 hours until I sat down. Time disappears, I followed some tips for Zoom broadcasting-elevating laptop-fixing hair and putting on make-up.

The Farm Stand is totally overwhelmed. Hope they'll be caught up later this week. The fresh produce has been wonderful but as they say-"the stockpile is dwindling."

Lou's funeral will be on zoom. We are not going to view.

Sharon & Steffi have scheduled the seder for Wed at 6. They sent a haggadah photo so we can all be on the same page. Should be fun. Went on a mad search for our Passover ritual stuff. I must have gifted it to someone. I don't know what we'll eat for a seder meal.

Watched PBS last night for several hours. Something about fictionalized shiny war stories doesn't sit right with me, but I'm sure I'll watch it often & keep up with the running plts.

Masks are on the way...from China. I keep thinking that when they come in I'll venture into a store & try to get toilet paper, paper towels **and** beef and/or fish for entrees.

Seem to be changing batteries on remotes and the key board!

Nixle injected a bit of humor into yesterday into the daily up-date. The cops are on the look-out for a thief who is stealing thousands of eggs. Has white fluffy ears!

Am slowly wending my way through Witch Elm by Tana French! now turn TV off at 11 and read. It helps Jerry sleep better to have the room quiet..

We have scheduled a Zoom Hot Topics later this AM.

Day 17: Tuesday, April 7

Hot Topics went well yesterday, even tho I forgot to turn on sound at the beginning. They could hear me but I couldn't hear them for the first few minutes. Good news this AM.

Sherry's got another great nephew. Mazel Tov to the Schleins!

Didn't sleep well. Finished Witch Elm by Tana French. Psychological twists and turns.

Today is the Wisconsin Primary. I am beyond furious with the Supreme Court, refusing to uphold the Governor's mandate to extend the mail in voting by few days so that citizens don't have to risk their lives to vote. There are long lines of masked voters waiting in lines in masks to cast their ballots. Meanwhile, the acting assist Navy secretary resigned after his insulting speech to the sailors on the USS Roosevelt, the Inspector General who was to monitor the 2 trillion dollar Congressional Rescue program was fired, & there is a change in the White House press office. What a disaster this president has been!

We did a dress rehearsal for tomorrow's Berke seder. It was fun.

Spoke to Judy G, Marylynn & Dave. Cleaned & vacuumed (together!)

Day 18: Wednesday April 8

Passover 2020

Some encouraging news. Sounds like the curve on the virus may be flattening in this area. The African-American community is really hard hit by this, reflective of the poor healthcare in their community. Talk of anti-body testing to see who is virus free and/or immune because they have indications they have had it.

Governor Murphy extended the social distancing order for 30 days and closed the parks. Watched the new David Burns doc on Genes. Really well-done...then skimmed a bit of Rachel & Cuomo. Chris is battling the virus and conducting his nightly show. It was so strange to have a primary night with no coverage..and the relatively few voters staying in line separated by 6 feet. The British PM, Boris Johnson is in the ICU on oxygen.

Still the nightly press briefings continue with Trump pivoting on his position daily & blithely firing anyone who is in place to be a watchdog! He's still pushing hydroxychloriquin (anit-malarial drug.)

The take-out worked out well. First of all, it was really a delicious treat. Veal parm, soup & pasta. We had it delivered. Emptied box, took items into laundry room, sprayed packages

with Lysol-not on food. Put food in microwave dishes and nuked them & brought soup to a boil before serving. The offer was two parm dishes for \$20. We put the second serving in the freezer. A good experience.

Lots of email activity with clever parodies and/or outraged political statements.

Going to figure out a meal for Passover,,,think I do have ingredients for haroseth, So we can have some semblance of a seder plate with matzo, celery & horseradish.It should be great to see everyone tonight- on video!

Robert showed up. Fertilizer is in place for the bushes! Saw the first ant in the house.. Hope whatever what the exterminator sprays next week keeps them under control.

Chaos, communication, confusion & corruption is a danger sign for trouble ahead says Mika Kozynski on Morning Joe

Doing a zoom with Dave & Diana et al tomorrow. Strange conversation with Dave yesterday. He is too isolated & depressed. And feeling he shouldn't impose on Emma & Ally & justifying those who are anti-PC.

Received March Fidelity Statement. Down under 10%. Jerry thought it would be more.

Day 19: Thursday April 9

Well, we donned the masks (bandanna & scarf) and ventured to Walmart. Jerry looked like a bandit. I was Mata Hari. My scarf kept slipping when it wasn't suffocating me

The store website indicated that there was TP in stock. There wasn't but there was paper towels & kleenex. Also picked up onions, oranges, bananas, butter, cream cheese & dw detergent. Have to plot a way to get protein/entrees into this house. Store was relatively empty-both of customers & stock. So we think there was not much risk.

Powered up @ 4 PM to make haroseth and a kugel for our faux seder. Lots of peeling & chapping & I only used 3 apples, a few boards of matzo & almonds/, walnuts/raisins! Seder itself was wonderful-no Justin, Julian or Felicia. Alexa had to work late, finishing projects before she goes on furlough. Clive did an amazing job. It was short & sweet. Everyone looked great. It was Clive & Sharon, Steffi, Gary & Alyssa, Lauren & Ellie, Courtney & Dani, Arlene & Arnie, Scott's daughter & her boyfriend(so adorable) and Mike and Sheila.

On the news front-another event filled day. Bernie dropped out of the race, pledged support to Biden, but wants a voice in shaping the platform, so will let his name remain on the ballot on the remaining primaries. His impact has been stunning. The in-coming virus cases seem to be declining-so social distancing is beginning to have an impact; however, the deaths are rising and the total number is the worst ever. Some speculation that the huge impact on NYC & the state is due to the refusal to cut off immigration from Europe in February & March.

Sherry & Elliot self-isolated when they returned from Italy, but I wonder how many others on their plane or all the planes which landed at JFK that day alone did the same.

The President is eyeing May 1 as a day to get the country back to work. We'll see. Fox is blasting that it is ridiculous to keep healthy workers home and the rising unemployment figures are disastrous. Barr & Pompeo are picking up the President's whine that the news media & Dems are picking on him. The virus is hitting NJ nursing homes very hard. There is a combination of the frail immune systems of those housed in close quarters and the shortage of health care workers-some of whom have contracted the disease itself. Meanwhile the Democrats are passing bills to establish mail-in voting nation wide and the Republicans are trying to limit voter eligibility by shooting down the bills protecting voters rights and using the courts now filled with Trump appointees.

Watched an Amazon Prime film most of the evening while Jerry practiced. Many of the daily shows are struggling to present something on air. Even they are pretty desperate. There is some scientific reporting that this could stretch out for quite a while until they get a vaccine or a test to see who is immune. It's unbelievable to contemplate this being the new isolated normal.

Day 20: Friday, April 10

The unemployment figures are staggering...and this does not include those who couldn't file. Ten % of workforce is out of work. The President wants to open the country by May 1, the Governor of Florida wants to open school (no children have died in this pandemic!) Trump also maintains it is impossible to test the antibodies of all Americans. Meanwhile, Americans continue to plan interesting ways to entertain themselves and Zoom use has increased one hundred fold.

Speaking of Zoom, Diana, Dave, Emma & Ally chatted with us yesterday afternoon. The girls look gorgeous. My thick white part....is getting wider! Seems as though Richard's business is open and they are not keeping their distances. Interesting..Candy's cat apparently took a two week walk about. Home now!

Started *The World That We Knew* by Alice Hoffman, our May Book Club book. I think this title probably describes our lives before Feb, 2020. The novel starts with the creation of a golem to protect a young Jewish girl escape from sure extinction by the Nazis. WE need that golem right now.

Wild short storm yesterday afternoon. Strong winds, hailstones amidst the falling blossoms. Then the electric failed for two hours-the wind knocked over a tree & brought down a line. But the generator kept us going, cable & all!

Made a delicious matzo fritatta for dinner. Escaped to *Midsommer Mysteries* and *Gray's Anatomy*.

What a wonderful picturesque setting for picaresque murder mystery based on a mural in the crypt of an old church. We had homosexual awakening, an ambitious female cleric, a rising river with bobbing boats and more-all in 90 minutes! Oh, on Gray- Richard does not have Alzheimers after all. Needed a gory hip replacement During a surgery, one of the doctors receives a phone call from his bride to be which is a butt call of his love having sex with his main romantic rival, just hours before the wedding..

Cuomo continues to be a great communicator. He pointed out that while there are fewer new cases the death rate continues to rise. The question -how can this country carry on emotionally & economically
Nothing is pre-chartered here. It all depends on what we do. Function of what we do and how we do it,
All of the projection models were wrong. Difficult to convince general public to buy into self-quarantining. Windy today,.....

Day 21: Saturday, April 11

Only 2 months until my 79th birthday. Is it too much to hope for that we can go to restaurant, let alone a Broadway show?

Carol A sent a terrific link to a Jewish Culture event site. Links to You Tube. Wonderful viewing.

I am going to figure out how to watch You Tube on the bigger screens. Every time I started to stream TV someone called, but if using On Demand you can turn right back on without restarting the site.

Not much today-domestic stuff. Find we are changing sheets and doing laundry more often. The masks did not arrive as promised. I think we will go to a supermarket(in scarves & gloves) to get some meat & fish. We made tacos for dinner last night, crab cakes tonight.

Didn't feel like make calls, but I guess we'll resume outreach this week-end. Lots of phone calls today. Set up Zoom for Wed @ 6PM for Sherry's Birthday. Wish we lived closer to Dave. He's lonely!

Day 22: Sunday. April 12....Easter Sunday

It's 11 AM. Slow start to the day. Here's a first-let my hair dry naturally rather than blow it out.

Looks about the same – not great. Am reading three books at once...two on the Kindle, one hard-back library book, borrowed from Arlene, which I want to complete & return to her early next week. Each is so different that I can keep track easily. Am going to try to visit some art museums online today. I am not unhappy or particularly bored, If it wasn't Easter Sunday, we could attempt food shopping as the refrigerator is echoing. The plan is to go Tuesday, giving them time to stock up following the week-end. The masks, promised Friday, are somewhere in the supply chain...or not. Refund is an offered option now. Sharon called. Good conversation...

Walked the circle. Several walkers. Some in groups...one large high spirited one @10 wearing improvised Easter Bonnets...rabbit ears, decorated straw hats. Good to grab fun as you can!

Day 23: Monday, April 13

Neither of the Amazon orders (masks TP) is going to materialize. We are in the middle of a strong storm which is predicted to last all day with high winds. There is a decrease in the number of new hospitalizations. But the hospitals are still overwhelmed as the virus requires lengthy stays. The impact on healthcare workers has been immense. Social distancing has worked, as has the dedication of those working to keep us safe, fed, with utilities running and children educated. But the vast distances in American society & economy has proved deadly. There is nation-wide cabin fever. And we have it too.

Great debate on when it is prudent to "open the country up."

So yesterday, spoke to David who was busy cleaning the garage. He found Diana's Cabbage Patch dolls which he posed with Cleo in a cute text. I read, watched Netflix and PBS BBC gems. Jerry is transfixed by the Science Channel. We played a close game of Scrabble after dinner- cauliflower crust pizza. Tasty!

Day 24: Tuesday, April 14

Wisconsin Primary results finally in. Biden won handily, and the count revealed a 100,000 margin in favor of the Democratic candidate for a seat in the state Supreme Court. This after the State Supreme Court and the US Supreme Court overturned the Democratic Governor's attempt to postpone the primary until after the pandemic. Joe S calls Trump toxic.

Long, crazy press conference lasting hours yesterday.

The storm raged all day with winds & downpours. Little Daisy Court impact, but Route 18 flooded near Cranbury Road. WE stayed in and did our own thing. Finished "American Dirt", binged Netflix Welsh series. "Each had promising beginnings but failed to hold my interest half-way thru.

Jerry made 2 fabulous Cosmos for me, but they attacked me as the evening went on. Didn't do anything substantive yesterday or today.

NYT: Headline: NJ Testing is in Chaos. We have to go shopping, We've played Sequence two nights in

a row. Chatting with Dave almost every day.

Listening to various reports has made me really anxious. It is like the days of horror during the Viet Nam war. Videos of corpses piled up in hospitals freezer storerooms, people getting the virus a second time, Latinos & African Americans dying at a much greater rate than the populace at large. I wonder that we will ever get out of this mess. We constructed masks out of cloth/paper & rubber bands.

Day 25: Wednesday, April 15

Shopping success this morning. Put on our masks & gloves and went to Stop & Shop, where they were distributing masks. Store was relatively empty. We thanked the cashier. The store is marked with one way aisles and six foot marks to wait in line. The cashiers are wearing gloves and there is a Lucite shield between the shoppers & the cashier.

We were able to buy TP & paper towels. No napkins, but the towels will suffice. Stocked OJ & milk and other items which should carry us for a few weeks., especially chicken breast & chopped turkey.

It is exhausting, Wearing masks & gloves, emptying the groceries in the garage, spraying every item and spraying with Lysol. Then washing most things. Using Purell numerous times, washing hands & this & that. Spraying g coats & shoes and keeping them in the laundry room & garage, The masks are suffocating. Sent an email (shopping lists) to the farmers' market, but have not heard back yet. We'll see. Still have to pick up a Rx & do a liquor run. Our Amazon orders of masks and TP have not arrived. Ordered a few things (@\$200 worth) from Costco, but it is not possible to get delivery from their food department. Sure sign of spring-the sound of the lawnmowers!

Had a wonderful dream last night where we were all dressed up on a glamorous cruise ship surrounded by friends laughing and having a wonderful time....in his dream, Jerry was working on WHN & got lost trying to get back to the studio. Interesting comparison of attitudes!

Have a Zoom Birthday Happy Hour scheduled with Sherry & Elliot. Bought a festive cupcake and have the Prosecco on ice. It will be great fun! Bought a Stop & Shop store roasted chicken for dinner.

Watching AOC & Dr. Birks, distanced guests on The View as I finish this lengthy entree. Impressive women. Stock Market took back more than it gained yesterday.....

Long cozy chat with Irene.

There is a protest in Detroit against the stay at home ruling by Michigan's governor. Young men waving flags w/o masks walking disregarding the 6 foot guidelines & driving through the streets. Follow-up tomorrow. The COVID numbers are moderating in NY, but the overall stats are horrifying. They are adjusting the total number of fatalities by adding those deaths of people who were not tested but in all probability died of the virus. Bodies are being buried unidentified in the former Potters Field. Some places such as nursing homes are death traps.

Day 26: Thursday. April 16, 2020

Joe Biden was impressive this morning on Morning Joe. The pandemic & economic situation is dire.

Mitch McConnell refuses to move on a further domestic aid bill. He and the President are honing in on getting more big business assistance and ratifying even more judges. The right wing protesters and the President want to "open the country." We all want to open the country, but containing this virus is paramount. The search for a vaccine is high priority,

Pop's Farm filled my order. The pantry is now well stocked, and Jerry has calmed down. Our Zoom cocktail hour with Sherry & Elliot was great fun. Gov Cuomo is very present. He was on with his brother last night. What a terrific relationship. But watching MSNBC & CNN last night made me too anxious. I escaped into Iceland-The Valhalla Mystery – dark & fascinating.

Bev Haber's sister died not the virus in Florida. Particularly poignant in this era of self-isolation
Family zoomed at 5. Fun, Kids are bored.

Day 27: Friday. April 17, 2020

The front page is frightening. The economic situation is frightening. Surely the government can structure a safety net. The Trump apologists are pushing a story that this virus is no worse than the flu or car accidents, including Dr Oz & Dr Phi. Irene forwarded a "news" broadcast from Gravitass, a media company based in India, laying out a logical "expose" of the virus being a Chinese plot to take over the world. It could be, but it makes no difference. How are we going to save the country now?

Blame game to follow. If this virus is a hoax, what about the urgent request for body bags in nursing homes?

Finished Richard Russo's book, Chances Are... Murder mystery based on the vagaries of free will.

Three college friends meet at the house where they last met 40 years previously to reminisce on their lapsed friendship & try to solve the whereabouts of JC, their beautiful companion. Also finished bingeing The Valhalla Mysteries on Netflix...Icelandic police procedural. Dark, violent, Kia the lead detective gets brutally beaten several times, as does her cohort. Still better than real life.

Re-run of Antonio's veal parm. just as delicious defrosted. Phone contact with Jason at Fidelity, we're staying put for now. Watched a bit of Bnai Shalom Friday service and spoke to Sheila Friedlander for a bit after dinner. Our attempt to watch Netflix tonight was dreadful. Have to do research for our next streaming excursion.

Day 28: Saturday, April 18

Slept poorly last night. Read for a few hours in the wee hours. Little chores this morning and not much on the agenda except a scheduled phone call with Gabi later. Opened pkg from Costco. It was clothes which fit.

There are little glimmers of the possibility of allowing some businesses to open. But I don't think that those of us over 70 will be returning to the world until there is a vaccine. Testing programs are seriously overloaded but the hospitals incoming are manageable, The death rate is dreadful. Reminds me of the Vietnam death rolls.

Margit Feldman died. She was a Holocaust survivor who spoke to our classes many years ago. When we put a seminar for our Plainfield HS 8 community. A very brave woman throughout her life.

Lots of phone calls today. Gabi & I burned up the wires for a long time. Spoke to Dave after dinner, we watched part of the One World concert "together." Some wonderful performances- JLo singing People in a lovely voice we seldom hear, The Stones, Sam Smith & John Legend, Taylor Swift in Get Better, an original, I assume, and Lady Gaga opening the show in a gorgeous version of Smile as well as closing in a breathtaking ensemble with Celine Dion, Andrea Bocelli with Lang Lang dramatically on the piano, The Prayer.

Day 29: Sunday, April 19

I lost track of the date as I started today. Ground Hog Day indeed. It's a beautiful sunny day. We're having waffles for breakfast, nuked some raspberries for a topping, CBS -Sunday Morning-cute segment on Drive Thru boom. Americans are innovative. The President is an outlier & encouraging civil unrest. Take-out for dinner, Hope we're careful enough. Up-graded Zoom paying for a year in advance, but can cancel at any time & balance will be refunded.

Day 30: Monday, April 20

Amazon has refunded mask order & never charged for TP which never shipped. Just ordered vitamins from Puritan. Hot Topics today; culled list & we will continue on Mondays until ?????????

Trump says some governors have gone too far in enforcing isolation measures, and he supports protesters who are violating guidelines. A unified message would be helpful.

Day 31: Tuesday, April 21; Yom HaShoah

Hot Topics was good yesterday. We had three new members. Doubt that Bev Haber will return, but Judi

Clifford was a good addition. So much to discuss-and it's all frightening.

Very tired today. Kind of out of it. Felt better after dinner.

The President is "ruling" the country from his Twitter account. He closed all immigration to the US even though the farmers need seasonal labor. He mentioned the Wall in his press briefing yesterday.

And he called out Gov Hogan(R) of Md ordering testing kits from So Korea. This is after Trump told the governors that they are on their own. Hogan asserts it is too late to Mornday morning quarter-backing. And he considers his relationship cordial. The coordination between federal labs and state access is unclear.

The front page of the NYT headlines: (1) Oil Market Goes into Tailspin-oil is below \$0 a barrel. Combination of low demand and conflict between the Russians & the Saudis.(2) Benny Gantz & Bibi formed Unity government Bibi's back in charge. (3)It could be years before NYC regains its glories (4)A culture war is simmering in quarantine and on TV-world-wide protests as millions slide into poverty.

Maria called to thank me for 2nd check. Hopefully, we can use her by June.

Long talk with Shelley-they are moving a week from Thursday.

Made baked ziti for dinner. It fills more time to cook from scratch, rather using ready-made or take-out.

Glad Pop's has helped us stock lots of fresh veggies. Shopped online yesterday- Puritan's Pride

for magnesium & Vitamin D....Costco new drapes. Called Zoom to check out rumor that the 40 minute limit has been lifted. Congress passed another relief bill.

Day 32: Wednesday April 21

It's 10 AM & we are back from Stop & Shop. Empty paper aisles, couldn't find cream cheese, prices seem higher-spent over \$100 with out any meat products-which we don't need right now. There are some worries about possible meat shortages due to gaps in the supply chain and covid-19 outbreaks at meat-packing plants. AG Barr thinks that state-wide seclude in place orders may be construed to be house-arrest and therefore unconstitutional supporting the protesters & saying the government will support class actions against governors! What a world!

Looking forward to zoom meetings with Sharon & Elliot tonight & the kids tomorrow, It's sunny, windy & cold. Yesterday's dire storm predictions passed us by fortunately.

Day 33: Thursday April 23

Just heard the unemployment figures. Astounding & frightening. Our zoom meeting with Sherry & Elliot was terrific . An hour flew by On the phone a lot yesterday. Phone calls tend to go longer than before this sequester. The time goes by, but it is filled with a lot of nothing; except-I did lose the icons on the desktop & 2 hours went by until I solved the issue. Jerry is producing a lovely slide show for a Wonderful World.

Jane is home from the hospital. Will call her later.

Tried to donate to NJ Pandemic Relief couldn't get onto the site. Zoom get together scheduled with the kids later

My white roots are @ 3 inches long.

Day 34: Friday, April 24

Beautiful video essay by Harry Smith...what we miss...even though we are not personally suffering, it still is a lonely world. I don't think we will be out & about any time soon.

Laundry yesterday-changed the linens. Again several long phone calls. Jane was angry with me that I told our neighbors she had been sick; then she called back and agreed it made sense. The Florida pals have extended their stays. Had a long lovely Zoom with the kids. Set up 3 Zooms for the next few days. it's kind of getting old except for Sherry & Elliot. Jerry

grilled knockworsts outside for dinner. Straightened out a small banking issue-dumb mistake I made right after we got home.

Twenty five million workers have applied for unemployment at this point. And there are homeless sleeping in the subways.

Day 35: Saturday, April 25

Hard to believe it is almost the end of April. Yesterday was a full day. I watched relatively little cable news or news at all, which made it sort of pleasant. Caught enough news to keep up with the Lysol scandall & growing discomfort with the good doctor Bix. She should really step aside-she's been uncomfortable since the beginning-her tell-all after this is over should be interesting.

My hair looked pretty good after I shampooed it yesterday-shiny & white deep part cleverly hidden. Jerry washed the floors.

Two Zoom meetings: Brandeis Board & the cousins Happy Hour. Board worked out well, Cousins HH was great fun. A good visit. Today Gabi & I will zoom at 3. Monday I scheduled 3 meetings. Hot Topics, Tuesday Canasta Friends-not sure they will get it together, & a continuation of the Board.

Made a good dinner-panko encrusted chicken & fix-ins. Watched "Collateral" on Prime. It was engrossing and also caught up with "New Amsterdam" on demand, Even Blue Bloods was good.

From M.Township Daily newsletter

MONROE TOWNSHIP STATISTICS: The following is a summary of the Monroe Township COVID-19 case data received from Middlesex County from March 14 to April 23. (Recovery data is not available at this time.)

TOTAL CASES: 398 as of April 23

MEN: 175 (44%) with an average age of 63 years old

WOMEN: 223 (56%) with an average age of 65 years old

MyInstaDoc TESTING STATISTICS: As of April 23, at the Monroe Township testing site, located at 298 Applegarth Road, they have tested 1,684 patients and 32.6% of the tests have come back positive. If you need a test, please visit their website at www.myinstadocmonroe.com.

United States	New Jersey	Middlesex Co.	Monroe Twp.
903,000 total	102,196 total	9,789 total	398 known cases
51,061 deaths	3,047 new	259 new	15 new
83,350 recovered	5,617 deaths	413 deaths	50 total deaths (38 in long-term care facilities, 12 community-wide)

Day 36: Sunday, April 26

One more day....Long schmoozy zoom call with Gabi – almost 2 hours. Binged “Body& Soul” with Kristen Scott Thomas(1993) , We watched two really exciting episodes of Tom Clancy’s “Jack Ryan on Prime “following a delicious souvlaki takeout meal from Faro’s. Today we are zooming with Dave & Diana at 1. Rain is predicted, but it is almost 10 AM and hasn’t started yet. Three zooms planned for tomorrow. Hot Topics BNC board, and hopefully Tuesday canasta friends. Fun zoom with the Humphries.

Day 37: Monday, April 27

Governor Murphy’s on Morning Joe. Still in the thick of things, getting supplies. First line defenders overwhelmed and tired. Want to make sure we are never caught flat-footed again. Need contact tracing etc before we open up. Vast majority of Americans want stay in place longer. Barr may order states to loosen up draconian “house arrest” laws. Murphy said-See you in court. Corona virus reveals deep disparities in wealth in NY. Those with the means left. (Lisa Miller - NYMag

Three Zooms today-11 AM, 2 PM, & 3 PM. It’s cool & drizzly.

Day 38: Tuesday, April 28

The Day of Zooms was exhausting. Hot Topics was a stimulating discussion, and “he who shall not be named” was barely mentioned. We spoke for almost 2 hours. The Canasta Ladies conversation was very nice. We spoke for @ 30 minutes. It was good to see everyone. Shelley is moving Thursday. The 3 o’clock BNC Bd meeting seemed to go on forever. Of course, there was discussion on how to cancel and re-schedule events. A long discussion on donating member made face masks for Sunrise Assisted Living ensued. Like riding a merry-go-round, Finally finished at 4:30, just in time to make dinner. It is a bright sunny day today. We went to Walmart & Shop-Rite in masks & gloves and completed our shopping list in @ 2 hours. Then cleaned it all or left some in the garage. Lots of food and wonder of wonder toilet paper and napkins! New vacuum cleaner arrived while we were out. Scheduled Zoom meetings (@5) for the next week. Video’d a silly birthday greeting for Courtney-the Wine we ordered has been shipped from CA. Have to finish Olive, Again for next month’s Book Club before Kindle library edition disappears. Some states are easing restrictions, not NJ & NY. Numbers are still high, but leveling out.

Day 40: Thursday, April 30

Day 40! Unreal. Morning Joe on right now about the Food Crisis. Food supply is piteously broken.

Stephanie Ruhl- the worst economic month in our country’s history. Thirty million unemployed, 1,000,000 coronavirus victims, 60,000 deaths...the glimmer of hope of a drug to combat the disease, the federal sequester in place order is lifted,,,up to the states...Vaccine a

long way off...President itching to get on the campaign trail wants rallies of 25,000, Jarod says we will be rockin' by June.

Skipped yesterday's entry. Never got around to it. Binged "Safe" on Netflix yesterday. Eight episodes, could have been 5 or 6. Fun happy hour with Sherry & Elliot. Ended when it was time to make noise in Manhattan for the first responders. They walk the sidewalks of NY for @ an hour daily .Chat with Dave...Talked about food shopping & his neighborly stalker. Used Jerry's electric clipper to give him a pretty good haircut. Am giving up the fight on the hair color. Will make a quick trip to CVS or Walgreen's to get some hair supplies later. Have to checkout Zoom. Apparently, there's another up-grade. Didn't have dinner last night. Filled up on the cheese & crackers during the call. Will be talking to Gabi for a marathon talk fest this afternoon. The new cordless vacuum cleaner is up & running. Good choice...Next- a new coffee maker.

Day 41: Friday, May 1

May Day, at last. Today's topic on Morning Joe..., the President's mantra is division in politics leads to success. Has he mis-read the country? He delights in the horrifying sight of armed militia, albeit a minority storming the Michigan legislature. How is that even legal? The polls have infuriated the President and he blames his campaign team for the poor numbers. He also is insisting that he has seen evidence that the virus escaped or was released from a Wuhan lab. The head of the Natural Security Intelligence team put out a statement that it is unproven. This is the same mantra put out by the Gravitas "news" video share by the Sherwoods. President hints that Michael Flynn could soon be brought back into the administration. Praised him highly at news conference. Will be fully exonerated.

Yesterday was yet another low key day. Polished furniture Rained heavily at night. Actually drowned out the sound on the TV at one point. Took a quick run to CVS. Almost completely empty. The check-out is organized to be fairly contactless , except for an elderly man who pushed his walker the wrong way after checking out and the two of us behind him had to maneuver to get out of his way. Long talk with Gabi as planned. She is insistent that her research calls the framers white supremacists.

Watched yet another two episodes of Jack Ryan. It is almost like a comedy to watch derring-do in Venezuela. Entertaining, nonetheless.

I am going to cut-off Jerry's non-stop watching of MSNBC before bed. It is making him distraught....and me too if we watch together. I am amazed how quickly the day passes. Time to get into an exercise routine- even walking....Uh-oh. Our Amex acc't was Hacked. Took care of it...

Day 42: Saturday, May 2

It is Courtney's 32nd birthday today. Dani asked us all to send a funny greeting via a platform- we wore bandannas across our faces and sang our greeting! We ordered a gift which was to arrive yesterday, but is now scheduled for Monday much to our disappointment.

Zoomed with Brian & Irene last evening. First time we saw each other since the cruise-Feb. 24. They put together picnics with family in empty hotel parking lots! Beautiful day today. The governor has opened parks & golf course with social distance regs in place. Mike called yesterday and he & Jerry spoke for awhile.

Day 43: Sunday May 3

Quiet Day yesterday. Weeded. Swept the front step, tried to outsmart the carpenter bees that are buzzing on the patio. Can't see a hive anywhere. Jerry spoke to Courtney. Sharon & Clive surprised her with a birthday visit on their way to the Hamptons. Took a short drive. He Bbq'd delicious lamb chops.

Binged "Shtetisel" an Israeli series, finished the last episode of Jack Ryan.

Waffles & sausage for breakfast today. It's cloudy & warmish.

We have two Zooms scheduled today. At 1PM Bender family, & at 7, Chauverim discussion of famous Jewish women. I'm doing Rebecca Gratz, rumored to be the Rebecca of Ivanhoe, reknown for a life of Jewish philanthropy.

Haven't seen much news so not sure how the first day of open parks & golf courses went. The death rate is still high. It is truly surreal. Had a very rough night last night. Read much of the night. Finished

a wonderful novel about an Indian Muslim family in San Francisco and started a John Gresham thriller.

Walked for @ 40 minutes. Lots of neighbors out. Chauverim ran two hours and 25 minutes on Jewish Women.

Day 44: Monday, May 4

The President is very busy of Twitter as usual. He's throwing shade on Nicolle Wallace and Dr. Falci.

We had Hot Topics from 11-12:30. Very intense discussion as usual. The participants are truly great.

Did laundry today-changed to summer weight comforter. Placed and received an order from Pop's.

Made salad for dinner, But had last night's pizza for lunch and we're just not hungry. Very tired this afternoon. Courtney finally received her birthday wine delivery.

Day 45: Tuesday, May 5: Cinco de Mayo

Odd dreams last night ; sleep pattern has changed. Reminded me of the Apocalypse dream I had shortly before the beginning of all this. Chillier today, bright sunny day. The counts are disheartening,

as is the economic news. Video Happy Hour with Sherry & Elliot later, sent them a cute anniversary card.

Day 46: Wednesday. May 6

Overcast this morning. Rain predicted. Jerry may actually play golf this week, when the weather looks better. Walked with Sandy Eisler yesterday and tripped trying to avoid on-coming walkers. I'm a little stiff this AM, but no serious damage. The new drapes arrived at last. Letting them sit in the box a few days to let the germs die. So grateful to Pop's contactless pick-up system. Wonderful produce.

The federal approach to dealing with the pandemic took a 180 turn yesterday. The task force is about to be dissolved and absorbed into other agencies. The presidential emphasis is now on the economy.

Whoops, update. Trump changed his mind about dissolving task force. Polling shows that Congress is less popular than the President, and Biden & Trump seems to be equal in the polls. More states are opening up and the death rate is increasing as the virus moves west. I think that NJ rates have decreased but the number is still high. Prez visited mask producing plant yesterday. Wore goggles, no mask.

Busy afternoon. Shopped at St & Shop...cashier did not wear gloves, but there was a plastic screen and

directional arrows in the aisles. No paper goods, but there was meat was available...2

package limit-bought T-Bone steak. Once home-the falderol about cleaning in the garage-prepared cucumber salad, French onion soup, and formed turkey burgers. Researched some background info for Book Club. I really loved Alice Hoffman's magical, The World We Knew.

Two zooms this evening-Book Club & then Family Nightcap with two generations!

Day 46: Thursday. May 7

Both zooms were pretty good. Glad none are scheduled except Hot Topics next Monday. Welcome respite. Bright cool morning, not much on the agenda today

Day 47: Friday, May 8

Dreary weather. Trimmed the dune grasses yesterday afternoon. New Jersey's numbers are creeping downward. But the death toll is horrifying nationally- 76,000 & over 1.3 cases nation wide. Monroe Township has had 66 deaths, most in the senior cared facilities. NJ is still #2 in the country.

Monthly Fidelity statement arrived. Numbers improving. Watched "Becoming" terrific! Eugene Robinson urged that Democrats use the tools perfected by Republicans to defeat Donald Trump in the fall. Use emotions in appealing to the public. Praised George Conway's Lincoln Project ad released Monday, Mourning in America.

The unemployment figures soared, Crops are piling up in farms-a tower of potatoes. Unemployment payments are hopelessly caught a bureaucratic maze with individuals scrambling to put food on the table and pay past due bills. Ahmaud Arbery was murdered jogging in his home town Feb. 23.

two months later 2 men were arrested for murder. Prosecutors tried to cover it up as a "stand your ground" issue. AG Bill Barr dropped the charges against General Micheal Flynn and the Supreme Court unanimously ruled in favor of Bridget Jones & Bill Barone on charge connected to Bridgegate under Gov Chrisitie in 2014 when they shut down The GW bridge.

Apparently, it was corrupt & dishonest, but not a federal crime. Rule of law took a serious blow. Where are we going?

Day 48: Saturday, May 9

On hold with Costco. Said they would call back in 20 minutes, instead called back almost immediately and put me on hold! OOPS-disconnected. Will try again tomorrow.

Never thought I would see a headline like the one in today's NYT. Unemployment figure higher than any time since The Great Depression. Difficult to process this and foresee a path forward. Personally, we are fortunate economically and healthy, but it is hard not to dread what may lay ahead. It's like waiting for the other shoe to drop. There must be many of us who could advise the President and his minions but there is such a philosophical chasm in how to restart the economy. We need a WPA & Marshall Plan...yesterday.

Began to unpack and put up new drapes. Will finish today. Spoke to Alice yesterday. Seems like they'll stay in St Pete's for quite awhile. Bright cool sunny morning. Not much on the agenda today.

Day 40: Mothers Day, Sunday, May 10

Bittersweet. No Moms, no kids.

It seems so odd that no one reaches out to us through this ordeal. Oh well...I'll keep reaching out.

Worked hard yesterday. Prepped and hung the new drapes-look wonderful. Vacuumed bedroom. Jerry mopped the floors. Binged "Hollywood" on Netflix. Lloyd's ribs for dinner, Watched PBS after dinner Shakespeare & Hathaway & Funny Girl. Nice day with no news! Needed to put an extra blanket on the bed, record breaking low temps. What a year! Took a lovely drive -the dogwood & other trees are blooming. Pasta dish for dinner and watched Disney sing along and Netflix jazz series Eddy.

Jerry spoke to Justin-a budding songwriter? And Steffi.

Day 41: Monday, May 11

Hot Topics scheduled for 11 AM. Did the meeting-an hour 10 minutes. Shopped at McCafferty's

Beautiful selection. Rest of day flew by. Very tired & achy. Watched TV together, Somehow the news seems even more intense. Going to try to avoid it for awhile. Dotty died of COV-d very suddenly-Irene's vivacious 85 year old bowling buddy-Jerry had bowled with her too. Fidelity statement improving..One month until my 79th birthday.

Day 42: Tuesday, May 12 -Sunny cool day

Long term facilities are inundated with deaths from the virus. So frightening. Devastating, More than ½ the deaths in NJ were in long term facilities. Even stranger Prez news conference yesterday-walking out rudely on female reporters, one markedly id'd as Chinese-

American, & he alluded to "obama-gate." Many former justice dep't prosecutors(bi-partisan) calling for AG Barr to resign over the direction to drop charges vs General Flynn. Will the country open up soon? We will still be very cautious! Children are dying.

18 ADDITIONAL REPORTED DEATHS:

14 IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES AND 4 COMMUNITY-WIDE

Sadly, we must report that Middlesex County has informed us of 18 additional deaths in our community. Over the past week, Middlesex County completed a comprehensive reconciliation of confirmed deaths in the State of New Jersey's Communicable Diseases Database to ensure the County and State death lists were accurately aligned.

These additional deaths are being reported through May 7, 2020. A further breakdown of this data reflects that 76% of these deaths occur in long term care facilities and 24% are community wide. 85 deaths in Monroe Township: 65 in long term long term facilities.(total)

"Every one of these deaths are a blow to us as a community. We sympathize with the families and mourn the loss with them," said Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. "It is important that we stand together in support our friends and neighbors, during this most difficult time."

Day 43: Wednesday, May 13

Senate hearing with Senators investigating the actual status quo on the coronavirus was conducted in a dignified and clear manner. The situation is not encouraging, at best. Quiet day yesterday. Gary Marshall Salute was entertaining. Finished a light novel this AM. About Cubans, CIA and Bay of Pigs with a little romance for spice.

Fun stat- pj sales are up 150+%

Happy Hour this evening w/Sherry & Elliot. The eco predictions are not good.

Day 44: Thursday, May 14

Beautiful morning. Turned the heat off for a second time, Hope this is it for the furnace until November. Fun zoom with Sh & El. Had quiche from McCaffrey's for dinner. Spoke to Dave – he has a Cancer Institute hormone injection visit. Tomorrow marks what would have been their 50th. Very hard for him. Not much on the agenda for today. Going to investigate the 1619 project about slavery impact.

Proverb from Cru-Con-Travel:

Better to see something once than to hear about it a thousand times.

Impact of COVID19 State by state

2. New Jersey (in the nation/NY #1)

> **COVID-19 infection rate as of May 10, 2020:** 1,555.1 per 100,000 people (138,532 total cases)

> **COVID-19 death rate as of May 10, 2020:** 103.9 per 100,000 people -- 2nd highest (9,255 total deaths)

> **Testing rate as of May 10, 2020:** 31.5 per 100,000 people -- 15th highest (280,220 total tests)

> **Positive test rate:** 49% -- the highest(NY 29%)

> **Date of first known case:** March 4, 2020

> **Population density:** 1,021.3 people per sq. mile -- the highest

> **Total population:** 8.9 million

Day 45: Friday, May 15

Spoke to Dave-hard day for him. He loves cooking, go know. We ordered deli for dinner and it was delicious. Dropped off some donations at the club house, short walk. Met our new neighbors Anne & Lenny-from Staten Island.. Long telephone conversations with Sylvia & Sheryl. Attended virtual TBS Budget meeting last night. Nice to see all the faces. Jerry golfed 9 holes with Shelley. it's not a social experience anymore-separate golf carts, wearing masks and no lunch! We used to eat lunch out so much! Played sequence last night. Then watched more of the Turkish series Sheryl suggested-lots of reading.

Day 46: Saturday, May 16

Cloudy warm morning. Actually dressed in short sleeves and lighter weight pants. A little creaky today

from all the garage cleaning yesterday. Not much on for today. The beaches are now open. More & more of the states are opening up. We'll see if Armageddon develops as a result, but will try to by-pass the news. Maybe we'll go for a drive. There is a scheduled space lift-off later. Took a drive past the Temple. New gray siding looks great. Thompson Park in Jamesburg was busy.

Day 47: Sunday, May 17

Didn't post today.

Went to Stop & Shop. Store was relatively well-stocked and lightly populated.

Jerry grilled turkey burgers.

Day 48: Monday, May 18

Hot Topics went well. Will cancel Zoom Update and try to limit meetings to 40 minutes. There's actually a named storm out there, No impact here predicted. Tacos for dinner. Jerry opened fountain with his new pump. Return of a lovely sound. Had lunch outside. AARP Safe Driver certificate finally arrived. Both the trash & the mail were really late today. Diana called-nice long chat.

Day 49: Tuesday, May 19

Went to the E Bruns. H&R Block finally to do taxes (deadline extended until July). Prez started a tempest in a teapot claiming he is taking the hydrocloxquine(sic) daily with approval of WH MD. Took attention off the staggering death toll. Despite the increase of COVID-19 the states are opening up. While most people are adhering to guidelines, others are decidedly blasé, if not openly "rebellious"...we'll see. Pompeo is caught in mini-scandal. Prez went to the Senate for box lunch o meet with R Senators & drum up an attack on Obama to try to get support for Flynn's case. So cynical...

Day 50: Wednesday: May 20

Spent a lot of time yesterday trying to check out a refund from Zoom, figuring out how to send certificates to Geico and get an explanation for the Comcast rate increase. Phone contact is impossible as is web contact. Had a desktop problem due to my own carelessness. I drive me crazy. I should never ask Jerry to help as he gets too frustrated. Figured it out and resumed working thru my list. Jerry & Justin chatted music techie stuff last night and then(yea) he started practicing the trumpet again. Ordered in from Antonio's. Skimmed thru Gresham's boring Rooster Bar. This is getting old.

Day 51: Thursday, May 21

Powerful statement by Joe B this AM outlining the mismanagement of the coronavirus onslaught since he was first notified in January. Thirty nine million are now on the unemployment rolls. Governor Murphy was on Morning Joe. Touching interview with Ben Stiller on the Today show with clips of his father, Jerry Stiller. Happy Hour with Sh & El was fun as usual. Got a beautiful order from Pop's. What a great way to shop. Irene wants us to "Happy Hour" on their patio later. We'll see...

Day 57: Wednesday, May 27

Woke up early. Almost forgot to schedule tonight's Happy Hour Zoom with Sherry & Elliot. Of course, somehow that entailed getting a new g mail pw, which entailed up-dating address book, I exhaust me.

President went even more off message yesterday-mocked Biden for wearing mask, tried to force reporter at press conference to remove his-which he refused. He is at war with Twitter claims they are limiting his first amendment right by fact checking his posts. Polls show that 70 +% of Americans do not believe him, even if they like him.

Death rate reached 100,000 and the President ranted conspiracy theories trying to distract citizens and the press from the COVD catastrophe. Parenthetically, Gov Cuomo held court with his daily report at the NY Stock Exchange yesterday and at the DC Press Club today following a meeting with HIM. Minneapolis police fired today after killing a black man in trying to arrest him for a minor crime, Infuriating & tragic. Riots exploded across the country. The taxes are finally submitted and received. Shopped at E.B. Stop & Shop on the way home. Our new tea kettle was delivered by Amazon-black SUV deliverer wearing mask & gloves. Will open package this evening. I walked. Jerry golfed.

Day 58: Thursday, May 28

Cloudy & muggy. Not much planned. Will try to do some outreach phone calls. The Zoom calendar is filling with webinars & meetings. Forcing myself to be interested. Spring wardrobe changes-light weight rather than fleece. It did get to 80 yesterday and the AC comes on auto every once in awhile to keep the house comfortable. Can't decide whether or not to cancel June dentist & doctor appts

Elon Musk's Space X launch postponed due to tropical storm until Saturday.

41,000,000 on unemployment rolls, COVID rates still on upward line, but slowing. The country is opening up.

Day 59: Friday, May 29

It is incredible. Two full months totally lost. Binged 2000 Peak Practice rather than watch any of my MSNBC favorites. The violence breaking out over the Minneapolis police debacle is on the screens everywhere, as is discussion on Trump's latest antic to deflect national attention from his disastrous leadership. Mitch McConnell refuses to consider a back-up bill passed by the House of Reps to fund the states and extend the payments which will end July 31.

Will go to Supermarket today and maybe Walmart. Take-out food from Faro's was delish.

Will finish order tonight. Went outside for Front Page Encore at 9 AM. I was the only one on the court.

Call from Haircrafters. They are starting a soft opening. We decided we would wait a few more weeks.

Day 60: Saturday, May 30

60 days of this! I woke up determined to (a) walk (b) watch Morning Joe. Forgot it's Saturday.

I'll walk later. Protests and civil unrest through several large cities besides Minneapolis. The President tweeted first they loot then we shoot. Then took it back. Twitter put a warning icon on it, He is at war with Twitter, China and whoever angers him at the moment. Warmest day of the year, so far. We shopped in Dayton yesterday. Lovely store-quite empty. Stocked well with paper-except napkins.

Day 61: Sunday, May 31

Just viewed part of CBS Sunday Morning, showing PSA's created by a young Detroit, proclaiming "we do this for love not fear," and another series by Matthew McConneahy showing wearing masks

as a cool act of bravery! Many cities with blocks of ashes from several nights of burning and looting.

And it seems the President and local leadership may even have fanned some of the actions. I knew this was coming. I fear the coming days. It'll burn out and calm down eventually.

Day 62: Monday June 1

June is bustin' out all over. The beginning of my birthday month. I've been in this world almost 80 years. 2020 is indeed horribilis annibilis. The week-end has been disastrous, filled with protest marches which devolved into rioting, burning looting mobs in so many cities-right to the door of the White House. The anger is palpable and justified(except for the property damaging piece.) We have no national leadership. He's sort of like Louis XVI.

This reminds me so much of the early years at PHS in 66-68. And add Covid & economic collapse

Turned on Kelli & Ryan late and she was close to tears. Hot Topics this AM. Time to make my Pop's order. Hot Topics soon. Received an order from Pop's. President used federal troops to clear a path for a photo op outside Grace Episcopal Church holding up a Bible, no less. Thousands in the streets, mostly peaceful, lots of bad actors destroying property. Military response to attempt control. Frightening...

Day 63: Tuesday, June 2

Didn't post today. Walked, Happy Hour with Sherry & Elliot.

Day 64: Wednesday, June 3

Book Club tonight. Plan to color hair...

Even more protesters world-wide in the streets-more control over looters. Powerful Joe Biden speech in Bucks County yesterday..

I don't know where this ends.

Current and former U.S. intelligence officials have expressed dismay at the similarity between events at home and the signs of decline or democratic regression they were trained to detect in other nations. "This is what happens in countries before a collapse. It really does unnerve me," said Gail Helt, a former CIA analyst.

Day 65: Thursday, June 4

Never got around to posting today. Had four zooms today. 55 Plus on Fascism; BNC Webinar on Georgia O'Keeffe(and phone call from Diana); Jewish Democrats with Speaker Pelosi; Study Group Planning with BNC Middlesex. The Prez has militarized DC. There are soldiers without designations or ID's patrolling the streets. Military leadership is outraged. Thousands of protesters still in the street.

The Rev Sharpton gave a powerful speech at first George Floyd memorial; Take your knees off our necks. All four officers have now been arraigned on murder; however, slight glitch with the other 3. They seem to be rookies under the leadership of the guy who actually put his knee on Floyd's neck for the 8 minutes. Of course, they should have grabbed him up....

Day 66: Friday, June 5

Biden and Obama seem to be on the air more. The unemployment figures declined this week. Streets of many cities are still teeming with marchers. Gov Murphy appointed the first black woman to the state Supreme Court. The country is reeling from this...more cities opening up,

but the virus is still out there. Worried about Dave's back/hip. BNC Middlesex meeting to plan give Installation. Will be part of last meeting of the year.

Day 67: Saturday, June 6

Determined to post early in the day as time gets away from me. Am trying to get back into the habit of walking the Brookside circle, so far twice this week. It's very muggy and there's been some heavy rain. Phone call scheduled later with Gabi. The mystery soldiers have been ID'd. Texas Prison guards.

Bill Barr should be imprisoned for hijacking the Constitution and enabling Trump! Sure hopes this ends well. DC Mayor painted the road to the White House in Huge Yellow letters stating Black Lives Matter.

The Black Lives Matter organization seems to be the brains behind the peaceful demonstrations. According to one of their leaders on TV last evening, they discourage charismatic orators' leadership, looking for grassroots movements.

Day 68: Sunday, June 7

Waiting for Irene & Brian. Went to Stop & Shop earlier to pick up some snacks & fruit. Sherry & Elliot e-mailed that they joined the march yesterday. There was one nearby today, but we didn't go.

Many marches everywhere & they are fairly peaceful. Looks as if some mayors & governors are putting together some strict guidelines for police engagement tactics and settling up community oversight. Poor Floyd ignited a tipping point! Watched Seberg on Prime. Fascinating on how the FBI harassed and destroyed Jean Seberg. Well-acted.

Day 69: Monday, June 8

Hot Topics as usual at 11...100 days of coronavirus and Cuomo claims the back of the pandemic has broken. There are still many people in treatment, but hospital admissions have declined to pre-pandemic levels. NYC starts opening today. We haven't decided if it's wise to move on and

go to doctors and hair cutters, Changed Dr. Nee to August.

There have been calls to defund the police. Minneapolis city council voted to dismantle the police department and rebuild the entire department. The protesters put the mayor on the spot demanding that he publicly support this point. Tremendous upheaval at the NYT over the publication of an op column by Senator Tom Cotton calling for military response to break up the protests. Many military leaders have spoken out against the militarization of DC. There were peaceful demonstrations all over the country. Many mayors emulated the DC street banner Black Lives Matter showing the nation-wide support for police reform. NFL changes its stance on "taking a knee" saying that the players have the right to speak out on Black Lives Matter. Seismic change seems afoot nation-wide-we'll see.

Day 85: Wednesday, June 25

Walked the circle, trimmed grasses on patio, exercised with ankle weights. Lots of news Flynn won appeal, case will be dropped. Dep't of Justice attorneys testified before Congress. Barr says he will testify in July. Stephen Colbert interviewed Bolton, asked him why he ever

worked for him in the first place & why he didn't speak out during the impeachment hearings. Answers were predictable and CYA's. COVID is breaking infection records while states are loosening shut down regs.

Day 86: Thursday, June 25(Sharon's B'dy)

Not much today. Bernice is back, Marylyn & Alice will return next week. They want to check out on-line canasta. Difficult night sleeping last night. Problem with accessing Brandeis zoom. The returning FLA snowbirds are supposed to self-isolate for 2 weeks. No way to keep track, of course. Cuomo says it's similar to breaking the law speeding. While some get away, if you get caught, you'll pay a price.

Day 87: Friday, June 26

Brian & Irene bbq'd with us on the patio. An enjoyable evening. Went to supermarket. Jerry played golf.

Day 88: Sat. Jun 27

Empty day. Watched some movies. Bad storms at dinnertime, so we made Baked Zitti instead of grilling the steak.

Day 90: Monday June 29

Day 90!!!!!!

Skipped Day 89. Totally uneventful. Jerry grilled dinner.

Today had Hot Topics which was a lively discussion. It is almost 90 degrees. The steak was tougher than expected. Big scandal breaking about Russia bribing Taliban fighters to kill American soldiers. Prez is claiming Fake news & hoax.

Day 91: Tuesday, June 30

Went to Costco & Stop & Shop. Lots of lovely meats and baked goods. Looked at Tucker Carlson, Fox's star. Snarky, but educational to watch. Biden shown as a doddering old man, indulgently accepted by Dems. Other media doing interesting coverage on those being blasé about contact tracing,

Lack of trust in public authorities growing as is gun purchasing. Doing lots of research for The Hate U Give. Sent "reading" list to participants. There are 16 right now.

Horrible sounds from the patio awakened us @ 3A M. Sounded like someone/thing was being murdered. Never figured it out. David suggested-cat mating

Day 92: Wednesday, July 1

Two events today: Happy Hour Zoom & spirited Book Club focusing on The Nickel Boys by Colin Whitehead on Arlene's driveway. Both went well.

Lot of chores. Washed floor. Did 2 loads of laundry. Walked. Very interesting discussion on Morning Joe about an examination of the significance of Confederate statues and American knowledge

of the exploitation of enslaved Africans in our history. Eddie Glaude, Princeton professor & histories-regular contributor on MSNBC & David Blight, Yale professor book-ended the discussion.

Intellectually stimulating day.

Day 93: Thursday, July 2

Washing linens. Using new pillows this go around. Grilling Costco pork loin slices later. The 2019 death of Elijah McCain in Col under police arrest is now under question. Unemployment rolls decreased by almost 5 million this month. I'm not sure if these numbers are accurate. Fed worried about the future of the comeback. COVID seems to be out of control nationwide. Crackdown in Hong Kong. Reading Time No Longer by Taylor Caldwell. Am fascinated by it even tho' her style is ponderous. It follows a German family as the evil of Nazism swallows them philosophically as well as physically. Some of the emotions seem to be almost contemporary...as it shows how ordinary people become swallowed by evil almost without realizing it. A Prime Reading offer. Lauren called again. Made a date for August when she returns from her road trip to Col.

Day 94: Friday, July 3

Not much planned today except some marketing. Fun Family Zoom scheduled. Looks like Jay & Diana & the kids have a wonderful time small-town with his family at the beach cottage on Chesapeake Bay. Slam bang Mount Rushmore speech w/fireworks divisive speech from the Prez. Spoke to Alice & Marylyn who are home now.

Day 95: Sat. July 4:

Fourth of July & no concert, no fireworks. Walked and trimmed bushes this AM. Went to Brian & Irene's this afternoon. They made delicious smoked ribs & chicken. We were together until dark. Great visit. Around 5 PM we heard the roar of a jet engines. Suddenly. Wave after wave of The Air Force Mustangs flew over us. We were in the path of a special flyover saluting the capitals of the colonies from Boston to DC. It was exciting and they flew at a low altitude. The Macy's fireworks and A Capital Fourth were rousing. Even if mostly pre-recorded. Walked, trimmed front bushes. Are we looking at the end of the USA as we know it? How close to a tipping point are we? Both the Prez and Biden spoke today. One drawing a divisive line praising a 1950's white supremacy version of our history and damning contemporary studies and treasonous; the other emphasizing respect, freedom and equality for all. I wonder what the rest of this election year will bring.

Day 96: Sunday July 5

Not much on the agenda today. There are 3 BNC zooms this week: Monday Hot Topics; Tuesday, Film revue of The Hate U Give; & Thursday, Study Group Planning Meeting. Prepped for the first 2 this AM. The Brody's are back too.

Day 97: Monday, July 6

Long Hot Topics discussion this AM. We slept late and didn't have breakfast until 10 AM. No one else saw the Air Force flyover. Guess we were the only ones in the flight path. Bad storms all around us today, but we will still barbecue our strip steaks for dinner.

Several last minute enrollees in tomorrow's film discussion.

Day 98: Tuesday, July 7. NJ Primary Day

Busy AM. Maria at 9:30, Film Discussion at 11, Conference call with Fidelity also at 11. Everything went well. Lots of trouble with internet connection during BNC video chat.

Going to Shop-Rite this afternoon.**Day 114: Thursday, July 23**

Board Meeting scheduled for 10 AM. Dinner redux try with B & I. Day looks good so far. David called at dinner time because of big storm. It never really got to this area.

Went back & checked..started this diary March 21. This is the beginning of the 5th month and we are in

dangerous territory. California has more cases than New York. Federal agents are in Portland and are to be sent to Chicago. Mayor of Chicago has negotiated the terms of actions of those agents. The President is obsessing on a cognitive test he took 2 years ago and Biden & Obama released a campaign tape showing a serious discussion between them. What a contrast.

Day 85: Wednesday, June 25

Walked the circle, trimmed grasses on patio, exercised with ankle weights. Lots of news Flynn won appeal, case will be dropped. Dep't of Justice attorneys testified before Congress. Barr says he will testify in July. Stephen Colbert interviewed Bolton, asked him why he ever worked for him in the first place & why he didn't speak out during the impeachment hearings. Answers were predictable and CYA's. COVID is breaking infection records while states are loosening shut down regs.

Day 86: Thursday, June 25(Sharon's B'dy)

Not much today. Bernice is back, Marylyn & Alice will return next week. They want to check out on-line canasta. Difficult night sleeping last night. Problem with accessing Brandeis zoom. The returning FLA snowbirds are supposed to self-isolate for 2 weeks. No way to keep track, of course. Cuomo says it's similar to breaking the law speeding. While some get away, if you get caught, you'll pay a price.

Day 87: Friday, June 26

Brian & Irene bbq'd with us on the patio. An enjoyable evening. Went to supermarket. Jerry played golf.

Day 88: Sat. Jun 27

Empty day. Watched some movies. Bad storms at dinnertime, so we made Baked Zitti instead of grilling the steak.

Day 90: Monday June 29

Day 90!!!!!!

Skipped Day 89. Totally uneventful. Jerry grilled dinner.

Today had Hot Topics which was a lively discussion. It is almost 90 degrees. The steak was tougher than expected. Big scandal breaking about Russia bribing Taliban fighters to kill American soldiers. Prez is claiming Fake news & hoax.

Day 91: Tuesday, June 30

Went to Costco & Stop & Shop. Lots of lovely meats and baked goods. Looked at Tucker Carlson, Fox's star. Snarky, but educational to watch. Biden shown as a doddering old man, indulgently accepted by Dems. Other media doing interesting coverage on those being blasé about contact tracing,

Lack of trust in public authorities growing as is gun purchasing. Doing lots of research for The Hate U Give. Sent "reading" list to participants. There are 16 right now.

Horrible sounds from the patio awakened us @ 3A M. Sounded like someone/thing was being murdered. Never figured it out. David suggested-cat mating

Day 92: Wednesday, July 1

Two events today: Happy Hour Zoom & spirited Book Club focusing on The Nickel Boys by Colin Whitehead on Arlene's driveway. Both went well.

Lot of chores. Washed floor. Did 2 loads of laundry. Walked. Very interesting discussion on Morning Joe about an examination of the significance of Confederate statues and American knowledge

of the exploitation of enslaved Africans in our history. Eddie Glaude, Princeton professor & histories-regular contributor on MSNBC & David Blight, Yale professor book-ended the discussion.

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Day 115: Friday, July 24

Had delicious burgers with Brian & Irene last evening. Got home right before the first go round of rain. Wild storms overnight between 2-3 AM. Zooming this afternoon. Long chat with Diana. Kids will be going to school 2 days a week in Warrenton. Virus is raging, altho NJ is now has a relatively low contagion rate. Wonderful salmon for dinner. Continued watching Money Heist on Netflix and totally loved "She Loves Me, Roundabout 2016 production on PBS- delicious

Day 116: Sat. July 25

Shopped at Pop's Farm Stand...beautiful selection. Prepped veggies and steak marinade. Jerry worked on his Gershwin presentation all day.

Continued with several episodes of "Velvet. Great dinner-skirt steak & the first Jersey tomatoes & corn of the season! Going to watch some more Netflix shortly. Did not see any news today-a victory! Heat Wave predicted thru Wednesday next week. Hurricane in Texas.

Day 117: Sunday, July 26

Light Day. Watched Velvet...Regis Philbin & Olivia DeHavilland died.

Day 118: Monday July 27

Hot Topics went well. We're in the midst of a Heat Wave.

Day 119: Tuesday, July 28

Busy Day.. Started the day off with a quick trip to Pop's farm stand for produce. I never used to wash all the veggies et al before putting them away, but the Covid routine involves lots of cleaning. Then off to the first trip to the hair dresser. First time in 6 months. They take your temperature before entering

with an electronic scan. Lots of cleaning between customers. I was the last appointment for the day at 1:30. Masks seemed to keep sliding. Got an earful about the Antifa terrorist in the streets..finally asked that we stay away from politics. Picked up groceries at Stop & Shop on the way home. Nice & empty.

Again the tedious job of cleaning items before bringing them into the house. Invited Brian & Irene for dinner Friday-heat wave supposedly will break. Jerry was all involved with technological hiccups most of day on the phone & on the computer looking for files that disappeared. Not a good day for him.

The news was overwhelming today. President changed his mind about covid. Spent the day pushing

his unproven theories about cures, encouraged states to open up as a release from his office noted that 22 states are in the red zone & 150,000 Americans are now dead from the disease. The Attorney General testified before the House of Reps & displayed a lack of respect for Congress which was mutual as he espoused his interpretation of the power of the presidency. It is depressing & frightening.

Day 120: Wednesday, July 29

Jerry left early for golf. Trimmed the dune grasses. Corbin came to service the generator. All is in good shape. Was going to go to Shop Rite but the gardening wore me out.

Depressing story about DHS(Homeland Security)in the NYT. Wish Diana had transferred out before the Trump assumption.

Happy Hour with Sherry & Elliot later. Seems long than 8 days.

Day 121: Thursday, July 30

Am watching the touching and inspirational funeral service for John Lewis. Put a blue ribbon on the door to signify I was paying my respects and admiration.

The President of the United States tweeted that maybe the election should be post-poned. What a contrast.

Covid-19 diaries,

My view,

Covid-19, the virus that has changed all of our lives. Made it so that we are not able to leave our house, meet our friends, and enjoy our summer. But i think it is important to think of this in a positive way. The virus was sudden and took us all by shock, and all of a sudden our entire lifestyle changed. Now having a mask on and maintaining social distancing is normal, and we are all trying to stay safe.

I think this pandemic has helped us more than we realize. When the entire thing was at its peak, the world was taking a break. There were barely any cars on the road and everything was very peaceful. It was almost like the earth needed a break and that's why the virus even happened. This also helped us spend more time with our families, on regular days all of us would be busy with our own agenda. Staying at home also changed me as a person, and changed my priorities. This virus also gave us a break and let us lead much less stressful lives and relax for some time.

Overall I feel like people have been viewing this pandemic wrong, there is much more to it than just being a barrier from leading your normal lives. There is good too, you just have to look for it.

By: Abhi Terala

August 21, 2020

Hi, My name is Anish Deshpande. This experience has greatly impacted me and my family, we have bonded together with great interest. I have had more time to spend with family, to socialize, and enjoy the thing that we all like and enjoy together.

COVID-19 has not impacted my employment or my business, however, they have remarkably impacted my academic year. The schools have turned out to be all remote and have totally changed the way to socialize social friends and teachers, through the help of the digital world we were able to associate with each other easier than it would have been. I have extensively felt boredom and the lack of entertainment to be outside and enjoying the weather has declined. The pandemic has changed many ways to socialize and feel free by going outside. The most difficult part of the pandemic has been learning and having an understandable academic year. The schools have all turned remote and have changed to virtual. This changes the way we interact and how we learn new things in school, and when we learn them. The virtual school has slowed down the process of how we are taught and how much we can learn. There might be many repercussions due to this unexpected pandemic. One of the few that might stand is the way we prepare for an unexpected event and how we handle it. This pandemic showed how each country can do if a crisis like this was ever to happen again. This very much showed how leaders from each country are willing to do, and how a country might be set for these kinds of tragedies. I have heard over the news the number of deaths that have occurred due to this unprepared and negligently handled. Another thing that has impacted me, was the percentage of jobs lost that were the main support for hundreds of thousands of families. This impacted me a lot because it showed that not all lives are the same, and some luxuries that we might have not to be affordable for other households.

Covid-19 Diary

Until recently, the pandemic has not altered my life much. I can say that I am extremely grateful for everything I have at this moment in my life. I am thankful for still having a job, a roof over my head, and having my friends and family safe and close by. My heart goes out to all the people who have lost a loved one during these unprecedented times.

About a week ago, my mom tested positive for Covid and it was a shock because you think no one in your family is going to get it, until they actually do. She is quarantining and following the guidelines for recovery. However, it did not hit me until now just how many people it affects. Almost like a domino effect.

My mom had to notify her job. I had to notify my jobs. I had to notify my boyfriend. My boyfriend had to notify his mother. My sisters had to notify their friends and their families and their jobs, etc. That is what is so scary and overwhelming about this virus—it can affect so many people and in different ways.

Now because one person in our family has it, it is like we are all affected by it now and mimicking the same behaviors my mom is—staying in our rooms, sanitizing everywhere we go, wearing a mask throughout the house. It is hard to quarantine when you live in the same household as the person who tested positive, but I keep telling myself that it's temporary and we will all get through it together (but a part).

Thankfully, my sisters and I all tested negative but we are still so paranoid that we try to keep distance and wear masks when we can. With a virus that is so unknown, no one wants to take any chances. At the end of the day, the goal is to keep everyone healthy and safe.

For now, I am working from home and making do with what I can. I went food shopping pre-quarantine, so I had the essentials I needed. I am taking it day by day and keeping a positive attitude that it will be over soon. Positivity is key.

December 3, 2020

I have been a proud resident of Monroe Township since 1979. I first learned about COVID-19 on the radio, as I am an avid listener of National Public Radio (N.P.R.) and through my son, Michael. I had scheduled my many medical appointments for the months of April through June. Due to the coronavirus I had to reschedule each, later in the summer months. I follow the guidelines, wearing my mask regularly and social distance. Numerous people have passed on from the virus, which saddens me. I am staying calm and looking forward to the day when families and our community can be together again.

Linda L. Beachem