



ZONTA CLUB OF CONCORD

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

And the people stayed home. And they read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And they listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live, and they healed the earth fully, as they had been healed.

Kitty O'Meara

COPING

This corona virus/Covid-19 has created a new world for us, and depending on your personality type, it can have varying degrees of impact. All of us are severely impacted, there is no question of that. But have you noticed that some people are accepting it quite calmly and others are champing at the bit?

I'm a shy introvert who likes to be involved in the community, which sounds like an unlikely combination, but it is actually quite common. I'm also a Cancer, so I am a homebody. Prior to this, however, my calendar was very full. In fact, I had made a resolution to start saving one day a week when I could stay home with absolutely no obligations. You have to be careful what you wish for, I guess.

So I am accepting this stay-at-home recommendation rather easily, even

though I am missing the contributing-to-my-community schedule.

I am fortunate that four of my grandchildren live within walking distance and don't think it's necessary to stay away, although we do kiss with our elbows. One we have two days a week and do remote learning with (I could NEVER be a kindergarten teacher more than two days a week for a limited time!)

To reach out to the community in a safe way, I'm making face masks for a few organizations. I am calling my sewing room my sweat factory, because I like trying to churn out more today than yesterday (not on the remote kindergarten days; no time for sewing on those days). So if this retirement thing doesn't work out, although I can't be a teacher, maybe piece work in a factory would be an option.

How are you coping, based on your personality needs? I'm hoping we can find a way to share our thoughts with one another. Stay tuned.

OUR ZOOM MEETINGS

On April 1 we had our first Zonta Zoom meeting for membership. We had 11 members participating. I know that more people intended to be on, so

there may have been some technical difficulties. We have scheduled another meeting Wednesday, April 8 at 5:30. Lynn Stanley is still willing to walk anyone through how to jump on with your computer (if you have a camera and microphone) or your smart phone or your iPad. I had been missing my Zonta sisters, so it was wonderful to see their faces. Nobody had to dress up. No one came around to take our orders for wine, but serving yourself is quite easy, and if you are not leaving your house, you can buy wine online, it turns out.

DOCUMENTING OUR EXPERIENCES

I have been thinking about how these times will be written about in history text books someday. I was thinking how great it would be if my great-great grandchildren could have a personal account of what it was like for their ancestor. And then I was thinking about our Zontian sisters in the future. Would they want to know our personal stories? I certainly would have been interested to read the stories of Zontians voting for the first time or rolling bandages during WWI or becoming a Civil Defense volunteer in WWII. Then I saw on the news that a library was asking for volunteers to write stories of how they were living in the time of Covid-19, and I remembered our time capsule in our

Archive drawer at Concord Public Library.

That gave me the idea of creating a "book" of our club member's stories. It could be as simple as some pages stapled together or maybe bound in a book.

It doesn't take long for stories to become an interesting part of history. For instance, the year our club celebrated its 50th birthday, I happened to be president then. I gave a questionnaire to each member that asked about details of their lives. I compiled the answers and put it in a time capsule, which in this case was a tube that is all sealed up and that tells the Zontians of 2059 to open it. It's in our drawer at the library and is registered at a time capsule organization whose name I can't remember but who will send a notice to our club address when 50 years is up.

Recently I found my notes from that project and read that at that time almost 50% of us used email and a couple of us even knew how to tweet. So it doesn't take long for things to change.

I will send out a questionnaire to you sometime in the coming weeks, and you can either use that or write your own story if you want to participate. Be thinking about it, and if you have ideas

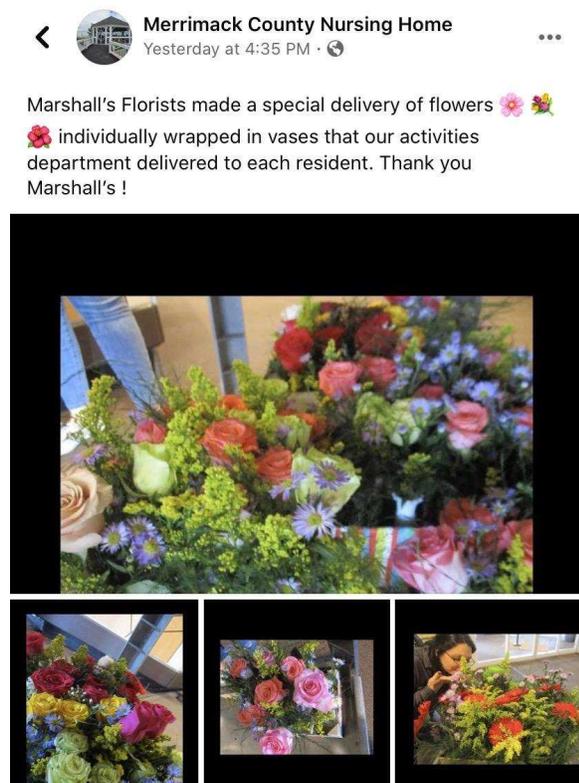
for what questions I should ask, send them to me.

GOOD NEWS SINCE IT ALL BEGAN

I've been amazed at all the good things that have happened since the world turned upside down. The videos of the people in Italy on their balconies all singing together brought tears to my eyes. And then the same thing happened in Spain. Right here in Concord Tim Wildman has put together members of his band and other friends to play concerts in his driveway so people can stand around, six feet apart, and tap their feet. On April 1, at 7:00 pm, people all over put votive lights on their steps or at the end of their driveways to show their solidarity with their community. The activity of putting a teddy bear in your window so parents can drive around with their kids and look for them, like Christmas lights, is one of my favorites. My Pooh Bear sits in my car window, since my car is mostly in the driveway. John Krasinski has created a YouTube show called *Some Good News* where he shows pictures and videos of good things happening all around. On his first one Steve Carell joins him. There are all kinds of stories of neighbors helping neighbors, and I'll bet you are one of those neighbors. I hope our own good news can be shared in our "book".

SPEAKING OF GOOD NEWS

Our club member, Lorrie Carey, owner of Marshall's Florists, came into possession of more flowers than she could use in her shop, so she made up hundreds of arrangements and brought them to nursing homes. These are a few from Merrimack County Nursing Home:



Thanks to Susan Lombard for submitting this picture.

SPEAKING OF OTHER GOOD NEWS

Some people really amaze me, and Marianne Barter and her staff at Merrimack Valley Daycare are some who do. A few weeks ago when schools

closed and people began to figure out how dangerous it is to be in contact with other people, daycare centers began to close. Marianne kept MVDC open for her families who couldn't stay home because they were essential workers. Recognizing that many of the parents are low-income who do not have a lot of resources, she and her staff stayed open, accepting older siblings of their regular children (helping them with remote learning assignments) and even other children who no longer had daycare. At the same time she is taking care of children, easing the fears of staff and running a not-for-profit business, she is writing grants so that the daycare can stay afloat since revenue is severely down. I know she is exhausted.

Those are two heroes in our club, and I'll bet there are more. We can share our experiences about them in our Zoom meetings and in our "book".

The Board will continue to meet via Zoom, committees will meet as they can, and we'll continue to have Zoom meet ups for our members, the next one April 8. See you then, and in the meantime, stay home and stay safe.

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