



# Chestnut Hill Local

ALWAYS ILLUMINATING

Serving Chestnut Hill, Mount Airy and Springfield Township

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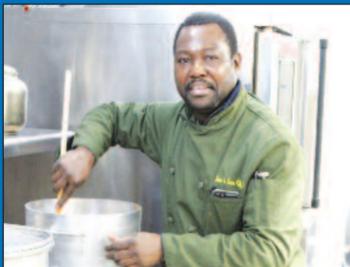
The Blue Edition of the Chestnut Hill Local in honor of our community's frontline personnel and essential workers is sponsored by the Chestnut Hill Local Institutional Leaders with gratitude, admiration and support.



Get the latest news on COVID-19 and links to the best resources in the city and the state at [chestnuthilllocal.com/coronavirus](http://chestnuthilllocal.com/coronavirus).

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Chill Local



On the front lines of COVID crisis page 13

## Hill ER doctor recovers from near-death with COVID-19

By Len Lear

Dr. Jack Kelly, 62, a Chestnut Hill resident for 31 years and Mt. Airy native, had decided to cut way back on his hours earlier this year after decades of service as an emergency room specialist and 30 years as a professor of emergency medicine at four Philadelphia medical schools. However, after finishing a shift on March 16 (Dr. Kelly works in the ER at all three area Einstein Medical Centers in Olney, Elkins Park and East Norriton Township), he felt unusually depleted and achy with a stuffy nose and temperature of 99.

On March 21 Dr. Kelly had a COVID-19 test. The following day he became ill with "severe shakes and rigors." That night two of his ER colleagues examined him and found "bilateral ground-glass infiltrates and a left



Dr. Jack Kelly, long-time Chestnut Hill resident and emergency room specialist at three area Einstein Medical Centers, is back to treating COVID-19 patients after contracting the disease himself.

lower lobe pneumonia." After he was given IV antibiotics, the colleagues and Dr. Kelly's wife, Fran Sirico-Kelly, who is also a doctor, wanted Dr. Kelly to be admitted to the hospital, but he insisted on

"toughing it out at home." (On March 28 the results of the COVID-19 test came back positive!)

The following five days were (Continued on page 22)

## Blue for all our heroes

This week's Chestnut Hill Local is blue in honor of the men and women who have been risking their lives throughout this pandemic to care for, protect and provide for all of us. Doctors, nurses, EMTs, police officers, firefighters, teachers, mail carriers, restaurant workers, package deliverers, grocery store clerks and stockers, reporters, cleaning personnel, sanitation workers, volunteers and the list goes on. The "Blue Edition" is just a small way for our readers, advertisers and staff to say THANK YOU for what these individuals are doing for us every day.

Several community newspapers throughout the state of Pennsylvania are joining the Local this week in turning their pages blue to recognize the heroic endeavors of our Commonwealth's frontline personnel and essential workers. We are proud to be a part of this effort and part of an industry that, throughout this crisis, strives to keep the public informed and to showcase the struggles and triumphs of our local heroes.

Community newspapers, like other small businesses, have been hit hard by the state-mandated shutdowns. The Local, of course, is no different. Through the generosity of our sponsors, the Chestnut Hill Institutional Leaders, many of you who are reading this right now, don't typically receive the Local. This week, to better honor our community's front liners and essential personnel we are delivering to every home in Chestnut Hill and Wyndmoor and in parts of Mt. Airy. We hope you like what you see and feel that receiving this newspaper each week would be informative and enriching. We hope you will consider supporting us with an annual subscription to the Chestnut Hill Local.

## Elfant Wissahickon gives \$3,000 in CHBA gift certificates to hospital staff, 1st responders



A group of first responders (background) with, (from left) Monika Schermer, owner of Bohemian Pink boutique, Margaret Tucker, manager of Chestnut Grill and Chair of the Chestnut Hill Business Association Board of Directors, Ann McNally, owner of McNally's Tavern (standing on wall), Elfant Wissahickon Realtors President Paul Walsh, Chestnut Hill Hospital CEO John Cacciamani, CHBA Director Philip Dawson (standing on wall) and Chestnut Hill Hospital Marketing and Public Relations Director Cathy Brzozowski. (Photo by Pete Mazzaccaro)

By Pete Mazzaccaro

Paul Walsh, President of Elfant Wissahickon Realtors in Chestnut Hill, said he and the other partners at the real estate firm were talking about what they could do to help frontline workers and emergency staff at Chestnut Hill Hospital. They came up with an idea that they hope will help both those workers and Chestnut Hill businesses.

Last week, he purchased \$3,000 of Chestnut Hill

Business Association gift certificates using the firm's support account. The gift certificates, which can be used at all CHBA-member businesses will go to Chestnut Hill Hospital workers and fire and emergency personnel at Chestnut Hill's Company 37 firehouse. When they use those cards, the CHBA reimburses 100% of the value to the merchant. It's a win-win for gift card recipient and the place where they buy goods or services.

"As we talked about it, rather than pick a restaura-

(Continued on page 11)

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John Derr  
Publisher

# Mt. Airy resident: 'It's an amazing time to be a nurse!'

By Len Lear

Karen Anderson, a West Mt. Airy resident for 28 years and a nurse at Philadelphia hospitals for 42 years, is a glowing oven of warmth and kindness with a razor-sharp switchblade of a mind.

"It is an amazing time to be a nurse!" said Anderson, 63, who has been a clinical nurse specialist for the last eight years at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP), last week.

"They are so courageous. I'm so proud to be a nurse. Families say, 'What you do matters.' We have learned that masks definitely do save lives and that you really do

have to wash your hands often and keep social distancing. The first COVID-19 patient here (at HUP) was on March 8. Five hundred have been discharged so far. These 10 weeks have been daunting. When there is a Covid discharge, sometimes the staff lines up to applaud for the ones who have been here the longest."

Anderson and her colleagues consult with patients and their family members in what they call "family-centered care." They use a video platform called Bluejeans (like Zoom) in the hospital to connect with families and keep them informed about their loved ones' condition because there are



Whenever a Covid patient is discharged, a huge "flower" is placed in a "survivor garden" in front of the hospital. (The "flowers" are not plastic but some weatherproof material). "We just 'planted' 30 more on Tuesday," said Karen Anderson (second from right), seen here with fellow nurses. The project is highlighted on Penn Medicine's Facebook page.



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very strict limits on visitors. Women in labor can have only one visitor, for example, and non-Covid end-of-life patients can have only two visitors.

"The hospital has done amazing things to keep families in touch. The hospital provides Bluejeans so we can do family meetings, update the family. The doctor calls the family if the patient dies, not us. We have had up to 100 Covid patients at any given time. In the first month of the pandemic the visitors center had to close." (The visitors center is an attractive area in the hospital that provides free coffee, donuts and breakfast, all donated by Wawa, to family visitors.)

"Anything we can do to mitigate caregiving we will do. I don't do direct care of Covid patients,

but I call families to offer emotional support and guidance. This is unprecedented. We have connected with over 200 families. They are so appreciative and grateful to the staff for caring for their loved ones. They often say, 'Tell the staff how appreciative we are.'"

Anderson worked with a team to come up with strategies to acknowledge the recovery of Covid patients, which helps staff morale. They planted a "survivor garden" in front of the hospital and play "Here Comes the Sun" when a patient is discharged. "These visible signs of recovery and healing give hope to those on the wards and to patients and families entering the hospital," said Anderson...

"In March I went to a local

Acme and thanked the checkout person. She had no protection at all. She was more susceptible than I was. We go to work, and an operating room nurse is the best cheerleader. She holds up a sign, thanks us all and shakes pom poms. It really helps raise morale, just like planting the survivor garden."

Anderson was born in the Philadelphia Naval Hospital. Her parents both were in the Marine Corps, so they lived near Marine bases in several states. She has an undergraduate degree from the Rutgers-Camden Nursing School, a masters degree from the U of P School of Nursing and additional training in "advanced practice." She worked at HUP from 1978 to 2000, then Friends Hospital on Roosevelt Boulevard for two years, then Children's Hospital of Philadelphia from 2002 to 2012 and then back to HUP. She has been married for seven years to Suzanne Brennan, 60, who has a doctorate degree in psychiatric nursing and has a private practice, but they have been together for 35 years. "We were supposed to go to Switzerland on May 8 to celebrate our 35th anniversary," said Anderson, "but we had to cancel because of the pandemic. That was sad, but it's small stuff compared to Covid."

HUP is now taking appointments for non-Covid patients and elective surgery, which is one step on the road back to normalcy. "Patients and doctors both have to have their temperature taken and wear masks. I actually feel safer in the hospital than in the park, where lots of people congregate, many without masks or social distancing. Now in the waiting room every other chair is occupied. It is time to stop putting off appointments for elective surgery. The Penn Medicine system is also starting to screen mammograms, colonoscopy, etc."

Anderson leads something called the Patient and Advisory Council, whose members have all been patients or family members of patients at one time or other. The council's purpose is to make sure that patients and their families have a voice in the treatment patients receive.

"It will help us to make better decisions. I have 15 volunteers who have been family caregivers themselves. They make rounds, talk to families about resources, give guidance on how to navigate the hospital. People are stressed when their loved ones are in the hospital. Anything we can do to lessen that stress, we will do."

Len Lear can be reached at lenlear@chestnuthilllocal.com

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# Hill's Weavers Way 'hero': 'It's nice to be appreciated'

By Len Lear

How does John Adams, prepared foods manager at the Weavers Way store in Chestnut Hill, feel about the fact that many people now think grocery store and supermarket employees are heroes, something that no one probably ever said before the pandemic?

"It's definitely not something I thought I'd be referred to in this line of work," he told us last week, "but it's nice to be appreciated, especially in customer service, where sometimes it's hard to find. Before the pandemic, though, I always said Weavers Way does have the most appreciative customer/member base I've experienced in my career."

"Personally I've never thought of myself as less or more than the person next to me, and I will continue to do so as long as we, and all food service establishments, help out their community by doing what we do best, which is feeding people. I think it helps keep everyone somewhat grounded with some sort of 'normalcy' in such a strange time. We all win a little bit."

Adams, 35, who was born just outside of Columbus, Ohio, was brought here when he was just 5 by his family when his father got a job in Delaware County. In high school John worked as a sandwich maker at a small market, 320 Market Cafe, specializing in prepared foods in Delco.

He gradually got more responsibility there, eventually becoming head chef and helping to open a second and a third location for the company. After 10 years there, he moved on to the pre-



John Adams, manager of prepared foods at Weavers Way in Chestnut Hill, said, "Before the pandemic, I always said Weavers Way does have the most appreciative customer/member base I've experienced in my career." (Photo by Karen Plourde)

pared foods department at the Swarthmore Co-op and landed at Weavers Way less than a year later.

Also, John continued his culinary education at the Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College in University City, graduating with an associate's degree in 2009. He now works at least 40 hours a week, sometimes more, and does some of the prepared foods cooking. He cooks at home, also.

"Right now our sales seem to be trending toward more full-meal friendly items like crab cakes, salmon filet, eggplant and chick-

en parm, pot pies and chicken tenders," said Adams. "We are doing things like brown butter salmon with lemon rice and haricots vert (green beans) and mushroom risotto cakes with grilled

asparagus and roasted butternut squash." (We have eaten the crab cakes, eggplant parm and risotto cakes twice recently, and they are simply wonderful and very reasonably priced.)

Adams now lives in Ridley Township with his wife, Melissa, a paralegal who splits her time working at home and in the office; son Brayden, 10, and daughter Rosie, 2.

How has Adams' life changed since the pandemic hit? "I would say just as much as the average person. I am able to spend more time with my wife and children, going on more walks, hiking in nature, staying at home relaxing, being able to do some more work at home and actually having conversations with people that aren't just entertainment-based — sports, movies, politics, etc. I try to keep my mindset in the positive as much as possible."

Before the pandemic, most of Adams' free time was spent at friends' and family events. He was in a spring/summer softball league for the last 12 years, which has been postponed, and "whatever sports or practice my son needed to get to (sometimes coaching), some occasional restaurant dining

with my family and never-ending chores, which I wish I could social-distance from!"

As one might expect, Adams also likes to watch TV cooking shows such as "Chef with Jon Favreau" and the baking show, "Nailed it," adding that "Ever since 'Game of Thrones' let down, I have been sticking to some old favorites such as 'The Office,' 'Parks and Recreation' and 'Seinfeld.' They will get you laughing, no matter how many times you've seen the episodes."

When asked about the best advice he has ever received, Adams replied, "Treat others the way you want to be treated."

And when asked what person in history he would most like to meet and spend time with, he answered, "There's a lot you could choose from. However, I think meeting Leonardo DaVinci would be a pretty neat experience. He was a very intelligent person, and I think having some long conversations with him would be eye-opening."

For more information, visit [weaversway.coop](http://weaversway.coop). Karen Plourde contributed to this article. Len Lear can be reached at [llenlear@chestnuthilllocal.com](mailto:llenlear@chestnuthilllocal.com)

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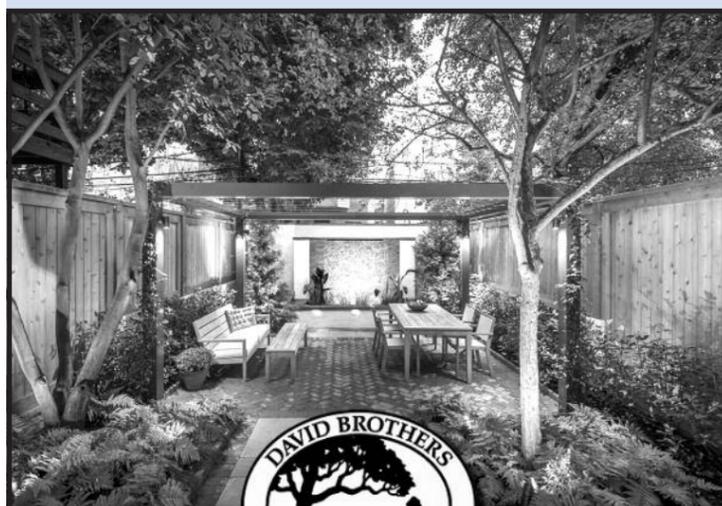


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## OPINION

## Arnie



## Everyday heroes

Last week, I listened to an interview with SEIU president Mary Kay Henry. Henry's union, Service Employees International Union, represents almost two million workers who are employed across a wide range of vocations including building services, public service employees and health care workers. In the interview with Vox media founder Ezra Klein, she wondered aloud what might have been different in this pandemic had health care workers she represents simply walked off the job.

Henry wasn't talking about an organized strike, but simply the fact that the health care workers she represents are not nurses and doctors but personal health aides – the folks taking care of the sick and elderly in group living facilities like nursing homes, the places that have proven to be the most dangerous. Many of those people, she noted, make very little money, particularly given the enormous responsibility they have, entrusted with older and otherwise disabled loved ones who can't care for themselves.

Henry's point was that many of these peo-

ple chose duty and responsibility, putting themselves at great risk for very little expected in return. Imagine what would have happen if a majority of those workers chose self-preservation before duty? What if a majority decided the low pay wasn't worth risking not only their own health but the health of their families? How would their work get done during so great a time of need?

In the wake of Memorial Day, with numerous news stories of people acting both ignorantly and selfishly, as they crowded shore spots and other resorts around the country, largely ignoring all advice of health officials, the untold stories of health care workers who opted for duty over their own health offers stark relief.

In this issue, we did our best to tell the stories of everyday heroes in fields ranging from ER doctors to grocery store workers. But heroes clearly come in many other varieties – far too many varieties for us to cover even in this extra-large issue dedicated to their stories.

Some like to make the case that we overuse the word hero, that the term should only be used to describe remarkable acts of bravery and sacrifice. That may be true, but for now, we don't have a better way to recognize that so many acting out of everyday kindness, duty and responsibility have shown us that many of us, given the option, chose to act in heroic ways. We make sacrifices. We chose to help others. We show up when it might seem to make more sense to simply stay away.

So no, I don't think it's too much to use hero in this context. Perhaps the scale has been small, and the acts unheralded, but they are heroic just the same. So thank you to everyone who has chosen to do something to help someone else. Not everyone makes that choice. And for that, you're a hero.

Pete Mazzaccaro

## from our readers

## Keep the masks on the Hill

As a Chestnut Hill resident, I regularly walk on Germantown Avenue and the side streets. The streets are always busy with pedestrian traffic, but especially now. The number of people who walk their dogs, push strollers, ride bicycles, run, skateboard, and even roller blade is a sign of a vibrant urban neighborhood.

But I note one major disappointment. Depending on the time of day, at least half of those people are not wearing masks. I listen to the daily briefings of our City's Department of Public Health, available through Facebook Live. Each day, the Mayor, the Managing Director, and the Public Health Commissioner provide their reports and answer questions from local media regarding the Corona virus. Each day Mayor Kenney and Dr. Farley urge residents to observe social distance and to wear masks when we are outside. They understand that for those who run or bike, it may be difficult to wear the mask all the time, but that we should pull the mask up when approaching other people.

Chestnut Hill is not immune! As the *Local* reported recently, as of May 10, there were 328 cases and 88 deaths at Chestnut Hill Hospital due to COVID-19. As of May 22, according to the Philadelphia Department of Health, there have been 1,165 deaths reported in the City. The Department also cites that 30.8% of those tested in zip code 19118 for the COVID-19 tested positive. As the Department reports, in Philadelphia there is a high risk of community transmission.

I know that, due to certain medical conditions, not everyone can wear a mask. For those who can, I urge you to please wear a mask when walking on the busy streets and sidewalks of our neighborhood. If you do, I thank you for your kindness. You are my heroes.

Barbara Sheehan  
Chestnut Hill

## Received exceptional care at Chestnut Hill Hospital

I read your recent article regarding the staff during this pandemic

at Chestnut Hill Hospital. [Hospital gets backup from U.S. Army Reserves, April 14] I would like to share my recent in-patient experience there with you.

I was admitted on March 28 and discharged on April 3, during this crucial time period for the COVID-19 virus.

I received exceptional care during my hospital stay to keep me safe from contagious patients. My family and I were extremely nervous and concerned about being kept in the hospital, not that I had a choice, but the wonderful staff took every precaution to keep me safe and did everything they could to have me discharged as soon as I was able. I started out on one floor, which came down with the virus, and I was moved to the 4th floor where I experienced wonderful nursing care. I truly don't know if I would be here writing this now if it wasn't for the wonderful nursing care I received.

I also wanted to share something I did not learn until my last day at the hospital. The nurse who gave me exceptional care the entire stay, Colleen, on the 4th floor, had just overcome her own hurdles, which are personal. She did so much for me, and never did her own problems show. I now know she is one special nurse. All of the workers, especially Colleen, deserve so much recognition and thanks for all they do.

This is the second time we (my husband and I) used Chestnut Hill Hospital for an emergency situation and I have to say there is no other hospital with which I would want to trust my life.

I thank all of the wonderful dedicated staff at Chestnut Hill Hospital.

Diane Haney  
Springfield Township

## Frustrated by errant dog owners

I appreciate the article by Kadafi El-Kardah regarding dog waste ["Dog owners need to keep our sidewalks, streams clean," May 21]. I am equally frustrated at errant dog owners. Besides simply ignoring the responsibility to pick up after your dog, there is a new behavior I've seen that I need help understanding. Spotted around Wyndmoor and Chestnut Hill, I see dog waste bags neatly tied up and left in a yard, or on the street, or most memorably, 3 feet from a

trash can. I can only see this as a hostile gesture to the neighborhood being that the dog owner clearly understands the law, and follows it, but only so far as to use a bag. Disposal I guess is up to the neighbor on whose lawn it was left, or for it to wash away into the sewer system to contaminate our water system. I'd be interested to hear from whoever does this: Stand up and explain yourself.

Fogens O'Neill  
Wyndmoor

## Fond memories of Mt. Airy childhood

I just read with interest your article on Ira Einhorn (Long-ago memories of a just-deceased Mt. Airy killer," May 14). I lived at Cliveden & Stenton and went to Upsal Playground every day. What great memories. I played on the Red Hawks baseball team (with restaurateur Neil Stein) and had a team, the Eldorados, in the rough touch football league. It was a great place to play sports and hang out with the Mt. Airy girls.

There was Mike G. and Barry Fisher, who was recently on the news when a large tree fell in front of his house on Lincoln Drive. He has been in that house since the '50s. Barry used to write for the "Leader," where he would often mention my sports accomplishments (usually fake news). I'm still friendly with so many people from those wonderful Mt. Airy years. We just postponed our 60th Central High School reunion from October till next April. We moved to Cheltenham in 1960, but the subject of life in Mt. Airy comes up all the time, especially at the shore.

I was trying to remember where the Einhorns' market was. I think it was either on Stenton or Wadsworth Avenue. The *Local* keeps me in touch with Chestnut Hill. Since the quarantine, I rarely return to the neighborhood. Before that, I was always in the area for Rotary, shopping and eating. My wife, Carol, passed in 2012, and I sold the big house in West Mt. Airy. Hard to believe it's been seven years.

*Ed. Note: Eliot and Carol Schwartz owned the Carol Schwartz (Art) Gallery in Chestnut Hill for 38 years until closing it in December of 2017.*

Elliot Schwartz  
Lower Gwynedd  
'Touched a button'

Folks have been so sweet reaching out to me about the article in the *Local* ("Beauty still in season for Hill artist and floral buyer," May 21). You touched a button. Thank you!

And what good company I'm keeping in the senior section! Loved reading the story about Len Lear!

There are no accidents!  
Stay well, and keep inspiring this weary world.

Ginger Arthur  
Chestnut Hill

## Strange place for enchilada

I'm so glad Len Lear found a

path in which he was able to use his strengths and benefit so many people! ("At 80, *Local's* features editor still a human-interest story dynamo," May 21). I'm sure his writing during the Rizzo era was very important.

His experience interviewing a grieving parent reminded me of a cartoon in "Sylvia." (The syndicated cartoonist, Nicole Hollander, developed some fun and meaningful cartoons from 1980 to 2012.) She showed a mother (Mexican, perhaps) being interviewed about how she felt about her child's death and responded, "How would you like to have an enchilada shoved up your nose!"

Gloria Rohlfs

(Continued on page 13)

## Policy Statement

It is the policy of this publication to anticipate community problems and prepare public opinion for their solutions, to review community problems as they arise and to present possible solutions, to study community problems and, with the help of expert opinion, direct community thinking toward a solution consistent with local tradition and the best forward-looking interests of Chestnut Hill.

It is the policy of the LOCAL to publish all responsible points of view on the various issues presented in the *Forum*. Unless otherwise expressly indicated, the opinions and points of view expressed in this publication are those of the individual writer who shall be identified by name.

Positions presented or adopted by the Community Association or its board of directors on any matter will be expressly identified as such.

All letters addressed to the LOCAL *Forum* must be signed and must include an address and a verifying telephone number. All letters must not exceed 300 words.



## Chestnut Hill Local

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# Love in the time of pandemica

The nature writer and anthropologist Loren Eiseley was once out in the badlands of the American West with an order to capture something interesting – birds, reptiles, anything, that his museum could use for exchange with a foreign zoo.

not follow his gaze. But something changed in that minute. Without knowing why, he laid the bird in the grass.

At first the male sparrow just lay there. Then, “like a flicker of light,” he vanished. Eiseley’s eyes could not follow him into that empty vast sky. All around him was silence. “Then from far up somewhere a cry came ringing down.” Eiseley looked up and saw the two hawks meet in a soaring gyre and dance of wings. “Then they were gone forever beyond the eyes of men.”

Years later, after reading an article about the wonders of artificial intelligence, Eiseley remembered that day with the sparrows and wrote, “On the other hand...on the other hand, a machine does not bleed, ache, hang for hours, in the empty sky in a torment of hope to learn the fate of another machine, nor does it cry out with joy nor dance in the air with fierce passion of a bird.” He called it “that cry from the heart of heaven.”

I was reminded of Loren Eiseley’s story of “The Bird and the Machine” (from “The Immense Journey”) last week when I received a letter from Gilly Phipps of Wyndmoor. She explained how a book she read was helping her with a problem she faces.

She wrote: “I want to speak of love and friendship in our current day and age. Don’t feel you have to mention my situation in one of your columns. It’s a bit heavy and maybe depressing for your readers, so I won’t be offended. I just wanted to share my story.

“I am daily faced with some quite trying issues concerning my



A kestrel hawk.

One night he came upon an abandoned cabin. He opened the door softly ready to use his flashlight to blind whatever he saw and thereby capture it. He heard the rustle of birds come from a shelf on the wall and brought his short ladder over and climbed it. He reached into the darkness and shined his light just before he clutched a female sparrow hawk. Then her mate sank his beak into Eiseley’s thumb. Eiseley let go and the female escaped through a hole in the roof. Eiseley grabbed the male and climbed down in the dark, left the cabin, put the bird in a small box and made camp. His thumb ached and bled all night.

The next morning was beautiful, with a sky so clear and blue, you could see forever across the plains. “It was a fine day to be alive,” he wrote. He took the bird box out of his truck to examine his capture. He opened it and held the bird, wings folded. The sparrow’s heart beat rapidly, but “he only looked beyond me and up.” Eiseley lifted his eyes to see what the bird was looking at, but could

been inside for over two months.

“Two weeks ago she tested positive for Covid-19. I have been taking a daily drive to the home where she resides, and since she is one of the residents who are quarantined in a room with a window, I stand outside and wave my signs that say, Hi, I love you, and goodbye. We try to talk to each other, but with the glass between us, it’s hard.

“But at least I get to see how she looks, and learn how she is breathing, sleeping, eating, etc., and she gets to see me. It is frustrating, but the best we are offered during this unprecedented time.

“So far she is physically winning the battle...but the war is still ahead. The staff are caring and compassionate, they know and love my friend, but they are overwhelmed with the current situation. They were one of the first nursing homes to shut down visitations from outside.

“But quarantine living means isolation. Confined alone in a room, for weeks, not being able to even get into her wheelchair for bathroom trips for fear of raising her risk of losing precious oxygen during the transfer. No appetite, beyond bored...we both can’t wait until the doors open again and I can sit next to her and hold her hand and have a laugh about one of our old memories...”

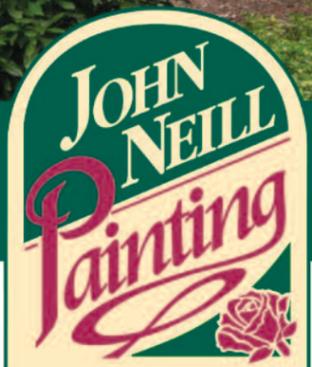
In this age of coronavirus it is important to reaffirm that older people are not expendable. They too feel love and know passion. Whether they have “pre-existing conditions” or not, they love and are loved. There are many ways of being heroes in our present age.

best friend who is a five-year resident in a nearby nursing home. She currently has short-term memory loss but is right on target when we discuss anything from the past, in particular our past together. We are best friends for 25-plus years (she is a decade older than me). She is the last living member of her family.

a frustrating experience and yesterday she was combative and screaming at the staff and even at me as I stood at her window outside. She apologized, but she is having a time of it...weeks on end of feeling sick and not eating. Her vitals are stable but she is still in quarantine because the entire building is quarantined. No visitors until further notice. I haven’t

“I’m going over today soon. It’s

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## Lingelbach Elementary seeks to provide kids with constructive new playspace

By Sam Newhouse

Students at Anna L. Lingelbach Elementary in Germantown haven't seen much of each other lately – like students across the country, they've shifted to online classes due to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

But even during this crisis, Lingelbach's staff, parents and supporters are hoping to make the school a more positive place for students with an ongoing fundraiser to spruce up the school's playground area. So far, they have raised more than \$40,000 – about 72 percent of

their \$56,000 goal – and hope that this funding, paired with a reported School District of Philadelphia renovation budget of \$50,000, could radically reshape the outdoors area at Lingelbach for students and the entire community.

"It's really important for us to meet this goal," said Lingelbach principal Lisa Waddell.

Waddell noted that the fundraiser is intended to fund the installation of new play structures that aren't part of the District's existing plan, which involves resurfacing the schoolyard, installing a new AstroTurf playing field, a track, benches, trees and



A concept rendering of Anna Lingelbach Elementary's playground with the planned School District resurfacing and upgrade (right) and the proposed new play structures (left). Courtesy of Friends of Lingelbach.



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and improving stormwater runoff. "While in the end it leaves us with a well-designed space, it doesn't necessarily give us all of the equipment we were hoping to have. That's where the fundraising idea came in. If we could raise \$56,000, that would allow us to add some play elements so it can be a place for a children to play safely," Waddell said.

**A 'Gem'**  
 Waddell, Lingelbach's principal for the past five years, said she considers the school's outdoor area a "gem" that is at present vastly underutilized. Sitting at the corner of Wayne Avenue and Johnson Street near Lincoln Drive, Lingelbach's land includes a sizable chunk of forest and the decaying, historic McIlhenny Mansion, which is fenced off. It doesn't have play structures beyond basketball hoops and a wooden "GaGa Ball Pit" (a game

known as the kinder, gentler dodgeball).

Waddell said that planned fundraising activities this spring have been called off due to COVID-19. But she still hopes the fundraiser can reach its goal by the end of June.

"Now when children are outside at recess or PE, there will be some constructive things for children to do. It calms down their energy. When you have play equipment and things that lend to creativity, it gives kids opportunities to engage with each other in meaningful play. You can shift the tide to hands-on and creative play," she said.

#### Long-Hoped For Renovation

Leah Hood, the parent of an incoming kindergartener and of a student who just finished five years at Lingelbach, is working with the Friends of Lingelbach, which has led fundraising for this

project. She said a renovated playground has long been an elusive dream for Lingelbach's students and families.

"This project is going to really be a game changer for the students at our school. It's going to transform our school day," Hood said.

Lingelbach students started working on the plans for the new playground as part of a design-build project with Denver and Philly-based nonprofit The Big Sandbox a few years ago. Right now, the School District's planned project represents a big upgrade, but the Friends of Lingelbach believe with the additional funding from their community and supporters, they can seek additional elements like a swing set and play structures for students to interact with.

(Continued on page 8)



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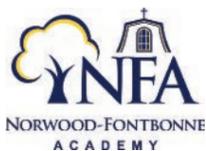


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The **Chestnut Hill Institutional Leaders Group** is comprised of individuals who head many of the organizations with deep roots and strong ties in the Chestnut Hill community. Separately, these entities provide educational, medical, cultural, historical, social, ecological, informational, or aesthetic enrichment, not only to our area, but in many cases far beyond our geographic borders.

Together, these organizations work collaboratively to coordinate programs and efforts to improve the quality of life in our community, to reach those who may not otherwise have access to our resources, and to support each other, for a better Chestnut Hill and world.

The entities comprising the **Chestnut Hill Institutional Leaders Group** are: Chestnut Hill Business Association, Chestnut Hill College, Chestnut Hill Community Association, Chestnut Hill Conservancy, Chestnut Hill Hospital, Chestnut Hill Local, Crefeld school, Friends of the Wissahickon, morris Arboretum, Norwood-Fontbonne Academy, Philadelphia Cricket Club, springside Chestnut Hill Academy, and Woodmere Art museum.



# CHCA Agenda

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CHCA Agenda for week of 5/25/2020

Please note that the CHCA office will be closed until further notice. In the meantime, CHCA staff will be working from home and are available by phone 215-248-8810 or email [info@chestnuthill.org](mailto:info@chestnuthill.org)

## Thurs., May 28th

5:00 p.m.

Chestnut Hill Community Association Board of Directors meeting

On-line meeting

211 e. meade st. - variance appeal for a one-story rear addition. To obtain the link to attend any online CHCA meetings, send an email to [info@chestnuthill.org](mailto:info@chestnuthill.org)

meetings will be conducted using Zoom.com. You will need to have this application on your device prior to the meeting. For more information, call 215-248-8811

# Meade Street addition supported by DRC

By Kate Dolan

The Development Review Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed one-story rear addition at 211 E Meade Street in a meeting conducted via Zoom on May 19.

The project planned for the single-family semi-detached house built in 1916 required a variance after the proposed addition received a refusal from the city in January due to side-yard size requirements.

Zoned as RSA-3 for a lower residential density area, the zoning code requires that the side-yard at addition level be a minimum of eight feet. The house on Meade Street is considered a "non-conforming use" as it was built when the code set the minimum at four feet, before it changed to eight feet, making it require a variance for new construction.

The addition entails the demoli-

tion of the existing one-story portion and the construction of a small rear room and powder room, according to notes from the April 21 DRC meeting, when the plan was first presented.

In attendance were the project's architect, John Andrews, and the homeowners, Juliet Sarkessian and Nena Eskeridge. Andrews reported the project's only updates since the May 7 Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee meeting, which concern materials used and a question of vertical vs. horizontal siding.

"We are planning to use the hardy board and at this point we've agreed that it makes sense to use the horizontal siding," said Andrews. "I can't say that's absolutely definitive, because there are pricing issues that are still to come but that makes the most sense. It's certainly more compatible with the bay window above and that is the likely out-

come. That"

The homeowners informed the board that they have support from neighbors in the other half of the twin on one side, and the owner of the house on the other side, which is split into two apartments.

The project has received support from both the DRC and the Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee as well as a letter of support from the Historic District Advisory Committee. It will go before the board of directors at the Chestnut Hill Community Association Board of Directors meeting on May 28.

"Every committee that saw it has supported it so they are pretty good odds," said Larry McEwen, DRC co-chair.

The meeting on May 28 will also be conducted via Zoom at 5pm. A final Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting date has not been finalized.

# Lingelbach Elementary

(Continued from page 6)

## Community Park

Hood and Waddell both said they hope their proposal could also make Lingelbach's playground an asset for the entire neighborhood of Germantown and nearby Mt. Airy.

"We looked at a map and the closest park with playground equipment is Vernon Park, which is over a mile away," Hood said.

"The vision for our schoolyard is that it becomes a community park. We see it as a place neighbors could use during evenings or on the weekend in the summer, as a place for families in the neighborhood to gather and connect together, because we really don't have that in our neighborhood," Hood said.

The playground fundraiser has been supported in the community by longtime Lingelbach supporters at Elfant Wissahickon Realtors, who previously worked on fundraising to upgrade the school's library.

"With such massive problems and issues surrounding us right now, it's great to have something positive and in our backyard to work on," Jan LeSuer, a realtor at Elfant Wissahickon who is supporting the Friends of Lingelbach, said. "This playground is going to provide great joy to kids and will be really essential to our community."

To learn more, visit "Friends of Lingelbach" on Facebook.

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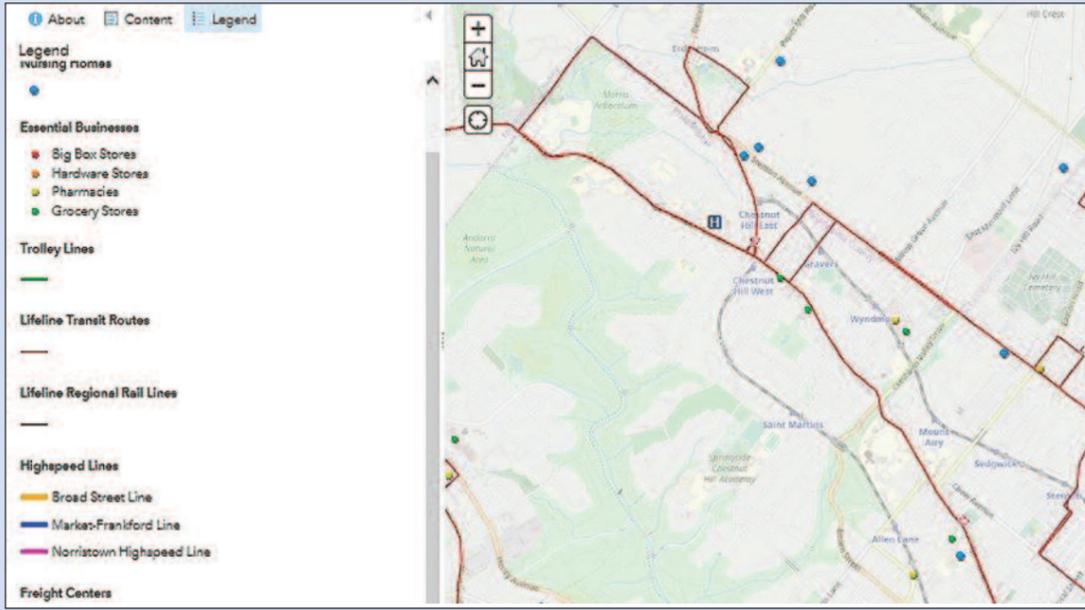
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# Discover Chestnut Hill: Documenting our history and the pandemic

By Alex Bartlett, Archivist, Chestnut Hill Conservancy

The citizens of the United States have now suffered from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic for approximately two months. Since then, we have been practicing social distancing and working from home whenever possible. Of course, this has led to a case of cabin fever for many. Those projects we have avoided around the house long awaiting attention have suddenly become much more attractive. There are rooms to be repainted, and attics, basements, and garages to be cleaned out.

While doing your deep cleaning, have you thought about things you might throw out or recycle? Have you turned up old photographs, newspapers, letters, and ephemera associated with Chestnut Hill and the surrounding area? These items may be invaluable to the Archives of the Chestnut Hill Conservancy. We are always looking for information helping to document our history, from our beginnings over 300 years ago to the present day.



SEPTA's "Lifeline" map of Chestnut Hill and Mount Airy is shown here, with lines in operation highlighted, as well as the locations of "life-sustaining" businesses.

At the Chestnut Hill Conservancy, we have been also working hard to document the history of the pandemic in Chestnut Hill and its effects on everyday life, including those of our families and businesses.

We have been taking photographs of storefronts and their signage and have interviewed local residents to find out how the pandemic has affected them and how they have been coping with life in isolation.

Part of this documentation has involved reviewing online content, gleaned from websites of businesses and organizations, including city agencies.

For example, SEPTA has imple-

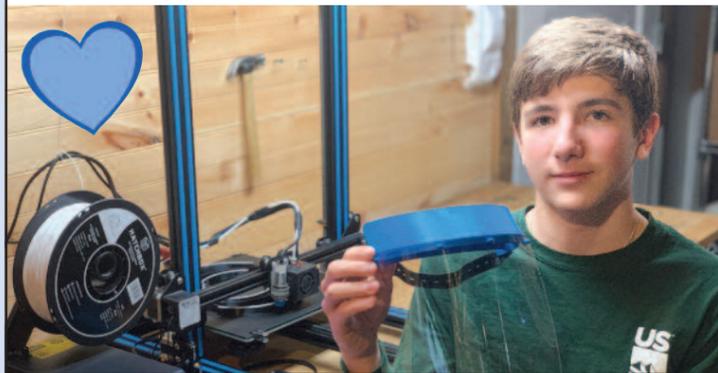
mented its "Lifeline Service" to provide service to essential workers in our community. This has involved reducing the frequency of some transit lines and suspending service to others. The organization has provided an interactive map of those remaining lines and has included the location of "life sustaining" businesses, including hospitals, pharmacies, hardware stores, nursing homes, and grocery stores, a "screen grab" of which is published here.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Archives and Library of the Chestnut Hill Conservancy are closed. However, if you would like to donate any items documenting the history of Chestnut Hill or share your own experiences—including those related to the pandemic—please let us know about them! Please get in touch with Conservancy Archivist Alex Bartlett to let him know about anything you might like to donate to our collections BEFORE sending it along or dropping it off, by emailing him at alex@chconservancy.org. He will get back to you as soon as he can. Direct all other inquiries to info@chconservancy.org.

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# Julia Moore Converse, curator and university administrator

Julia Moore Converse, 74, former Director of the Architectural Archives at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design, died at her Chestnut Hill home on May 22 of Alzheimer's disease.

Throughout her life she was known for her consummate professionalism, intellect, innate sense of style and social graciousness. Penn Professor of Architecture and Urbanism Witold Rybczynski said of Julia that she "was a great spirit, and she touched so many people."

"Julia was an important voice in the ecosystem of the arts in Philadelphia, and her accomplishments resonated nationally and internationally," said William Valerio, the Director and CEO of Woodmere Art Museum, "As founding director of the Architectural Archives at the University of Pennsylvania, she carved a niche for herself in American art, serving as an advocate on a national basis for the study of architecture as cultural history. Julia taught us all to think about architects as the artists who shape our built environment."

Born in New York City in 1946, she moved as an infant with her family to Lima, Peru, where her father worked for W.R. Grace and Company as an attorney, returning to the United States in 1952. From 1969 to 1975 her father, John D.J. Moore, served as U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, a post her uncle Richard Moore also filled from 1989 to 1992. Her maternal grandfather, Harry Ward Foote, a Professor of Chemistry at Yale, was on the 1911 Yale Expedition to Peru, when Machu Picchu was rediscovered, and her maternal grandmother, Martha Babcock Foote, founded the Foote School in New Haven.

A 1967 art history graduate of Smith College, she spent her junior year at the École du Louvre and l'Institute d'Art et d'Architecture in Paris, and also completed advanced studies in Renaissance art in Florence, Italy.

Ms. Converse was had already held curatorial positions at the National Gallery of Art in Washington and the Fogg Art Museum in Cambridge, MA when G. Holmes Perkins hired her in 1984



Gallery at the University of Pennsylvania. She served on the Boards of the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, the Abraham Lincoln Foundation of the Union League, the Chestnut Hill Historical Society, the Woodmere Art Museum, the Smith College Club of Philadelphia, and the Wyck Association, where she chaired the Wyck-Strickland Award Committee for many years. She received their Wistar Haines Award for her contributions to Wyck in 2013.

Her many interests included cooking and entertaining, travel, visits to museums, attending lectures and concerts, and taking long walks in Chestnut Hill and the Wissahickon Park. Every year while she was at Penn, she and her husband hosted contingents of graduate work-study students from around the world for dinners in their Chestnut Hill home.

She is survived by her husband of 34 years, Richard W. Bartholomew, and by sons Alexander Converse (Amy) of Seattle, Denis Converse of Tucson, and Andrew Bartholomew (Anna Pitoniak) of New York City, two grandchildren, and three sisters.

A celebration of her life is planned for a future date when conditions allow. Donations in her honor may be made to Woodmere Art Museum, the Penn Memory Center, and the Julia Moore Converse and Richard W. Bartholomew Endowment Fund for the G. Holmes Perkins Architectural Library at the University of Pennsylvania.

to bring professional curatorial care to Penn's Architectural Archives. In 1987 she was appointed Director of the Archives and from 1997 until her retirement in early 2008 she also served as Assistant Dean for External Relations at the School. Under her leadership the Archives grew to become one of the most important collections of architectural drawings, models and records in the United States. For her accomplishments she received the Dean's Medal of Achievement in 2008.

Eugenie Birch, former chair of City and Regional Planning at Penn and a fellow member of the School of Design's Executive Committee, said of Julia: "She was one of my favorite people at Penn Design – she was so imaginative and energetic in promoting the school. Her humor, graciousness and intelligence were outstanding." Dr. Gary Hack, former Dean, said "She was so much a part of the life of all of us at Penn Design."

As Director of the Architectur-

al Archives she curated over 28 exhibits of the work of architects represented in the collections and helped support research by Ph.D. students and visiting scholars from all over the world. As Curator of the Louis I. Kahn Collection she was a member of the organizing team that created a major exhibit of the architect's work, sponsored by the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art and the Philadelphia Museum of Art in 1991. She contributed to the exhibit catalogue "Louis I. Kahn: In the Realm of Architecture," co-authored by Professors David B. Brownlee and Dr. David G. DeLong and accompanied the exhibit to installations in Gunma in Japan, the Pompidou Centre in Paris, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

She was active in the national Society of Architectural Historians, the International Confederation of Architectural Museums, the Cosmopolitan Club of Philadelphia and the Arthur Ross

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## death notice

**Thomas B. Morris, Jr.**  
Thomas B. Morris, Jr., 83, a long time resident of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, and former law partner and chairman of the Philadelphia firm, Dechert LLP, died Thursday, May 14th, after a valiant battle with Lewy body dementia. Tom joined Dechert after graduating from Harvard Law School in 1962. In 1968, he opened Dechert's first international office in Brussels, Belgium and served as the Consul of Belgium in Philadelphia from 1974 to 1989. His legal practice involved advice concerning a broad range of corporate matters, particularly related to international organizations. A graduate of Princeton University, Tom was awarded the Roper Trophy, the University's highest athletic award and won six letters in football and baseball. In 1957, he earned the Maxwell Award, given to the best college football player in the country for his winning performance against Colgate where he scored three touchdowns and threw for a fourth. Tom served on a number of corporate boards including The Berwind Group, Peirce-Phelps, Inc, Asten Johnson, PNC Bank, Thomas Jefferson University and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, The Philadelphia Contributionship, Keystone State Life Insurance, Harmac Medical Supplies, Yarway, Envirite Corporation, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Greater Philadelphia First, The Free Library of Philadelphia, the International House of Philadelphia, Princeton University, Lake Paupac Club, and Springside Chestnut Hill Academy (formerly Chestnut Hill Academy). He also served as Chairman of Peirce-Phelps and the International House of Philadelphia. Tom was a member of Pine Valley Golf Club, Sunnybrook Golf Club, The New York Athletic Club, The Philadelphia Club, The Racquet Club, and The Athenaeum of Philadelphia. An avid skier, Tom and his family spent their winters in Sun Valley, Idaho, where he was always in search of the perfect turn. Born in Columbus, Ohio, to Margaret O'Shaughnessy Morris and Thomas Bateman Morris, Tom was the oldest of five siblings with whom he remained deeply connected throughout his life: Jeremiah (Jerry) Morris, Ellen (Ellie) Roebuck, Joseph (Joe) Morris, and Nancy Prior. He graduated Cum Laude from Columbus Academy in 1954. His experience at The Academy was profound and life-changing. In 2004, he created, and fully funded, an Alumni Scholarship in his name through the award program which had provided him the opportunity to attend the school as a young man. Tom is survived by his wife and best friend of 57 years, Ann Peirce Morris, and their three children; Lauren Ayres O'Connell (James O'Connell), Thomas Bateman Morris III, Richard Trevor Morris (Alice Tasman Morris), and four grandchildren; Julia, Jack, Clay, and Louisa. Despite a lifetime of professional accomplishments, Tom considered his family his greatest success. Due to the Corona virus, a memorial service will be held at a later time to be determined. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Tom Morris '54 Alumni Memorial Scholarship fund at Columbus Academy, 4300 Cherry Bottom Rd, Gahanna, OH 43230, or to the Free Library in Philadelphia <https://freelibrary.formstack.com/forms/donation>.



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# Tending to disabled loved ones at home poses unique stresses to caregivers

By Sue Ann Rybak

This week the Local is doing a series on the heroes of the COVID-19 pandemic – doctors, nurses, scientists, police officers, bus drivers – the list is endless – but one group – Aging parents and families of adult children with disabilities deserves special recognition.

Even in the “best of times,” caring for a family member with autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities, can be overwhelming and leave families feeling isolated and anxious.

Audrey “Dee” Coccia, 80, is currently taking care of her 82-year-old husband, Vince, who has Lewy body dementia and her 55-year-old daughter Gina, who is nonverbal and has intellectual and developmental disabilities.

“The longer this goes on, the more problematic it becomes for behaviors,” she said. “Not just my daughter, but my husband, too. It can get tough sometimes. You want to be patient with people and help them through these tough times.”

Coccia, co-founder and co-executive director of Vision for Equality, Inc., said many families have worked to obtain a Medicaid waiver, which allows people with disabilities to receive services in their homes instead of a nursing home or other institution.

“They [Families] have chosen to take care of them and keep them at home, but at a time like this, it really is difficult,” she said.

Coccia, who lives in northeast Philadelphia, said it’s not that she can’t get help, but bringing

another person in the house puts them all at risk.

“I can’t take that chance,” she said.

Carol Costello, whose sister Tish Boyle taught kindergarten at Jenks Academy for the Arts and Sciences in Chestnut Hill, knows firsthand how difficult it can be to care for an adult child with a disability.

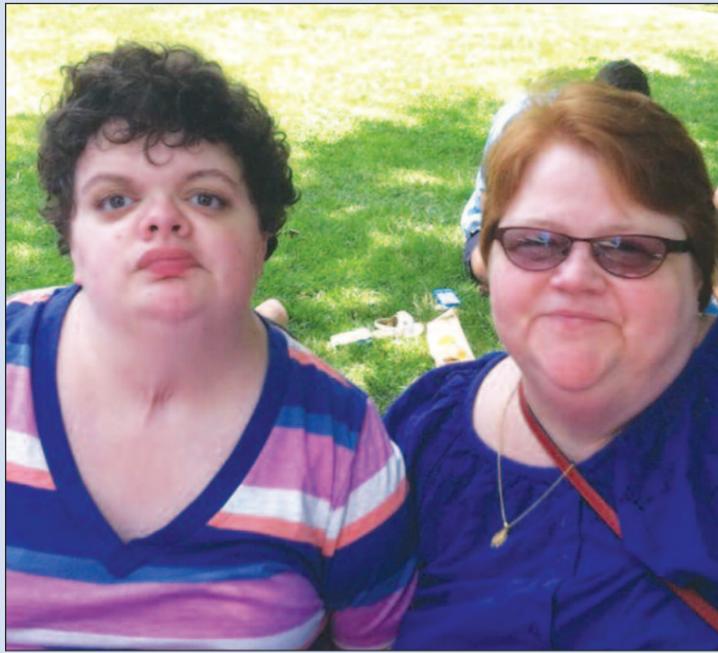
Costello, 58, takes care of her 34-year-old daughter Colleen in her home in Roxborough. Colleen has a genetic disability called translocation – in which two chromosomes exchange pieces of themselves.

“Colleen has come a long way,” Costello said. “She had to have four leg surgeries to even be able to walk because of the way her feet were when she was little. She has a hole in her heart. Initially, they [the doctors] wanted to close it, but then they thought it would be better not to. She has a lot of trouble under anesthesia.”

Costello said they are receiving respite and home and companion services now. She said she is fortunate to have a good caregiver that has provided excellent services to Colleen for the last six years.

“There were times when I didn’t,” she said. “Colleen was even in a police chase with one aide.”

Costello, who is a kidney cancer survivor, said when times were difficult, she has been “blessed” with an aide who was competent and reliable. She says it’s difficult to go places with Colleen because she has difficulties walking. A simple trip to the food store would not only be dangerous but



Roxborough resident Carol Costello, (right) sits next to her 34-year-old daughter Colleen, who has developmental and intellectual disabilities caused by a genetic disorder. Costello is just one example of the many family members in our area struggling to take care of their adult children with disabilities during the pandemic. (Photo courtesy of Costello)

almost impossible.

“I would be too afraid to take her to the store with me,” she said. “I wouldn’t be able to. I have issues with my knees. I wouldn’t be able to push her, get groceries, and make sure she is okay. I just wouldn’t be able to do it all.”

Before the stay-at-home order, Colleen attended Intercommunity Action, Inc.’s day activities center in Roxborough.

“I don’t think it’s good for her to be here all day every day,” Costello said. “I am not talking about for myself; I am talking about for her. It’s just such a lim-

ited world sitting in the living room all day.”

Interact’s day service program runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Costello said her aide usually picks her up around 3 p.m. The change in routine has affected her daughter’s sleep schedule. The loss of routine has made Colleen disinterested in everything. Now Costello said, all her daughter wants to do is watch baby videos or Barney videos on her Kindle.

“That’s a problem because she doesn’t want to do anything else,” she said.

Costello said it’s a challenge to

get her to put the Kindle down and “come over to the table to eat for 15 minutes.”

“It’s going to take at least three months for her to get back to her normal routine,” she said. “If and when the program opens up, it scares me. I think they have about 100 people in the program. Colleen is not going to wear a mask all day. She can’t toilet herself. Just to be in a room of 100 individuals with a few staff. In defense of the staff, they are never going to be able to change gloves fast enough to change from one individual to another.

“God forbid she gets [COVID-19], and I can’t be there to take care of her,” she said. “Of course, she is going to be combative because she can’t communicate. It’s hard to advocate for her over the phone when I can’t see her. That was my big fear. How is this going to work if this happens? I am the only one here at night. What if I got sick? Who is going to care for Colleen?”

Coccia, co-founder and co-executive director of Vision for Equality, Inc., said Costello is just one of many examples of family members struggling to take care of their adult children with intellectual and developmental disabilities during the pandemic.

“The determination of all of us is amazing is because we want to keep our sons and daughters home,” she said. “So, we will go to the ends of the earth to do that – even if it means we are tired, even if it means we are having a bad day ourselves. Even though they are adults, they are still members of our family.”

## Elfant gives \$3,000

(Continued from page 1)

rant and cater, which is a wonderful thing people are doing, we wanted to make it as broad as we could and figured buying gift certificates was the way to go,” Walsh said. “People need hardware. People need flowers. People need a dinner. And we just wanted to spread it to as many of the businesses along the Avenue as we could.”

That help will definitely be appreciated by businesses on the Avenue.

“Things are very difficult right now,” said Chestnut Hill Business District Executive Director Philip Dawson. “A lot of our retailers are getting as creative as they can be. They’re making their goods available online, doing streaming fitness videos and restaurants are still turning out food with take out and curbside pickup, but in all cases it doesn’t end up equaling the business they’ve lost. Even with tremendous support from the community, it can be tough to keep things going. So this sort of support for our frontline workers, that also uses the Chestnut Hill gift certificates to keep dollars in the business district, is really invaluable.”

Chestnut Hill Hospital said its staff appreciated the gesture.

“From my perspective, and all of our staff’s perspective, we’re incredibly grateful,” said Dr. John Cacciamani, CEO of Chestnut Hill Hospital. “You know as part of the community, we want to help support all the businesses here and we’re very grateful to Elfant Wisahickon for thinking about us. Our staff has been through quite a bit and they’re looking forward to, hopefully as the pandemic wanes, we hope, to get back out and support the community.”

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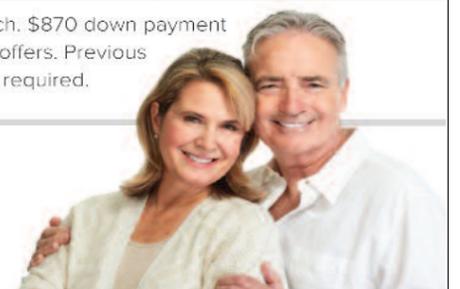
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of the bears you see or interesting poses you create for your windows.

**POST THEM**

on a photo gallery on [chestnuthilllocal.com](http://chestnuthilllocal.com) and on social media using **#CHBearHunt**



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When you are out walking the area around the Avenue, keep an eye out for the 5 shops that have a bear in their window. Write down the five businesses who have the bear and what each bear in holding and go to [chestnuthilllocal.com/secondstreetapp.com/Bear-Hunt](http://chestnuthilllocal.com/secondstreetapp.com/Bear-Hunt) to write in you answers. Or fill out the form below and drop it in the mail slot at 8434 Germantown Avenue. New winner each week!\*

**ENTRY FORM**

Deliver to Chestnut Hill Local (place in mail slot) at Town Hall Building at 8434 Germantown Avenue.

**Name:**

**Email Address:**

**Zip Code:**

What were the five businesses with bears in the windows 5/29 – 6/4? What was each bear holding or wearing?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Questions?  
Email: [John@chestnuthilllocal.com](mailto:John@chestnuthilllocal.com)

Contest Rules: \*The businesses with the bears will change every Friday. Entries for the gift certificate prize must be received each Thursday by 5 p.m. Only one entry per household per week. You must be at least 24 hours old to enter.

## Chestnut Hill Career Column – I want to get back to my office

By Rona Sisson

Dear CHCC (Chestnut Hill Career Column):

I have been required to work from home, but frankly want to get back into the office asap. I love my job but cannot stand working at this setup we did in the corner of my bedroom. I wonder what you think the future holds for getting back to the office?

Crossing our collective fingers, anyone who is healthy should be able to get back to their worksite in Pennsylvania as we move to the 'green' light. Keep an eye on this page link for reopening info: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/process-to-reopen-pennsylvania/>

Be prepared that you may need to have your temperature taken, wear a mask and certainly practice social distancing within your workplace. Many businesses have remained open for essential services and moving forward, employers must follow guidelines for their staff's health and safety as offices reopen.

One amazing outcome of this work from home situation has been a profound shift in how people view what they may want (work from home or work in the office, or a combo) and how it may fundamentally change some business models. Some people actually have discovered they like working from home and feel more productive. Sure, sometimes you may need to take an important call while you sit in your car to keep distractions at a minimum, but for some, they have discovered in their respective career, working from home is possible.

Ideas that may help you in the short term which we wait for our region to go from red to yellow to green include setting up your own 2-3 hour work 'zones' and keeping close track of personal breaks so days are not wasted away. Getting 'dressed' for work like you did when you went to your office may help. Parents with school age kids at home have shared that they use a whiteboard in the morning to set up the day. Of course, your day may change as things come up, but one of the success factors in a work-from-home situation involves knowing when you as an

individual are your most productive. With how quickly this covid crisis occurred, it can take some time to know when, where and how you can be at the top of your game workwise. I completely understand your eagerness to get back to your office. This situation has proven hard on many people who have had to transition to working from home. Stay positive. When you feel overwhelmed or distracted -- take a deep breath, take a walk around the block, call a friend/ family and know that you are not alone. RS

Dear CHCC:

I have been laid off and am collecting unemployment. I do anticipate that my boss is going to rehire me back this summer but what happens if I turn that offer down? I actually may want to go back to school and switch careers. Any thoughts?

I like that you are having some thoughts about what this forced 'downtime' presents by way of career-related interests and educational opportunities. With this time, many people are considering options they perhaps otherwise would not have considered. For some, it may be a good time to take that last course to complete your bachelors degree, for example, or get that certification which a vast majority of jobs require. There are great options which were already in an online form that may work for you. Some universities are putting even more executive or adult education programs into a virtual format for adult learners to pursue. There was a nice article about community colleges as well recently in the Inquirer: [mc3.edu/news/2020/05/community-college-benefits](http://mc3.edu/news/2020/05/community-college-benefits)

On your potential rehire, as Pennsylvania opens up from red to yellow to green, we can hope that many folks are offered their jobs back. It feels like a long time ago: looking back to March 19, when the Governor ordered all non-life-sustaining businesses to close across the commonwealth. Employers have until June 30, 2020 to offer to rehire folks if they received PPP funds and seek loan forgiveness. I'm not sure your timing as noted

(Continued on page 13)



**90 year old Chestnut Hill resident invents Re-Usable, Broad Spectrum**

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## from our readers

(Continued from page 4)

### Mt. Airy Highlighting local artists

What a wonderful article this week about Len Lear and his long career as a writer. He's led an interesting life that seems based on an open attitude and "positivity." I'm guessing that curiosity about other

people and their lives has kept him young and energetic.

I think I speak on behalf of so many local fine artists in this community and a little beyond for the wonderful coverage he's given to our efforts over many years. Whether it be spotlighting us as individuals or writing about local artists coming together, such as the Northwest Artists' Collective and Mt. Airy Art Garage, he's been an enthusiastic booster for many of us. Continued good health and many

years of great articles.

Barbara B. Rosin  
Chestnut Hill  
Mt. Airy

### Lucky to have Len

I was very happy to see Len Lear recognized for his illustrious career in a recent article in the Chestnut Hill Local. We are so very fortunate to have him in this community. The Friends of the Chestnut Hill

Library's Fall Speaker Series last year included none other than Len Lear, accomplished journalist and editor with the Chestnut Hill Local. The title of his talk was "Heroes and Villains in Chestnut Hill." He delighted a captive audience with memorable stories about some of the people he had met during his amazing career. As his audience listened with rapt attention, he then regaled them by giving a blow by blow account of that time in 1967 when he answered a help

wanted ad. His humorous delivery kept all of us in stitches. You had to have been there to appreciate this storyteller extraordinaire.

One quality that I greatly admire in Len is his compassion for animals. He is a tireless advocate for the betterment of their worlds, and for that I am most grateful.

I am looking forward to more feature articles from Len and perhaps even a book.

Bridget Irons  
Chestnut Hill

### Chestnut Hill Career Column

(Continued from page 1)

'summer' nor your employer's situation with all that, but just be aware that if you do decline your employer's offer to return to your job (at the same hours/ pay rate), you may forfeit eligibility for continued unemployment compensation.

Depending on your circumstances just keep that in mind and I wish you all the luck in your endeavors. RS

Rona Sisson is an attorney and also serves as Executive Director with Mestel & Co., a legal recruiting firm with offices nationwide. A resident of Chestnut Hill, she has been in the career field for over 25 years and provides career advice and job searching strategies to clients across the region. You may email her your questions at ronasisson@gmail.com for the CHCC.



## Roxborough Memorial Hospital

To our caregivers, thank you for being there for patients who need you more than ever. To our support staff, thank you for keeping our hospitals thriving at the peak of challenges. And to our community, we are incredibly humbled and honored by your support!



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**We appreciate your kindness and generosity.**



## TO ALL FRONT LINE HEROES

Masonic Village honors and appreciates your efforts. Although socially distanced, our connections as a community are **strong and resilient.**



MASONIC VILLAGE  
Enjoy Life Your Way



# CHYSC's Lightning Soccer Team brings cheer to the future site of Benedum Law

By Sue Ann Rybak

It's hard to miss the "Keep It on the Hill" and CHYSC's paper Lightning Jerseys posted on the storefront window of the future office of Benedum Law at 8640 Germantown Ave. in Chestnut Hill.

Christine Benedum, who is the sister-in-law of Martha Sharkey, the former Chestnut Hill Business Director, said she closed on the property on March 23. Unfortunately, since then, they have been

in "a little bit of a holding pattern" in part due to Mayor Jim Kennedy's executive order, which places restrictions on construction activity to limit the spread of COVID-19.

She was looking for a larger space when this opportunity became available.

"This location is great for the needs of our clients," she said. "We are excited and ready to move forward, but we are a little bit on hold. It's been empty for a while, and we wanted to put some



Members of the Chestnut Hill Youth Sports Club's Soccer Team Lightning Jerseys hang on the window of the future office of Benedum Law at 8640 Germantown Ave. in Chestnut Hill. (Photo courtesy of Christine Benedum)



All of you on the Front Line are just Purrrfectly wonderful.

Thank you for the love, care and devotion thru these most difficult of times.

Staff of Chestnut Hill Cat Clinic



life into it. One of the coaches [Mary Fitzgerald, the team manager] suggested we put the kids' artwork up there."

Benedum's son Grant plays on a team with the popular club.

Chestnut Hill resident Adrian Stanley, who is the coach of Blue Lightning team on which Grant plays, said it was his wife Mary Fitzgerald's idea.

"My niece designed a template supporting the Keep it on the Hill campaign," Stanley said. "Then, the Chestnut Hill Football Commissioner emailed it to all the members of the soccer teams. We received amazing feedback from all the parents who did it with

their kids. They thought about it and did it together. It was a family effort. Christine printed a couple out. We hoped we get a few more back. It was nice because we haven't been able to gather together to practice or do anything to keep the morale up.

"I played soccer all my life. My philosophy of playing soccer and coaching is, 'It's the whole team – the community, the parents, the kids, the grandparents.' Everybody helps and supports each other.

Benedum added although the pandemic canceled the season, it was still vital for the team to talk via zoom or on the phone, partic-

ipate in drive-by birthdays, and work on small projects such as the Jerseys.

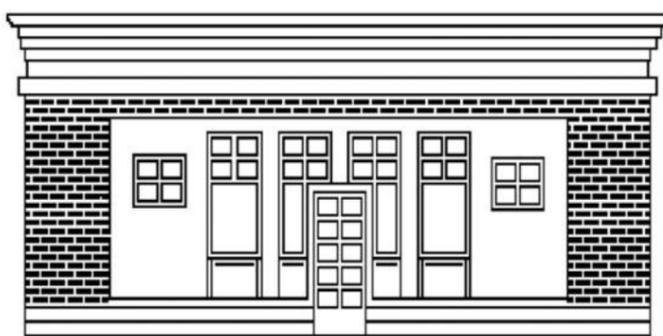
"It was something they can do [separately but] together as a team," she said. "So, it was really exciting for them. We are still collecting the jerseys. We want to keep filling in the wall."

Stanley said it wasn't just about the team working towards a goal; it was about building relationships or bonds within that team or community.

"I think in times like these, you need people coming together doing simple things to help and support each other."

**We honor all our health care workers for their efforts at this difficult time. We especially thank our staff for their dedication to our patients during this pandemic. We will get through this together.**

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Ms. Jackson, a certified family nurse practitioner, has twelve years of Emergency Nursing experience at the University of Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins. She has nursing degrees from La Salle and Widener Universities. She is a family medicine trained nurse practitioner with interest the full range of primary medical care.



Ms Patterson, a certified family nurse practitioner, has served patients in the Philadelphia region for the past seven years. She has nursing degrees from Yale and Johns Hopkins and an undergraduate degree from Bryn Mawr College. She provides the full scope of patient focused family medicine services with special experience in pediatric and adolescent health as well as gynecology and reproductive care.

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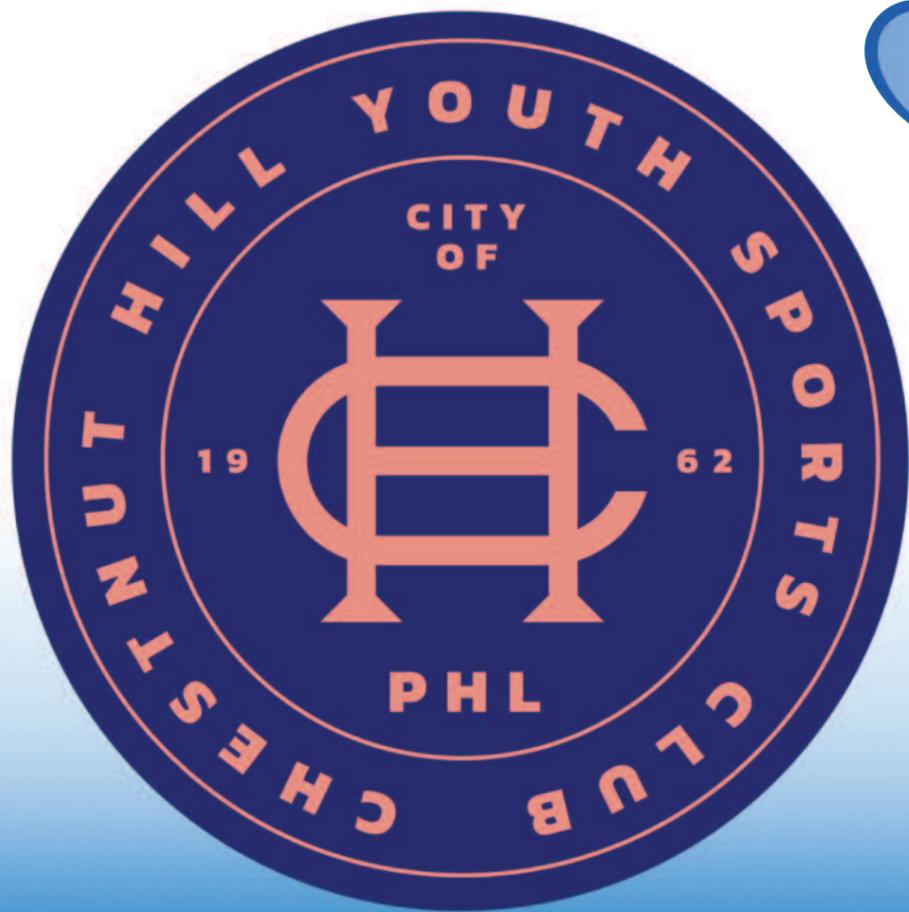
THE CHESTNUT HILL YOUTH SPORTS CLUB (formerly the Chestnut Hill Fathers' Club) is a non-profit community organization that has been providing organized team sports programs since 1962 for youngsters aged 5-19 who live and/or go to school in Chestnut Hill, Mt. Airy and surrounding communities. In 2019 over 1,800 boys and girls from varied social, ethnic and racial backgrounds participated on our baseball, basketball, soccer, softball and lacrosse teams.

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**SUPPORT FOR ROXBOROUGH HOSPITAL** Staff at Roxborough Hospital received tremendous support from neighborhood businesses and other community organizations. Meals were delivered by Primos Hoagies, Planet Fitness, EJ & Eck's restaurant and more. Roxborough Church sent messages of support (seen above).

## Local coronavirus expert interviewed on '60 Minutes'

By Len Lear

If you watched "60 Minutes," the top-rated CBS-TV Sunday night news magazine that been on the air for 52 years, on April 19, than you saw the piece they did about the thousands of coronavirus deaths in New York City. One of the experts interviewed by correspondent Scott Pelley for the story was Dr. David L. Reich, an anesthesiologist who has been president and chief operating officer of Mount Sinai Hospital since October of 2013.

According to the segment, Mount Sinai Hospital is taking part in a national convalescent plasma therapy program. They are hoping to line up thousands of people who have recovered from COVID-19 to donate blood plasma, which is teeming with antibodies, and which doctors hope can reduce the severity of the illness for people who are just becoming sick. It's too soon, though, to talk now about results.

It was not mentioned in the segment, but Dr. Reich, 60, grew up in East Oak Lane and was in the 236th graduating class of Central High School in 1977. "We have many people in the hospital who are on ventilators, and although we may be past the peak here, it's a long and slow climb down from that peak, and many patients are still sick and dying," Dr. Reich said in another recent interview with the Central High School alumni newsletter. "I work at an amazing institution where people have risen to the occasion and continue to rethink how we do things."

On "60 Minutes," Dr. Reich said, "Plasma therapy has been shown to be effective in some epidemics but not in others. For example, it was effective during the SARS epidemic



Dr. David L. Reich, an anesthesiologist who has been president and chief operating officer of Mount Sinai Hospital since October of 2013, is a Central High graduate and Oak Lane native. He was interviewed by correspondent Scott Pelley for a "60 Minutes" piece about the pandemic on April 19.

(severe acute respiratory syndrome, caused by a type of virus called a betacoronavirus, which occurred from 2002 to 2004) but not in the treatment of Ebola. (The name was derived from the Ebola River, which is in close proximity to the area in the Democratic Republic of Congo where the Ebola outbreak, also spread by a virus, occurred from 2013 to 2016.) For the plasma therapy, we select patients who have been in the hospital for four days and are taking a turn for the worst."

Dr. Reich received his B.S. degree from Penn State in 1980 and his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in 1982, becoming a medical doctor at just 22 years of age. He has published over 35 book chapters, 30 "invited" articles or editorials and over 130 peer-reviewed articles in medical and scientific journals. He is associate editor of "Kaplan's Cardiac Anesthesia" and

was formerly editor-in-chief of "Seminars in Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia: The Journal of Perioperative Medicine." He is also one of the course directors of The Law and Business of Medicine for the Mt. Sinai Medical School.

Dr. Reich's parents, who now live in "Elkins Park," are Mary Lou Reich, a schoolteacher, and Pace Reich, an attorney who is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and whose practice focuses on bankruptcy, corporate law and commercial litigation. Dr. Reich has two siblings who are also attorneys.

Dr. Reich still speaks fondly of his high school days at Central, which was founded in 1838 in Center City, is now in West Oak Lane and has countless graduates in Northwest Philadelphia. "There was a universal

(Continued on page 18)

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# Woodmere educator Susan Shifrin keeps ARTZ alive for people in need

By William Valerio

When I was asked to write a column for this special blue-ink issue of the *Chestnut Hill Local* honoring first responders, I immediately thought of *Blue Beads* (1994), a painting by Penelope Harris in Woodmere's collection. The way I see it, works of art have a life of their own, and this one has been "busy" during this time of social distancing as part of ARTZ-Connect, an online discussion group for people with dementia and their caregivers.

Normally offered in person in the Museum's galleries, ARTZ launched six years ago as the brainchild of art historian, curator, and educator Susan Shifrin. When our temporary closure in March forced the cancellation of on-site programming, Susan responded immediately, knowing that individuals with dementia are especially vulnerable and that people living in facilities could be especially lonely, as they would be unable to receive visitors. Since that time, ARTZ-Connect has taken to Zoom and has been running at higher than normal capacity (20 participants, instead of the usual 12) and on a biweekly (rather than monthly) basis to accommodate the increased demand, while maintaining the intimacy and comfort that has defined ARTZ since it began.

In an email conversation, Susan and I talked about how the discussion around *Blue Beads* usually evolves during an ARTZ-Connect session:

Susan Shifrin: The conversa-



*Blue Beads*, 1994, by Penelope Harris (Woodmere Art Museum: Gift of Bill Scott, 2011)

tion with *Blue Beads* is broad and deep, and it has often lasted for almost the entire hour. It ranges from micro-discussions of the exquisite detail with which everything is painted—wallpaper (or is it a rug, people ask?), dishes, cloth, and fruit—and the concrete memories of familiar and delicious breakfasts and afternoon teas. We also have philosophical conversations about our experiences of life in the world we know compared to the fictional "reality" in the painting, which is puzzling because of the artist's manipulation of perspective and the way the table seems to be

falling forward. The discussion often starts with the grapefruit, which is nearly tumbling off the table and yet is frozen in space at the same time. We encourage people to look carefully, and often somebody notices that a single blue bead is propping up the grapefruit's dish and the adjacent peach, actually seeming to prevent them from falling. We've talked about the contradiction between the name of the genre, "still life," and the fact of so much movement and activity in the painting. There's nothing still about it!

In every single conversation

I've facilitated around this painting, participants are struck by the title, *Blue Beads*. Sometimes we don't notice the beads until 45 minutes into the session. Then we notice that, like the beads, which are connected by a string, every object in the composition is connected by touch. We talk about the relationships between the objects, and how puzzling they can be. One time, a participant imagined a love story between the pink rose on the postcard and the blue rose on the pitcher. The one exception to the rule of touch is the pear in the upper right, and we've talked about that pear. Why is it alone? Is its relationship to the wallpaper stronger than its relationship to the other fruits and objects? We've had requests to talk about *Blue Beads* a second time. Sometimes I pull out a bag of blue beads and string and we make necklaces after the discussion. The hands-on activity is very satisfying.

Bill Valerio: Thank you, Susan! This special blue-ink issue of the *Local* honors those who have delivered our mail and boxes of food, have driven our trains and buses, and have kept us safe and healthy. Health encompasses our mental, spiritual, and creative well-being, and so this issue honors you as well, and so many educators across the region who have figured out how to engage with audiences online. You are connectors, like the string of blue beads in the painting, helping us know we are linked and together.

William Valerio is the CEO and Director of Woodmere Art Museum

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[HumanGood.org](http://HumanGood.org)

# Local 'Angels' flying 50,000 face shields to front-liners

By Len Lear

Normally, dozens of volunteer pilots from the Philadelphia area would be flying patients who desperately need the finest medical care but cannot afford it to Philadelphia's top hospitals at no expense. The planes would leave and arrive at Wings Field in Blue Bell, thanks to a wonderful nonprofit organization called Angel Flight East (AFE), which flies an average of 900 to 950 "angel flights" in the Northeastern U.S. each year.

However, because of the pandemic, AFE stopped these flights on March 24, but their angelic mission has not abated. They learned from their contacts that many medical facilities in smaller communities in numerous states did not have nearly enough critical protective equipment for their frontline medical staffs, so AFE swung into action. They contacted Instahub, a startup led by Penn's Wharton School students and engineering students who won an Ivy League prize in 2018 "to build a scalable, sustainable social enterprise that (would harness) the power of energy to transform the lives of 10 million people by 2025."

Instahub founder and CEO Michael Wong said last week that when he got this request, his company "halted our own operation and shifted production to make 4,000 facial shields." Tiffany Yau, another Penn grad and Instahub spokesperson, added, "It's important that we get these to those who need them the most, especially in areas that are so often forgotten."

Madeleine Beck, flight coordinator for AFE, said last week, "We are so blessed to have dozens of pilots who are willing to make these flights for free. To date, we have delivered over 50,000 face shields. This week we have 800 shields headed to West Virginia from one manufacturer and are waiting on the final number from



Jessica Ames, programs and events coordinator (left), and Madeleine Beck, flight coordinator for Angel Flight East in Blue Bell, are surrounded by boxes of protective facial shields their volunteer pilots will be flying to medical facilities in 11 states that desperately need them. "We are so blessed to have dozens of pilots who are willing to make these flights at their own expense," said Beck.

the other. We are working with Project SHIELDS (Instahub) and Philly Fights COVID. KIKI Vodka is the supplier of the vodka-returned sanitizer. Project SHIELDS was initially donating them but is now charging \$3 a shield so they can continue making more. Philly Fights COVID is donation-based but only a max order of 250."

The local pilots are being met

by representatives from smaller federally qualified health centers. So far they have delivered to 11 states — Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Indiana, Missouri, Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey and Oklahoma.

"The number of flights depends on the amount delivered," said Beck. "For example, the flights we are doing where we ship hand

sanitizer take many pilots because the liquids are heavier. Those took us five pilots for about 4,000 pounds. We have a flight leaving on Thursday to West Virginia and one on Saturday to New York."

AFE currently has 454 volunteer pilots. "Our pilots assume the entire cost of the flights," said Beck. "We are able to get landing fees waived and sometimes a discount on fuel. We do it all strictly from donations and fundraising, which goes to office costs. Think of the office staff as travel agents. We connect all the dots for everyone."

Angel Flight East was founded in Pennsylvania by Harry Morales, a general aviation pilot, who wanted to help with relief efforts after Hurricane Andrew in 1992. He created AFE with the help of friends. Their vision and commitment to the principles of public benefit flying developed

into AFE. Immediately, AFE began to fill the gap between the need to access crucial medical care at a distance and the high cost of transportation to get there.

In 1993, the first year of operations, AFE's small band of new volunteer pilots flew 17 flights. In the last fiscal year, they completed 926 flights.

Adam Zucker, a volunteer pilot, said they will normally transfer people far from home who cannot afford the care they need. "We have a deep connection to the passengers. Almost like family. We had to stop flying them now because we don't want to give it (Covid-19) to them, and we don't want it coming back to us."

For more information or to donate, visit [angelflightmed.com](http://angelflightmed.com) or call 215-358-1900. Len Lear can be reached at [llenlear@chestnuthilllocal.com](mailto:llenlear@chestnuthilllocal.com)

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## Local coronavirus expert interviewed on '60 Minutes'

(Continued from page 16)

quality to Central High's teachers," he said. "It was more than just test-taking and giving answers in class. They sought to grow our minds and challenged us to think. Central is unique in that it's rare to find that degree of support and education in the public education system."

On Nov. 24, 2002, The New York Times reported on the commitment ceremony of Dr. Reich to Keith Loren Marran, stating that "Keith Loren Marran Jr. and Dr. David Louis Reich are to celebrate their partnership today with a commitment ceremony at the Bloom Ballroom in Manhattan."

Len Lear can be reached at [llenlear@chestnuthilllocal.com](mailto:llenlear@chestnuthilllocal.com)

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# Flourtown church assisting the needy with 'Blessing Bags'

By Barbara Sherf

While many organizations put a halt to activities inside church buildings because of the pandemic, St. Miriam Parish and Friary in Flourtown just held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for dedicated space to assemble food and hygiene bags for the homeless and food-insecure in our area through their Blessing Bag Outreach Program.

Starting in 2018, volunteers pack large plastic sandwich bags with protein, snacks, water, juice, peanut butter, a sweet and socks. Volunteers have ramped up from creating 400 bags to more than 2400 bags per month since the pandemic began.

"This didn't only happen as a result of the pandemic, but it's clearly a time when this service is absolutely needed," said Monsignor James St. George, who has been with the church since its founding in 2007. "The idea of providing a ready made bag to our brothers and sisters was greeted with enthusiasm from members of our parish."

In 2007 the congregation rented space from Mishkan Shalom Synagogue in Philadelphia, then moved to Norristown, Blue Bell and finally Flourtown (the old Zion Church) on Bethlehem Pike in 2015. Today, over 600 families who are active parishioners supporting the church and its ministry.

"What we strive to do here is bring an increase in awareness that leaving Mass is where the real work begins in our everyday activities," said St. George, while sitting in his Franciscan robe complete with sandals.

Abington plumber Tom Frey, a parishioner, goes into Kensington and other parts of Philadelphia for work but returns late at night, often hearing that the food in the bag was the first sustenance the homeless individual had had all day.

"The reaction on the street is

sheer joy. These people are literally starving," said Frey, who added that as soon as he walks into a subway station, people start taking their shoes off "because they know there is a fresh, clean pair of socks in with the food. I had a guy crying yesterday because I gave it to him with no strings attached, and there was a note in there from one of the kids at our school. The hard part is when I run out of bags and have to turn people away."

Blessing Bags are also distributed in Chester and Norristown. Clifford McGoldrick of Ambler also distributes the bags in Philadelphia. While making bags on a weekday afternoon, McGoldrick shared that he was able to talk a homeless man out of committing suicide earlier in the week.

"He said he didn't want the food because he didn't want to live. But I talked to him, and we shared a cigarette, and I left him with a couple of cigarettes and a blessing bag to give him hope," said McGoldrick, 70, who goes out every other night with the bags, blankets and hope. "That's what we all need during this time is hope."

Father Frank Souza who oversees the Blessing Bags program, noted that plans are underway to open an outreach center in Kensington in the next year. "We see that there is a great need out there on the streets for those who are homeless and addicted and in need of love and assistance. As Franciscans we've always responded to the need to serve the marginalized and underprivileged."

The parish and larger community received a \$2500 grant and have donated thousands toward the Blessing Bags program. As for the bags of food, St. George and other volunteers were surprised to learn of an equally pressing need in addition to food. "The number one item people asked for besides food was socks. Doctors will tell



The Blessing Bags program at St. Miriam's Catholic Church in Flourtown has a new home in an unused classroom. Seen here cutting a ribbon are (from left) Father Frank Souza and Monsignor James St. George with the assembly line of food in the background. Donations can be dropped off at the church, or visit [mysaintmiriam.org/blessingbags](http://mysaintmiriam.org/blessingbags) (Photo by Barbara Sherf)

The volunteers also makes separate hygiene bags for both men and women and "Pets with People Bags" for the homeless who have pets. They even make a special hygiene bag for the transgender population. "Many transgender individuals are on the streets because their families have rejected them and their choices. As a church, we welcome everyone from all walks of life," said St. George, noting that the congregation does not take its marching orders from the Vatican or Archdiocese. "We are truly independent, and that has attracted a lot of people."

The parish is located at 654 Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown. For more information, visit [mysaintmiriam.org/blessingbags](http://mysaintmiriam.org/blessingbags). Monetary donations are also gladly accepted.

Flourtown resident Barbara Sherf can be reached at [Barb@communicationspro.com](mailto:Barb@communicationspro.com)

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you when your feet are wet, you are more prone to illness," said St. George.

The church community approached three different sock manufacturers — Bombas Socks, Inspyr Socks and The Joy of Sox — who routinely send free shipments for inclusion in the bags.

Sunday School teacher and parishioner Kate Vandergrift enjoys filling the bags three times a week. "This has really morphed into something that is very needed and that's situational," said Vandergrift. "I like doing it because it gives back to the community. I'm retired, and the whole mission of what Father is doing to adapt and apply the message of Christ is important to me. I feel honored to be reaching out to someone in a time of need."

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# Hill ER doctor recovers from near-death with COVID-19

(Continued from page 1)

sheer hell, even though Dr. Kelly's colleagues "texted me every day. They were really great!" Dr. Kelly self-quarantined in the family's guest bedroom. His wife brought food (a double cappuccino and fresh-baked muffin were particularly appreciated) and medicine to the upstairs landing.

"The viral symptoms were brutal," he said. "Severe body aches, no energy at all. Every breath, associated with dull central chest achiness,

was hard work. When I developed shakes and rigors, I'd burrow under five blankets to cope ... Every day got worse ... My wife worried if she would find me alive in the morning. ... I was alone. It was my personal struggle."

It took eight days before Dr. Kelly's temperature returned to normal. By April 1 he had lost 10 pounds along with all of his strength, but then he began to feel somewhat better each day and eventually was able to take two-mile walks with his wife and then begin strength train-

ing. Three weeks after he started to self-quarantine, he was pretty much back to normal, having regained six pounds and having his heart rate return to the usual 65-70 beats per minute. (It had been between 100 and 105 for quite a while.)

In late April Dr. Kelly was healthy enough to return to work, but his family was adamant that this was a bad decision. "My wife was freaking out," he said, "and my siblings were all angry that I was returning to the front lines, but it is what I was meant to do. I love to be

able to look a patient in the eye and say, 'We know how to fix this.'

"Now I tell patients I had the same COVID-19 they have, and I am able to get their attention. It is a great connection. I felt fine about going back to work. I took an oath and agreed to do this a long time ago. I made an agreement with myself to help heal other people. It is our job to be at the bedside in the most difficult cases."

Dr. Kelly is a graduate of La Salle High School, La Salle University and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (where he met his wife-to-be). He also earned a master's degree in molecular biology from Villanova University. He also wanted to mention his father, who was "drafted by the Yankees as a shortstop, but when Pearl Harbor happened, he signed up in the Navy and wound up on an aircraft carrier. He did play baseball in the Hot Stovers League for years after the war."

According to Dr. Kelly, the three Einstein Medical Centers have treated about 1,000 COVID-19 patients all together. He has treated about 100 himself in the last four weeks. He said he doesn't know how many COVID-19 patients at the Einstein centers have died, but

a current Philadelphia magazine article said that as of April 21, the number was 66.

"One of the hardest parts (about this virus) is that we knew nothing and still know almost nothing about it," said Dr. Kelly. "I studied for 40 years to be an expert and then stepped into this and knew nothing. It was the same thing with HIV in the 1980s. It had just been described in the medical literature. It took us six years in the '80s to discover how to test for HIV and treat it, due to the hard work of virology scientists. Now it hasn't even been six months into this pandemic."

"Look at the way we are trying to open up the economy. There is no strict playbook for it. I walk around Chestnut Hill now and still see about half of the people not wearing masks. There may be a second wave (of infections), and we may not be able to treat them all. And a large percentage of Americans do not take care of their health."

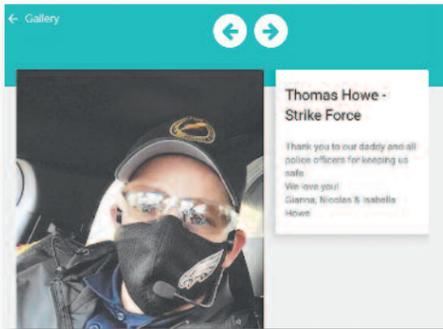
On the other hand, Dr. Kelly would gladly do it all over again. "This has been such a great ride. It's one of the best jobs in the world. You're able to help people in their most difficult hours."

You can reach Len Lear at [llenlear@chestnuthilllocal.com](mailto:llenlear@chestnuthilllocal.com)

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