

WEST MIDWOOD NEWS

Special Viral Edition



Volume 1

Number 3

April 12, 2020



The Rainbow

—Effie Waller Smith - 1879-1960

Love is a rainbow that appears
When heaven's sunshine lights earth's tears.
All varied colors of the light
Within its beauteous arch unite:
There Passion's glowing crimson hue
Burns near Truth's rich and deathless blue;
And Jealousy's green lights unfold
'Mid Pleasure's tints of flame and gold.
O dark life's stormy sky would seem,
If love's clear rainbow did not gleam!

In This Issue:

From the Editor	1
Poem: The Rainbow	1
Puzzle	2
National Poetry Month	2
The Mad Gardener	3
West Midwood Cooks (and Bakes)	4
Brooklyn Sports	5
Dream a Little	5
How to Use Your Time at Home	6
What's Happening in Your Backyard	7
Neighborhood News	8
Artist's Notebook	8
Jan Castro: Corona Poems	9
Fun Stuff	10
Who You Gonna Call?	11
West Midwood Trivia	12
WMCA Board	12

From the Editor:

This is the third issue of the Viral Edition of West Midwood News. It began, frankly, as a way to keep me “off the streets and out of trouble” and feeling like I was doing something productive when everything in the world seemed to be spinning out of control. This week, the news is both slightly encouraging (the curve seems, indeed, to be flattening) and horrifying (the number of deaths grows daily and though the curve of new infections is ‘flat’, it is flat at a still alarmingly high number). But life in West Midwood continues, in this new normal of quarantine and social distancing, and the bonds between neighbors have, if anything, grown stronger.

Even in our own little corner of the world, however, there are people who are *not* okay – battling the virus directly or have friends or relatives who are; living alone, feeling isolated and scared; or living with too many people and feeling crowded and angry. Some are very worried about their financial situation and all of us are anxious about our health. This pandemic also has made it very clear that there are terrible inequities in our society, and the most vulnerable are at highest risk – economically and health-wise – from this terrible pandemic. We must pay attention.

We are astonishingly lucky to live in a real community – where people try to look out for each other. Every day in West Midwood people run errands for those who cannot leave their homes, arrange for groceries for those who cannot get them otherwise, check in on each other, and encourage each other. As the rainbows in our windows promise, this will eventually be over, but we will all be changed by the experience. We can only hope and work to be changed for the better.

The other thing I've been thinking about this week, a holiday week for Jews, Christians and Muslims, is that the nature of time itself seems to have changed. We have settled into new routines, the edginess of the first days of social isolation is blunted a little, and time seems to simultaneously expand and contract. The days fill up and slip by quickly, but not much actually happens. It seems like only a minute ago that we were racing through our normal lives, yet that also feels like a lifetime ago. Very strange. Meanwhile, the world continues to spin, and Spring is putting on a spectacular show – as though to say, “you have time to watch this year, so look at this!”

What would you most like to see in this newsletter? We all get more than enough virus-related news, so that doesn't seem to be needed. And perhaps we are all getting too many suggestions of things to do, novels we should write, tasks we should take on “now that we have time.” My intuition is that what people are hungriest for is connection, and that news of neighbors and the neighborhood may be the most important for this newsletter. Let us know!

PUZZLE

With almost all of the bank branches surrounding West Midwood still open in this age of COVID-19, it occurred to me that none of the several banks with which I formerly did business still exist, at least in name.

Here are two lists: (1) a list of banks that have ceased to exist in NYC, owing to insolvency, mergers, acquisitions, rebranding, or FDIC intervention, and (2) a list of banks that exist today. Some banks whose names are in the first list have no reincarnation, and some in the second list have no predecessor. Some names in the first list were transitional. When a bank had a name only in passing—i.e., Bank-A became Bank-B, which in turn became Bank-C—Bank-B will be named in the first list. For the purpose of this puzzle, credit unions, check cashers, and pawnbrokers are not included. Some banks are NYC-based, and some are national or international. Emigrant Bank is not listed because even though it sold most of its branches to Apple Bank for Savings, it still operates a few branches outside of Brooklyn.

Can you identify which banks in the first list or second list are successors of banks in the first list? You earn a point for identifying the predecessor of each transitional or active bank; you earn a point for identifying a bank in the first list that has no successor, or whose successor is not listed in this puzzle; and you earn a point for identifying a bank in the second list that has no predecessor, or whose predecessor is not listed in this puzzle. When a bank is the successor of more than one bank, you earn a point for identifying each listed bank that it is a successor of.

Rating: 5, good; 10, excellent; 15, genius

LIST ONE (Defunct Banks)

1. Astoria FS&LA
2. Atlantic Liberty S&L
3. Bank of the Manhattan Company
4. Bowery Savings Bank
5. Central Savings Bank
6. Crossland Federal Savings Bank
7. Dime Savings Bank of Brooklyn
8. Dollar Savings Bank
9. Dry Dock Savings Bank
10. East New York Savings Bank

11. East River Savings Bank
12. First Nationwide Bank
13. Flatbush FS&LA
14. Flatbush Savings Bank
15. Goldome Savings Bank
16. Greater New York Savings Bank
17. Green Point Savings Bank
18. Greenwich Savings Bank
19. Harlem Savings Bank
20. Independence Savings Bank
21. LibertyPointe Bank
22. Manufacturers Hanover
23. Marine Midland Bank
24. North Fork Bank
25. Republic National Bank
26. Seamen's Bank for Savings
27. South Brooklyn Savings Bank
28. Sovereign Bank
29. The East New York Savings Bank
30. The Park Avenue Bank
31. Washington Mutual Bank
32. Williamsburgh Savings Bank

LIST TWO (Active Banks)

1. Amalgamated Bank
2. Apple Bank for Savings
3. Bank of America
4. Capital One
5. Chemical Bank
6. Citibank
7. Flushing Bank
8. HSBC Bank
9. Investors Bank
10. JPMorgan Chase Bank
11. Northfield Bank
12. Santander Bank
13. Sterling National Bank
14. TD Bank
15. The Berkshire Bank
16. Valley National Bank

April is National Poetry Month

This April, the Academy of American Poets (www.poets.org) is more committed than ever to doing everything it can to bring poetry to the widest possible audience. The organization offers activities, initiatives, and resources, which have been adapted so that anyone can join in online and at home and—hopefully—find comfort, resilience, and connection throughout the month of April and beyond:

- Read about 30 ways to celebrate National Poetry Month online and at home
- Read about 30 ways to celebrate National Poetry Month in the virtual classroom
- Find virtual poetry readings and events on our Poetry Near You calendar, and add your own online events
- Display the official 2020 National Poetry Month poster
- Sign up for Poem-a-Day and enjoy a free daily poem in your inbox
- Follow the thousands of celebrations taking place on social media with the official hashtag *#NationalPoetryMonth* and follow the Academy of American Poets on Twitter @POETSorg
- Participate in the Academy's new online initiative, Shelter in Poems
- Share a *#pocketpoem* on

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Editor: Tori Rosen

Copyeditors: Ellen Bilofsky, Kathy McDonald

West Midwood trivia:

There are 203 tax lots if you count every building that touches Foster, Glenwood, Ave H (South Side), Marlborough Ct, DeKoven, Waldorf, Wellington, Westminster, Argyle and Rugby. That includes the Church, the grocer at CIA, and the big apt building across from the grocer.

The Mad Gardener *by Robert Brennan*

Magnolias are blooming..

Moving into midseason, magnolias continue to open:



This is Susan, one of the *Stellata* hybrid "Little Girls."

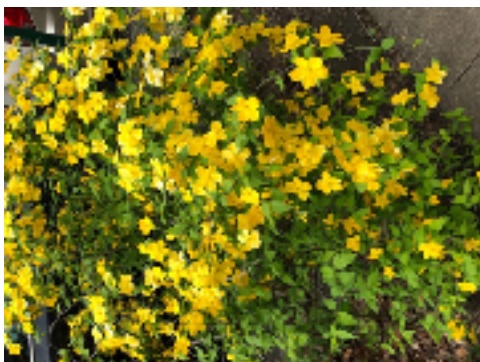
Soulangea "Lennei," first hybridized in Italy, has large, wine colored cup-like blooms.



This is Verbanica, planted about 30 years ago and putting on a grand show this season.



The colorful shrub *Kerria* is also in bloom. . .



More magnolias will be emerging here in Brooklyn this week. "Pink water-lily" will soon be in full bloom. And when one looks down, there are many colorful little bulbs showing their colors..

Let us know what's happening
in your garden!
Take some pictures and
share them here with your neighbors.
Send them to editor.WestMidwoodNews@gmail.com



West Midwood Cooks (and Bakes!) by Allidah Muller

All-Day Pork Shoulder with Apple Cider

This recipe comes from Julia Turshen's cookbook, *Small Victories*. This is a "set it and forget it" type recipe that requires very little work, but yields amazing results. I made it last week with a bone-in skin-on pork shoulder from Fairway (it was all they had - I cut off the skin, but left the bone in) and it was perfect. If you're unfamiliar with Turshen's cookbook, she often provides variations which also kind of makes this a 3-in-1 gem.

2 tsp kosher salt
¼ cup maple syrup, dark brown sugar or honey
½ cup Dijon mustard
One 4½ lb.-ish boneless skinless pork shoulder (or pork butt or Boston butt - they're all the same) at room temp, patted dry with paper towels
2 cups apple cider

Preheat oven to 475°F.

In a small bowl, whisk together the salt, maple syrup and mustard. Rub the pork all over with the mixture and put it fat-side up in a large roasting dish or cast-iron skillet (I used my large Dutch oven) that holds it comfortably. Pour the apple cider around, but not over, the pork.

Roast the pork for 15 minutes, just long enough to let the maple syrup start forming a crust on top, then turn the temperature to 250°F. Let the pork roast, turning it once every 2 hours, until the exterior is beautifully browned and the meat is incredibly tender, 7 hours (6 hours are okay, as are 8, this isn't too exact).

Transfer the pork to a cutting board and use a knife and/or tongs to shred the meat. Return the meat to the roasting dish to really saturate the pork with all of its juice. Serve it warm. Or, if you're making the pork ahead of time, shred it and let it cool to room temperature in its cooking liquid, then cover and refrigerate for up to 1 week. Warm in a 300°F oven or over low heat on the stove top.

Spin-offs

For *Filipino-style Pork Adobo*, substitute ¼ cup each soy sauce and white vinegar for the maple syrup and mustard. Substitute 2 cups chicken stock or water for

the apple cider along with 4 crushed garlic gloves and 2 bay leaves.

For *Mexican-style Braised Pork*, leave out the maple syrup and mustard. Use one 12-oz. bottle beer instead of the apple cider. Add 2 tsp. dried oregano, 2 chipotle chiles packed in adobo (chop them up or just mash them with a fork), and the grated zest and juice of 1 orange.

Salted Brown Butter Crispy Treats

Makes 16 2-inch squares or 32 1 x 2-inch small bars

Another shout out to Deb Perelman and Smitten Kitchen. These are grown-up rice crispy treats, but I bet the kiddos will like them too.

4 oz. unsalted butter, plus more for the pan
1 10-oz. bag of marshmallows
Heaping ¼ tsp coarse sea salt
6 cups crispy rice cereal (about half a 12-oz box)

Butter (or coat with non-stick spray) an 8-inch square cake pan with 2-inch sides.

In a large pot, melt butter over medium-low heat. It will melt, then foam, then turn clear golden and finally start to turn brown and smell nutty. Stir frequently, scraping up any bits from the bottom as you do. Don't take your eyes off the pot, as while you may be impatient for it to start browning, the period between the time the butter begins to take on color and the point where it burns is often less than a minute.

As soon as the butter takes on a nutty color, turn the heat off and stir in the marshmallows. The residual heat from the melted butter should be enough to melt them, but if it is not, turn it back on low until the marshmallows are smooth.

Remove the pot from the stove and stir in the salt and cereal together. Quickly spread into prepared pan. I liked to use a piece of waxed or parchment paper that I've sprayed with oil to press it firmly and evenly into the edges and corners, though a silicon spatula works almost as well.

Let cool, cut into squares and get ready to make new friends.



Brooklyn Sports

By Argyle Art Rhine

More Movies!

Here are another dozen sports movies (in no particular order of preference) to help counteract sports withdrawal:

Bull Durham: Costner, Sarandon and Robbins each eloquently express his/her belief in the Church of Baseball.

Rocky: Oh come on, I know you cried the first time you saw this monument to human potential. [For real life boxing drama, watch the 1990 Buster Douglas vs. Mike Tyson heavyweight championship fight.]

Bang the Drum Slowly: Touching baseball drama of friendship between star pitcher and terminally ill catcher (Robert DeNiro).

Hoosiers: Indiana High School basketball team from the boondocks challenges for the State championship. Coached by inspirational Gene Hackman.

Fear Strikes Out: Jimmy Piersall overcomes mental illness to become Major League ballplayer. Produced in 1957, prior to the time Piersall hit his 100th home run and ran the bases backwards for the New York Mets.

North Dallas Forty: Sort of a Ball Four expose of professional football. Man, did the NFL hate this really funny movie.

The Endless Summer: A documentary about surfing. Beautiful and fun-loving.

White Men Can't Jump: Basketball hustlers count on black players underestimating white player's ability. Really delightful Rosie Perez, too.

Miracle On Ice: 1980 Olympic gold medal for the USA hockey team. I include this film because Bill Schlansky (who knows I hate hockey) made me. Apparently, if you like ice hockey, you will love this movie.

Slap Shot: Another hockey movie. So there. I had to be convinced to watch this satire; I am glad I was. Paul Newman attempts to coach the Hanson brothers.

Tokyo Olympiad: Ichikawa's documentary of the 1964 Summer Olympics. Not what you expect (nor what the Japanese government expected). Well before the running boom, two events take center stage: Abebe Bikila's marathon victory and "Look at Mills! Here comes Mills!" in the 10,000 meters. Oglala Sioux and U.S. Marine Billy Mills (aka Tamakoce Te'Hila) comes outta nowhere. TV Announcer Dick Bank was fired for his enthusiastic reporting.

Jim Thorpe, All American: Burt Lancaster plays Jim Thorpe, a Sac and Fox Native American, who won the pentathlon and decathlon in the 1912 Olympics, only to see his medals stripped, then became one of the greatest football players of all time. I was really inspired by this film when I saw it 60+ years ago. Stay healthy! Keep strong!

Dream A Little

Israel . Photographs by Tori Rosen



How to Use Your Time at Home

There are lots of suggestions, lists, websites making the rounds with great ideas for how to stay connected, engaged, entertained or simply distracted. There's almost too much information! So in each issue of the *Special Viral Edition of West Midwood News*, we'll suggest just a few of them. If you have good additions to these, let us know, and we'll include them in the next issue.

Learn Something New

The Armchair Explorer: 9 Buildings That Tell America's History

https://discussion.road scholar.org/b/blog/posts/united-states-virtual-architecture-tour?cm_ven=Email&cm_cat=NP&cm_pla=OTHER&cm_it e=PAF&dtm_em=tori726@gmail.com&LM=tori726@gm ail.com&e_id_s=25ff7c9cf2f679069a3868f20b199c1e47 927f554adb6b3f4fdcof6617d81e7d

Attend a Concert

Broadway Cares to Live Stream Disney Benefit Concert for COVID-19 Relief Fund

Ryan McCartan will host the live stream on April 13.

The stream can be watched [here](#).

Sing!

Peace of Heart Choir is organizing New York Sings Along (see https://www.facebook.com/NewYorkSingsAlong/?view_public_for=109232574071493) -- an event designed to create a city-wide sing-along which will hopefully bring hundreds of New Yorkers to their windows, terraces, and more to sing "New York, New York" after the clapping and cheering of "Clap Because We Care" on Thursday, April 16, 2020.

See a Play

Watch "South Pacific Live from Lincoln Center" on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/c4jj9EiJYYk>

Lincoln Center At Home

[http://email.wordfly.com/view/?sid=MTQwNF8yMjQ0NV8yODYwMDBfNzQoOQ&l=262c8b55-ac75-ea11-bd94-e61f134a8c87&utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=040820LCatHome%3ANewsletter4\(SS1\)&utm_content=version_A&uid=595403&sourceNumber=](http://email.wordfly.com/view/?sid=MTQwNF8yMjQ0NV8yODYwMDBfNzQoOQ&l=262c8b55-ac75-ea11-bd94-e61f134a8c87&utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=040820LCatHome%3ANewsletter4(SS1)&utm_content=version_A&uid=595403&sourceNumber=)

Receive a Poem A Day

The Academy of American Poets will send you an email every day with a poem.

Or subscribe to Poem-a-Day Podcast

poets.org

Make a Yummy Meal

https://magazine.northeast.aaa.com/daily/life/food-dining/pantry-meals-around-the-globe/?cmpid=int_eml_out_txx-0420-wndrlst&cid=DM133830&bid=1397540001&hme=25ff7c9cf2f679069a3868f20b199c1e47927f554adb6b3f4fdcof6617d81e7d

Take a Walk in Nature

National Parks: Google Earth put together a collection of virtual tours, guiding you through 31 of the country's most beautiful national parks. Google Arts & Culture also includes a digital exhibit called The Hidden Worlds of the National Parks that brings five national parks to life, including Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and Kenai Fjords National Park in Alaska.

<https://artsandculture.withgoogle.com/en-us/national-parks-service/parks>

Have an idea for this newsletter? Let us know! Email us at Editor.WestMidwoodNews@gmail.com

What's Happening in Your Back Yard?



Allidah Muller spotted this woodpecker hanging out on her neighbor's magnolia.

Arthur Rhine's garden is exploding in color!



Two-lips! and vinca.



Hycinth and Kerira Japonica



Primrose



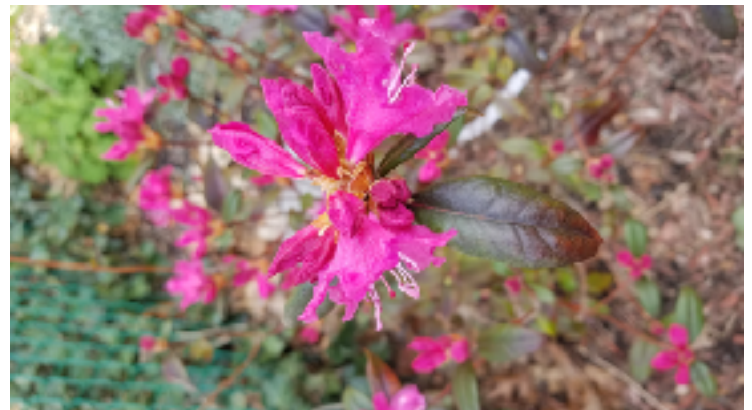
Peter Pan continued his exploration of **Tori, David** and **Sarah Rosen's** yard. He has been spotted several times this week, bushwhacking through the grape hyacinths, and later striding across the violet field.



Carpet phlox (conquers rocks)



Azalea



What do you see in your yard? Send your pictures, poems, essays and descriptions to editor. WestMidwoodNews@gmail.com and we'll publish them in future issues.

Neighborhood News —

Artist's Notebook

Florence Manglani — Spring Flowers

Ariela Hazan will graduate from Mt Sinai School of Medicine next Wednesday, and will immediately join the cadre of doctors and other health professionals fighting COVID 19. Mazel Tov!



Laurie Bassi has organized a neighborhood mask-making effort, coordinating people who need masks with people who have sewing machines but no mask-making supplies, and others who have supplies but no sewing skills. Her email is lbassi@mcbassi.com

1. If you have material and/or elastic, please offer it up so that those with sewing machines (but no materials) can get to work.
2. If you have a sewing machine, but no materials let Laurie know and she'll get materials to you.
3. If you have a sewing machine and materials, let her know how many masks you can make.
4. Finally, if you need masks, let Laurie know how many you need and what size (adult or children).

7:00 Shout Out

Every evening at 7:00pm, people from all over West Midwood are coming out of their homes onto their porches, walks and balconies to to clap/drum/yell/whistle/shake a tambourine/bang a pot lid for the essential workers. West Midwood joins other neighborhoods all over New York (and around the globe) in this effort to show essential workers our appreciation for their heroic efforts.



Mike Weiss reports that Spring has arrived on Waldorf Court in spite of Covid19.



And these lovely pictures by Ellen Bilofsky confirm that the same is true on DeKoven!



Jan Castro: Corona Poems

Below are a few of my covid-19 poems. The last -- based on Schubert's "Death and the Maiden" -- was written first and before Covid19 but turns out to be a Corona poem and led to the poem above it.

Corona Fever

*(on March 9) before Stay-at-Home Order (on March 20, 2020)
"Hands are meant to be held." – Carina T. Nevada, on a Dove wrapper*

Jerry Saltz is initiating the elbow bump at art fairs, another place we're hesitant to visit. Governor Cuomo is introducing New York State hand sanitizer, a 75% alcohol floral invention, and telling Purell and Amazon to stop price-gouging consumers. We all want to be safe. Now, people wear masks on the street, in subways. And what do 142 cases statewide mean when so few have been tested?

3.9.2020 jgc

Stay-at-Home Day 14

What? 57,159 cases in New York City area alone. What if the same number of cases go unreported?

New York: 4.8.2020: 140,386 cases , 5,489 deaths.

Covid-19 set: March 20:

Portrait: Manhattan Beach

Biking. I skirt speeding white vans on nearly empty streets, broken glass. Mean kids? Men? Who does this?

Azure sea glow, blue sky in my eyes: spirits rise. Russians chatter: couples on benches, smiling older-than-me biker going in circles, then stopping to exchange words. Pairs of kids play field hockey, tennis. One group disregards self-isolating to talk, touch, sunbathe near a brick wall. In this innocent, high risk covid-19 area, will the crisp, cool wind infect my lungs?

Next time, I'll go further, bring binoculars or lunch. Beaches are a destination. I can't climb mountains in Brooklyn.

3.17.2020

If I took everything back

Pandemic thinking rolls in as alcohol and staples are stuffed into shopping carts, leaving shelves bare. Schools, libraries, restaurants closed. We're bodies in space, told to space ourselves out, wash our hands. Are all talk shows with audiences reruns? Have the homeless been ejected from supposedly-sanitized subways no one rides?

Let's take back everything bad: bad wishes, bad politicians, all name-calling and foul play. Let's take back medicines that increase depression, take back lead in drinking water stunting children in Flint, Newark, and more cities than we know. Let's take human dignity back.

Self-Portrait as Death and the Maiden

Bill T. Jones, "art is something that is pushed against"

His body springs toward mine, lands close enough to swoop down, steal a kiss. His fire ignites mine. Elastic, I leap into his arms; we smother each other with kisses. He holds me around the waist, sends my eyes skyward as we rise, his eyes full of emptiness. I see through his body as it dissolves, as I'm ghosted away on cushions of dematerializing kisses. I become dust and feathers, snapped bowstrings, angry voices, a silenced heart. I live my last illusions. If I took everything back, would Death return me to earth like an unsent package?

based on WQXR live Schubert performance, Orion String Quartet, New York

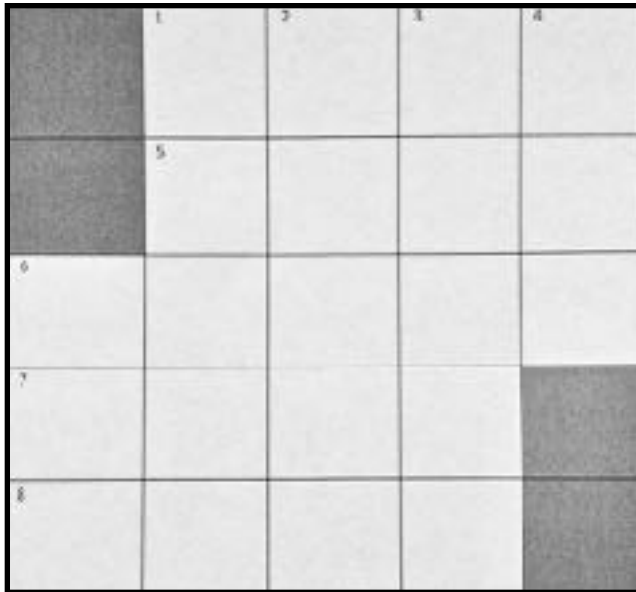
A careless fellow was horsing around on the platform at the top of the Empire State building. He slipped off. As he passed the 42nd floor someone leaned out the window and asked, "How are you doing?" The response was, "So far so good."

How are you doing, West Midwood? What are you doing, West Midwood?

Send us your drawings, pictures, doodles, ideas, stories or poems. We'll publish this every week or so, so that we can stay a bit more connected. Let us know about new babies, great recipes you've tried, good video games, bad jokes, naughty puppies, or goldfish that jumped out of their bowl — whatever is happening at your house while we are waiting out this awful pandemic.

Fun Stuff

Mini Crosswords by A. Rhine



Across

1. Arithmetic
5. Ladies' Fingers
6. Kafka's "The _____"
7. Italian sparkling wine
8. Actor Sean _____ (played Boromir)

Down

1. Code word
2. Japanese dog
3. Work out
4. Malicious computer
6. Actor _____ Hunter (played Joe Hardy)



Riddles

What two things can you never eat for breakfast?

Lunch and Dinner.

What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?

A clock.

What tastes better than it smells?

A Tongue.

What kind of room has no doors or windows?

A Mushroom.

During what month do people sleep the least?

February, it's the shortest month.

Across

1. Cunning
5. Show annoyance
6. Thunderous noises
7. Volkswagen product
8. Desired goal for therapists

Down

1. High grade
2. Band aid
3. Latin Eros
4. Bklyn _____ (classy nabe)
6. Put a lid on



A notice from the Psychiatric Association:

Dear citizens:

During the QUARANTINE time it is considered normal to talk to your walls, plants and pots.

Kindly contact us only if they reply.

#####

Paranoia has reached absurd levels...

I sneezed in front of my laptop and the anti-virus started a scan on its own!

Who You Gonna Call?

When you need help, it's important to call the right number. Here's a list of useful phone numbers with an explanation of when to call which number. It's not a bad idea to cut out this list and stick in on your refrigerator or by your phone.

911— The number to call for emergencies, such as fire, medical emergencies, accidents of any type, a crime in progress, violent behavior, or a person in trouble. Remember to stay on the line until the operator tells you it is okay to hang up. The operator will also ask you your location, so note the nearest house number and street address.

311—Call this number for non-emergencies such as noise complaints, animal control, air quality, blocked driveway, dangerous tree situation, or to find out where to get other information. For a complete list, see www.nyc.gov/311.

If you're unsure, call 911. The operator will either take your information or redirect you to 311. Remember to get a complaint number and write it down.

Our Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs):

P.O. Konstantin Rakmonov, **929-294-5260** Email is: konstantin.rakhmanov@nypd.org

P.O. David Yegros, **929-284-0625** Email is: david.yegros@nypd.org

The NCOs are usually on duty Tuesdays to Saturdays from noon to 6:30 p.m. (Sometimes they are unavailable because they have been pulled for training or special duty.) Former West Midwood president Linda Howell reports that she relies on the NCOs for quality-of-life issues, especially situations "where I do not have complete details, only secondhand reports of events. I feel comfortable giving them as much information as I can and asking them to check into the potential problem." Examples include gatherings at the dead ends, abandoned cars, chronic parking violations, and patterns of package theft from porches. You can also contact them if you feel a 911 or 311 call was not handled correctly. Note that while they will make every effort to assist, they may also be handling other more time-critical issues.

Community Board 14 (CB14), 718-859-6357

This office and its staff are a valuable resource that can be contacted for a myriad of situations. Call them to find out the status of a 311 complaint, why your recycling wasn't picked up, how you can get a tree planted in front of your home or a dead one removed, or what's going on with construction (or lack of it) at a specific location. They can also help you get in touch with the local representative for a specific city agency. This is by no means a complete list. If you're unsure of how to handle an issue, call them and ask. They are there to help.

Coronavirus Symptoms

Here are the CDC recommendations for what to do if you are experiencing symptoms of Covid-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

Call your doctor first, who will advise you as to what to do next. Most cases are mild, and can be treated at home. Do not go into your doctor's office without calling first, so that they can assure you get appropriate care without putting yourself or others at risk. If your symptoms are severe or you have difficulty breathing, call 911.

Did You Know? West Midwood Trivia

By Joe Enright

Look Down, Not Up!!

1) Until the renovation of the Avenue H station ten years ago, there was a manhole cover down there dating to 1908 that bore the imprint in the center of its iron grill of "BHRR" - the initials of the Brooklyn Heights Railroad Company, the entity that owned what was commonly known as the BRT - the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company -- which went bankrupt after the ghastly Malbone Street (now Empire Blvd) wreck just east of the Prospect Park station (the Franklin Shuttle) on November 1, 1918, and led to the creation of the BMT which itself went belly-up in 1940, along with the IRT, leading to the formation of the NYC Transit Authority.

2) There still exists a manhole cover at Avenue H bearing the imprint BRT dating from about 1908 - it's in the middle of Avenue H not far from the east wall of the station.

3) There are a number of manhole covers in the neighborhood that bear the imprint "NY & NJ T Co" That was the New York & New Jersey Telephone Company, founded in 1883, which was the local service provider for Alexander Graham Bell's original Bell company, serving the rapidly expanding population of upper New Jersey, Staten Island, Queens, Nassau, Suffolk and of course, good old Brooklyn. I have their phone directory from 1888 - no listings here since we were still woodland! It was eventually consolidated into the New York Telephone Company and became one of the Baby Bells and eventually NYNEX and Verizon.

4) There are iron imprints on the Ocean Parkway bike path at the corners from Avenue C to Foster that were laid in 1974 to mark the centennial of the Parkway. They all bear the images of fish because the Parks Commissioner at that time was a whacko.



What Is West Midwood Online?

Want to ask folks in the neighborhood whether they have any recommendations for a plumber or roofer or such? Or maybe what local eateries or merchants they like? Perhaps you'd like to be in the know about issues affecting our area? Then join the West Midwood Online email discussion group, aka the listserv.

Send an email to joe@enright.com with your street address, name, and the email address that you want to use to post and receive messages. He will add you to the group and send you the simple instructions. There are presently over 200 email subscribers representing about 125 households.

To join you must be a permanent resident of West Midwood and agree not to post messages of a religious, political, or spam nature. Insulting or crude language can also lead to revocation of the ability to post. Finally, new and existing members can also request a daily recap

For NYC Updates on Coronavirus

Social media and your best friend's brother-in-law who knows an epidemiologist are probably not the best sources of reliable information. Try these instead:

- Text COVID to 692-692 for alerts sent to your phone
- The CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- The NYC Department of Health: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

WEST MIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018 - 2020

MARY BAKIJA	776 WESTMINSTER ROAD	marybakija@gmail.com
ALVIN BERK	735 ARGYLE ROAD	alvin_berk@verizon.net
LAURA CAMPBELL- LUI	1434 GLENWOOD RD	lauraclui@yahoo.com
MARILYN CUFF	725 RUGBY ROAD	artemis1947@hotmail.com
ANTHONY FINKEL	1435 GLENWOOD ROAD	anthonyjfinkel@gmail.com
JEFFREY EWING	776 WESTMINSTER ROAD	J.R.Ewing@verizon.net
ERIC GOLDBERG	12 WALDORF COURT	goldbergeric@yahoo.com
LINDA HOWELL	815 E. 12TH ST.	LHPT49@gmail.com
JOSEPH MISLOWACK	1315 GLENWOOD RD.	jmislowack@gmail.com
CHAUDRY MOHAMMED	672 WESTMINSTER RD	cnmohammad@gmail.com
ERIC NEWSUM	667 RUGBY RD.	ericnewsun@gmail.com
MELANIE OSER	639 MARLBOROUGH CT	meloser@hotmail.com
MELISSA SCOTT	784 RUGBY ROAD	meliscott@optonline.net
ROBERT SEIDEL	667 ARGYLE ROAD	info@loraleinyc.com
VIRGINIA WATERS	715 ARGYLE RD.	vwaters715@aol.com
MIKE WEISS	15 WALDORF COURT	m.a.weiss@verizon.net

