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## Challenging Tentative Budget Presented at Village Meeting

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Mayor Lorraine Walsh opened a videoconference of the Larchmont Board of Trustees on Monday, April 20th. "The first priority has been the health and safety of our Village and staff," Walsh began, reminding residents to wear masks. "I issued an Executive Order banning all types of leaf blowers," Walsh added. "Lawn cutting is fine but no extensive plantings.

If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail [codeenforcement@villageoflarchmont.org](mailto:codeenforcement@villageoflarchmont.org)."

Walsh urged residents to complete Census 2020. There is a loss of \$2500 per year for 10 years if one person is not recorded. This affects Sales Tax



revenues, based on per capita. Go to [Census2020.gov](http://Census2020.gov).

Trustee Sarah Bauer announced the appointment of

Alanna Murray to the Larchmont Environmental Committee.

Village Administrator

Justin Datino presented a slideshow of Tentative Budget 2.0, saying that 75% of Budget Revenue is Property Tax; 25%

non-Property Tax Revenues, such as sales tax, mortgage tax, building permits and Court fines. "In prior years, we have used Fund Balance to balance our Budget," Datino stated.

"Last year we did not and this year are not planning to use Fund Balance as well." With a 4/20 Budget Gap of \$148,020, Tax Levy to Close Gap is 1.00%, below the State-Mandated Tax Cap of 1.78%; therefore, Proposed Local Law authorizing a Property Tax levy in excess of limit established in General Municipal Law was withdrawn.

Datino said that most complaints are about sidewalks and roads. Although \$75,000 was allocated for LED streetlights, projected savings are \$60,000/yr.

A Public Law was passed, amending Planning Board Membership Law Code to allow alternate members in order to fill quorums.

Mamaroneck High School sophomore Caitlyn Carpenter presented plans for installation of 3 dual-port CT4021 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations for public use in the Addison Street, Village Hall and Wendt Avenue West Parking Lots under the auspices of a NYSERDA 2019 Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Clean Vehicle Infrastructure Grant, filed through an online portal with 80% rebates of approved project costs.

And a Resolution was passed for goal of Village purchasing fuel-efficient and alternative-fuel "Green Fleets" vehicles.

## Code Frontline, Delivering Care Packages to Frontline Workers

STAFF REPORT

Margaret Healy, a flight nurse at SkyHealth, a joint venture between Northwell Health and Yale New Haven Health, has been picking up shifts in the ICU to help out her fellow frontliners. Seeing first hand the need to help the frontline workers, she enlisted her daughter, Mar {Mary}, who was home from College, and together they conceived of the idea to deliver care packages to frontline Doctors and Nurses.

Naming their endeavor, Code Frontline, the Larchmont residents reached out on social media, posting on Facebook's

Love Larchmont, using word of mouth and telling friends of their intentions. Initially, they raised \$5000 to make the care packages that included individual drinks like coffee or juice boxes, protein shakes, trail mix, granola bars, mints, candy and gummies.

Since the inception of the idea, they have delivered over 1,650 care packages to 28 different hospitals and organizations in the New York Metro Area. "We have delivered care packages to Long Island Jewish Medical Center, White Plains Hospital, North Shore University Hospital, Montefiore Medical Center, Northern

Westchester Medical Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Calvary Hospital-Hospice at Home, Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center and many more," reveals Mar.

Margaret has used her connections and as they reach out to hospitals, they ask, "How many are in your unit?", so they know in advance how many care packages they will need to deliver. Usually a delivery run will include 25 to 50 packages at each stop.

"People are so appreciative," Mar explains. "They like that each package is individual, sometimes in a bag or a take out meal container. A sticker

with the Code Frontline logo is attached to each package and a separate poster that reads, "Thank you to our frontline. Love from Code Frontline," accompanies the delivery.

This project has become a family affair, with Margaret's 2 sons, husband and Mar helping to pack each bundle.

On some days, the Healy family has made multiple stops and delivered be-



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# Registration Information for Universal PreK and Grades K through 12

The Mamaroneck Union Free School District is informing the public that the Family Information Center will now be accepting registration documents through verified secure email.

**For Universal Pre-Kindergarten Registration: The deadline for new Pre-K registrations has been extended until Friday, May 8, 2020.**

Scenario 1: If you have already started the registration process by completing online registration, you have already received an encrypted email from the address registration@mamkschools.org This email has detailed directions for how to submit your documents through their secure email system. Be aware that you have to “unlock” the email in order to read and reply to the message.

Scenario 2: If you have not started the registration process, visit the Mamaroneck UFSD Registration website and follow the directions for Universal Pre-Kindergarten. In order to submit your reg-

istration documents, fill out the Google form to request an email be sent to you. This email will be encrypted and will have detailed directions for how to submit your documents through Their secure email system. Be aware that you have to “unlock” the email in order to read and reply to the message.

For any questions that are specifically related to the Universal Pre-Kindergarten program, contact Nell Marantz at emarantz@theguidancecenter.org or Claudia Morales, MSW: cmorales@theguidancecenter.org. You can also call and leave a message at 914-220-3471. Voice messages will be checked regularly.

## Grades K-12 Registration:

Scenario 1: If you have already started the registration process by completing the Questionnaire and/or online registration, you have already received an encrypted email from the address registration@mamkschools.org This email has detailed directions

for how to submit your documents through their secure email system. Be aware that you have to “unlock” the email in order to read and reply to the message.

Scenario 2: If you have not started the registration process, visit the Mamaroneck UFSD Registration website and follow the directions for registration. Once you have completed the Questionnaire, you will receive an email from the address registration@mamkschools.org within a few days. This email will be encrypted and will have detailed directions for how to submit your documents through their secure email system. Be aware that you have to “unlock” the email in order to read and reply to the message.

If you have questions related to the registration process in general, send a message to registration@mamkschools.org. You can also call and leave a message at 914-220-3151. Voice messages will be checked regularly.

# Board Discusses Expected Budget Adoption Amidst Uncertain Economic Landscape

At the April 21, Board of Education meeting, the Board and Administration discussed the impact that school closure during the Coronavirus period has had on the current year budget (2019-2020), as well as projected impacts of the current economy on the 2020-2021 budget.

Although the 2020-2021 budget development process began well before the pandemic, new economic uncertainties and potential scenarios resulting from the the public health crisis have been considered - including the District's anticipated loss in revenues (State Aid, county sales tax, interest income); the financial toll of this crisis on many of our district's families, and the potential budgetary implications of providing additional student support for increased student needs once school reopens.

No additional changes were proposed to the 2020-2021 Superintendent's Rec-



Mamaroneck Union Free School District Superintendent Dr. Robert I. Shaps.

ommended Budget from April 14th. Several potential revenue shortfall scenarios were outlined. Dr. Shaps said that in order to adjust for revenue loss, the District could potentially face mid-year budget cuts. While he is hoping cuts will not be required, maintaining the quality of teaching and learning and preserving the classroom experience will be prioritized.

Dr. Shaps and Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations Sylvia Fassler-Walch restated the need to maintain fiscal stability and be mindful of the impact on taxpayers. “This budget has gone through several iterations, with \$1.4 million in reductions since it was first presented on March 3, 2020,” Dr. Shaps said.

Emphasis was placed on the importance of passing a budget that allows for flexibility. “We can always reduce our budget, but cannot increase the amount the voters have authorized,” Ms. Wallach said.

The Board indicated it expects to adopt the Superintendent's Recommended budget on May 5th. As stated previously, the Governor's Executive Order delayed the community vote for all districts in NY to June 1 or beyond. For all budget-related information and presentations, visit the Mamaroneck School District website.

# Dr. Albert Sackey Appointed Principal of Hommocks Middle School

The Board of Education approved at its meeting April 14, the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Dr. Albert Sackey as Principal of Hommocks Middle School. Dr. Sackey has been serving as principal at Nathan Hale Middle School in Norwalk, Connecticut since 2014.

In announcing the appointment, Superintendent Dr. Shaps said Dr. Sackey demonstrates the qualities and characteristics the search committee (made up of teachers, parents, and central administration) was looking for in a candidate.

“Dr. Sackey has a long track record of exemplary instructional leadership focused on providing rigorous learning for all students, accompanied by appropriate instructional supports. We believe Dr. Sackey's thoughtful and capable leadership style, combined with his knowledge of the developmental needs of adolescents, will be an important asset for our district,” Dr. Shaps said.

Prior to his role as principal at Nathan Hale, Dr. Sackey served as assistant principal for six years at Western Middle School in Greenwich, Connecticut and before that as a regional instructional support specialist for the NYC Department of Education, where he oversaw special education and worked to improve school-wide academic performance. Dr.



Dr. Albert Sackey

Sackey began his career as a special education teacher in the Bronx.

Dr. Sackey will replace Emily Macias-Capellan, whose resignation is effective at the end of this school year. He will join the administrative team of Assistant Principals Rob Andrews, Margaret Groninger and Irene Ianuzzi.

“Dr. Sackey is dedicated to promoting whole-school respect and positive school culture. With his addition, I am confident we will have an outstanding leadership team in place to lead the middle school through this decade,” Dr. Shaps added. “Middle schools everywhere are known for their unique challenges. Our aim was to select a candidate capable of leading a large, diverse, and high performing school and continu-

ing to propel Hommocks forward on the path of continuous improvement and excellence.”

In addition to his K-12 administrative roles, Dr. Sackey has been an adjunct professor at several universities for the past few years. He also has served on several Boards of Directors for local academic institutions and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

“I am very excited to be appointed principal of Hommocks Middle School. I follow a growth mindset approach and believe in every child's ability to learn and grow with the right care, re-

sources and supports,” Dr. Sackey said. “I look forward to working with all the amazing students, staff, parents and community at Hommocks to build a school community in which everyone feels safe, connected and happy to be a part of.”

Dr. Sackey resides with his wife Anna in Connecticut, and they have three children. Originally from Ghana, West Africa, Dr. Sackey received his doctoral degree in Educational Leadership, Management and Policy from Seton Hall University; a Master's degree in School Administration and Supervision from Mercy College, and a Master's degree in Special Education from Manhattan College. He completed his undergraduate work from Guilford College in Greensboro, NC.

# Mamaroneck Schools Launch Exciting Collaboration

As elementary students have clicked open their daily distance learning plans, they have encountered some new and innovative offerings. Through an exciting collaboration, Mamaroneck students are taking weekly, virtual field trips to the nature reserves of Sheldrake Environmental Center and to the rural landscape of western New York where poet-educator Amy VanDerwater offers students an eye into her process as a writer.

In a coordinated series of lessons each week, Mamaroneck students learn from Sheldrake naturalists to act like scientists, closely observing their environment for signs of spring, forest ecology, birds, and trees. From Ms. VanDerwater, students learn to “write wildly” from nature by taking an observant, inquiry stance and collecting ideas and sketches in nature journals.



Mamaroneck teachers are embedding these resources into their daily learning plans and writing alongside their students, modeling how to craft words and images into nature poems, riddles, and other vibrant forms. Not only does this collaboration

provide authentic learning experiences for children; it emphasizes the reassurance that the world provides each spring.

# Governor Outlines Plan to Re-Open New York

On April 26, Governor Cuomo said, "We're mutually dependent in that what I do can affect your health, but it really comes down to giving everybody the information so people can make their own decision, and the great achievement in this period has been that when people get the facts, and they trust the facts, and they understand the facts, they do the right thing. And that is a lesson that I hope people remember after this is all over. But, we still have to remember the facts. And we talk about reopening, we talk about re-imagining. Let's start to put some meat on the bones of what we're talking about so people understand."

The Governor outlined a phased plan to re-open New York and re-imagine a new normal for the state starting with construction and manufacturing. The plan will be implemented in phases and will

be based on regional analysis and determinations. Based on CDC recommendations, once a region experiences a 14-day decline in the hospitalization rate they may begin a phased re-opening. The State is closely monitoring the hospitalization rate, the infection rate and the number of positive antibody tests, as well as the overall public health impact, and will make adjustments to the plan and other decisions based on these indicators.

- Phase one will include opening construction and manufacturing functions with low risk.

- Phase two will open certain industries based on priority and risk level. Businesses considered "more essential" with inherent low risks of infection in the workplace and to customers will be prioritized, followed by other businesses considered "less essential" or those that pres-



ent a higher risk of infection spread. As the infection rate declines, the pace of reopening businesses will be increased.

- The region must not open attractions or businesses that would draw a large number of visitors from outside the

plemented with multi-state coordination, especially in downstate New York. The plan will also coordinate the opening of transportation systems, parks, schools, beaches and businesses with special attention on summer activities for downstate, public housing and low-income communities, food banks and child care.

- The phased re-opening will also be based on individual business and industry plans that include new

measures to protect employees and consumers, make the physical work space safer and implement processes that lower risk of infection in the business. The state is consulting with local leaders in each region and industry to formulate these plans.

local area.

- There will be two weeks in between each phase to monitor the effects of the re-opening and ensure hospitalization and infection rates are not increasing.

- This plan will be im-

## Continue Practicing Fire Safety as World Continues to Grapple with Pandemic

The New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' Office of Fire Prevention and Control urged all New Yorkers to keep fire safety in mind as NY-PAUSE remains in effect through May 15. Approximately 94 percent of all the nation's fatal structure fires occur in residences and with New Yorkers currently spending more time at home than usual, it's more important than ever to check your smoke detectors and practice safe behaviors.

"Home fire prevention is the least costly and most effective firefighting anyone can do," said New York State Homeland Security and Emergency Services Commissioner Patrick Murphy said. "As New Yorkers remain home amidst this global

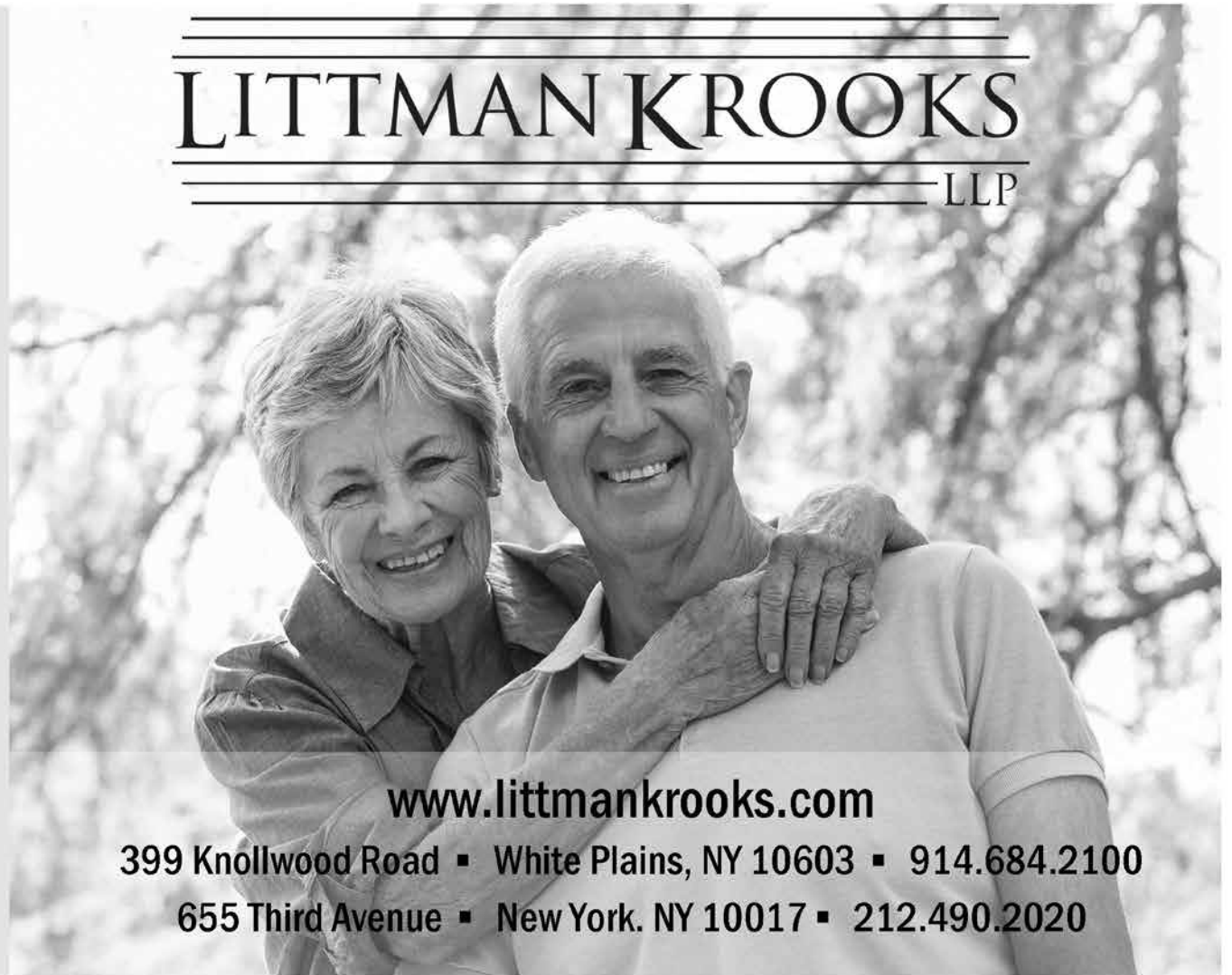
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# The Music Business Taught Locally by Larchmont Author

STAFF REPORT

In these unprecedented times, by pivoting to new technologies and teaching methods, Harvey Rachlin, who runs the Music Business and Music Internship Program at Manhattanville College in Purchase, is getting use to the new normal.

"It's a big adjustment to teach online nowadays. My lectures on the Music Business are the same as what they were in front of a room full of students. Your mindset goes from a classroom to a screen," he explains. "Manhattanville is so great. They send alternatives to what the best approach of teaching online is and they are very supportive. All students

can choose between getting pass/fail or letter grades."

The Larchmont resident started teaching full time at Manhattanville in 2008, though his career began as a writer after he graduated college. He wrote his first book in 1977, called *The Songwriters Handbook*. "I had a street education by working for a music publisher and record producer back then," he says.

From the music business and his love of writing, he branched out and is now the author of 13 books including the newly published *Song and System-The Making of American Pop Music*, published by Rowman and Littlefield and available at Amazon and Barnes and

Noble. "The book weaves the evolution of popular music with the Music business and it has been endorsed by numerous luminaries from the music world."

The award winning author has also written for various magazines and newspapers. "It took 2 years of research and writing to complete my new book," Rachlin mentions. "Tony Orlando, Bobby Rydell and Janis Ian all gave wonderful back cover reviews. I have been very fortunate to have gotten some great endorsements over the years."

Rachlin has even produced a syndicated cartoon, drawn by Steven Duquette, called *The Menschkins*, which dealt with a normal



Harvey Rachlin

Jewish family and ran for 4 years.

Now his agenda includes the writing of 2 new books. First, a non fiction

love story based in the 1700's. As a long time member of Chabad of Larchmont and Mamaroneck, the other book will be a young adult story with a Jewish theme. "It's a real coming of age story of a boy who will soon be having his Bar Mitzvah," Rachlin reveals.

"I get a lot of satisfaction from writing. To compose a book, it takes a long time. I become so consumed as I get further into the writing," he adds.

"I am also proud that many of my Music Business majors who graduated from Manhattanville College, have gone on to careers in the Mu-

sic Business including entertainment attorneys and executives at record labels and licensing organizations."

The varied books by Harvey Rachlin include: *Song and System-The Making of American Pop Music*; *The Songwriter's Handbook*; *The Encyclopedia of the Music Business*; *Scandals, Vandals and DaVinci's*; *Jumbo's Hide, Elvis's Ride and the Tooth of Buddha*; *Lucy's Bones, Sacred Stones and Einstein's Brain*; *The Making of a Detective*; *The Songwriter's and Musician's Guide to Making Great Demos*; *The Money Encyclopedia*; *The Kennedy's: A Chronological History*; *The TV and Movie Business*; and *The Making of a Cop*.

## Continue Practicing Fire Safety as World Continues to Grapple with Pandemic

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pandemic, the sad fact we must all remember is most deadly fires happen at home. Collectively we have the power to change this. The first step is acknowledging our own personal responsibility in this effort and practicing the safe behaviors we know will prevent fires from happening in the first place."

If a fire does occur in a home today, a fatality is more likely to occur than forty years ago. Construction materials, open design concepts and other factors of the building all contribute to a higher probability of death in a home fire. In older homes built with legacy construction, a person could expect to have 15 minutes or more to escape a house fire. By 1980, time to escape a house fire decreased to only eight minutes. Today, a person only has two to three minutes to get out and survive. Fire is fast and it doubles every 30 seconds so in a matter of a couple of minutes, a room or even the whole house may be engulfed.

Cooking, especially when unattended, remains the leading cause of both residential fires and fire deaths in the United States. Cooking may be a good educational opportunity and family activity, especially with more time being spent in the home, however it's important to remember some basic steps to protect your family from potential fires. This includes making

sure cooking is never left unattended, that surfaces are free from grease and that all combustible materials are kept well away from heat sources.

"There is an unacceptable number of fatal fires occurring each year, and we must change people's behaviors today to prevent fires and increase people's chances of survival," said State Fire Administrator Francis Nerney. "The good news is that by taking personal responsibility and following a few easy, inexpensive steps, we can dramatically reduce fires and their dreadful consequences. Everyone has the power to make a difference."

Some additional tips for preventing fires and increasing survivability in the event of a fire:

- First, prevent the fire. If a fire event never happens, none of the loss, injury and death occurs.

- Have working smoke alarms. Working smoke alarms are the most important tool for early notification of fire, escape and survival.

- Have a practiced home escape plan. Know two ways out and practice escaping to a designated meeting point. Escape must be automatic when the alarm sounds. It's not the time to figure what to do. You must already know your escape route and follow it.

- Consider installing home

fire sprinklers. One or two sprinkler heads at the location where the fire starts can control or extinguish the fire, providing invaluable time to escape. Studies show that working smoke alarms and fire sprinklers can together reduce fire deaths by over 80 percent.

The statewide ban prohibiting residential brush burning remains in effect until May 14. With spring approaching, conditions for wildfires are heightened in springtime when most wildfires occur. Open burning of debris is the largest single cause of spring wildfires in New York State. When temperatures are warmer and the past fall's debris and leaves dry out, wildfires can start and spread easily and be further fueled by winds and a lack of green vegetation. New York first enacted strict restrictions on open burning in 2009 to help prevent wildfires and reduce air pollution. The regulations allow residential brush fires in towns with fewer than 20,000 residents during most of the year, but prohibit such burning in spring when most wildfires occur. Since the ban was established, the eight-year annual average number of spring fires decreased by 42.6 percent, from 2,649 in 2009, to 1,521 in 2018.

For more information, visit the DHSES Facebook page, follow @NYS DHSES on Twitter and Instagram, or visit [dhses.ny.gov](http://dhses.ny.gov).

## Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions Respond to Local Coronavirus Needs

Many of the community's most vulnerable are being affected medically, by the effects of the Coronavirus. They have disrupted access to medical needs and medicines. The LM Lions are working with CURE & other community groups to raise funds for the Larchmont Mamaroneck Community Resource Center (CRC) who is helping those in need find and afford the medical attention they need.

The LM Lions are donating \$2100 as a challenge to others to make their own donations. The Lions donation is being made



from the LM Lions Foundation. Their members were challenged to make donations to the Foundation, earmarked for the CRC. The LM Lions will continue to receive donations from its members, and invite others to match with their own donations directly to the CRC.

LM Lions are part of the International Lions Clubs, the largest service organization in the World. Their signature cause is support for the blind & sight health. Lions' core services also include the environment, hunger, diabetes, childhood cancer and youth – and are a signatory with the United Nations 50/50 by 30 equal rights for women and the UN's refugee rights.

# Masks for NY Volunteers Supply Over 7,500 Masks to Health Care Workers!

*Recently arrived refugees aid the cause.*

BY LINNET TSE

"It all began with an article and a Facebook post. 'Hospitals desperately need masks.' Our reaction? 'We can sew; let's do this!'" As Masks for NY founder Lisa Boillot shares, over 60 volunteers responded overnight to the Facebook post that floated the idea of sewing masks, and within days, over 250 local residents had volunteered to be part of the grassroots initiative.

For Lisa, a Mamaroneck resident who has a background in brand management and consumer marketing and loves to sew, cook, and spend time with family and friends, starting Masks for NY was a natural reaction to the disaster unfolding around us. The volunteer response has continued to be overwhelming. Residents

scoured attics to donate fabric and other mask-making materials. And, a cadre of volunteers organized to cut fabric and elastic, sew, and deliver finished masks to health care workers on the front line of area hospitals and other health care facilities.

Holly Rosen Fink, representing the not-for-profit Neighbors for Refugees – an organization dedicated to resettling and supporting refugees – partnered with Masks for NY and quickly connected the group to skilled refugee sewers, which has been an important element of the mask making operation. Seven refugee women from Westchester have joined their efforts to create these protective masks. As Holly



explains, "doing this work is empowering and it has made these women feel productive and independent." Their efforts have been funded in part by grants and donations.

In just three short weeks, Masks for NY has distributed OVER 7,500 masks directly to a growing list of hospitals and health care centers. Recipient organizations include Columbia NY Presbyterian, Weill Cornell Brookdale Medical Center, Brookdale Hospital Medical Center, Mount Sinai West Hospital, Montefiore Hospital in New Rochelle, St John's Hospital in Yonkers, and Stamford Hospital, just to name a few. With more surgical masks becoming available now, Masks for NY is

beginning to be able to respond to the mask needs of other groups, including police and firefighters, and those manning the food pantries and other centers for vulnerable people throughout Westchester and beyond. Organizations in need of masks can contact Masks for NY with their request via their website.

The organization currently has seven collection hubs in Mamaroneck, Larchmont, New Rochelle, Purchase, Yonkers, and Rye.

"We can make a difference, at home, apart, altogether" says Lisa. People can help in one of three ways:

- Donate fabric or elastic.
- Donate time to cut, sew, or drive.
- Donate money to pay for labor or materials.

Further information can be found at [www.masksforny.org](http://www.masksforny.org).



## 2020 Census Operational Update

The U.S. 2020 Census is underway and more households across America are responding every day. Over 70 million households have responded to date, representing over 48% of all households in America. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the U.S. Census Bureau is adjusting 2020 Census operations in order to:

- Protect the health and safety of the American public and Census Bureau employees.
- Implement guidance from

federal, state and local authorities.

Ensure a complete and accurate count of all communities.

The Census Bureau temporarily suspended 2020 Census field data collection activities in March. Steps are already being taken to reactivate field offices beginning June 1, 2020, in preparation for the resumption of field data collection operations as quickly as possible following June 1.

In order to ensure the completeness and accuracy of

the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau is seeking statutory relief from Congress of 120 additional calendar days to deliver final apportionment counts.

Under this plan, the Census Bureau would extend the window for field data collection and self-response to October 31, 2020, which will allow for apportionment counts to be delivered to the President by April 30, 2021, and redistricting data to be delivered to the states no later than July 31, 2021.

## Code Frontline, Delivering Care Packages to Frontline Workers

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tween 400 to 500 packages.

Mar, now a senior at Hobart and William Smith College in Geneva, New York, says, "This initiative has drawn me to the non profit area after graduation. Code Frontline has been a big time commitment. It has grown bigger than we expected. We so thank the community that has supported us and we appreciate all the thank you emails and notes that we receive from the recipients. Hospitals and the hospital workers are still struggling with the coronavirus," relates Mar.

"We hope to reach as many frontliners as possible!"

Donations to Code Frontline are still being accepted. To donate individually wrapped and sealed items for care packages, checks or questions, email [codefrontline@gmail.com](mailto:codefrontline@gmail.com) for instructions. To donate via Venmo, use [venmo@mhealy](https://venmo.com/mhealy).



Mar Healy, a nurse at Elmhurst Hospital and Margaret Healy

To follow on instagram: @codefrontline for updates.



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# Sewing is Two Thirds of a Way Done for Metropolis Sunrise

"One of the most endearing things about the arts is its power to bring people together. That's what we had in mind when we initiated a major public art project that would be sewn by many hands in the community," Janet T. Langsam, CEO of ArtsWestchester recently noted.

Referring to the monumental work of public art called Metropolis Sunrise being assembled at the ArtsWestchester Building in White Plains, Langsam conveyed that due to social distancing and Covid-19, more



Amanda Browder

time is needed to complete the public art project by artist Amanda Browder.

"While the unveiling of the work was originally scheduled for May 2020, we now need to move the installation date forward to allow time to complete the work. Once it is safe to gather, we will resume sewing sessions. In the meantime, we are considering the feasibility of some "Zoom" sewing sessions," Lansam adds.

"Collectively, we have sewn an incredible 6,500 square-feet of fabric, which means that we are two-thirds

of the way towards completing our goal of sewing 10,000 square-feet! We have rallied a staggering number of volunteers—some 400 individuals—and partners. Metropolis Sunrise is fundamentally, an expression of a community working together to bring beauty and vibrancy to their shared living space. During these times, such connectivity is more important than ever. ArtsWestchester will continue to find ways of connecting around public art-making and placemaking."

Last year, ArtsWestches-

ter commissioned Brooklyn textile artist Amanda Browder to design and fabricate a colorful, quilt like, textile sculpture, to be draped from the top of the 9 story Arts building at 31 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains. Hoping for a May 2020 unveiling, the project has been pushed back so that the sewing can be completed.

Browder is known for her large scale installations on building exteriors and public sites. "I am in love with the transformative nature of materials and how the combi-

nation of the familiar creates abstract relationships about place," she explains.

"The overarching goal is to involve individuals and groups in the mystery of creation. Volunteerism of local citizens and artists is a segue to creating familiarity in contemporary art as well as individual nature of the neighborhood itself."

The project is made possible with the support of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Gov. Andrew Cuomo and The New York State Legislature.

## Masks Galore for the Town of Mamaroneck Gowns, Masks, Gloves and Monetary Donations made to Westchester County Health Care Workers



Pictured left to right in front of Mamaroneck Town Center are Town Administrator Stephen Altieri, County Executive George Latimer, Town Supervisor Nancy Seligson and County Legislator Catherine Parker.

Masks galore! County Executive George Latimer and County Legislator Catherine Parker delivered 1500 masks to the Town of Mamaroneck on April 27, bringing the total from the County during the last week in April, to 3500. The masks will be given to first responders, senior citizens and Town staff. The Hanes Corporation donated the masks to the County. The County distributed them to the municipalities and Mamaroneck received the special delivery service from County Executive Latimer and Legislator Parker.

## Bells Ring to Honor Healthcare Heroes

Every hour on the hour, from the top of the Westchester County Courthouse, chimes can be heard throughout downtown White Plains in honor of Westchester County's healthcare heroes. From 8 a.m. until 8 p.m., the County's bells chime out of respect for frontline workers – doctors, nurses, hospital staff and first responders – for their courageous efforts in the continuous fight against COVID-19 in Westchester.

"The bells have chimed for many years here in White Plains, but those bells have never held more significance than they do right now. It is a simple gesture, but we hope that it shows our healthcare heroes that we are praying for their continued health and safety, and that we ap-

preciate everything they are doing to keep us safe," said County Executive George Latimer.

In April, Westchester County launched a social media campaign called Westchester County Thank You, inviting parents and children to create artwork, post a picture, or record a short video to say thank you to Westchester's first responders who are facing the pandemic head on. Use the hashtags #WCThankyou and #MyWestchester to participate.

The bells have chimed from the top of the Westchester County Courthouse for more than 25 years. Today, those chimes are dedicated to all who have contributed towards Westchester County's response to COVID-19.

Standing inside the Department of Emergency Services (DES) Warehouse Building, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, along with representatives from Westchester Medical Center and White Plains Hospital, received a donation of PPE for Westchester County's frontline workers from the American Chinese United Care Alliance. The donation of protective gowns, masks and gloves, along with a monetary donation for Westchester Medical Center and White Plains Hospital, was a major boost in the County's fight against COVID-19 in Westchester.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "The safety of Westchester County's front line workers – our doctors, nurses and first responders – is absolutely critical in our fight against COVID-19. This PPE do-

nation will go a long way in protecting our health care heroes and preventing the spread of this virus. We are extremely grateful to the ACUC for this generous donation."

ACUC Board Member Victoria Alberto said, "ACUC is a grassroots organization made up of citizens who believe that we can make a difference for our fellow citizens, and this special country we all call home. This disease has devastated our entire world and forever changed how we interact and do business. This virus has caused tremendous suffering- it does not respect political borders, age or health. Our members understand that only by working together, pooling our resources and knowledge can we hope stop and cure this terrible disease. ACUC is committed to our Westchester partners today and in the

future as you work to respond and recover from this pandemic."

The list of donations for Westchester County are as follows:

- Westchester County Government – 15,200 disposable masks
- Westchester Medical Center – \$6,300 cash, 100 plastic protective gowns, 400 KN95 masks, 400 gloves, 150 surgical masks, 30 N95 masks
- White Plains Hospital: \$13,000 cash, 600 KN95 masks, 1,200 Surgical masks
- Town of Greenburgh: 2,000 surgical masks

The donations will be distributed from the Westchester County DES Warehouse. This has been Westchester County's largest emergency response operation to date.

## Love Can't Wait for a Big May Wedding

On April 24, Miriam and Tony Harwood have announced that their daughter, Dr. Katherine Harwood and Mr. Joshua Aschheim have obtained a marriage license issued at Mamaroneck Town Hall.

The big May wedding is cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but love cannot wait.

Dr. Harwood (just graduated from New York Medical College at Westchester Medi-

cal Center) and Mr. Aschheim will get married in May as scheduled, without the party and gathering, at a location to be decided, outdoors somewhere in Larchmont.

Katherine is a Larchmont native and life-long resident (Mamaroneck High School 2008, Princeton University 2012), She will begin her residency in pediatrics at Columbia (Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital) in July.



# Latest Coronavirus Impact on Real Estate Report

Nearly 3 in 4 Realtors® currently working with sellers during the third week of April, - 74% -, reported their clients haven't reduced listing prices to attract buyers, according to a new survey from the National Association of Realtors® (NAR). This suggests interested home sellers are remaining calm and avoiding panic selling during the uncertain economic environment brought about by the coronavirus pandemic.

"Consumers are mostly abiding by stay-in-shelter directives, and it appears the current decline in buyer and seller activity is only temporary, with a majority ready to hit the market in a couple of months," said NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun. "The housing market faced an inventory shortage before the pandemic. Given that there are even fewer new listings during the pandemic, home sellers are taking a calm approach and appear unwilling to lower prices to attract buyers during the temporary disruptions to the economy."

NAR's latest Economic Pulse Flash Survey, conducted April 19-20, 2020, asked members how the coronavirus outbreak has impacted the residential and commercial real estate markets. Several highlights include:

More than a quarter of Realtors®, 27%, said they were able to complete nearly all as-

pects of transactions while respecting social distancing. The most common technology tools used to communicate with clients are e-signatures, social media, messaging apps and virtual tours.

Residential tenants are facing rent payment issues, but many delayed payment requests are being accommodated. Forty-seven percent of property managers reported being able to accommodate tenants who cannot pay rent, a 6% increase from a week prior. Nearly a quarter of individual landlords, 24%, said the same, unchanged from previous week.

NAR also released its 2020 Animal House: Pets in the Home Buying and Selling Process report, which analyzes Realtor® recommendations and actions taken by home buyers and sellers to best accommodate their pets and present their homes in the best light. Several highlights include:

More than 4 in 10 U.S. households, 43%, would be willing to move to better accommodate their pets, demonstrating that this is a priority among consumers.

Almost 1 in 5 recent home buyers, 18%, said it was very important that their new neighborhood is convenient to a vet or near outdoor space for their pets.

A majority of Realtors® clients, 68%, said a communi-

ty's animal policy influenced their decision to rent or buy.

"As households in the U.S. pursue comfort, companionship, and home entertainment, animal shelters were cleared out in many cities," said Jessica Lautz, NAR vice president of demographics and behavioral insights. "These pet adoptions could lead to future home sales as families seek to accommodate the best living spaces for their four-legged family members."

View NAR's 2020 Animal House: Pets in the Home Buying and Selling Process report here:

<https://www.nar.realtor/research-and-statistics/research-reports/animal-house-pets-in-the-home-buying-and-selling-process>.

View NAR's Economic Pulse Flash Survey full report here:

<https://www.nar.realtor/research-and-statistics/research-reports/nar-flash-survey-economic-pulse>.

View NAR's Weekly Housing Market Monitor here:

<https://www.nar.realtor/research-and-statistics/weekly-housing-market-monitor>.

The National Association of Realtors® is America's largest trade association, representing more than 1.4 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

# What To Do When You Have Nothing To Do

BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

Due to the current pandemic, many of us have much more time on our hands than we are used to. After all, we are not getting up early to go to the gym, not rushing to get to the office or getting stuck in traffic, and not going to whatever evening activities we used to go to. Thus, it's quite possible that more than a few of us have plenty of free time on our hands and perhaps are even getting a little bored (after all, how much Netflix can we actually watch!). So, we thought we would give you some ideas on how to pass the time. Some of these things might have even been on your to-do list for quite some time. While we hope the world never gets shut down like this again, why not take some time to take care of something really important but seems to always get pushed to the backburner: getting your affairs in order. One thing we have learned from recent events is that we have absolutely no control over the future, however, we do have control over whether we are prepared. So, if you have been working on an estate plan, complete it and get organized so that, if/when the time comes, your loved ones know your wishes and can easily carry them out. If you don't yet have an estate plan, then there is no better time than now to cross this off your list. Here are some helpful tips:

1. If you have an estate plan, review your plan to make sure it is up to date and reflects your current wishes. Dust off your documents (hopefully, you know where they are), read them, make sure you understand how they work. Check to ensure that the location of the originals is clearly noted: that your beneficiaries (including charities) and family members are correctly identified; and that signatures and initials (yours, witnesses', and the notary's) are in proper places and can be read. Consider whether you want to make changes. (For instance, does your health-care directive say any-

thing about ventilators or machines that provide breathing assistance? Do you still feel the same way now that you know ventilators are key to Covid-19 treatment?)

2. If you have a trust, make sure it is properly funded. You should review deeds, bank account titles, and beneficiary designations to ensure they are up to date.

3. Understand what assets are covered by your Will and what assets pass by operation of law such as joint bank accounts. Consider whether your estate may require a probate proceeding. Check bank and brokerage titles and beneficiary designations to ensure they are up to date.

4. Make sure your estate plan properly addresses your tangible personal property such as jewelry, art, collectibles, family memorabilia, etc., and other personal property. We have seen many multi-million-dollar estates get hung up in the probate process because brother and sister could not agree on who gets dad's watch and dad did not make his wishes clear in his estate planning documents.

5. Make sure that your funeral/burial wishes are known. If you have purchased a prepaid plan (smart), make sure that the paperwork can be found. This will make things a lot easier for your loved ones when the time comes.

6. Make a list of who you would want contacted or who might need to be contacted in an emergency or at your death. People who should be on the list might include family, friends, tax preparer, clergy, estate planning attorney, financial advisor, veterinarian, etc.

7. Make sure the people you have appointed to manage your affairs in the event of your incapacity/death are still appropriate and available to serve. Have a conversation with them to make sure that they still want to serve in the capacity that you are requesting.

8. Prepare a list of all financial accounts, credit cards, insurance policies; income

sources, including government benefits; outstanding loans owed to or by you. List the institution, type of account, contact number, approximate balance/amount of income and frequency. If there's online access, make sure to note the username and password. Indicate whether you get statements by email and whether any payments, coming in or going out, are auto-pay.

9. Prepare a list of all non-financial online accounts, including Facebook, Google, LinkedIn, and other social media, including username and passwords. Consider whether the account has a policy regarding death of the account holder and decide whether to act on it.

10. Get rid of all your junk. You do NOT need to retain all bank statements, pay stubs, utility bills, etc. for your entire lifetime. Do your loved ones a huge favor: purge and shred.

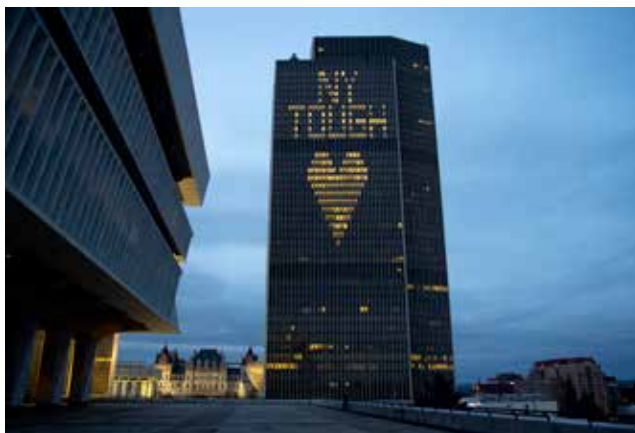
Once you finish with the above list, maybe it will be time to go back to the gym, the office or get stuck in traffic. I, for one, will be ready!



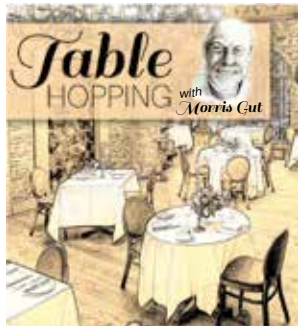
*Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP and has been honored as one of the "Best Lawyers" in America for each of the last seven years. He is past President of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) and past President of the New York Chapter of NAELA. Mr. Krooks has also served as chair of the Elder Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. He has been selected as a "New York Super Lawyer" since 2006. Mr. Krooks may be reached at (914-684-2100) or by visiting the firm's website at [www.elderlawnewyork.com](http://www.elderlawnewyork.com).*

## At Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower Displays New York Tough

On April 23, Governor Cuomo said, "Healthcare professionals and essential workers are the ones on the front lines every day carrying us through this crisis. New Yorkers owe their lives to these true heroes who define what it means to be 'New York Tough,' and remind us that even if it is a long day, love wins - always. On the night of April 23, the windows of the Corning Tower are illuminated with New York Tough in their honor."



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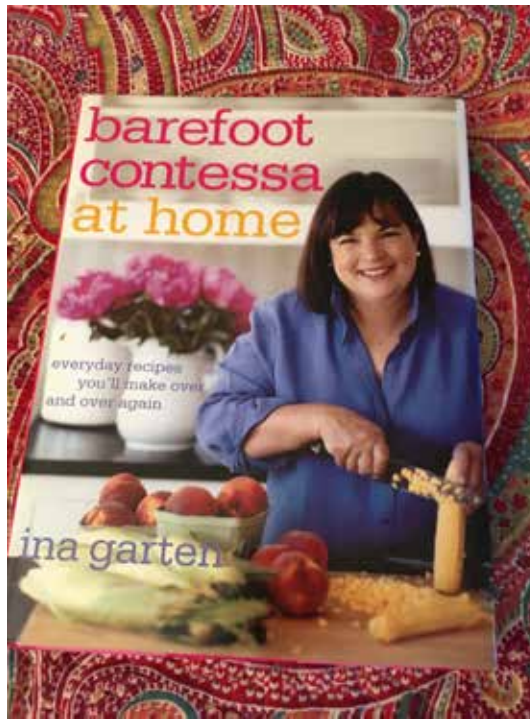
ing habits have been affected dramatically. Earlier in March we were going out to our favorite restaurants and pubs at leisure, mingling with the crowds, and taking in a favorite cocktail and meal.

Suddenly, this all changed. Restaurants, taverns and bars have been mandated by Gov. Cuomo to only remain open for take-out and delivery service if they choose to, until 8 p.m. Wine and liquor included, thanks to a temporary reprieve from the New York State Liquor Authority. While you still may be able to get that favorite dish to take home, many eateries have also had to limit their menus, staff, and hours to save money, inventory, and waste.

The good news is that people are getting back into their home kitchens again in big numbers, sizing up their

pantries, and firing up the home stove. The coronavirus crisis has moved us to become better cooks.

Essential food markets and shops have been working hard to live up to the new health guidelines, and are open within designated hours. Some markets have even instituted special senior shopping times, usually in the early morning, for those of us who are deemed most vulnerable. Markets include: Stop & Shop, CTown, Key Food, Aldi, DeCicco & Sons, Walmart, Costco, Whole Foods, Stew Leonard's, Acme, Trader Joe's, BJ's Warehouse, Fairway and Shop Rite.



little more creative. It helps pass the time during isolation. The palatal rewards can be credible. For example, inspired by the recent Julia Child Celebration airing on PBS, we took to preparing her famous French Onion Soup. It was a delight!

There are other resources as well in this age of technology. You can stream thru many culinary/cooking websites offering recipes and cooking tips. Bestselling cookbook

their forums. There are sites for novice cooks as well as the more advanced.

Cooking shows are also found on the Food Network, PBS, Create TV, The Cooking Channel, and Z Living. Two favorites: The Kitchen on the Food Network, Christopher Kimball's Milk Street and America's Test Kitchen on PBS. YouTube offers a great variety of cooking video classes, from home-grown to professional. Look them up according to subject and cuisine. In fact, with just a little extra research online, you can access cooking tips for almost every cuisine.

Most importantly, maintain good hygiene in the kitchen, while at the market and elsewhere. When shopping, do your best to practice social distancing. When you get home, be sure to wash up.

Addendum: If you are an obsessed foodie like I am, use some of your free time to entertain yourself. Watch or re-watch food-themed film classics: Big Night, Chocolat, Babette's Feast, Tampopo, John Favreau's Chef, Julie & Julia, Sideways, The Hundred Foot Journey, Burnt, and one of my favorites, the animated Ratatouille. Throw in Crazy Rich Asians for those dumping making scenes.

Stay Safe!

(Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for 30 years. He may be reached at: 914-235-6591. Email: gutreactions@optonline.net)

## Home Cooking Makes Big Comeback During Coronavirus Crisis!

Social distancing, stay-home, shelter-in-place, and self-quarantine are the new normal in many areas right now. We have had to change our daily lifestyles in dramatic ways in what seems a very short period of time. Our eat-

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In general, it is best to shop during off-peak hours. Some markets maintain in-house delivery service for those who do not wish to venture out. There are also the larger market delivery services like: Peapod, Instacart, and Fresh Direct. Be prepared to wait for a slot, as they are backed up due to increased demand. (Things are changing quickly right now, so check ahead during these fluid times.)

Dusting off some of the old cookbooks you have sitting on the shelf is a good idea. A refresher, of sorts. While you may have retained some recipes to memory, you might want to take this opportunity to move your culinary knowledge forward. Perhaps get a

authors like Ina Garten, Lidia Bastianich, Martha Stewart, Jacques Pepin, Bobby Flay, Giada DeLaurentis, Pioneer Woman, and Smitten Kitchen, have their own websites filled with tips and videos. There is live streaming on some of these sites so you can watch how a dish is prepared. Food magazines and newspapers have websites devoted to home cooking. One of the best is the New York Times Cooking website. It is behind a paywall, but if you subscribe there is a whole world of culinary inside. The King Arthur Flour website is great for cooking and baking tips. Chowhound.com maintains a large cooking section. You can weigh in with questions and thoughts on

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“A **hero** is an ordinary individual who finds **the strength** to persevere and endure in spite of **overwhelming obstacles.**”

*Christopher Reeve*



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