

Woman's Club of Douglaston

Established 1916



NEWS BYTES

- April 2020 -

Editor-in-Chief, Annette Aloisio



FROM THE EDITOR: WHAT'S IN THE NEWS TODAY – COVID-19

Our dear women, there is nothing more to be said about the pandemic affecting our world. We have all heard and read and digested all there is to hear on the subject. Wash your hands, avoid crowds, close down businesses, etc., etc.

What we hope to offer instead is take this time of almost-forced isolation and turn it into forced self- and inner reflection.

Let us not be ignorant of the dangers of this virus, **instead let us be aware that we live in the greatest country in the world with the greatest scientific minds, all of whom are working feverishly day and night to eradicate/control this virus.** This, my dear ladies, frees you from worrying about what you CAN'T control. Of course don't walk into a lion's den; but instead rely on your intelligence to follow your path; follow your journey; keep out of harm's way; offer assistance when and where you can, without placing yourself in a compromising situation.

PERHAPS this is a time of giving, be it of your time, yourself, your money, or your positive attitude to those who only have negativity in their lives;

PERHAPS this is a time to take that long walk along our beautiful bay; observe the wonders of nature; observe the daffodils and spring flowers which are blooming in spite of all the hardships they endure, they manage to survive a cold winter and resurface;

PERHAPS this is a time to befriend your neighbor whom you never had time to become acquainted with (if not in person) perhaps with a friendly note of introduction or telephone call, and offer assistance, if possible;

PERHAPS this is a time to offer assistance to an elderly or home-bound friend or neighbor who needs something: be it a quart of milk, a loaf of bread or a telephone call inquiring as to their well-being;

PERHAPS this is a time to physically exercise mindfully;

PERHAPS this is a time to learn/practice yoga deep breathing and meditation;

PERHAPS this is a time to allay your own fears and anxieties and instead replace them with positive and realistic thoughts about your role in this particular journey of your life;

PERHAPS this is a time to realize that we are a community of strong, resilient women; a community of caring women; a community who has suffered disasters (let us never forget 9-11); a community of officials, most of whom are doing their best to keep us all safe; a community who believes in the power of prayer;

PERHAPS we should follow the example of several of our members who offered (via Facebook) to any family who have children who are in need of food, to contact them and they will deliver peanut butter, jelly, milk, cookies, etc. What a refreshing, uplifting and sincere gesture; Bless you dear ladies, and you know who you are;

PERHAPS at this time we should use the example of Italy's population – taking to their balconies singing in a communal effort to boost spirits and feel connected, if not physically; then spiritually and visibly by waving and saluting each other;

PERHAPS this is a time of deep self-reflection; facing our fears; realizing while we are all vulnerable, we all have power;

power to have an attitude of gratitude, at least we can try;

PERHAPS, on a lighter note, we can turn off the T.V.; limit social media (which has induced mental panic); bake a cake; clean out your closet; read a book; talk on the phone while drinking a cup of tea (or beverage of your choice); and with this exile some of us are suffering, perhaps we can even relax and enjoy the isolation (for awhile anyway)!

PERHAPS, while we are on a forced leave of absence from work, school, every day running endless errands, shopping, lunching, meetings, just maybe this is a time to indulge yourself; take a leisurely bubbly bath; play board games/cards with your children/grandchildren/husband/sister/brother/significant other and rejoice in the gift of a new day;

While we don't absolutely, positively believe in "There is nothing to fear but fear itself", we absolutely, positively believe in being true to oneself and following your God-given instincts to protect yourself and your loved ones, without giving into hysteria.

Finally, stop hoarding the toilet paper! and wash your hands frequently.

PONDERINGS, MUSES AND IDLE THOUGHTS

April is National Poetry Month. With that in mind and with all of the thousands of poems written which are eloquent, beautifully written, and memorable, we offer you the following:

"WARNING"!!

“When I am an old woman, I shall wear purple with a red hat that doesn’t go, and doesn’t suit me. And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves and satin sandals and say we’ve no money for butter.

I shall sit down on the pavement when I am tired and gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells and run my stick along the public railings and make up for the sobriety of my youth.

I shall go out in my slippers in the rain and pick the flowers in other people’s gardens and learn to spit.

You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat and eat three pounds of sausages at a go or only bread and pickles for a week and hoard pens and pencils and beer nuts and things in boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry and pay our rent and not swear in the street and set a good example for the children. We must have friends to dinner and read the papers. But maybe I ought to practice a little now?

So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised when suddenly I am old and start to wear purple”.

(This poem was written by Jenny Joseph, an English Poet. Ironically, Ms. Joseph was twenty-nine years of age when this was written by her, and she detests the color purple.)

We feel the meaning is obvious to we women of a certain age (and perhaps men as well). In these years we call “golden”, we need not conform; we can be defiant; we shall refuse to be stereotyped; we need not be proper any longer.

Instead:

We can choose to skip in the puddles and dance in the rain;

We can choose to eat bon-bons in bed;

We can choose to live up to our potential;

We can choose whatever our hearts desire.

We can choose to eat as many samples of food (*from North Shore Farms?*);

We can choose to say whatever comes into our minds (*not hurtful nor mean tho*);

We can choose non-conformity after decades of having to conform, or being told we had to conform;

What freedom! At long last! We can be who we are; we can be who we are meant to be.

We shan't be uncaring;

We shan't be unforgiving;

We shan't be unkind;

What we shall be is who we aspire to be!

Lastly, dear Women of the Woman's Club of Douglaston, we shall wear purple and our heads shall be adorned with a red hat because it is what we choose to wear!!

*“None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm”
(Henry David Thoreau).*

**APRIL GENERAL MEETING IS
CANCELLED**

**April Executive Board Meeting by
TeleConference on
THURSDAY, APRIL 2nd at 11:15 am**

The Woman's Club of Douglaston

will resume meetings on
Thursday, October 1, 2020

at 1:00 p.m. at the

**Douglaston Club
600 West Drive Douglaston, NY**

Announcement:

**All the events listed below have been cancelled
or postponed.**

CANCELLED - Friday - March 27, 2020 - New Member Orientation Cocktail Reception.

CANCELLED - Thursday - April 2, 2020 - Underneath the Paramount Hotel - You will be swept away on a night club adventure while watching a screening of an award-winning documentary about the *Diamond Horseshoe Night Club*.

POSTPONED - Date: TBA - Theatre Trip and Lunch Come From Away! - a Tony-award winning show. Please contact Miriam Albert at miriamalbert@gmail.com for more details.

POSTPONED - Date: TBA - *Annual Meeting and Luncheon!* A sumptuous luncheon themed "*Around the World*" at the *Plandome Country Club* is coming up with raffles, vendors, friendship, and fun all included. *Stay tuned for more details. Raffles and donations from members, friends and merchants are welcome. Guests are welcome!*

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
TENTATIVE DATE: MONDAY, MAY 25, 2020**

**IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION
FINAL DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED BY THE
PARADE COMMITTEE**

AS THE WCD GOES DIGITAL MEMBERS WHO DO NOT HAVE EMAIL WILL RECEIVE NOTICES BY MAIL.

March Highlights

Mary Gordon, Author

At our March Woman's Club of Douglaston Meeting, we were introduced to Mary Gordon, a contemporary and prolific writer from Queens and Valley Stream. She is currently a Professor of English at Barnard College. Ms. Gordon has written 8 novels, 6 works of non-fiction and several memoirs.

Ms. Gordon touched our hearts when she told us that she attended Mary Louis Academy in Jamaica where she met her best friend, Maureen Stafford, a Douglaston native who lived on Overbrook Street. Mary tearfully asked if we would offer a moment of silence in her friend's memory; which, of course, we did. Who can't relate to that feeling? We immediately felt comfortable in her presence.

Ms. Gordon is the recipient of many awards including: Guggenheim Fellowship; Lila Wallace – Reader's Digest Writers' Award; an O. Henry Award; an Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She won the Story Prize. Governor Spitzer named her the Official New York State Author and gave her the Edith Wharton Citation of Merit for Fiction. In 2010, she was inducted as a member of the inaugural class of the New York Writer's Hall of Fame.

In spite of her many achievements, awards and continuing success, Ms. Gordon was affable, friendly, down-to-earth and seemed quite pleased to be in our company. Her sincerity shone through her words.

Many of our group read Ms. Gordon's novel, "Pearl" and it was this novel that was the main focus of our discussion. Ms. Gordon discussed her strong faith; her Catholicism; she shared her personal story of her grandmother's journey at age 17 to the United States (solo). Ms. Gordon answered all questions succinctly, without hesitation and further explained the plot; the behind the scenes thought process; her motivation; the characters and her love of books.

*When asked who is her favorite author, she immediately replied: **Virginia Wolff!***

*Ms. Gordon also shared with us her plans to retire in the near future and advised us that she was going to get reacquainted with her couch and sleep! In other words, **Mary Gordon** seemed to us to be just like us in many ways. After all, we all share the female mystique.*

*I offer this quote by novelist **Galaxy Craze** of **Mary** as a teacher at **Barnard College**, which I believe expresses the essence of **Mary Gordon**:*

"She loves to read; she would read us passages in class and start crying; she's so moved by really good writing and she was the only good writing teacher at Barnard, so I just kept taking her class over and over. She taught me so much".

What a Legacy!



Marilyn Stone, Paulette Yaghooubi,
and Miriam Teitelbaum

Thanks to our Potpourri Chairwoman, Diane Polland, 21 members enjoyed an informative workshop on *Global Textiles*. *Paulette Yaghooubi, the owner of Mells Karon Home*

Furnishings Fabrics, introduced us to old world, traditional, contemporary, and abstract designs. A fabulous array of luxurious and colorful fabrics hand-loomed from all over Europe were displayed, some costing up to \$1,000 a yard! One member exclaimed: "**It was like going to a museum of fine arts**". After our visit, a delightful lunch was consumed at the Jolly Fisherman and Steak House in Roslyn.

Proceeds from the afternoon were donated to the "Great Neck Spirits", a Special Olympics Basketball Team in Great Neck.

Meet Our Board

Dorothy Ann Mulholland, Charity Chairwoman



What do I know about Dorothy?

I KNOW Dorothy is a strong, independent woman with many interests;

I KNOW Dorothy is a spiritual woman;

I KNOW Dorothy is a devoted and loving mother, grandmother, and mother in law to her children and grandchildren;

I KNOW Dorothy gives back to her community. Dorothy is a volunteer at St. Francis Hospital and has been for many, many years. Dorothy is a lector at St. Anastasia's RC Church; Dorothy is the *Woman's Club of Douglaston's Charity Chairwoman*;

I KNOW Dorothy has worked tirelessly for the *Woman's Club of Douglaston* for many years and makes the WCD the charitable institution we stand for. Dorothy has made all members feel good about themselves in encouraging us to give charity to others. This is further evidenced by the many thank you cards and notes received over the years thanking our **Woman's Club** for our charitable donations. **This is attributable to Dorothy and her endeavors**;

I KNOW *Dorothy is a Past President of the Woman's Club of Douglaston; Library Committee Co-Chairwoman, and Scholarship Committee Co-Chairwoman*;

I KNOW Dorothy holds a Social Worker degree and was Chief Supervisor of the Department of Social Work of Flushing Hospital for 25 years;

I KNOW Dorothy has a delicious sense of humor and always has a ready smile and a twinkle in her eye;

I KNOW Dorothy has suffered tragedy and loss and has handled herself with stoicism, strength and resilience;

I KNOW Dorothy loves to travel and does so often;

I KNOW Dorothy bakes (*those cookies!!! YUM!*) as though she is a **Top Chef/Baker**;

I KNOW Dorothy knits and knits and knits;

I KNOW Dorothy plays bridge;

I KNOW Dorothy has many, many friends;

I KNOW Dorothy is a very active, very charismatic, very busy, very enthusiastic, very spiritual, a very family-oriented woman whom we are all proud to call friend and neighbor;

Lastly, **I KNOW**, we at the *Woman's Club of Douglaston* are blessed to have Dorothy as a member and active participant, always ready, willing and able to lend a hand.

Thank you Ms. Mulholland!

Spotlight on

Marylyn MacKay



How many adjectives can one use to describe a woman? Here are a few: *optimistic, realistic, pragmatic, positive, intelligent, articulate, humorous, practical, stoic.*

And so the story begins: Marylyn was born and raised in Bayside, New York. She was raised a Methodist in a Church which no longer exists, but her allegiance and devotion is to the Community Church of Douglaston, of which she has been a participating and active member for many years.

Marylyn's mother's name was Mary Elizabeth Ford and her father's name was Ford Bond. Marylyn had one younger brother who passed away five years ago.

Marylyn's mom was what we now call a "stay-at-home" mom and her dad was in production and was an announcer for NBC. He was well-known in his field producing many newsworthy shows. Recently, she was told that her dad actually has a Star on Hollywood's Hall of Fame (although she

has never seen it)!

During the war years, (1942), Marylyn's dad purchased a house in Pawling, New York where she attended a one-room schoolhouse, riding a horse to school in warm weather and sledding to school in the winter.

Thereafter, Marylyn attended local schools in Bayside, P.S. 41, Bayside High School and then Hood College in Maryland where she studied Liberal Arts.

An interesting tidbit: *While attending Bayside High School, Marylyn was attracted to this young man who she saw in the hallways of the school. She often would rush to catch up to him, never saying a word; just looking at him. Fast forward a few years and while Marylyn was attending Hood College and she became a participant in the Big Sister Program, she discovered that the "attractive guy" from Bayside High School was the brother of her "Big Sister". His name was Al MacKay – but I am getting ahead of the story.*

After graduating from College, Marylyn became a Medical Assistant working with two doctors in White Plains and that is where she met her soon to be husband, Tom Brown. When Marylyn was pregnant, they moved to Flushing to be closer to family who still lived in Bayside. Their marriage produced two sons: Eric and Tyler. Marylyn and Tom were married for a short period of time and later divorced.

Eventually, Marylyn married Al who had completed his service with the Air Force. Marylyn and Al bought their home in Little Neck in 1960 where she lived for 54 years. Al worked for the Telephone Company and retired at age 59 and sadly passed away in 2005.

Marylyn served as President of the Woman's Club of Douglaston for one term: 2000-2002 and continued to serve as a Board member, chairing or co-chairing various committees, such as the Scholarship Committee, Library Committee, Theatre Committee and served as well, as a past president, in the first Advisory Board 2013-2014.

Did you Know that....

"April ... hath put a spirit of youth in everything"

William Shakespeare

"April Showers Bring May Flowers" is a reminder that even the most unpleasant of circumstances -- the heavy rains of April -- can ultimately bring about wonderfully enjoyable marvels indeed -- an abundance of flowers as if overnight suddenly all abloom in May!

"April Showers Bring May Flowers" is a lovely way of saying and reminding us -- be patient -- I promise, you cannot imagine the spectacular days that are yet to come.

April 1st is April Fool's Day: We love this anonymous quote: "Today is April Fool's Day. Believe nothing and trust no one -- just like any other day!"

*Stay socially connected at the Woman's Club of
Douglaston!*

Important!!!

***PLEASE REMEMBER TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE OFTEN
(to access click below:)***

www.womansclubofdouglaston.com

***TO VIEW OUR CURRENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES,
PROGRAMS, PHOTO GALLERY OF EVENTS, AND ALL
OUR "NewsBytes" COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.***

Remember: "A good friend is a connection to life -- a tie to the past, a road to the future, the key to sanity in a totally insane world. More people are focusing on friendships later in life -- and research reveals the many health benefits".

Warm regards,

Johanna Abramo

President

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