

Talk Of The Town

The Monthly Activities Newsletter of the Fay J. Lindner Residences

May 2020

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LOOKING FORWARD

On April 21st, Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), we asked our Holocaust *Survivors* to share their experience and their wisdom. Their messages convey strength, unity and perseverance. Their words are truly words to live by, especially during the COVID 19 crisis we are living through right now. A video compilation of the words and photos of 12 of our 13 *Survivors* played on that day. For those who did not see it, the video is available to view on YouTube by typing in the search option: "Yom Hashoah tribute final version for Facebook on April 21 2020" or by typing the following hyperlink into your internet search engine:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jf0-1KpWdp4>

Thank you to all who took part in making this video happen. It came together at just the right time for us here at Fay J. Lindner. The messages of hope remind us that we can pull through and that we are in this together. And most importantly, we are all still connected! There are many ways to stay in touch, whether it is through video calls to your family, making a phone call for the Phone Mates program, through Pen Pal Letter Writing and reading, waving out your window to a family member, making small talk with the many staff that visit you daily, or by reading and/or submitting to the weekly Friendship Gazette.

This month's newsletter focuses on looking forward and finding the positivity in these everyday experiences. We are persevering despite the stormy forecast. Look through the pictures in the coming pages and soak up the love in the community. And make sure to read our resident feature story on page 6. Yvonne has written a 2 part story about a doll she had in Holland, during the Holocaust, and its mysterious origin. Part 2 will be featured next month.

Pictured below; Rita, opening one of the hundreds of Adopt-A-grandparent letters that were sent to us by the local community, bringing sunshine into Gurwin. Remember, this storm will pass. Look forward and keep positive!

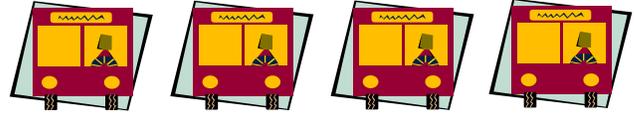


Sincerely,
Your friends at Gurwin

Happy May Birthdays

- 5/1: Audrey G.
- 5/3: Glenda R.
- 5/3: Sol M.
- 5/3: Matthew G.
- 5/5: David P.
- 5/7: Shirley M.
- 5/13: Felicia R.
- 5/15: Henry E.
- 5/15: Rose A.
- 5/17: Ethel D.
- 5/19: Mary S.
- 5/21: Sylvia K.
- 5/22: Frances F.
- 5/23: Inez H.
- 5/26 Anthony C.
- 5/28: Betty M.
- 5/30 Francine L.
- 5/30: Eugene N.
- 5/31: Ronald T.

In lieu of the traditional birthday party, Recreation will distribute balloons, singing telegrams and a special birthday sweet treat!



LOCAL TRIPS ARE ON HOLD

We will add limited trips to the schedule pending the health of the community.



CALENDAR

NOTICE:

Please check Osborne "channel 8" for updates. Channel 6 is now a vehicle for Recreation to broadcast games, live virtual tours, call in specials, Hot Line Bingo, Broadway shows, Metropolitan operas, The Philharmonic Orchestra, NYC Ballet and much more. Tune in and join in on the virtual programming that is going on every day. This is how we are staying connected!



LED Candle Tea Lights and Memorial Mourning Lights to use during your

personal Shabbat Candle Lightings are available upon request. Please contact Recreation if interested.

Limousine Service

No Service at this time. Check back for updates.



The Hair Salon is temporarily closed.

VIRTUAL PASSOVER SEDER

This year, Gurwin, and the rest of the world as well, had to come up with a very different approach to Passover Seder. Since we needed to be mindful of social distancing, we conducted individual Seders in our rooms. Everyone received a copy of the Haggadah, a custom Gurwin Seder plate and all the corresponding symbolic foods.

We tuned into Rabbi Lesser and Rabbi Shain's virtual Seder on 4/8/2020 and 4/9/2020 to celebrate a happy Pesach. Pictured here are a few photos. Enjoy!



The Passover Seder Plate

תרסה
Charoset

An apple and nut mixture representing the mortar which was used to hold bricks together

מרור
Maror

Horseradish represents the pain of the Jewish people being enslaved in Egypt

כרפס
Karpas

Parsley dipped in salt water represents the tears of the Jewish people enslaved in Egypt

זרוע
Zeroah

The shank bone represents sacrifices made by the Jewish people

ביצה
Beitzah

Hard boiled egg represents the Spring season

חזרת
Chazeret

Romaine lettuce is the 2nd bitter herb that represents the pain of the enslaved Jewish people

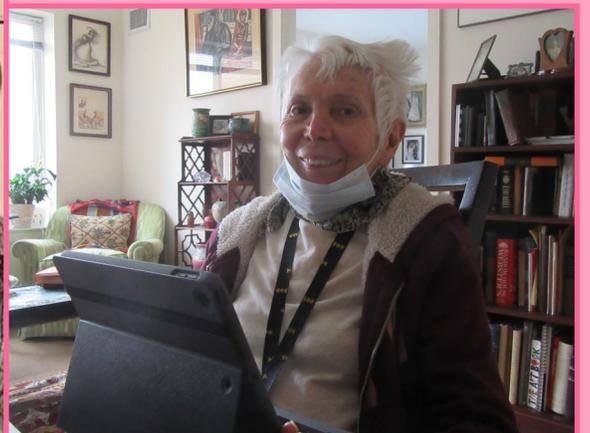
מצה
Matzoh

Placed on a plate and covered with a napkin, this flat bread is a Passover staple and later served for dessert.



VIRTUAL VIDEO CALLS WITH FAMILY

HELLO



Recreation is offering assistance with virtual video calls using Skype and FaceTime. If you want to have a virtual phone call, advise your family to email the Fay J. Recreation department directly at:

fayjvideochat@gurwin.org

Please tell them to share the following information:

- Your name and room number.
- Their Skype user name or FaceTime Phone Number.
- Three dates/times they are available for calls.

After receiving the information listed above, we can initiate video calls.

“SOCIAL DISTANCING” CAN BE FUN TOO!

Whether it's practical jokes, friendly visits, Hotline Bingo, hallway fashion shows, the Gurwin Gazette, April in Paris, or an outdoor positivity parade, we have it covered!



Gurwin's Friendship Gazette

By the People, for the People

Submissions Wanted: Call 8559

April 10, 2020

Resident Feature Story: The Mystery of My Doll

By Yvonne



I was born in a small town in the Netherlands, during Nazi occupation, in October of 1942. Those were horrific and unhappy times.

My mother was Jewish, originally from Amsterdam. Her parents, one of her brothers, and several extended family members, were deported to concentration camps, Auschwitz and Sobibor, where they perished. My father, who was Christian and born in Germany, was active in the resistance as a young man. Advised that the Nazis were onto him, he fled to Holland, settling in Amsterdam, where he ultimately met my mother. An artist, by trade, he continued his resistance efforts, doing forgeries and helping people escape.

I don't remember much from that time: our cat Moortje ("Little Moor"), the teenage babysitter who lived nearby, my being rushed to the hospital for a tracheotomy, and my doll. I don't recall having other dolls, and I don't know what the occasion was for my being given this doll, though I believe it was a gift from my father. To this day, I can still sense what her plastic (Bakelite) bracelets felt like.

In the summer of 1947, two years after the war had come to an end, my parents, younger brother, and I, left for America. My mother yearned to rejoin her sister and another brother who had fled to the States in 1939. I no longer remember if my doll came with me or was left behind, though it was most likely the former. I do know, years later, that I asked my mother what happened to my doll and she said she didn't know.

Sometime in the early 1980s, I became friends with an antique dealer who had a shop in my neighborhood in Manhattan. And one day I happened to bring in the photo of me with my doll, just for a conversation about my childhood. He immediately told me the doll was created by a British toymaker and doll designer named Norah Wellings. Interesting. *But who wound up with my doll, I wondered... and would I ever be able to see her again?*

It wasn't until almost 30 years later, in August 2010, that someone else happened to mention that British doll designer again after I posted the photo of me with my doll on my Facebook page.

I began to wonder how my father got hold of a doll made in England, smack in the midst of the most difficult of times. *Perhaps in a trade?* Yet she looked seemingly new in the photo. Then I remembered one of the conversations I had had with my brother a few months after our father passed away. He told me he was certain that Dad was involved with British spies during the war.

(To be continued next month.)

