

Talk Of The Town

The Monthly Activities Newsletter of the Fay J. Lindner Residences

June 2020

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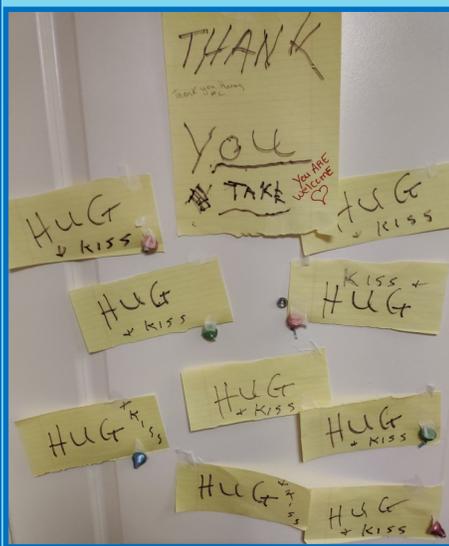
Grace Benson
Office Coordinator



JUNE THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER...



The world sure has been different these days. Everyone is sporting the newest fashion statement: a blue mask! Our friends are keeping 6 feet apart. Before “social distancing,” if someone was keeping 6 feet away from you, your first thought may have been “do I smell?” or “did I say something wrong?” (We hope that gave you a little chuckle!) We are all wondering when things will get back to normal. When will normal programs and meals resume? When can I see my family? During this pause, we have adapted what was normally done. We are not back to large programs in the Synagogue, instead we bring music and games to your floors and host parades often. We aren’t eating at tables of 4 in the dining room, but the team continues to bring meals and Recreation offers special happy hours and social trolley carts to you and your peers. In an effort to keep you in touch with family, we have been using the technology that enables you to communicate via video chat. Over half of Gurwin has taken part in our virtual phone calls program! The hallway programs reach residents on all floors. There has never been more participation in Bingo; 87 people played the other day from their rooms! During our Derby Days Horseracing, residents participated by placing bets from their doorways. Residents who never played before took part. We had multiple winners on each floor!



**FREE
HUGS**

Pictured above, the “Thank You, Take a Hug & Kiss” display by Harry C., who left Hershey’s Chocolate Kisses on his front door for staff.

Although the world looks different, there are small victories to celebrate and signs of love being shared, just not in the so-called “normal” ways! The picture on the left is of one of our resident’s doors. We were able to capture a moment that showed a sweet and symbolic display of recognition and love for the staff. It is definitely something to celebrate! As much as we question when things will go back to “normal,” let’s focus instead on going forward and what the “new normal” will look like. Lastly, be sure to read part II of Yvonne’s story about her doll on page 6. She left us hanging by a thread with last month’s big cliffhanger. You will find the conclusion right here!

Sincerely,



Your friends at Gurwin

Happy June Birthdays

- 6/2: Harriet B.
- 6/3: Philip A.
- 6/3: Mildred G.
- 6/4: Helen M.
- 6/8: Rita K.
- 6/9: Leona R.
- 6/16: Herbert S.
- 6/18: Benjamin H.
- 6/19: Barbara P.
- 6/25: Kenneth S.
- 6/27: Catherine Z.
- 6/30: Estelle J.
- 6/30: Marietta L.

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



LOCAL TRIPS:

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



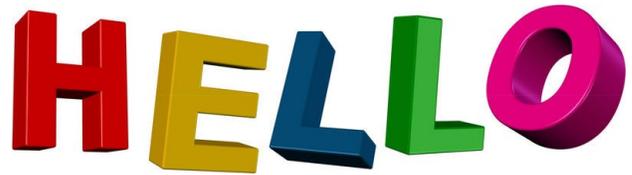
CALENDAR

NOTICE:

Please check Osborne "channel 8" for updates.

Channel 6 is Recreation's virtual broadcast network. Tune in and join in on the programming that is going on every day.

VIDEO CHAT:



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.

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.



The Hair Salon is temporarily closed.



Limousine Service

No Service at this time. Check back for updates.



CINCO DE MAYO

This May we had a two day celebration for Cinco De Mayo! We played Mariachi music and enjoyed Happy Hour On-The-Go. There was Sangria and fun fruity drinks. Those who wished to join in the fun of the parade were given maracas. It was great socially distanced fun!



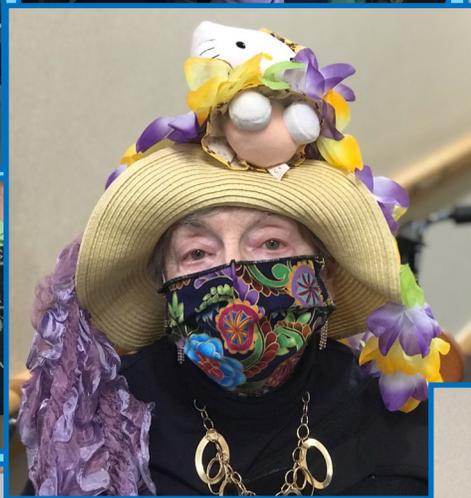
Feliz Cinco de Mayo!!



Elycia, who could not be here with us, sent us a picture from home!

MOTHER'S DAY & DERBY DAYS AT GURWIN

For Mother's Day, residents received a vase with a carnation and a heartfelt note addressed to the Mothers that are, to the Mothers that were and to the Mothers that should have been.. Wishing them all a happy Mother's Day! Dining room staff gave out special scones and jam to make the day even sweeter!



ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE!

The week before Israel Independence day we asked a group of residents to let us take their photo holding the Israeli flag. We used the pictures to put together a slide show that played on April 29th, Yom Ha'atzmaut. On that day, Recreation held a floor to floor parade with music, noisemakers, music and handed out Israeli flags during the festivities!



Resident Feature Story: The Mystery of My Doll: Part II

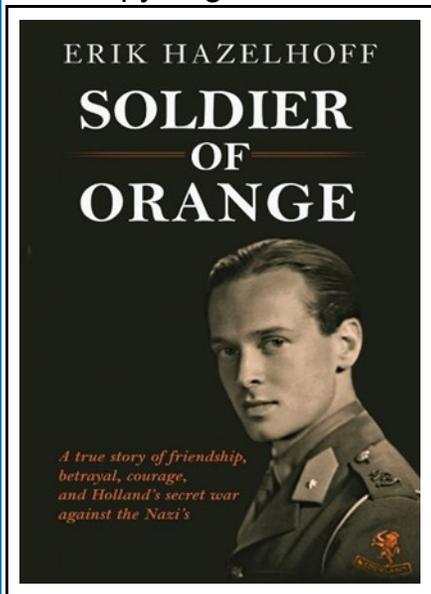
By Yvonne

My father was an avid storyteller. He often spoke about his crazy adventures... his getting sent home for pulling pranks in parochial school, his close calls fighting the Nazis. It was fascinating, and my brother and I never tired of hearing his tales.

At some point a little late in life he decided to write a book about his wartime activities. He began recording his memories on our reel-to-reel tape recorder. But the effort brought flashbacks, and he was soon shouting at the Nazis in his sleep. My mother became increasingly concerned and afraid that he'd end up having a heart attack. She convinced him to stop working on the book.

Sadly, my father did suffer two heart attacks, years later; the second of which killed him. But the cause was his being a smoker, not his revisiting his past. He died on August 1, 1978, four months after his 66th birthday.

A few months later my brother flew to New York, from Santa Fe, to help our mother sell the family store and liquidate the contents. One evening, while the two of us were comparing notes on our father's personality, he told me he was certain that Dad was involved with British spies during the war. When I asked what led him to arrive at that conclusion, he reminded me about the many interior design assignments our father received from the British Overseas Airways Corporation for their storefront on Fifth Avenue. And the fact that he frequently socialized with two of the BOAC executives, who were British. My brother believed the two execs whose names I still remember were affiliated with an old WWII spy ring.



While there was no available evidence, I later learned there had been numerous Dutch resistance fighters who were part of a secret service group operating out of London. One such Dutchman was Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema, whose captivating memoir, *Soldier of Orange*, was turned into a film starring Rutger Hauer (1977). I did eventually connect with Roelfzema – long story – and was able to have him autograph his last book, *In Pursuit of Life* (2003), for my mother.

Alas, anyone who may have known about my father's wartime activities, or participated in them, is no longer living. I do still have that reel-to-reel recording he started; perhaps it's time to give it a listen.

Postscript: After searching the Internet in 2010 for dolls made by Norah Wellings and finding many but none that looked anything like mine, I did another search a few months ago and found one just like it, listed on an eBay-like auction site in South Africa. The seller told me these dolls were not one-of-a-kind, but that mine is quite rare. And it dates back to around 1929-early-1930s. *Could this one be my missing doll?* My mother's aunt Sara (my grandmother's sister) fled to South Africa before the war broke out. She also came to visit us in New York, a few years after we moved here. *Did my mother possibly give her my doll?*