

FYI Newsletter



Dear Associate,

We know how the COVID-19 pandemic made us worse: deaths, disastrous economy, loss of employment, separation from family and friends, and closed businesses and institutions. World War III turned out to be human v. molecule.* Some of us do battle in hospitals, some fight in laboratories or offices, and most of us are hunkering down at home offices. All of us are either combatting or resisting the virus, which is not alive like a cell, but is as mindless as fire or flood and equally dangerous. While this bizarre situation makes us more aware of how vulnerable we are to biological warfare, and how fleeting and changeable life is, it also shows us how resourceful, caring, and nimble we can be.

In the feature article I share some of the responses I received to my request for your thoughts and observations during this crisis.

I also include an excerpt of the article I wrote for the September 2001 FYI, called Resilience American Style, which is relevant and inspiring for this crisis, too. Resilience is timeless. Go back to contemplate a future.

May we find ourselves on the other side of the pandemic more appreciative of the joys of health, and hugs.

Yours truly with Comfort Food for thought,


 Lynn Hopkins

* COVID-19 is not alive so it can't be killed. It is a protein molecule (DNA) covered by a protective layer of lipid (fat) which when absorbed by the cells in the eyes or nose mutates and converts them into aggressor and multiplier cells. It decays on its own depending on the temperature, humidity, and atmosphere. This enemy bears no malice. We can hate the mortal enemy, but it can't hate us back. What does that tell us about the value of malice? If malice is one sided it is lifeless and may well decay on its own.



Comfort Food

I recently sent you a message with a request to share your thoughts and observations on the unexpected joys you are experiencing during this crisis. Following are your responses:

Gary Carsten of the Department of Justice, a friend, from our days working together on Federal Bureau of Prisons projects, responded with:

"Discovering the joy of telework including no commute and time for a simple breakfast in the morning like scrambled eggs, toast and coffee!" Gary told me several years ago that he and his wife are foodies and love to cook together. How nice to have extra time to cook!

Janet Pogue of Gensler sent us her poetic advice:

*Food is love.....
 Stay safe.
 Wash your hands.
 And don't even THINK about touching your face.*
 (me...which BTW is very hard not to do!)

continued...

EXPERTISE WE CAN BUILD UPON

HOSPITALITY

Gensler
 JFK T-8

WORKPLACE

McCarthy Hitt Gensler
 Confidential in MO

Dewberry
 Confidential Int'l

Ennead
 OBO, Lagos

Hensel Phelps/Gensler
 Confidential in MD

Miller Hull
 OBO, Kabul

SHoP
 OBO, Milan

Studio Gang
 OBO, Brasilia

SOM
 Confidential in Cambridge
 Montgomery County Judicial Center
 Confidential in D.C.

ROOM FOR YOU!



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Pandemic Joy continues here:

Marlene Shade, a friend and principal at Dewberry, wrote:

"Cooking again, three meals and enjoying the process after two decades of work, work, work."

Eating mindfully, knowing others will be struggling to get food.

Watching a burst of spring in all its glories... and it is just beginning.

Lunch on our patio to enjoy a warm spring day.

Neighbors checking in to be sure we are OK.

Sharing of everything imaginable, generosity that makes my heart stop."

Marsha Miller of Vanderweill, my friend and InDesign guru responded:

"I always love getting up early in the morning and working out - and I continue to do so but, I am so pleased that I do not have to rush out the door. I am also very grateful that my boys have the opportunity to sleep and get the rest that they really need now that they are teens."

I love spending time with my kids and husband. We were always running in 100 different directions - it's so nice to have a break from a non-stop busy lifestyle. I'm so thankful we are all together and are in good health. We are going through at least nine bins of Legos and organizing the pieces by color. We are also spending more time doing



a more thorough bible study during the week (we are studying putting on the armor of God).

The coronavirus has really slowed us down. It's a real blessing in disguise."

My pandemic joys are shown to you with two images. The spring wildflowers by my hiking path are so beautiful that they are now my computer wallpaper where I can continue to admire the intricacy of design, colors and textures. Below is a picture of my church on TV. Church closures forced us to start a YouTube channel rather than cancel Lent and Holy Week. After several lonely services, the priest decided to fill the pews with icons of the saints and candles. Attending liturgy without the hassle of dressing up and driving is oh so comfy. Having my dog 'in church' for the first time ever had been unimaginable!

Well wishes to us all came in from Richard Southwick in New York City of Beyer Blinder Belle and Michael Kaufman of Goettsch Partners in Chicago. "Same to you fellas!"

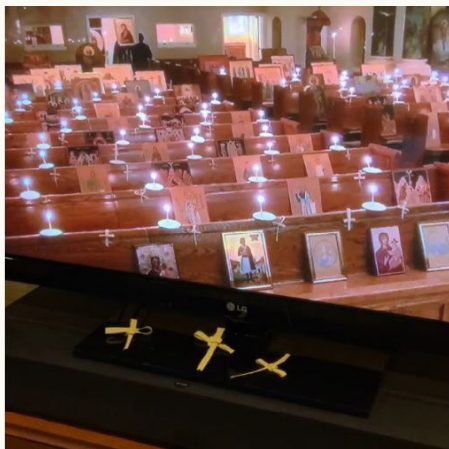
Winner of the funniest response comes from our friend Dave Barr who many of you have worked with on OBO projects:

"Here in Erbil, Northern Iraq, as we continue with construction of the new consulate we are cutting our own hair, which is causing a lot of amusement. We learned that there's nothing about a bad haircut that three weeks doesn't fix."



Resilience, American Style
FYI re: September 11,2001

We woke up and had a nightmare and couldn't wake up again. Those of us who thought that history would remember us for Woodstock days morphing into cushy lives and left right arguments were wrong. Finally, it's our turn to become American in the truest sense. Perhaps between September and Spring we will join the ranks of the Pilgrims, the Revolutionary Warriors and their embittered, emboldened families, the westward-ho pioneers, the Yankees, astronauts, inventors, World War One and Twoers and recent defenders of Democracy. Peace and prosperity made it too easy to think that we could be sorted by race, creed and property. That was an illusion. The French have their style, the Greeks their wisdom, the Russians their intensity, the Germans their precision. I'd like to think that Americans have resilience. Whether we are overcoming religious persecution, imperialist oppression, poverty, slavery, or like Thomas Edison, a heavy dose of failure, Americans break through.



**We can't help everyone,
but everyone can help
someone.**

Ronald Reagan



Credits: Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward - a kiss on the swing by Allan Grant, Life Magazine, 1955. Buried in Work. Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral 04-12-2020. Cabin John spring wildflowers by the towpath. SS. Comfort.