

SEPTEMBER 2020

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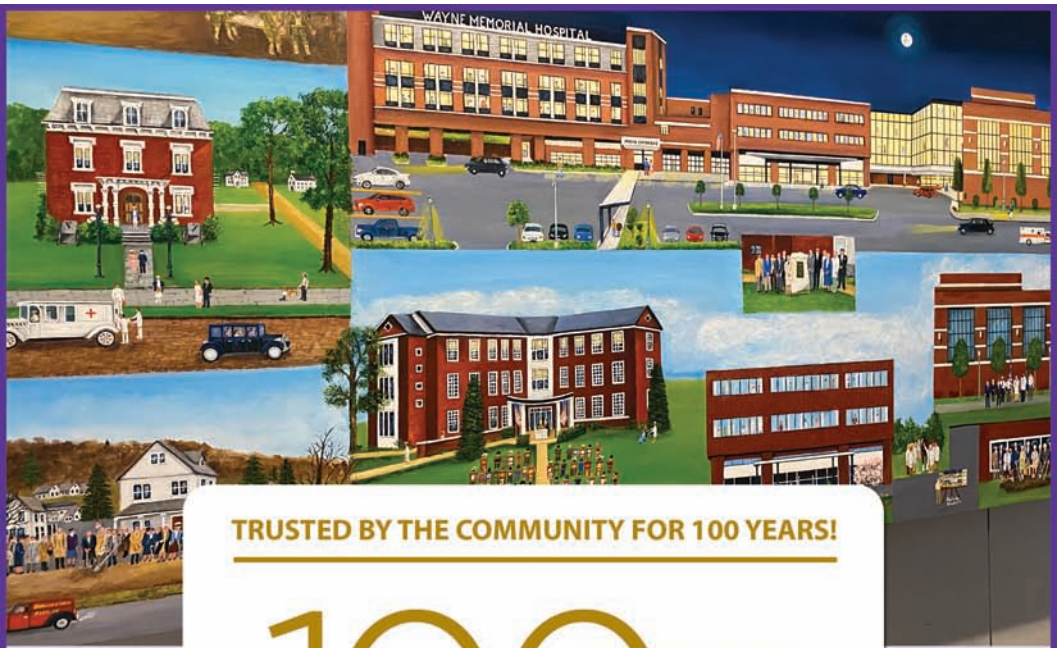
CONNECTIONS

MAGAZINE



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SEPTEMBER 24-26 2020
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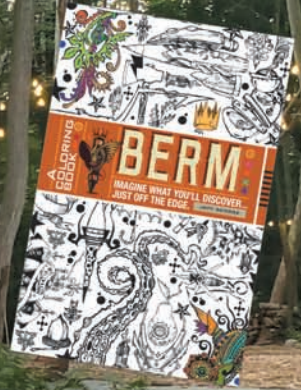


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SEPTEMBER 2020

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BIG-EDDY
FILM FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 24-26 2020
BIGEDDYFILMFEST.COM

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CONNECTIONS Magazine

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WHAT A DILEMMA

To laugh is to risk appearing a fool.
To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.
To reach out for another is to risk involvement.

To expose feelings is to risk rejection.
To place your visions before the
crowd is to risk ridicule.

To love is to risk not being loved in return.

****To go forward in the face of
overwhelming odds is to risk failure.**

But risks must be taken, because the
greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.
The person who risks nothing, does nothing,
has nothing, is nothing.

We may avoid suffering and sorrow, but we
cannot learn, feel, change, grow,
love or know GOD.

Chained by our own self-assurances, we
are a slave. We have forfeited our freedom.

**Only the person who dares to take risks and
to trust in their GOD will ever be made FREE.**

In 1997, Rev. Edwin E. Bailey, father of the editor, gave this poem to his daughter 8 days before he had a stroke and 3 weeks before he died. The poem was adapted from works by Leo Buscaglia. Edwin hand wrote this on a scrap of paper and gave it to his daughter, Deborah, saying the words, "Someday you'll understand these words and use them. God bless sweetheart." **These words were used in making the decision to purchase Connections Magazine in 2002.

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“Be the CHANGE
that you wish to see
in the world.”

– Mahatma Gandhi

Many changes come with September....days get shorter, weather gets cooler, leaves start to turn color, and kids head back to school. Along with all of those changes, we also challenge you to be the change you wish to see! Show your kids how to make the best of a crazy situation by going into it with a positive outlook. No matter how you really feel about the option you chose for the start of school this year, having a positive outlook will make all the difference for you and your student.

This month we are really excited to see one staple in our area will still happen, the Big Eddy Film Festival. While some elements will look a little different, they have come up with a way people can still enjoy this wonderful festival.

We also have some home remodeling tips, school-night meal ideas, safe entertaining tips, and lots more *Good Stuff*.

Enjoy!

The CM Team
570.647.0085 | cmag@ptd.net



SAFE ENTERTAINING TIPS IN A COVID-19 *World*

Depending on where you live, restrictions on social gatherings may become less strict in the coming weeks and months. However, many experts caution that care should still be exercised when groups of people gather.

After an extended period without social contact, it's only natural to crave some interaction, and there's evidence that doing so can be advantageous for your mental health. However, taking precautions to protect your physical health, along with your guests', can make for a more enjoyable event.

Keep it contained

Limit your gatherings to a few close friends or family members so if someone does get sick, contact tracing is a simple task. Keep in mind the number of same-household families you invite is more important than the number of people in that family. For example, one family of six that has already been living in close quarters poses a lower risk than three couples

living in separate houses. Also be mindful of your guests' approach to prevention; if they've been less cautious than your family or vice versa, there's room for conflict and anxiety.

Celebrate outdoors

Indoor event spaces naturally have less circulation, meaning potential airborne particles hang around longer. Planning your gathering outdoors helps ensure more free-moving fresh air and more space for guests to spread out and practice social distancing.

Encourage guests to bring their own

It may go against all your good hosting inclinations but hosting a bring-your-own party eliminates shared food and the risk of cross-contamination. You can provide disposable table service (plates, silverware and napkins) and single-serve beverages, but skip the cooler everyone reaches into.

Provide ample, well-spaced seating

Encourage guests to keep some distance from one another by creating comfy seating arrangements. You can take it a step farther by asking guests to bring their own chairs and directing each family to set up its space a reasonable distance from the next.

Make cleanliness a priority

Create stations with hand sanitizer or wipes. You can also create a makeshift sink to minimize trips to the restroom indoors. Provide a spray bottle or bucket, soap and paper towels near the hose for quick clean-ups.

Find more advice for navigating pandemic life at eLivingtoday.com.

eLivingtoday.com

Photo courtesy of Getty Images

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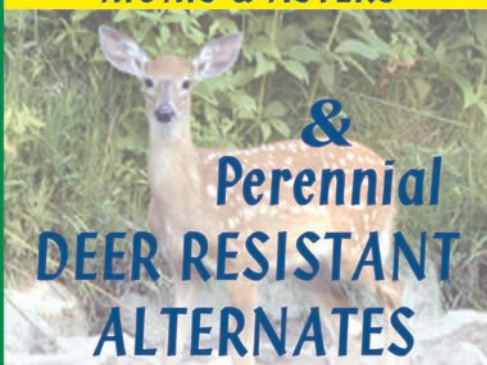
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SCHOOL-NIGHT MEALS THAT DELIVER TASTE AT A LOW *Cost*

Regardless of what back to school looks like this year, preparing family meals throughout the week does not have to be a challenge. Shopping at a store like ALDI can stretch your budget and help you make five different meals over five days for about \$5 a meal pretax for a family of four.

Using a mix of kitchen staples you already may have, along with fresh ingredients, you can make delicious, affordable recipes for the whole family. Simply select a protein or main ingredient and explore versatile ways to build other meals around it during the week.

Grilled chicken breasts are ideal for on-

the-go lunches or weekday dinners. Busy parents can get dinner on the table in less than 30 minutes with an easy Chicken Cacciatore in the pressure cooker or simple prep-ahead Chicken Enchiladas. These convenient dishes make it a snap to add variety by substituting chicken with shrimp, beans or vegetables.

Serving organic produce, fresh and frozen meats, seafood and on-the-go snacks can be easy when you shop at a store like ALDI for the back-to-school season. Plus, you can find foods to fit any dietary style without breaking the bank.

Find more family meal solutions at aldi.us.

Pressure Cooker Chicken Cacciatore

Recipe courtesy of "Pinch of Yum" on behalf of ALDI

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 15 minutes

Servings: 6

INGREDIENTS:

1-1 1/2 pounds chicken breasts or chicken thighs
 flour
 1 pinch salt, plus 2 teaspoons, divided
 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
 1 onion, diced
 16 ounces mushrooms, sliced
 3 cloves garlic, minced
 1/2 cup chicken broth
 1 bell pepper, diced
 1 can (28 ounces) diced tomatoes
 4 tablespoons butter
 lemon
 preferred pasta

Optional:

capers
 parsley, plus additional for topping
 Parmesan cheese

Dredge chicken in flour and pinch of salt. Turn on sauté function on pressure cooker. Add oil; sauté chicken 2-3 minutes on each side. Remove and set aside (chicken will finish cooking later).

Add onion, mushrooms and garlic. Sauté until softened. Add broth and let sizzle out.

Add chicken, bell pepper, tomatoes and remaining salt to pressure cooker. Cook on high pressure 15 minutes. Release pressure.

Shred chicken. Stir in butter, capers, parsley and lemon. Serve with preferred pasta and top with additional parsley and Parmesan cheese, if desired.

Easy Chicken Enchiladas with Black Beans

Recipe courtesy of "Wellness for the Win" on behalf of ALDI

Prep time: 25 minutes

Cook time: 25 minutes

Servings: 10

INGREDIENTS:

Nonstick cooking spray
 1 medium onion, chopped

Chicken:

1 pound chicken breasts
 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

1/4 teaspoon onion powder
 1/4 teaspoon chili powder
 1/4 teaspoon cumin
 salt, to taste
 pepper, to taste

Enchiladas:

15 ounces black beans, drained and rinsed
 10 ounces diced tomatoes and green chilies, drained
 2 cups shredded Mexican cheese, divided
 16 ounces restaurant-style salsa, divided
 10 whole-wheat tortillas

Optional Toppings:

diced avocado
 plain Greek yogurt
 cilantro

Preheat oven to 400 F. Spray 9-by-13-inch pan with nonstick cooking spray and set aside.

In medium skillet over medium-high heat, cook onion until translucent, about 3-5 minutes. Transfer to large bowl and set aside.

To make chicken: Season chicken breasts with garlic powder, onion powder, chili powder, cumin and salt and pepper, to taste. Add chicken to same skillet over medium-high heat. Cook 5-7 minutes on each side, or until cooked through. Use fork and knife to shred chicken.

To make enchiladas: In large bowl with cooked onion, add shredded chicken, black beans, diced tomatoes, green chilies and 1 cup shredded Mexican cheese. Use spoon to mix well.

Pour 1 cup salsa on bottom of greased pan and use spatula to spread evenly. Scoop about 1/2 cup chicken and veggie mixture into each tortilla. Roll tightly and place seam side down in pan.

Top enchiladas with 3/4 cup salsa and remaining shredded cheese; use spatula to spread evenly.

Cover pan tightly with foil and bake 25-30 minutes. Remove from oven; serve hot. Add avocado, yogurt and cilantro, if desired.

(Family Features)

SEPTEMBER 24-26 2020

BIG-EDDY FILM FESTIVAL

BETHEL WOODS - NARROWSBURG - ONLINE



BIGEDDYFILMFEST.COM

Bethel Woods
CENTER FOR THE ARTS
SITE OF THE 1969 WOODSTOCK FESTIVAL



Council on
the Arts

2020 LINEUP

In Person September 24 – 26
Online September 24 – October 4
in Sullivan County, NY

This year, the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance will expand the Big Eddy Film Festival (BEFF) beyond the movie theater for one-of-a-kind experiences, both outdoors and online. Central themes of the films being presented include untold female stories and the intersection of politics and music. Screenings will take place at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts Terrace Stage, the Big Eddy Film Festival's online streaming platform, and at a pop-up drive-in outside Narrowsburg.

WORLD PREMIERES AT BETHEL WOODS

The BEFF opens on Friday, September 25 with the world premiere theatrical screening of *JIMMY CARTER ROCK & ROLL PRESIDENT* at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts. The film chronicles the relationship that music played in Carter's early life, his campaign for the White House, and his term as the 39th President of the United States (1977 - 1981). Particularly relevant in this election year, director Mary Wharton traces how Carter's genuine approachability became key to his political appeal, and allowed him to connect with voters. His embrace of music, particularly that of Bob Dylan, the Allman Brothers, and Willie Nelson, helped the peanut farmer from small-town Georgia reach out across racial and generational divides. The film, which was slated to open the Tribeca Film Festival in April (which was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic), has been picked up for distribution by CNN Films.

The festival continues at Bethel Woods on Saturday, September 26 with the world premiere theatrical screening of the new drama *GOSSAMER FOLDS*, a coming of age story set in 1980s Missouri. Ten-year-old Tate (Jackson Robert Scott, 'It') defies his transphobic father and develops a strong bond with his transgender neighbor Gossamer (Alexandra Grey, "Empire," "Transparent") and her father, a retired English professor who is still processing his child's identity. The film's creative team includes queer director, Lisa Donato; transgender cinematographer, Ava Benjamin Shorr; cisgender producer, Yeardley Smith (the

voice of Lisa Simpson, and an LGBTQ+ ally); and transgender actor, Alexandra Grey. The Advocate says "It's a nuanced exploration of childhood, identity, friendship, and family dynamics, especially the formation of found families. Its characters are multilayered, imperfect, and evolving."

POP-UP DRIVE-IN EVENT

Grease is the word on Thursday, September 24!! An exclusive event for BEFF Superstar Passholders, the Big Eddy will host a film in the field screening of the musical phenomenon *GREASE* (1978) starring Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta. It's California 1959; greaser Danny Zuko and wholesome exchange student Sandy Olsson are in love. But when the summer ends and school begins, things get complicated. Pop the tailgate and cozy up under a blanket, or bring lawn chairs to sit around a personal campfire in the field. Bring your own brown bag dinner, or enjoy snacks and beverages from our concession stand. Individual tickets are not available to this event.

VIRTUAL FESTIVAL, SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 4

"For our extended 10-day virtual festival, we've curated a lineup of new documentaries relevant to today's world that will be available on our new streaming platform starting September 24," says festival director Tina Spangler. Cozy up at home for these fascinating nonfiction stories exploring a spectrum of women's experiences, and then join us online for hosted conversations with the makers. Meet a police chief actively reforming her department, an artist creating tools to demystify the female libido, and the first Mrs. Johnny Cash, whose long overdue story is told by her daughters.

TICKETS AND PASSES

Tickets are available to individual films, for both physical screenings and online films. Big Eddy Film Festival Superstar Passes include admission to 3 nights of outdoor screenings, plus a panel discussion at Bethel Woods, and a 2020 BEFF sweatshirt. (Note: online screenings are not included in the pass).

For more details, visit BigEddyFilmFest.com or call DVAA 845-252-7576.



Good Stuff

Last Minute Home Remodeling

Ideas

Provided by Disaster Blaster

Even though Summer is coming to an end, that doesn't mean that there isn't still time to complete a home project or two. Don't let those home remodeling projects sit on your to-do list for another year when you can get them out of the way now!

In fact, here are some home remodeling projects that you can complete over a single weekend.

Paint a room

Has your current wall color become boring? Painting a room is a great project that can change the look of an entire space and give you a big bang for your buck. Choosing a lighter color can even brighten a space AND make it seem larger.

Powerwash the exterior

Over time, the exterior of your house picks up dirt and grime, particularly if your home is on a wooded lot. Powerwashing the exterior of your home can make a huge difference and breathe new life into your exterior.

Clean the gutters

Clogged gutters can cause serious problems, from water intrusion when it rains to ice dams in the winter. While an oft-overlooked home project, cleaning out your gutters now can prevent a lot of these problems in the future. For high or difficult to access gutters, you may need to contact a professional.

Replace vinyl flooring

Laying down vinyl flooring is a relatively simple project that can update a bathroom or kitchen. Whether you're using peel-and-stick tiles or sheet vinyl, you can lay the new flooring right over the existing vinyl floor.

This dramatically reduces the steps necessary to prep the floor surface and allows you to finish the project quicker.

Edge sidewalks and walkways

Proper edging reduces maintenance by preventing grass and weeds from encroaching on paths and walkways. This ensures that walkways look neat and tidy throughout the year.

Replace weatherstripping on doors and windows

Air gaps around windows and doors let the air conditioning out in the summer and the heat out in the winter. While this may seem like a minor issue, the additional heating and air conditioning costs caused by these efficiency losses can be significant. In fact, proper weatherstripping often pays for itself pretty quickly!

These are just a few of the projects that you can still complete this year. There is still PLENTY of time to check a few home remodeling projects off your to-do list. What are you going to tackle?



About Disaster Blaster

Disaster Blaster is an indoor environmental firm serving the Northeastern PA Area. We have been providing our local area with unparalleled water damage mitigation, basement waterproofing, mold remediation, asbestos abatement, radon mitigation, and fire / smoke restoration services for decades, and are proud to have been named The World's Greatest Indoor Environmental Firm. For more about Disaster Blaster, as well as more helpful tips, please visit our website at: www.disasterblaster.com or call our office at (570) 963-1123.



living green

A *Sustainable* Tour of NEPA

By Olga Trushina

.....

When we think of sustainable communities in America we think of urban areas that owe their achievement to development pressures, abundant talent, and available investment. Rural towns, on the other hand, don't have these same means. But this reality doesn't always discourage rural residents from improvements. Now, thanks to less bureaucracy and more agility, it can be easier to achieve sustainability goals in small-town America. Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) is a perfect example of this.

The top 20 sustainability policies of rural communities include community recycling, trails, energy audits, support for local markets, and much more. Does this sound familiar? It should, because this is all happening right here. You can experience the sustainability yourself, traveling through NEPA.

Let us first visit the Lacawac Sanctuary. Located on the shore of Lake Wallenpau-pack and made up of 510 acres of forest, wetlands, and a pristine glacial lake, you will have miles of beautiful hiking trails to devour. After the hike, drop in at the Visitor Center where you can learn about the solar array that provides nearly 90% of the electricity used in the building.

Hungry? Among small-town sustainability efforts, Here & Now Brewing Company stands out. Housed in a 160-year-old building, it was renovated into a bustling bar and restaurant, preserving many of its architectural qualities and upgrading to the most energy efficient equipment available. Compared to the last tenant, Here & Now

Sustainable Communities

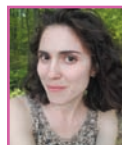


pays 60% less in energy costs and is a treasured place for tourists and residents alike. When visiting, ask to see their huge kombucha scoby that has been growing in a giant jar for years.

The Himalayan Institute, a pioneer of integrative health services, offers a forgotten apple orchard that continues to endow delicious fruit in the fall. In terms of sustainability, the Institute partners with local businesses and organizations to achieve its zero-waste goals. To top this, the largest commercial solar thermal system in Wayne County is installed here and provides 70% of the Institute's hot water needs.

And while you're nearby, try out the Hawley Farmer's Market for seasonal produce from local, eco-minded farms and businesses. Describing the amazing vendors in NEPA deserves a post of its own, so pop in at the market and meet them all in person! The market runs Fridays 2-5pm through October 2020, in the Hawley Park.

As you discover sustainable NEPA, it will be difficult to leave and many do end up staying for good. So beware and enjoy your travels!



Olga Trushina is the Executive Director of SEEDS of Northeastern Pennsylvania, whose mission is developing local renewable energy infrastructure and promoting energy efficiency and sustainable living in our region. For more information or to sign up for the e-newsletter, visit: www.SeedsGroup.net. And follow @SEEDSofNEPA on Facebook, Instagram and Youtube for updates!



THE PORK CHOPS

By The Reverend Mrs. Silence DoGood

Dear Editor,

When Mrs. Emily Stonebridge recently invited me to her house for tea I was delighted. I see her regularly at Sunday Church services but the last time we had a personal visit was around the time she went to England.

It was several years ago after her 48 year marriage ended with the death of her husband that she took her first trip away from Halo, PA. She had never been more than 25 miles away from our bucolic farming village when she decided to go to London.

Emily had a moral dilemma before her trip. She had been raised in another religion which taught her that her body was for the sole purpose of having children. One could not touch one's own body nor could one engage in body pleasure. She never did have children because her husband had low sperm motility.

Her dilemma was that on her trip she wanted to use a female urinary director called EZ Pee which allowed her to pee standing up. She was afraid of getting germs sitting on foreign toilets. But it meant that by using it she had to touch her body and that was her dilemma. She whispered in a tiny voice "Am I sinning using my FUD?" She called her female urinary director her FUD. I told her that it was not a sin and I emphatically urged her to use it. My ministry is dedicated to inspiring my congregation to overcome the fear of living and the fear of dying. I wanted her to overcome her fear of living.

Yesterday Emily welcomed me into her cozy living room. There were pink roses on chintz everywhere. The bright fabric was on her pillowed sofa and her overstuffed chairs. Her home was immaculate. Cleanliness was her mantra.

I loved her beautifully carved mantel which she told me was carved by Evan Jones a parishioner. I went to it and looked at all the beautiful framed photographs that were displayed on top of it. I picked up an elaborate silver frame and noticed silver polish in its floral crevices. Emily had been cleaning. The old-brownish picture in it was of a woman wearing a maid's uniform standing in front of a large mansion.

"That's my grandmother. She worked for a very wealthy family in South Hampton. I think of her often. The family loved her but sometimes the town's people were cruel.

Grandma told me that on one of her days off she went into the little village to buy food for her dinner. The butcher shop was used by all the large houses to purchase their meat. She saw two thick pork chops which she thought would be lovely for dinner. The butcher asked her if they were for her or for the family that owned the large house. When she told him that they were for her he said he would keep them for one of the wealthy families who were his good customers. This happened to her when she was in her forties but yet she told me about it when she was in her sixties. It hurt her for decades."

The butcher's story weighs on me. I thought of Emily's grandmother and how she remembered a hurtful and insensitive moment for much of her adult life. Now Emily also feels her grandmother's pain. And me. I don't doubt the butcher's right to choose his customers but his act was unkind and cast long-dark shadows over several generations.

Goodness, on the other hand, is a powerful light that erases those dark shadows caused by unkindness. Its brilliance sustains life and is itself a nutrient for the performance of more good deeds. Kindness has a long shelf life.

I began to wonder if the butcher was also hurt by doing what he did. I have learned that a person's insensitivity becomes dense gravity in them which doesn't allow altruism, kindness or love to escape. The butcher bears that burden which affects him and the people around him.

Amen.



The Reverend Mrs. Silence DoGood

Senior Pastor

Executive Director

President

Chairman

Choir Master (part-time)

The First Church of God's Love

The Shape of Economic

Recovery



On June 8, 2020, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), which has official responsibility for determining U.S. business cycles, announced that February 2020 marked the end of an expansion that began in 2009 and the beginning of a recession.¹ This was no great surprise considering widespread business closures due to the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting spike in unemployment, but it was an unusually quick official announcement.

The NBER defines a recession as "a decline in economic activity that lasts more than a few months," so it typically takes from six months to a year to determine when a recession started. In this case, the NBER's Business Cycle Dating Committee concluded that "the unprecedented magnitude of the decline in employment and production, and its broad reach across the entire economy," warrants the designation of a recession, "even if it turns out to be briefer than earlier contractions."²

Another common definition of a recession is two or more quarters of negative growth in gross domestic product (GDP), and it's clear that the current situation will meet that test. The U.S. economy shrank at an annual rate of 5% in the first quarter of 2020 — a significant but deceptively small decline, because the economy was strong during the first part of the quarter.³

The first official estimate for the second quarter will not be available until July 30, but the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta keeps a running estimate that is updated based on incoming economic data. As of July 9, the Atlanta Fed estimated that GDP would drop at a 35.5% annual rate in the second quarter.⁴ By comparison, the largest quarterly drop since

World War II was 10% in the first quarter of 1958, followed by 8.4% in the fourth quarter of 2008.⁵

Most economists believe that GDP will turn upward in the third quarter as businesses continue to open.⁶ But with the extreme decline in business activity during the first half of 2020, it will take sustained growth to return the economy to its pre-recession level. In its June economic projections, the Federal Reserve Open Market Committee projected a 6.5% annual drop in GDP for 2020, followed by 5.0% growth in 2021 and 3.5% growth in 2022.⁷ The simple math of these projections suggests the economy may not return to its 2019 level until 2022.

By the letters

Economists traditionally view economic recessions and recoveries as having a shape, named after the letter it resembles.

V-shaped — a rapid fall followed by a quick rebound to previous levels. The 1990-91 recession, which lasted only eight months and was followed by strong economic growth, was V-shaped. This type of recovery would require control of COVID-19 through testing and treatment, a quick ramp-up of business activity, and a return to pre-recession spending habits by consumers.⁸⁻⁹

U-shaped — an extended recession before the economy returns to previous levels. The Great Recession, which lasted 18 months followed by a slow recovery, was U-shaped. If COVID-19 takes longer to control and the economy does not bounce back as expected in the third quarter, the current recession could be prolonged.¹⁰⁻¹¹



W-shaped — a “double-dip” recession in which a quick recovery begins but drops back sharply before beginning again. The U.S. economy experienced a W-shaped recession in 1980-82, when a second oil crisis and high inflation triggered a brief recession, followed by a quick recovery and another recession sparked by overly aggressive anti-inflation policies by the Federal Reserve. This type of recession could occur if a second wave of COVID-19 forces businesses to shut down again later in the year, just as the economy is recovering.¹²⁻¹³

L-shaped — a steep drop followed by a long period of high unemployment and low economic output. The Great Depression, which lasted 43 months with four straight years of negative GDP growth, was L-shaped. This is unlikely in the current environment, considering the strength of the U.S. economy before COVID-19 and the unprecedented economic support from the Federal Reserve.¹⁴⁻¹⁵

A swoosh

In the July Economic Forecasting Survey by The Wall Street Journal, which polls more than 60 U.S. economists each month, 13.0% of respondents thought the recovery would be V-shaped, 11.1% expected it to be W-shaped, 5.5% indicated it would be U-shaped, and none thought it would be L-shaped.¹⁶

The vast majority — 70.4% — believed the recovery would take a “Nike swoosh” shape, which suggests a sharp drop followed by a long, slow recovery.¹⁷ This view factors in the possibility that businesses may be slow to rehire, and consumers could be slow to resume pre-recession spending patterns. It also considers that some businesses may be impacted longer than others. Airlines do not expect to return to pre-COVID passenger activity until 2022, and movie theaters, beauty salons, sporting events, and other high-contact businesses

may struggle until a vaccine is developed.¹⁸

Adding to the prognosis for a slow recovery is the fact that the rest of the world is also fighting the pandemic, including many countries where growth was already more sluggish than in the United States. And if the virus resurges in the fall or early 2021, the recovery may turn jagged with significant setbacks along the way.¹⁹

While the general consensus suggests that the duration of the actual recession may be brief, it is much too early to know the true shape of the recovery. However, the economy will recover, as it has in even more challenging situations. All of these projections indicate that a key factor in determining the shape of recovery will be control of COVID-19. Beyond that, the underlying question is whether the virus has fundamentally changed the U.S. and global economies.



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1-2, 8, 10, 12, 14) National Bureau of Economic Research, June 2020

3, 5, 15) U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, June 2020

4) Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, July 9, 2020

6, 16-17) The Wall Street Journal Economic Forecasting Survey, July 2020

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9, 11, 13) Forbes Advisor, June 8, 2020

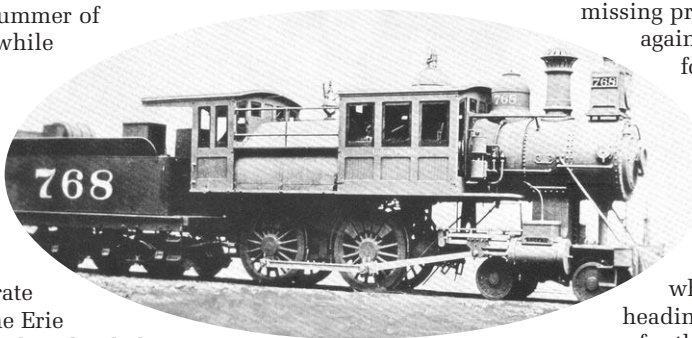
18-19) The Wall Street Journal, May 11, 2020

POCONO secrets

The Great Shohola *Train Wreck* of the Civil War

By LA Guzda

By the summer of 1864, while union troops were advancing deeply into Georgia, northern prisons were overflowing with confederate prisoners. The Erie railroad was enlisted to help move prisoners from Point Lookout Maryland to Elmira, New York. On July 15 1864, locomotive engine 171 pulling 17 passenger and freight cars carrying 833 confederate soldiers and 128 union guards moved along at 20 miles per hour. Engine 11 was classified as “an extra” indicating it ran behind a scheduled train; a common way to move additional cars with minimum paperwork. The scheduled train, West 23, displayed warning flags to indicate another train was following. However, engine 171 was delayed leaving Jersey City while locating several



missing prisoners and again while waiting for a draw-bridge, it arrived at Port Jervis 4 hours behind West 23.

Meanwhile a coal train heading toward Lackawaxen for the spur connection to Honesdale requested permission to proceed. The station telegraph operator, Douglas “Duff” Kent seeing that West 23 had passed, cleared the coal freight to continue and their fate was sealed. Around 2:45 the trains collided at King and Fillers Cut. Many of the wounded were taken to the Shohola Glen Hotel (now Rohmans Bar & Grill) for medical attention. There were so many mangled bodies that the confederate dead were buried alongside the wreck in a communal grave. The union soldiers were given individual coffins. The final tally was 787 con-



federate soldiers delivered to Elmira. On June 11, 1911 the confederate dead were disinterred and brought to Elmira's Woodlawn Cemetery in another common grave. Their names inscribed on two bronze plaques affixed to a single stone monument. Names of union dead face north while the confederates face south.

A complete satisfactory account of those killed is inconclusive. Estimates range from 60-72 not including the two Johnson's from North Carolina who died from injuries and are buried in the churchyard at Barryville. There are 5 unaccounted prisoners who are said to have escaped. Legend has it that there were many local residents opposed or just tired of the war and that they helped to keep the prisoners hid from authorities. They are reported to have integrated themselves to the community easily since the war ended shortly thereafter.

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L A Z B O Y

Good Stuff



Prime Pike Paddling

By Bill Deaton | williamjdeaton@yahoo.com

Lots of things are in high demand this year because of the pandemic. At one point or another there has been a run on toilet paper, hand sanitizer, gardening and canning supplies, and yes...kayaks! Whether box store boats or specialty shop pirogue, personally powered watercraft are the hot topic.

No doubt that the Delaware and Lackawaxen Rivers are excellent attractions but paddling them takes some logistical preparation. If you just want to hit the water without a lot of planning, Pike County's lakes offer a superb alternative. In addition to the mighty Wallenpaupack, ten other bodies of water afford amicable launching via either DCNR or PA Fish and Boat launches while a handful of others require a little effort to reach.

All of the following have vehicle accessible launches and restrict boats to electric motors only making them ideal for paddlers:

- White Deer Lake: 48 acres
 - Greeley Lake: 60 acres
 - Shohola Lake: 1137 acres
 - Lower Lake: 173 acres
 - Promised Land Lake: 422 acres
 - Lily Pond: 12 acres
 - Lake Minisink: 35 acres
 - Little Mud Pond: 21 acres
-

Fairview Lake is 192 acres and has a good launch but does allow for bigger motorboats, still though it is a good place to paddle. After a long reconstruction project, the water at Pecks Pond is back too. While all 315 acres might not be accessible, its launch is open.

Adventure seekers can also try their hand at these remote lakes, some easier to reach than others. Paddling only and launch areas are not provided:

- Bruce Lake: 56 acres, 2.5 mile portage over open woods road. Suggest a cart.
 - Egypt Meadow Lake: 48 acres, 0.5 mile portage. Can use to access Bruce Lake or Balsam Swamp.
 - Painter Swamp: 5 acres, 0.5 miles portage.
 - Stairway Lake: 13 acres: 2.6 mile uphill portage over difficult trail. Consider an inflatable raft.
-

Information on all the above can be found on the PA Fish and Boat, Delaware State Forest, and Pike Outdoors websites. With good padding weather usually through mid-October, Pike County has a lot to offer everyone from novices to experts. Enjoy the last days of summer and the early autumn as well on the water!

Book Review

SOMETIMES, THINGS CHANGE IN A MINUTE.

You look, and it's one way. You look again, it's different, and you didn't even see the change happening. You might not like it but that never matters. As in the new picture book "The Shared Room" by Kao Kalia Yang, illustrations by Xee Reiter, that's when it's best just to take a deep breath, roll your shoulders, and move on.

If it were any other winter day in Minnesota, it might've been nice. It was warm enough for the snow to melt and you could almost see that spring was coming. But inside the house in east St. Paul, there were shadows across a dark fireplace and quiet floors. There was light in the house, but no sunshine.

Pictures hung on the wall but it was hard to look at them because they reminded the family inside the house that one of them was missing. It had been seven months since the girl with the shiny brown hair and big toothy smile, the happy little girl in a framed picture, had walked into a lake, misstepped, and accidentally drowned.

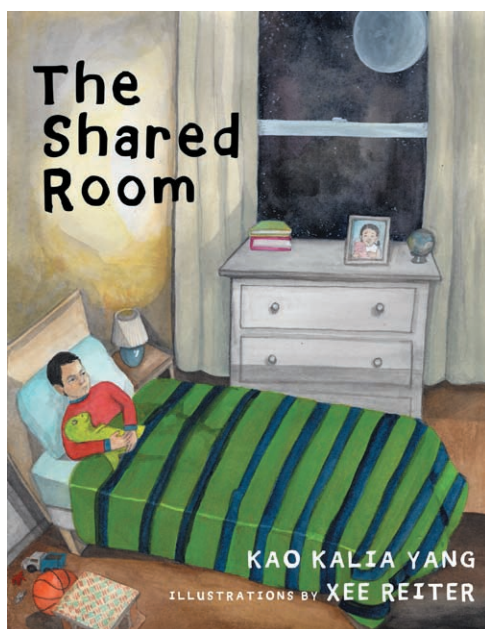
Nobody had seen it happen and nobody in the family could forget. The mother and the father couldn't even bear to take the sheets off the girl's bed and for seven months, they visited her room and cried once, twice, three times a day. The house was quiet, except when someone would play a video of the girl on their phone, and everyone watched.

But then, something shifted.

Ever since the youngest brother was born, the oldest brother shared a bedroom with him in the house in east St. Paul. There were four bedrooms, four children and two parents, so there had to be sharing – until the parents asked the oldest brother if he'd like to have his sister's room. He'd have her bed. He would have her dresser and her closet.

But he would never have her back. Would he miss his sister forever?

"The Shared Room"



By Kao Kalia Yang

Illustrations by Xee Reiter

Reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

Is "The Shared Room" a book for children?

You may wonder that after you've read it through once – and you should, to gauge its appropriateness for your child before you present it. It's a lovely story, but it's also deeply, unbearably sad.

While the artwork by Xee Reiter may soften things a bit, author Kao Kalia Yang's tale starts with silence and ends like a grey tattered shawl draped over every page. This profound mourning leaves a heaviness over the story that stays well beyond the final page, and you'll feel it in your chest.

And yet, if you can withstand the pall, there's a sliver of hope inside this book and a reminder that life goes on. It also serves to tell a child that it's best to come to terms with death but that never forgetting is okay, too.

Again, read this book through once before you give it to your 8-to-12-year-old. "The Shared Room" may prove to be too much, too early, too overwhelming – or it may change your child's grieving.

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