

CHICAGO HYDE PARK VILLAGE



THE VILLAGE VOICE

Marian O'Brien Paul, Editor

Sylvia Dawson, Design

April -May 2020

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FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Dassinger



Dear CHPV members,

I hope that you enjoy this special “all members” edition of the newsletter and that it is a bright spot in your week. Thanks to all of you who made submissions! I love the way Sylvia organized your contributions, yielding a colorful snapshot of CHPV’s members and interests.

Also, I want to welcome and thank our new newsletter editor, Marian O’Brien Paul. ***Thank you, Marian!***

Our plans and programs are evolving as all things are right now. Throughout April we will have a health and wellness program every day on Zoom (yoga, tai chi, meditation, or stretching & strength training). The meeting IDs numbers that have been distributed over the past few weeks will stay the same. Email me if you would like them again.

We are developing more one-time topic-based programs as well, such as book talks and guest speakers. On Tuesday, April 6 we will have our first First Tuesday dining salon on Zoom – support the Snail by ordering dinner and let’s share a meal together!

As for me, I’m doing the same things many people seem to be: trying to balance working and tending to some sort of homeschool for my daughters, making face masks (all those fabric scraps I’ve saved over the years finally have a use!), baking lots of bread (my sourdough starter is thriving!), and walking the dogs a lot. I always have a home project I’m working on (or 3 or 4), so while I’d trade our present circumstances in a heartbeat, the “stay at home” order thus far has been a welcome time to make some progress on my spring to-do list.

Please get in touch by phone or email if you have a program idea to share or if I can be of any assistance (michelle.dassinger@chpv.org, 773.441.8457).

Very best regards,

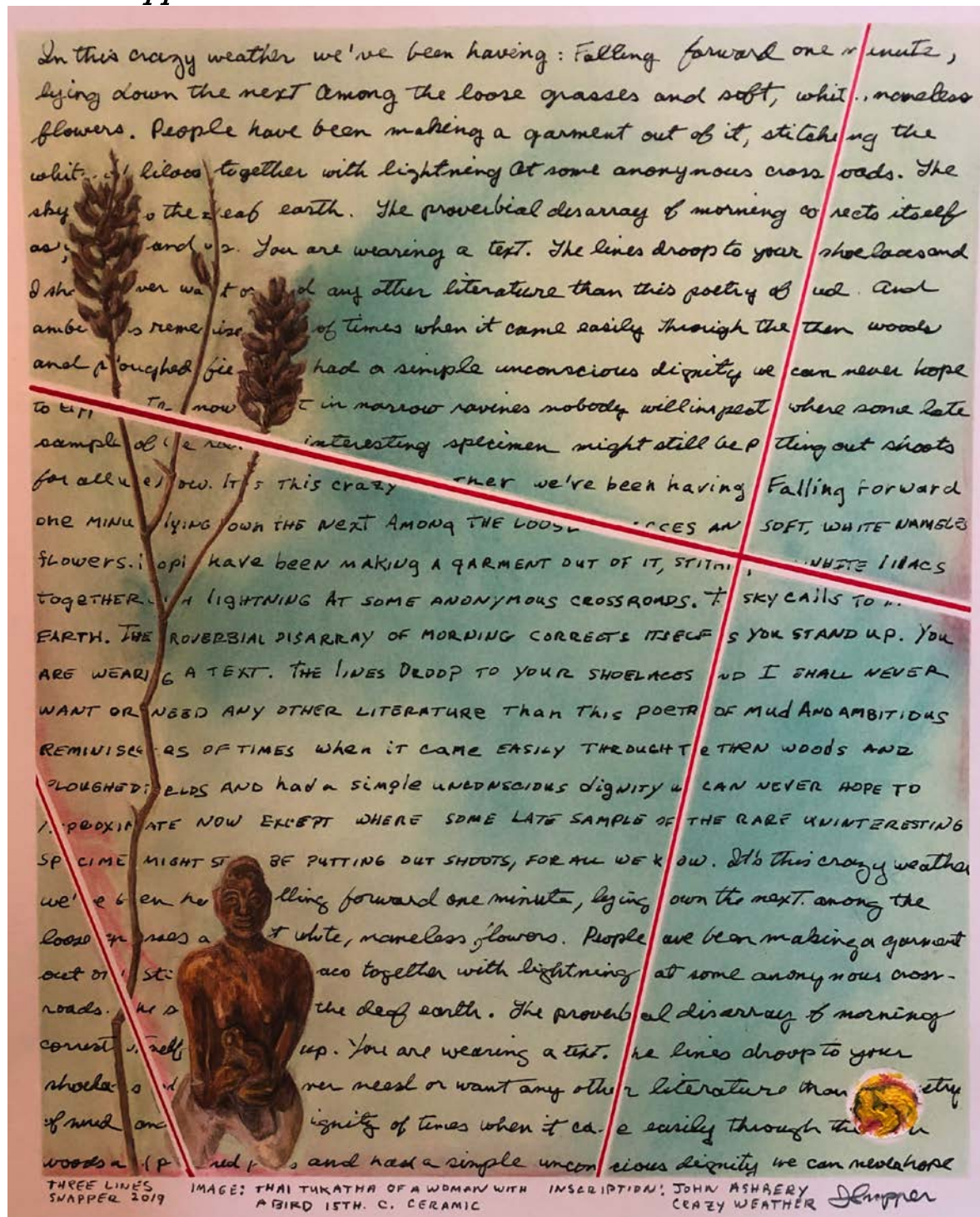
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

MIXED MEDIA

John Snapper

Three Lines



Drawing on paper, from an extended series of Three Lines drawings. This image is to exact scale in colored pencil of a 15th century Thai Tukatha and of seed heads from the Burnham Nature Sanctuary. This inscription in ink is of John Ashbery's "Crazy Weather." The color field is pastel chalk. The lines are ink. The dot is acrylic paint.

Freddye Smith **From My Collection**



The art was done by Dr. Yemonja Smalls and was at the 2020 Black Creativity at the Museum of science and industry. I am a member of Diasporal Rhythms which is a collectors group of art of the African Diasporal. Dr. Small's piece is now part of my collection.

My art biz is Vessels of my Heart.
A visit to the IG address below will show you my collection.

Instagram: VESSELS_OF_HEART
Twitter: thirdageservice
Thirdageservices@yahoo.com

PHOTOGRAPHY

Dolores Rosenblum **Rainbow over Hawaii**



Taken by my son a couple of days ago from his hotel balcony in Hawaii, just before he and his wife flew back to Japan.

1



Actual original of Waterlogue transformation.



Elsie Holzwarth **Japanese Garden**



When turmoil surrounds us, we can tap memories of calmer times. I remember the Portland Japanese Garden in Portland, Oregon. Every step and every point in time provides a moment of quiet.

NEEDLECRAFT

Linda Knox **Mermaid Tail Blanket**



My sister sent me a “mermaid tail” blanket. I am enjoying it very much!
Warm and toasty.

***Kathy Huff* University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital 2020 Irish Coffee Benefit Raffle Quilt**



Josie Disterhoft, the winner of the quilt which was jointly donated by me and the quilt maker, Cheryl Miller, member of the Lakeside Quilting Guild, and a nurse who is on the front lines helping to battle COVID-19 at University of Chicago Hospitals.

[Photo Kathy Huff]

***Sylvia Dawson* My Crochet Poodle**

I have this little space to fill in the newsletter.

I started to knit because it was relaxing, then I learned how to crochet:

- Only one needle, a crochet hook, to deal with.
- Only one stitch to pick-up if I fall asleep and drop the hook.
- Great for long journeys – you can listen to audio books at the same time.
- Great conversation starter.
- I'm happy I learned how to do it.



March 22 - 586,000 Dead

Pandemic:

word shivers through my outer ear
knocks on eardrum, sure vibrations
will pass through middle ear-bones
into inner ear where hair cells can
electrify pulsations to transmit them
brain-ward through the hearing nerve:

Emotions trigger, connotations rage
in that vast repository where meaning
resides in the very heart of language
where the ego recognizes reality but
the id refuses to conform so chooses
self above community, dons flip-flops
slings a beach towel over shoulders
opens door to the sun-filled outside
beginning journey toward a beach
with golden sands to mirror sunshine
with self-admiring blue-sky brilliance
reflecting in azure ocean waves

Marian O'BrienPaul

Walgreens during Pandemic

Four-inch long strips of blue tape
placed six feet apart on tile floor:
a distance making their existence
seem random, mysterious

Lining up to check out, some
patrons use a shopping cart
to separate themselves; others
habitually bunch up

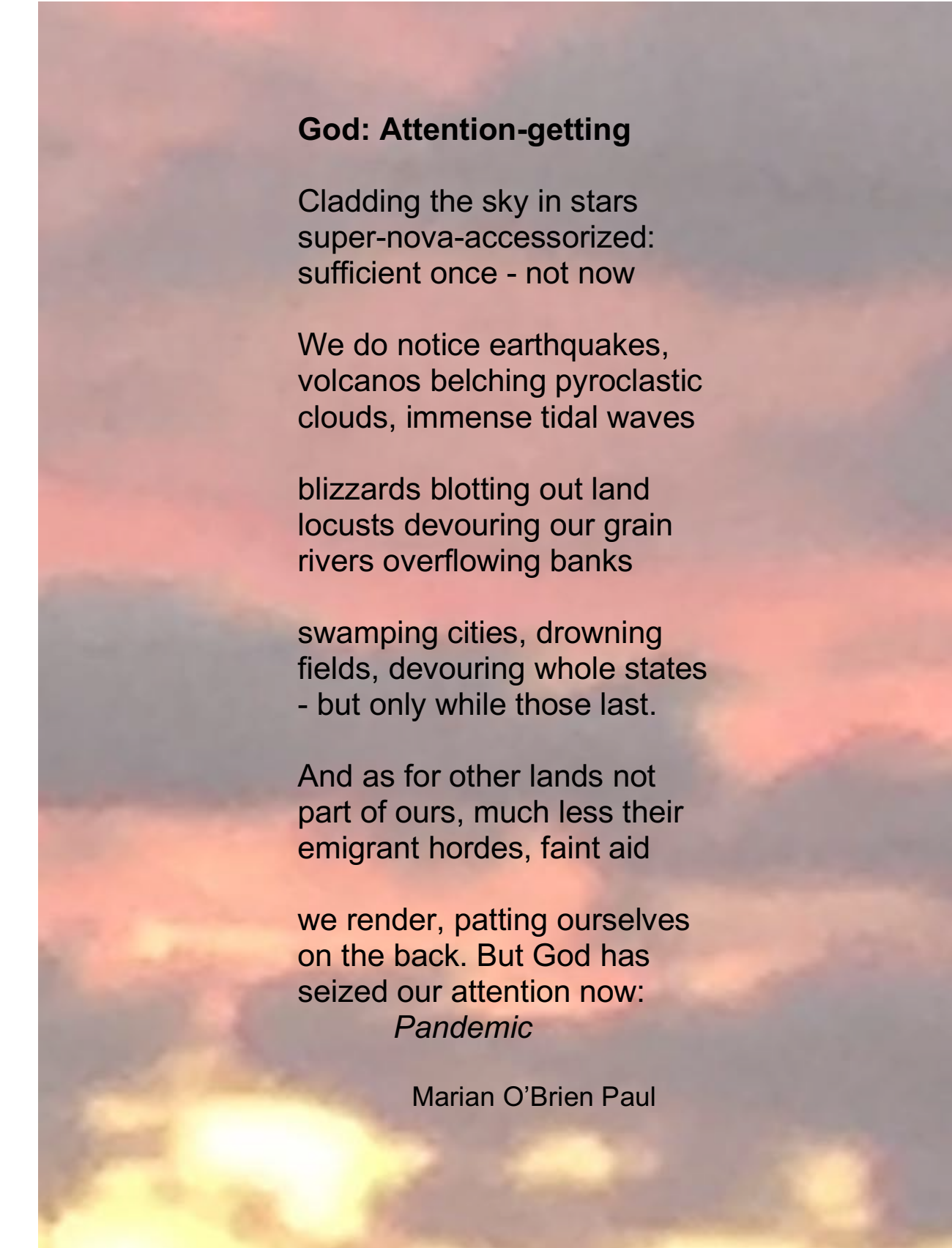
Intent on spacing my own self,
seconds pass before I register
a voice sporadically repeating
“...markers. Mind the...”

A store Associate passes by
reminding us, “Be sure you’re
maintaining the recommended
social distance.”

Understanding flashes over us.
We all gaze down and realize
each person’s feet should be
upon a blue-tape piece.

Mystery solved, I ruminate:
posted at the store’s entrance
a large sign might clarify,
freeing up Associates.

Marian O’Brien Paul



God: Attention-getting

Cladding the sky in stars
super-nova-accessorized:
sufficient once - not now

We do notice earthquakes,
volcanos belching pyroclastic
clouds, immense tidal waves

blizzards blotting out land
locusts devouring our grain
rivers overflowing banks

swamping cities, drowning
fields, devouring whole states
- but only while those last.

And as for other lands not
part of ours, much less their
emigrant hordes, faint aid

we render, patting ourselves
on the back. But God has
seized our attention now:

Pandemic

Marian O'Brien Paul

Margaretha Talerman **Here is a favorite little poem of mine**

Written at the Table when an Accident Occurred

Everything comes to an end.
Historical events all tend
To bring this truism to mind.
Kings fall. Alliances unwind.
Springs fail and desert sands extend.



Suns die out and disappear,
Astral worlds like glass can shatter.
Should we, with so much to fear,
Let a broken soup plate matter?

Anna Maria Lenngren, 1795
(1754 - 1817)
Translated by Philip K. Nelson

MEMBERS SHARE THOUGHTS

Mary Naftzger **Sheltering at Home**



**What's better in "sheltering at home" than
making a puzzle of a Hiroshinge's woodcut?**



**Christmas in Maine with
my granddaughter Ayla**



**Friend, a Syria grandmother
and Mary**

Margaret Huyck **SABBATICALS: REFLECTIONS ON “TIME OFF”**

I have embarked, like all of us, on a “time off” period. I spent my professional life in a career that offered Sabbaticals periodically – times to step back from regular teaching and committee responsibilities, and explore new research and collaboration possibilities, new models for old data, or just break a pattern.

I’ve had some wonderful sabbaticals. On my first one, 1977-78, our whole family relocated to Oslo, Norway. My husband Tom said he was entitled to a break, too, and took leave of his law firm; other lawyers were incredulous and jealous. Our daughters were 11 and 12; they enrolled in Oslo public schools. I had an office in the Norwegian Institute of Gerontology and spent many hours gazing out the windows at the darkening skies at 4 pm and wondering what I had done. I taught a class in Adult Development at the University of Oslo, but mostly I struggled to craft the first textbook on the Psychology of Adult Development. I swung from branch to branch of my family tree – three of my grandparents had emigrated to America at the turn of the last century. We met around 200 relatives, ate many cookies, and I learned to love aquavit. In a strange way, I often felt very socially isolated. We also explored other nearby countries, especially Great Britain. It was a transformative experience for all of us. Tom did not return to his former law firm, the girls can still chatter in their, “secret language”, and I eventually finished that book.

On the next sabbatical, around 1985-86, we did not want to relocate the family, but I wanted time to write a proposal to extend the one from NIH that I had received after returning from Norway. That meant a lot of solitary time doing research, and crafting the elaborate statements of intent, strategy, and budget required. It was socially isolating – with no ZOOM. My father became terminally ill, in California, and I was relieved to be able to go there and be with him. And when he died, we went back to manage the estate. These activities spurred all kinds of reflections and learning – but nothing to do with my originally-stated intent when I proposed my sabbatical. When routines are broken, there is no predicting where you may go in your dreams, ambitions, and evaluations of life.



View from Margaret’s apartment 3/27/20.
Photo by Michael Wichura

By 1997-98, I was so immersed in running OWL Illinois, doing my teaching and other research, and other volunteer work that I felt the only way to survive was to leave town. I managed to become a Public Policy Fellow (on the basis of my work with OWL), and had a position in the Office of the Director of the National Institutes of Health, in the brand-new Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research. Tom and I rented a split-level house and became suburbanites, just to try out a very different life style. I loved learning how NIH and the rest of the Federal government works. I realized that all

the organizations and activities I had led could get along without me – and I could learn a lot of new things.

When I officially “retired” in 2010, it was like a semi-sabbatical: no teaching or committee work, but still involved in two research projects. Then when Tom died in 2015 and I really retired, it was not like re-calibrating within a familiar framework, but a time to seriously rethink how I wanted to live my life.

I have had a good, long life already, longer than I expected; I used to think I could die any time and be happy. However, here I am at 80, re-located into an apartment I love, re-partnered with a man I love, re-involved with an organization I love. I don’t want to get ill and suffer, or die, and I don’t want to experience any more losses just yet. I will do whatever seems necessary to manage this crisis. This enforced “time off” feels very comfortable, and even welcome. I sleep more, read more, enjoy discovering all the wonderful shows on Netflix that I missed while being so busy. My next challenge is to reorganize my Village files.

If this “sabbatical” goes on long enough, I may get out the materials for a memoir...

MHH: 3/26/20

***Joanne Michalski*– An Introduction**

Hello to all you Villagers! I hope you are doing well. I have been **treasurer of the Chicago Hyde Park Village** for the past few years. I was roped into this by my friendly, very persuasive neighbor Susan Alitto. Actually, I enjoy doing this and the Village is now in a strong financial position thanks to our board members, the Executive Director and others. Here are a few “fun facts” about me:

Personal Information

I am a second generation Polish American and very proud of this. I grew up down in Homewood where I attended Homewood Flossmoor High School (H-F). Whenever I tell someone I am from Homewood, they immediately “correct” me by saying “Homewood Flossmoor.”



My first “real” job was as a demonstrator at the Museum of Science and Industry during the summer of 1967. We gave submarine tours, counted visitors (boring), took and developed pictures in the old car in Yesterday’s Main Street, and chased all the male demonstrators from various Chicago Catholic schools. After that, it was off to the University of Michigan where I earned two degrees. Before returning to the South Side, I lived in downtown Detroit; Lincoln Park (where I met my spouse Mike Weeda); Traverse City, Michigan; Madison, Wisconsin, and then back to Hyde Park for retirement.

Interests

I enjoy helping out with Village activities, tutoring ESL students at Kenwood, and coaching Girls on the Run at Shoemith Elementary School. Right now, I miss the students and adults I volunteer with. I enjoy running in Hyde Park. Believe me, runners and walkers in Hyde Park are much friendlier than up north in Lincoln Park. I also enjoy hiking in Colorado. In fact, I backpacked there for the first time to celebrate my retirement – no bears! Other interests include opera, classical music (“Chicago Presents” is great), and theater (of course, the Court Theater).

Important things for me

My spouse Mike, my son Konrad, and our dog Bear.

Proudest moment

My proudest moment was seeing our son Konrad receive his doctorate in the Classics and Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago last year.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone again, but staying safe is the most important thing for us to do now.

***Susan Alitto* Some pluses and minuses to traveling to China in 2020**

When I left Shanghai last November after greeting my new granddaughter, I planned to return again in late January at the time of the Chinese New Year. I found a wonderful non-stop, round trip flight for just \$550 and started packing.

Then the Corona virus struck!

I cancelled my reservation (one of 35 occupied seats on the 296 seat plane!) just hours before I was scheduled to depart because Emily and family were considering leaving Shanghai (as did many of their friends!) and because there was so much uncertainty over whether I would be allowed in and able to stay at daughter’s apartment. In the end, they didn’t leave and we all immediately regretted the decision. I spent the next month looking for another flight that would take less than 35 hours, not require multiple layovers and not cost thousands of dollars. Finally I found a flight on ANA with only a 2 hour layover in Tokyo. (I recommend this airline; very comfortable and well serviced). My flight was half empty so I could stretch out. I arrived in Shanghai in the middle of the night and took a cab directly to the apartment after having my documents and temperature check a few times.

While in Shanghai, ANA cancelled all their flights to and from China so I ended up staying another week. I came back on Eva Airlines with a 5 hour layover in Taiwan. I safely back in Chicago on March 17. Again, there were no problems. Immigration was a piece of cake. They took my temperature, recorded all my personal and travel details and sent me on my way. By the time of my return, they were much more concerned about people coming from Europe, especially Italy. My only slight problem was a grumpy cab driver who growled that Hyde Park was “too far” and then quoted me a price below what the meter would have registered!

So now I’m self quarantined . . . not too different from lodging in place. My plan is that this is a great time to address all those long postponed projects (including decluttering!). But

Despite lots of warnings, I am very glad I dared to make the trip. It seems I fit it into a narrow window of possibility. China wouldn't allow me in now. Earlier, the U.S might not have allowed me to return.

I didn't do much that was different or special while there, but spending time with the family was a treat for this grandma who lives so far away. And I do think I helped a bit. Both Emily (who works for a business consulting company) and Andrew (a financial reporter for Reuters) were trying to work from home with a 2 year old and a 5 month old and an Ayi (nanny/housekeeper) detained in her home town where she had gone for the New Year holiday. (See photo of Emily and the 2 kids with their face masks!)



Susan says "Everyone in China wears a mask outside"

A few highlights.

We did venture out occasionally. It's impossible to keep a 2 year old cooped up in a small apartment! A favorite activity was an excursion to the municipal airport to watch planes take off and land. Most parks were closed, but we did find a couple nearby. One had only adult exercise equipment; none for children (see photo) but still it was an outing and we could watch lively badminton games.

There was no problem getting food. Most was delivered with 2 or 3 hours of placing an order. We all took turns cooking. And young Isaac enjoyed helping make a cake for his mother's birthday.

Emily and I had a mother daughter morning out. We did a walking tour in the former Jewish section of Shanghai. Of course, the museum, park, etc. were closed but it is an interesting area to explore. We even passed a wet market . . but of course, stayed well outside. A highlight was lunch at a small restaurant run by a group of neighborhood women who opened it together after they retired from their regular jobs. They were very proud of their food, which was tasty; they used all natural ingredients, no MSG, and served a homemade yoghurt with no sweeteners . . . and made to order gourmet coffee. We were the only guests so they seemed to enjoy chatting with us about their enterprise and how they are surviving this difficult time.

Very few restaurants were actually open but we found a couple and were able to go out as to eat as a family occasionally. Always there were very few other patrons; sometimes we were the only guests with a dozen servers hovering about. One could get very spoiled.

Of course, the best part was being able to spend time with the grandkids. Who knows when I'll see them again. Initially they were planning to visit this side of the Pacific in late Spring or early Summer but now it's so uncertain when we'll be able to travel more freely again.

NEW MEMBERS

Irene Koenen



Irene Koenen moved with her sister Zina Stephan from Portland, OR to Chicago to be closer to her sons (in Chicago and Ann Arbor). Educated as a nurse, she practiced before motherhood, and after her sons were older; she retired at age 70. She now enjoys reading, classical music, opera and ballet, and symphonies. Chicago is a fine place for these pleasures!

Ruth Bloom

Renate Fernandez

Freddye Smith – see “From my Collection” on page 4

COMMUNITY EVENTS

GETTING CONNECTED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE MIDWAY

Dorothy Pytel

I recently went to an event at the University of Chicago Law School. The students are eager to engage the law school more in the community directly surrounding the U of C. The students did an incredible job. They mobilized about 25 local organizations to come out and had great motivational speakers, including a law student who grew up in Bronzeville, a spoken-word poet who talked about her experience of growing up as a young black woman on the Southside, and Rev. Michael Pflieger, the dynamic community organizer from St. Sabina's who, as the last speaker, ended the program with a call-to-action. I hope that this means that we might get a few law school students volunteering at the Village in the near future. And if you still haven't met me yet, I'm the one circled in the picture!



More about the event from the university website: South Side Community Gathers at LSA's First Annual Impact Initiative Dinner Nearly 200 members of the Law School and surrounding South Side communities gathered in the Green Lounge on January 29 for the first pact Initiative Community Dinner, a student-organized event designed to build and strengthen relationships between South Side leaders and the Law School community. The event, an initiative of the Law Students Association's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, created an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to have meaningful conversations with community leaders, many of whom challenged them to consider their impact on the community and to expand their engagement.

<https://www.law.uchicago.edu/slideshows/south-side-community-gathers-lsas-first-annual-impact-initiative-dinner>

The Great American Takeout | Tuesdays

Terrill L. Stumpf

Illinois State Shelter-in-Place resulted in the cancellation until further notice the CPHV First Tuesday Dinner Salon at *The Snail Thai Cuisine Restaurant*. Some 16-24 CHPVillagers and Hyde Parkers show up to share a meal and have conversation.

Support *The Snail Thai Cuisine Restaurant* to keep them going, so when this is over, they will be able to remain in business. Place your carry out order only by telephone 773-667-5423 for pick-up or delivery (\$3.00 Delivery Fee applies).

To shorten the span of time picking up your take-out, pay by credit card when you order over the telephone. Their hours of operation are now Tuesday-Sunday 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

When you place your carry out, let them know you are a **CHPV First Tuesday Dinner Salon diner**.

HYDE PARK GARDEN FAIR CANCELLED

The Hyde Park Garden Fair Committee has cancelled the event, scheduled for May 15-16, on what would have been its 61st year.



Fair organizers make trips beyond Chicagoland to secure plants for the spring fair, which organizer George Rumsey said cannot be done safely amid the coronavirus pandemic”

Article in the Hyde Park



Herald:

https://www.hpherald.com/news/business/hyde-park-garden-fair-scheduled-may---cancelled/article_8f91e2b4-6f82-11ea-838f-f352fc4b7f70.html