



THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Current



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Notable Women of Connecticut Series Evelyn Beatrice Longman

The First Woman Sculptor Admitted to the America Academy of Design

Story by Maiquynh Truong

At the heart of Connecticut's state capital, surrounded by the lush greenery of Bushnell Park, the *Spirits of Victory* stands tall. A memorial dedicated to the men who fought in the Spanish-American war, this impressive bronze monument had been the beacon of the Connecticut's spirit for almost one hundred years.

The *Spirits of Victory* and several other iconic sculptures around the United States were created by a woman named Evelyn Beatrice Longman, a longtime Connecticut's resident and one of the most notable female sculptors of the 20th century.

Born on an Ohio farm in 1874, Longman had a difficult childhood and began working at a dry good store when she was fourteen. After six years, with the money she saved, Longman left home to study at the Art Institute of Chicago.

A talented young woman, she was offered a job as an assistant instructor at the age of nineteen and graduated from a four-year program in only two years with the highest honor. She fell in love with sculpting after visiting the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition and since then fully devoted herself to the craft.

Evelyn Longman
Portrait from
Loomis Chaffee
school



After school, Longman moved to New York and worked alongside a prominent sculptor Daniel Chester French. They worked on many projects together, including the country's most iconic monument, the *Lincoln Memorial*; where Longman sculpted several wreaths, eagle reliefs and the inscriptions inside the President's hall.

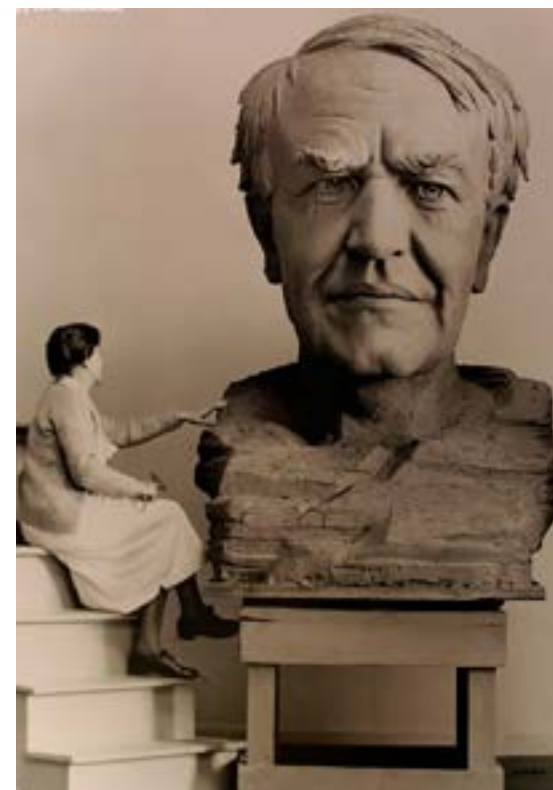
Longman continued to make a name for herself by winning numerous competitions and earning commissions on various major monuments.

One of Longman's biggest accomplishment is her conception of the *Spirit of Communication* in 1915 at the request of telecommunicating giant, AT&T.

The statue, nick-named Golden Boy due to its slick, lustrous golden coating is a striking bronze-based figure of a male angel wielding bolts of lightning and whirling cable lines. For years, the *Spirit* perched atop the company's corporate headquarters in Manhattan and was New York's largest monument, second only to Lady Liberty.

After decades of restorations and various relocations, the *Spirit of Communication* found a new home at AT&T new headquarter in Dallas, Texas.

In 1918, Longman came to Connecticut to commission a memorial for Nathaniel Horton Batcheldere's late wife. Batcheldere was the headmaster of Loomis Chaffee institute, a private boarding school located in the town of Windsor.



Longman with the bust of Edison. From the exhibition book at Loomis Chaffee

Two years later the pair joined in matrimony and Longman permanently move her residency and studio to Windsor, Connecticut.

For the next 30 years, at the height of her career, Longman continue to complete many memorable structures around the State including the *Spirit of Victory* in Hartford, the *Williams Memorial*, and the iconic eagle monument at the Windsor town green dedicated to the *Patriots of Windsor*.

Outside of Connecticut, Longman commissioned the *Great Bronze Memorial* door at the Annapolis U.S. Naval Academy, the *Horsford Doors* for Wellesley College, and the *Illinois Centennial Monument* in Chicago.

In 1919, because of her incredible works and contribution to the arts, Longman was inducted into the National Academy of Design and became the first woman sculptor to ever be fully elected to this prestigious group.

During her time at Loomis Chaffee, she sculpted the *Victory of Mercy* in 1948. The sculpture can be seen on the ground of Loomis Chaffee, a lasting reminder of an invaluable virtue for youth to emulate.

Her final major work was a commission to create a twelve-and-a-half-foot bronze portrait of the Thomas Alva Edison and she was the only sculptor he was willing to sit for during process of creation. The bust of the inventor currently resides at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington.

Longman continued her love of sculpting even after her husband's retirement and the pair moved to Cape Cod where she established a new studio. Gradually, she began to fade from the spotlight and devotes the last few years of her life sculpting minor busts and portraitures.

She died in 1954, leaving behind a remarkable career in American arts and will forever be remembered by the works she left behind in Connecticut and throughout the United States.

In 1994, she was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame in the Arts and Humanity category. Her talents and contributions will not be forgotten for as long as people continue to gaze upon the iconic monuments she left behind.

the victory of mercy at loomis chaffee





Interview Tips & Questions

7 Common interview questions and how to be prepared for them

Story and Photo by Danielle Branch

Are you where you want to be? Whether you are looking for a new job, or just graduated and are looking for a job in your field, it never hurts to brush up on your interview skills.

2020 has opened many people's eyes to how susceptible we might be to hardships. While some interviewers may take an unconventional approach, most will result in an exchange of fairly common questions. Preparing yourself for those questions can help boost your confidence walking in and make you stand out from the other applicants.

Common Question 1.

"Tell me a little about yourself."

This question is meant to connect the dots between your cover letter and resume. If an interviewer is asking you this, fill in the blanks and let them understand why you made certain schooling and employment decisions, but do not use this question as an opportunity to discuss your cats or that one time you visited your family in New Jersey.

Common Question 2.

"What is your availability?"

Limited availability is one of the main reasons many people don't even get called to interview. Let yourself be as open and flexible as possible in this area. If they want you, they want you. You can sort out the details afterward.

Common Question 3.

"What are some of your strengths?"

Put modesty aside and don't be afraid to completely own this question. Analyze the areas where you really excel and help the interviewer understand what you bring to the table that others won't.

Common Question 4.

"What are some of your weaknesses?"

Many people try to disguise a strength as a weakness here, but that doesn't always pan out! If you say something like, "I'm a perfectionist and always work too hard" that might sound good in theory, but it doesn't show that you have the ability to honestly self-assess areas where you want to improve and grow. Choose a weakness that you're actually working on. We all have them!

Common Question 5.

"Why do you think you'd be a good fit for this position?"

Well, why are you there? This is a great opportunity to give reasons why you applied. Research the company and show interest in their mission and goals. Highlight why you will be a great contributor to their goals.



Interview Tips

1. Research the employer
2. Be prepared! Create a portfolio
3. Focus on your goals
4. Ask questions
5. Share your success stories
6. Take your time answering questions
7. Follow up!

Common Question 6.

"What are your future goals?"

Your answer should be focused on your long-term career goals within this company. If you want to climb the ladder, discuss the opportunities the initial position will pave the way for. This is another time where understanding the company's background will come in handy. Try to research the company's structure or plans for future expansion.

Common Question 7.

"Can you give an example of a time you worked well under pressure/had to deal with a difficult customer/situation?"

Questions like these are great for showcasing your adaptability. One of the most effective ways to answer these questions is by using the STAR method. Discuss the situation, task, action, and result. You will want to have specific scenarios in mind, this can be difficult to think of on the spot!

After any interview, it's a great idea to follow up and thank the interviewer for the opportunity to meet with them. This can be done with an email or a quick phone call. Don't underestimate the importance of a simple gesture like this, you want them to remember your name! Do your research, be prepared, and get out there. Chase your dream job before someone else is living it!





Essential Items for Go Bag

Hurricane Season

Some Steps to be Better Prepared

Story and Photo by Kim Stanford

The Atlantic Hurricane Season is from June 1st through November 30th. During this year's hurricane season, the North Eastern region of the United States has not been severely impacted by hurricanes but there is still a chance this region can face some dangerous weather.

This season has proved to be a busy one. So many tropical storms have formed over the Atlantic Ocean this year - the U.S. has run out of names. Out of the twenty-six letters, twenty-one letters were used to name the storms (Q, U, X, Y, and Z are not used). Now the U.S. is using letters from the Greek alphabet to name the storms. This is only the second time this has happened.

Ready.gov provides detailed guidelines for many types of emergencies and disasters. Since the hurricanes have been active this year and there are nearly two months remaining in the season, here are some steps to take to be better prepared for hurricane related emergencies.

It is not too late to prepare for this season and to be better prepared for next season.

- **Make an emergency plan. Make sure everyone knows the plan agreed upon. This will lesson any confusion if the time comes to execute – communication is important.**
- **Discuss shelter plans and evacuation routes. If it is advised to evacuate or the need to evacuate happens suddenly, some factors to consider are:**
 - ✓ Know the destination. Plan for different places to go (for instance; a hotel, a friend's house, or local shelter). Choose different routes to destination points. Practice evacuating with the household including the pets.
 - ✓ Know the local shelter areas. Make sure the shelter is open. If a public shelter is the destination, be aware there will be limited space because of COVID-19 restrictions. Additionally, to protect household members from contracting COVID-19, bring items such as masks (at least two per person), disinfectant, and hand sanitizer.
 - ✓ If someone in the household has a disability, be mindful extra help may be needed.
- **Make sure there are several ways to receive emergency alerts. Some alert systems to consider are:**
 - ✓ The FEMA app which can be downloaded. This provides real-time alerts from the National Weather Service.
 - ✓ Check to for local area community alerts and sign up to receive them.
 - ✓ Be cognizant of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA). These alerts require no sign up. Make sure these alerts can be received by a mobile device by checking mobile settings or talking with the mobile service provider.
- **Prepare important and financial documents. Make sure these documents are up to date and copied. These documents can include but are not limited to:**
 - ✓ Personal identifications,
 - ✓ Insurance documents,
 - ✓ Pet ID tags,
 - ✓ Bank statement, and
 - ✓ Birth certificate.
- **Have tech ready. Be sure mobile devices and backup chargers are fully charged.**
- **Prepare the house by clearing gutters and securing outdoor items to lessen property damage.**
- **Gather supplies and have them located where they can be quickly accessed (a go bag or storage container) or taken with (placed in truck or vehicle). Be sure to include items like:**
 - ✓ Medications,
 - ✓ First aid kits,
 - ✓ Masks and disinfectants,
 - ✓ Flashlights and batteries,
 - ✓ Plenty of water and food (non-perishables and ready to eat for loss of electricity),
 - ✓ Predetermined amount of cash,
 - ✓ Full tank of gas,
 - ✓ Pet supplies, and
 - ✓ Other items deemed necessary.
- **If there is no call to evacuate and plans are to shelter at home, be sure there is a secure room to stay in until the storm has passed.**

This information is a summary of steps to prepare for an emergency resulting from a hurricane. For a more comprehensive instructions on preparing for a hurricane, visit Ready.gov at <https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes#prepare>.

John Oliver vs. Danbury, Connecticut

A humorous feud that may help Connecticut gain a major donation

Story and Photos by Maiquynh Truong

John Oliver, a British comedian turned late night host for HBO's award-winning news satire program *Last Week Tonight* is no stranger to making funny and/or detrimental remarks about anyone, any place, or anything.

However, for the last few weeks, Oliver focused on bashing a town in Connecticut that set forth a war of words. Fortunately, this war ended in delightful results.

The feud began on August 16th, when Oliver mentioned Connecticut in a 20 minute video focusing on the U.S. juries. Oliver commented on the state's defective juror summon system that left out the state's largest minority cities: Hartford and New Britain.

During his usual comedic spiel, and after presenting a serious issue, Oliver went on to say that, "... if you're going to forget a town in Connecticut, why not forget Danbury?"

Oliver followed the jab with a short, profanity filled rant of ironic compliments about the town's features before ending with a campy insult to Danbury's residents, telling them that they, "got a standing invite to get a thrashing from John Oliver-- children included."

Oliver's statement quickly circulated within Connecticut and made its way into the local news. Danbury's residents, offended that their beloved town's name was dragged through the mud, took to the internet to fire back at Oliver's critical quips.

Casey Bryant, a member of the town's youth hockey team, The Danbury Hat Tricks, made his own satirical video mirroring John Oliver's format, rhythm, and delivery titled "Defending Danbury" on YouTube. In the clip, Bryant made fun of Oliver's unimpressive comedy career before his big break on HBO and went on to showcase the town's stellar sports team.

Besides Bryant, other Danbury youth and residents also went online and on the local news to voice their defense of the town. All in true John Oliver's fashion of humor coated insults to the aforementioned Last Week Tonight host.

The biggest and most surprising retaliation however came from Mark Boughton, the mayor of Danbury.

On August 22nd, Boughton released a video on Facebook of himself standing by the backdrop of the Danbury's sewage plant. In a serious but friendly tone, the mayor said, "We are going to rename it the John Oliver Memorial Sewer Plant... Why? Because it's full of crap just like you, John."

Two weeks after the original clip that spurred multiple responses to HBO from the quaint Connecticut town, Oliver once again commented on Danbury during his Last Week Tonight program.

In the video, Oliver applauds the town's sense of humor and their creative yet biting jeers at his expense. "And I love everything about this" said Oliver after seeing mayor Boughton's response "not just because it is a superb joke, but I know just how valuable that poop factory is to Danbury."

Boughton's follow up local news interview stating that his offer to rename the sewage plant as simply a gag prompted Oliver to call out Danbury's cowardliness, insisting that he's fully committed to the joke and wants his name to be on the plant.

To initiate the deal, Oliver offered to donate \$55,000 to Connecticut where; \$25,000 would be sent to the Connecticut Food Bank, another \$25,000 to fulfill requests from Danbury teachers through Donors Choose, and \$5,000 to the ASL Association, to sponsor the Danbury Hat Tricks channel.

Oliver challenged the Mayor, giving the town one week to decide whether they will solidify their proposition to rename the sewage plant after him.

On September 7, after walking out of a portable bathroom, Boughton once again resumed his stance in front of the Danbury sewage plant.

In the video, Boughton accepts the host's candid offer with the condition that Oliver "will be physically present" during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"A deal is a deal," said the Mayor before, quipping that if Oliver does not show, he will at least have a portable 'John' name after him.

In a virtual interview with Variety, immediately after receiving his 5th Emmy Award on September 20th, Oliver was asked by a caller from Connecticut if he would dedicate his win to Danbury, CT.

Oliver laughed and went on to explain that he had been engaged in a deal with the aforementioned town through an extensive comedy bit.

"My dream is to have a sewage plant name after me in Danbury, Connecticut—and I'm close, I feel like I'm real close," said Oliver.



John Oliver on HBO video screenshot from Youtube



The Celebrations are Different, but the Spirit is the Same

National Hispanic Heritage Month Inspires Communities Despite COVID-19

Story and Photos by Sarah Walsh

Sept. 15 marked the start of National Hispanic Heritage Month. The observation, celebrated through festivals, community gatherings, conferences, art shows and more, is an annual recognition of the histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx American citizens. This year, celebrations are different for many people because of coronavirus travel and group regulations.

“We usually celebrate by listening to our music and looking at really cool Hispanic art, which can be very inspiring, and we usually celebrate it with the whole family and getting all the yummy, yummy food,” said Darlene Vasquez, 22, of Stamford, Connecticut.

Her mother, Rubelia Vasquez, 56, is from Colombia, and her father, Leonel Vasquez, 56, is from Guatemala. This year, they’re celebrating apart due to travel restrictions.

Sept. 15 is an anniversary of independence from Spain for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico celebrates its Independence Day on Sept. 16 and Chile celebrates on Sept. 18.

Francisco Loredó, 34, who lives in Westerly, Rhode Island, used to celebrate Independence Day with his family in Mexico with food and music on the night of Sept. 15. Their celebrations continued into Sept. 16.

“When people are gathered, you really get this vibe of patriotism which, oddly enough, is not seen much in Mexico,” Loredó said.

First introduced in June, 1968, by California congressman George E. Brown, National Hispanic Heritage Month began as National Hispanic Heritage Week. Throughout the 1960s, during the civil rights movement, when the United States was confronting its identity as a cultural melting pot, a push for recognition of the Latinx and Hispanic communities was growing.

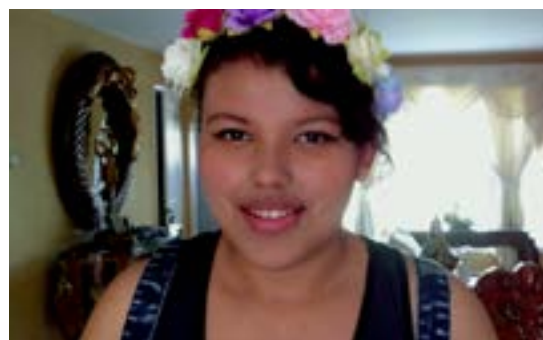
Brown represented East Los Angeles and a significant portion of San Gabriel Valley, areas largely populated by Hispanic communities. He thought it necessary to recognize their role in American history.

Under President Lyndon B. Johnson, Hispanic Heritage Week was made a national observation in 1968.

In 1987, Californian Representative Estaban E. Torres proposed expanding the observance to a month to “properly observe and coordinate events and activities to celebrate Hispanic culture and achievement.”

In 1988, Sen. Paul Simon submitted a similar bill, signed into law by President Ronald Reagan Aug. 17, 1988. Belize gained Independence from Great Britain on Sept. 21, 1981 and because Columbus Day, or Día de la Raza, is on Oct. 12, Hispanic Heritage Month ends Oct. 15.

Since Loredó moved to the United States from Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico in 2016, he hasn’t been able to celebrate Mexico’s Independence Day. He became aware of National Hispanic Heritage Month through his wife, Jamie McCutcheon, 37, who works as an event coordinator at a community college.



Darlene Vasquez



Francisco Loredó

“I didn’t even know it was this month,” Loredó said. “I feel like it doesn’t get as much attention as other celebrations of diversity, like Pride or Black History Month.”

Loredó moved to North Stonington, Connecticut because his wife lived there and because he was able to find financial stability and establish a family more quickly than he could have in Mexico. He and McCutcheon met online and dated for six years before he moved.

“She came to visit as often as she could and I tried to come visit her with a tourist visa but got denied because I had not been at my job long enough,” Loredó said.

After he proposed, she requested to bring him to the U.S. with a K1 visa, which allowed him a one-time pass through customs and 90 days to get married and begin the permanent residency process. He could not leave the country until the process was finalized.

It was frustrating.

“You can’t work or volunteer or anything until you get approved and there is a lot of red tape to go through. And then knowing I couldn’t leave the country to visit my family back in Mexico was rough too. I was hoping there was not going to be bad news more than ever.”

Normally, Loredó visits his family in Mexico once a year. This year, he wanted to go twice but the coronavirus pandemic made that impossible.

Vasquez will not be able to celebrate like she normally would either. Her mother, who usually plans the celebrations, has been stuck in Colombia since the pandemic began.

“I’ll probably end up doing something on my own,” Vasquez said.

Despite the restrictions of COVID-19, Loredó hopes to find ways to celebrate as well.

“I will definitely try to find any events that might interest me to help raise awareness and celebrate my heritage of course,” he said.

Both Vasquez and Loredó feel National Hispanic Heritage Month is important for their cultures.

“I think it’s good to celebrate diversity as much as we can,” Loredó said. “Whether it’s a day, a week, or a month, it’s important to raise awareness, especially in moments of such division as we’re going through.”

“It’s good that we get recognition from our communities,” Vasquez said. “...As long as we are proud of who we are and where we came from, our spirit will never go down.”



Latin America collage



Skatepark Etiquette

A introduction to the Groton Skatepark

Story and Photos by Joseph Victorino



Leon Chavez, 19, has been skating at the Groton Skatepark for about 9 years.

Skatepark etiquette can be hard to pick up on, but those at the Groton Skatepark will create a warm welcome. Most instances of collision can be avoided when all parties are able to make the clear judgement on whose turn it is. Though, in the case with children, typically you have to take the initiative and actively try to work around them.

“It’s a good Community to be a part of and we all like a similar thing and that’s skateboarding.” Said Leon Chavez.

Now is the perfect time to get involved with the park. Douglas says that today’s demographic at the park is the healthiest it has ever been.

He says that overall, skateboarding has been changing for the better. Douglas says that due to skateboarding increase in popularity, it is no longer niche. The culture is branching out and is being in new people, welcoming a new wave of inclusivity.

Douglas said that when he was younger, he and others were afraid of getting in the way of the older skaters. He says that they now try to do the opposite as adults and try to make the park a welcoming environment.

“Regardless of who you are, what you like, who you prefer, once you come into this park, all that matters is your interest in skating.” Said Robinson.

Going anywhere for the first time can be frightening, especially if that place involves people speeding around in a concrete playground. Fret naught, however, as anyone who wants to skate can reduce those feelings of concern by just taking a little time to understand the environment.

Justin Robinson, 30, says that preventing collision comes down to your own self-awareness. “We look at each other and we figure out who is going in rotation.” Robinson said.

The skatepark is just one giant intersection, with everyone taking turns on having the right of way.

Leon Chavez, 19, said that the process of looking around and waiting your turn is just part of skatepark etiquette. He said that looking out for other skaters is what makes you a good skater.

AJ Douglas, 22, said that due to the anatomy of the park, skaters are more likely to just keep repeating their lines.

Chavez said that throughout his 9 years skating at the Groton Skatepark, the biggest issue throughout was skaters not looking where they were going.

Aerial View of the Groton Skatepark



September 19: Talk Like a Pirate Day

The Mystic Seaport Museum and the Canterbury Craig Memorial Library celebrated Talk Like a Pirate Day

Story by Francisco Loreda

On Saturday, September 19 the Free Men of the Sea will be hosting the event from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Chubs Wharf, where children of all ages will enjoy “Story Time with a Pirate”, at the Mystic Seaport Museum. The Canterbury Craig Memorial Library will be giving away craft bags at the Children’s Desk.

What is the International Talk Like a Pirate Day and why is it that some places celebrate it? Well, here’s some back story on how the creators of the holiday came up with the idea.

Talk like a pirate day is a celebration that started in June, 1995. John Baur and Mark Summers decided to start the holiday because it would be fun to dress up like pirates and talk like them too.

John Baur, from St. Louis, MO remembers on his own blog, www.talklikeapirate.com how him and Summers were playing racquetball “not well, but gamely” and all of a sudden they started using some “friendly encouragement to each other”. Words like “Damn, you bastard!” and “Oh, jeez my hamstring!”.

“On this day, for some reasons we still don’t quite understand, we started giving our encouragement in pirate slang”, Baur recalls. He believes it all started with an “Arrr”. Baur says that they “decided then and there that what the world really needed was a new national holiday, Talk Like a Pirate Day”.

For several years, Bauer and Summers celebrated Talk Like a Pirate Day on their own, after they had decided to make the official date for the day September 19 (Summer’s ex wife’s birthday). Their friend Brian Rhodes, who took it upon himself to be the official reminder of the holiday would let Baur and Summers know it was the day until one day they decided to contact Dave Barry, a syndicated columnist, with the idea of promoting the holiday for them.

After an exchange of emails with Barry, they got a phone call from Barry’s editor, wanting to talk to Baur. After that, “all hell broke loose” Baur said.

Movies Aren't Just for Entertainment

A Course Review

Story by Elizabeth Exley

Do you remember when you were little and the teacher would put on a movie instead of class for the day? What if I told you there is a whole class dedicated to watching movies in order to learn history about the world? Well there is and it's right here at Three Rivers Community College called "World History Through Film" taught by Peter Patsouris.

History can be a hard subject to learn and for some is incredibly boring, but if taught the right way, it can be quite engaging. I always struggled trying to remember every date and name we would read about in all my history classes growing up so I was not looking forward to taking another one.

After looking through all the history courses TRCC offered, I came across Professor Patsouris' class and was immediately intrigued. How could I not be excited about a class where we watch movies every time? For anyone who is a visual learner, like myself, taking this course will make history way more fun to learn about.

The movies he showed varied from action packed Samurai fights and gang wars to tear jerking stories of a young boy and his sister in the middle of World War II. Every movie had a lesson about what it was like to live during a specific time period in that part of the world.

For example, Grave of the Fireflies is a heart wrenching story of the human costs World War II brought on in Japan when the bombs devastated a teenage boy and his little sister's home. A sad, but true story that has stuck with me ever since we watched it. Movies like that are incredibly moving and worth the watch.

Professor Patsouris is a very understanding teacher and will help you as much as he can to better your experience. My first impression of him was that he clearly loves what he does and teaches, which made for a great classroom dynamic.



Peter Patsouris

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Most history classes have been my least favorite, but the way he brought it to life by showing us these movies showed me how incredible it can be. This course does mean watching a movie every class, however, that doesn't mean that's all you do. Every other week he would assign a prompt for us to research and write a paper on.

Each prompt has to do with the time period that the movie or documentary we watched that day was based on so we could get a deeper learning experience.

These papers took a decent amount of time to write and had a lot of requirements, but it taught me how to research and write better.

I have always loved watching movies, both fiction and non-fiction, so it seemed like a no brainer when I found this class. Anyone who is looking for something beyond what the normal classroom experience is like, I would highly recommend taking Professor Patsouris' "World History Through Film" course.



Peter Patsouris

Why McConnell Should Withhold Voting on Nominations for the Next Supreme Court Justice Until the Next Presidential Term

Story and photos by Joseph Victorino

Ruth Bader Ginsberg's passing not only left us the legacy of a powerful woman, but also her seat as a Supreme Court Justice. This has left much of the nation wondering who will fill the vacancy left by Ginsberg.

Without her, the ratio of conservatives and liberals in the Court is five to three. The Supreme Court is one of the ways Executive and Judicial powers are both "checked and balanced". Thus, with the Court currently swaying conservative, an additional seat on their side will surely dismantle the legacy Ginsberg fought so hard for.

The next nominee will have an immense impact on how decisions will be made on issues brought to the Court in the future. With Ginsberg passing only 46 days away from the 2020 presidential election, it begs the question on who will nominate her replacement. McConnell has decided in the past regarding Supreme Court nominations during a presidential election cycle, there should be no vote held until after November 3rd.

McConnell voided any presidential nominations only an hour after Scalia's passing, echoing from the 1992 "Biden Rule" in which Joe Biden "urged President George H.W. Bush to withhold any nominees to the high court until the end of the "political season" (via npr.org). Going off of this logic, the same course of actions should be applied to the current RBG situation. It was not until McConnell put the idea into action in 2016 that the rule had seen success. In essence, McConnell set the precedent.

This November, not only is President Trump at chance of losing his reelection attempt, but also 35 Senate seats will be up for election. Twenty-three of those seats are held by republicans. Therefore, despite McConnell using conservative governmental unity to justify his decision to support Trump's nomination, this may not even last.

McConnell goes on to debunk these claims about his 2016 decision. On the Senate floor, he reads a quote from himself in 2016. He stated that the Senate has not filled a vacant seat arising in an election year whilst in divided government since 1888. This makes sense, although in making this argument, McConnell adopted a "let the people decide" rhetoric. Therefore, why does "let the people decide" matter in 2016, but not during 2020 where we too are in an election year.

McConnell's recent argument on the matter is that there is more than enough time to get a new Supreme Court Judge into office. On the Senate floor, McConnell goes on to listing previously elected Justices and how expedient their confirmations were. At the time of the hearing, McConnell mentions that there are 43 days left until the presidential election, and discusses how many late justice's confirmation periods, such as John Paul Stevens, and even Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

On another note, to echo a sentiment made in 2016 by Texas Senator Ted Cruz on Twitter:

"Justice Scalia was an American hero. We owe it to him, & the Nation, for the Senate to ensure that the next President names his replacement."

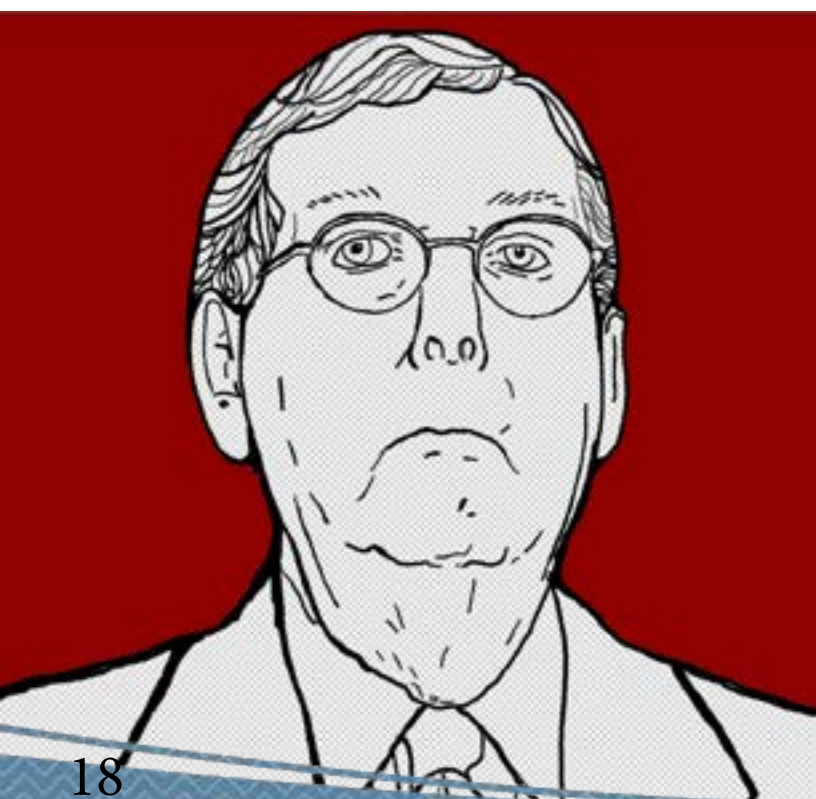
Ruth Bader Ginsberg was a pioneer for gender equality and women's rights. She fought valiantly for the equal treatment of human beings. We owe it to her, and the Nation, for the Senate to ensure that the next President names her replacement.

In the words of Mitch McConnell, "The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice. Therefore, this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president."



Ruth Bader Ginsberg has left a mountain of a legacy behind in her passing. From co-founding the Women's Rights Project at the ACLU, to becoming the second female professor at Rutgers, to winning five of the six Supreme Court cases she had fought, Ginsberg was a pioneer for human rights and left a lasting mark on the ground she walked on. Although, with her death, she has also left us with an immense responsibility; occupying her vacant Supreme Court Justice position with someone of her caliber. (Illustration by Joseph Victorino)

The decision on whether the Senate holds a vote on Trump's prospective nominee for the next Supreme Court Justice is endowed upon Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell. In 2016, McConnell blocked Barack Obama's appointment of Merrick Garland. Although, as of current, McConnell says he will be holding a vote on whomever Trump decides to nominate. Ultimately, Mitch McConnell should hold to his word and allow the presidential election to conclude prior to opening the Senate floor to a vote on a Supreme Court nominee. (Illustration by Joseph Victorino)



Under the burden of homework, it can be difficult for students to spend time searching for the best tools to help their success. Many applications exist to help students navigate the college workload, from notetaking to math to time management, and more. Here is a guide to some of the free software and programs which can help students manage the college grind.

Notetaking

- LibreOffice

LibreOffice is a free and open-source office suite that consists of programs for word processing, slideshows, diagram and drawings, spreadsheets, working with databases, and composing mathematical formulas. It saves files in Open Document Format (ODF) and runs on Windows, macOS, Linux, Android, and IOS. Its programs function similarly to Microsoft Office programs and it is available in 115 languages.
<https://www.libreoffice.org/discover/libreoffice/>
- AbiWord

AbiWord is an exceptionally light, free, open-source word processor. Features include: lists, indents and character formats, as well as tables, styles, page headers and footers, footnotes, templates, multiple views, page columns, spell checking, and grammar checking. A benefit of AbiWord is that it is fully customizable with several different plugins to extend its capabilities, such as format converters, document importers, and image importers.
<https://abiword.en.softonic.com/download>

LibreOffice home page



Do more - easier, quicker, smarter

LibreOffice is a free and powerful office suite, and a successor to OpenOffice.org (commonly known as OpenOffice).



FreeMat download page

Reading

- Skim

Skim is a PDF reader and note-taker for macOS 10.7 or higher. It is designed for reading and annotating scientific papers. It can add and edit notes, make “snapshots” for easy reference, give presentations with built-in transitions, provide helpful previews of internal links, export notes as text, and much more. It is also customizable.
<https://skim-app.sourceforge.io/>
- Foxit Reader

Foxit Reader is a PDF reader with a variety of annotation tools. It includes an e-signature feature and allows document tracking that will give notifications about who accessed the file, what actions they performed, and what pages they looked at. Foxit even has a feature called JAWS (Job Access With Speech) compatibility which allows blind and visually impaired users to read the screen either with a text-to-speech output or by a refreshable Braille.
<https://www.foxitsoftware.com/pdf-reader/>

Writing and Grammar

- LaTeX

LaTeX is a high-quality type-setting system designed for research papers. It is most commonly used for medium-to-large technical or scientific documents, but it can be used for nearly any form of publishing. LaTeX capabilities include typesetting of books, articles and mathematical formulas, control over large documents containing sectioning, cross-references, tables and figures, and automatic generation of bibliographies and indexes.
<https://www.latex-project.org/>
- CorrectEnglish

CorrectEnglish is a browser tool and iOS/Android app that corrects writing mistakes by checking for contextual and spelling errors, word suggestions, and 63,000 advanced grammar rules. It can be configured in 9 languages. This is all included for up to 250 words in the free plan. The professional plan for \$24.00/month is unlimited and includes conversion to MLA, APA, and other formats, plagiarism checks, and document collaboration.
<https://www.correctenglish.com/#plans>

Student learning online



File Management

1. PDF SAM

PDF SAM Basic is free and can merge, split, rotate, and mix PDF files. Input PDF files can be merged completely or partially. A page selection can be set in the form of comma, letting the user specify what pages they want to merge for every input PDF file. It can also extract pages. It allows for bookmarking and can even create a table of contents. PDF SAM is available for Windows, Mac, and Linux.

<https://pdfsam.org/>

2. Clonezilla

Clonezilla is a disk imaging and cloning program useful for system deployment, bare metal backup and recovery. There are three Clonezilla options: Clonezilla live, Clonezilla lite server, and Clonezilla SE (server edition). Clonezilla live is suitable for single machine backup and restore. Clonezilla lite server or SE can clone several computers simultaneously.

<https://clonezilla.org/>

Staying organized in college is easier with the right software, especially when that software is free. For students seeking to make the most of their education without breaking the bank, this list is a good place to start.

Math

1. SageMath

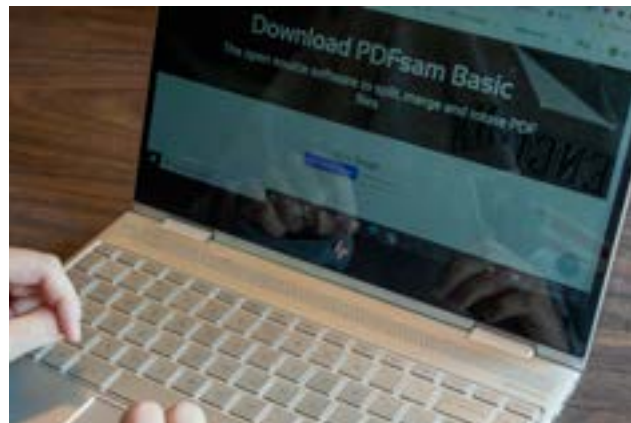
SageMath is a free open-source mathematics software system with features covering algebra, combinatorics, graph theory, numerical analysis, number theory, calculus and statistics. Both binaries and source code are available for SageMath from the download page.

<https://www.sagemath.org/>

2. FreeMat

FreeMat is a numerical computing environment for rapid engineering and scientific processing. It is similar to MATLAB, but it is free and open-source. Its features include a codeless interface to external C/C++/FORTRAN code, parallel/distributed algorithm development (via MPI), and advanced volume and 3D visualization capabilities.

<http://freemat.sourceforge.net/>



Fluff Up Your Savings This Fall

Easy tips to start saving, now

Story by Danielle Branch

It is recommended that individuals have 3-6 months of rent, utilities and expenses saved up in case of an emergency. Not sure where to start? Here are some easy tips to help you start saving today.

1. Set goals

Whether you're saving up for a new pair of shoes, a car, or an emergency fund, putting your goals down on paper is a great way to stay on track.

2. Budget

And then funnel your excess into your savings. You don't want to keep your money all in one place, it becomes much easier to simply swipe your savings away. Savings accounts will also generally earn a higher interest rate than your checking account, so your money will go further!

3. Treat your savings account as a bill-Pay it first! Or set it up automatically through your bank

4. There's an app for that! Apps like Acorn and Qapital offer foolproof methods and challenges to get your savings started. There are challenges that will transfer \$1 the first week, \$2 the next etc. Over the course of one year you'll stack up nearly \$1400. Then there is the round up feature that automatically transfers any spare change from purchases into your savings account by rounding to the nearest dollar. It's that easy.

5. Cashback & reward apps. Apps like Wikibuy and Earny will automatically price match things you've purchased and refund the difference. Other apps reward users for watching videos or taking surveys with gift cards, there is a lot of untapped territory here!

6. Put bonuses and overtime aside. You'll thank yourself later.

7. Do a 30 day no spend challenge. What is it about challenges that make us more apt to stick to something? Whatever it is, it works! Skip the daily trip to Starbucks and stay out of retail for 30 days, you'll be impressed with how much you save.

8. Everything in your home and closet used to be money! Consider selling unused items on thredUP for things in your closet or The RealReal for higher end items.

You never know when an emergency or major purchase might arise. Get creative with your methods and take control of your savings!



In 'Parable of the Sower', Hope is Revived Amid the Fear and Chaos of a Prophetic Dystopia

A Book Review

Story and Photos by Sarah Walsh

I have yet to read a novel by Octavia E. Butler that doesn't challenge American society on the deepest level. *Parable of the Sower* does so in a raw, intelligent criticism that is half dystopia, half reality.

Parable of the Sower is a profoundly compelling work of science fiction, rich with detail and more relevant now than perhaps ever before. Published in 1993 by Warner Books, the novel follows teenaged heroine, Lauren Olamina, as she travels across a ravished United States to seed a new religion from the country's ashes.

The book is written in a first-person narrative style as excerpts in Lauren's journal. Each entry is dated and follows a verse that describes an element of her religion. The first entry is dated 2024.

In a dystopia only four years ahead of our own time, and written nearly two decades before, the novel darkly foreshadows changes in our nation. Lauren Olamina's America is one where large companies and corporations own towns, providing work for a few wealthy communities while others hide behind walls that shield them from the mobs of forgotten homeless ravaging the country in desperation, crazy on a new drug that causes addiction to setting fires.



Verse from
*Parable of
the Sower*

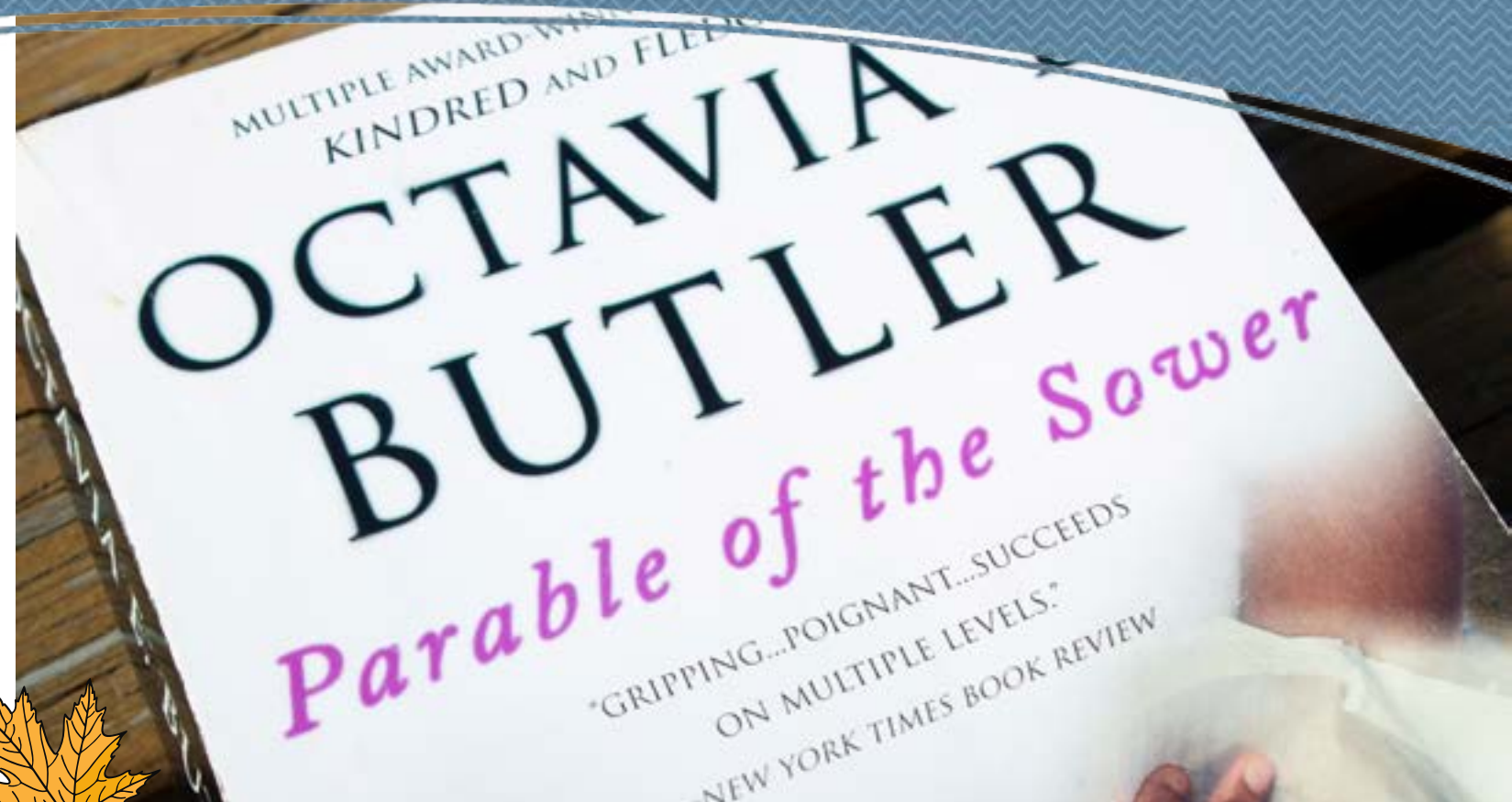
Toward the beginning of the novel, on Nov. 6, 2024, a man named Christopher Charles Morpeth Donner is elected president. President Donner wants to "suspend overly restrictive minimum wage, environmental, and worker protection laws" and to end the "wasteful, pointless, unnecessary" Mars expeditions in which scientists have been researching how to terraform the planet. Earth has become an erratic wasteland under the effects of climate change.

Smart, cautious, and determined, Lauren is a complex protagonist who kept me engaged from start to finish. Her father is a preacher, but she doesn't believe in the fire and brimstone god of the bible. Lauren's god is change itself. Her god is shaped by humanity.

Her religion gives her comfort in a time of instability and loss. She is a sharer, born with hyperempathy syndrome that gives her the delusion of feeling the pain and pleasure of others. Her religion helps her to cope with this ability as well, by letting her see everything as change and change as hope.

Arrestingly unpredictable, the novel kept me wondering what would happen, when, and to whom. People die and disappear in rapid escalation until Lauren's whole town is burned. When it happens, about halfway through the book, Lauren is one of only a few to escape.

In the second half of the book, Lauren is joined by two other survivors from her community, a tough, wary woman named Zahra, and a critical, idealistic man named Harry, who remain her companions as they travel north to find work.



Parable of the Sower cover
close-up

Along the way they're joined by a young couple with a baby, a mysterious man who was once a doctor, two escaped slaves and their children, and a pair of sisters who burned their own home.

Each of the characters is compelling and relatable. They all have their own flaws and their own perspectives on the dystopian society they live in, as well as on Earthseed, Lauren's new religion.

Like the other Butler novels I've read, *Kindred* and *Lillith's Brood*, *Parable of the Sower* addresses issues of race and sex as well as culture as a whole. Mixed racial groups get negative attention in a world where people exclude others and distrust everyone. Lauren is African American, and the people she travels with come from a variety of racial backgrounds. Their ability to band together and support each other speaks to the novel's greater theme of building community in the face of catastrophe.

Parable of the Sower bluntly confronts humanity's capacity for cruelty. Yet, the message is one of hope. It's up to us. Through Lauren's act of kindness, she finds comrades. She returns the stolen belongings of the young couple and earns their trust, and she saves the two sisters who join the group later, gaining their loyalty as well.

Her acts of selflessness preserve the sense that a new start is possible, that humanity may not be doomed to endless violence after all, and from those acts, bonds, and caring communities, can still be formed.

Parable of the Sower can be purchased online or at Barnes & Noble or Target stores, or checked out from the Guilford Free Library, or Mystic & Noank Library.



Crazy Crust Pizza

Recipe provided by: plainchicken.

Photos by Kim Stanford



Pepperoni Bacon Chirizo Baked Into Crust

Enjoy pizza made from home without rolling any dough. Create a pizza with your favorite toppings. This recipe takes approximately 10 minutes to prepare and 30 minutes to cook.

This pizza can be enjoyed anytime, and the combinations are limitless. Since it is easy and quick to make, this can be a go meal idea.

Enjoy!

Ingredients:

- ✓ 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ✓ 1 tsp salt
- ✓ 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- ✓ 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- ✓ 2 eggs
- ✓ 2/3 cups milk
- ✓ 1/2 pound pork sausage cooked
- ✓ 1 cup pepperoni slices
- ✓ 1/3 cup diced cooked ham
- ✓ 1 and 1/2 cups pizza sauce
- ✓ 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 425°F. Lightly spray a 15x10-inch rimmed baking sheet with cooking spray. Set aside.
2. Whisk together flour, salt, Italian seasoning, pepper, eggs, and milk.
3. Pour into prepared baking sheet. Top with sausage, pepperoni, and ham.
4. Bake for 20 minutes.
5. Remove from oven. Spread pizza sauce evenly on pizza and top with mozzarella cheese.
6. Return to oven and bake 10 to 15 minutes, until cheese is bubbly.



Pouring Liquid Batter

Spreading Batter



Smartphone Photography:

Tips on How to Take a Better Picture

Story and Photos by Kim Stanford

There are plenty of filters and apps to enhance smartphone pictures. But a properly lit, well-composed, and in-focus photo will reduce the need for using filters to improve an image.

Here are some tips to help improve photographs:

Tip 1:

Make sure the image is in focus. An out of focus or blurry picture is simply unappealing to look at.

Set the focus. Although smartphone cameras automatically focus on the foreground, this may not be the point of interest. To correct this, when the camera app is launched, tap on the desired subject - the app will refocus on new area.

This can be helpful when shooting a moving subject. Before taking the picture, tap on the screen and a square or circle will appear indicating the new focal point.

Tip 2:

Set up the shot. Composition can greatly improve a photograph.

Instead of having the subject in the center of the picture. Try using the “rule of thirds”. With this rule, the screen is divided into nine equal squares. Before taking the picture, place the subject on one of the intersecting lines to give the picture more balance and appeal.

The nine sections can be approximated, or the settings can be changed to have the guidelines appear.

For the iPhone: Settings > Camera > Grid (hit toggle button to turn on).

For Samsung Galaxy: With the camera app open, scroll to grid lines and turn on.

These guidelines will help in composing a better and more interesting picture.

Tip 3:

Try to use natural lighting whenever possible. Avoid using a flash since it can cast strange shadows and make the subject look unnatural.

When taking pictures outside, try to be positioned between the subject and the sun. This positioning will reduce shadows on the point of interest.

Try taking pictures during the “golden hour”, a time shortly after sunrise and shortly before sunset. The sun cast a softer light during these times and can add amazing affects to the image.

Tip 4:

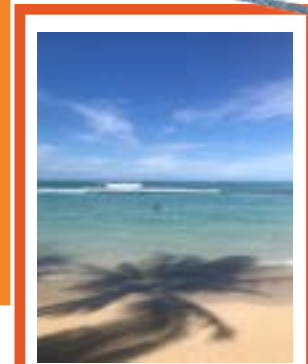
If possible, have one subject or one main focal point. Try not to have the subject fill the entire frame. Use the “rule of thirds” to have the subject to stand out. To be sure the subject is in the focus, tap the subject to refocus.

The use of negative space (the space surrounding the subject) can improve a photo. A picture does not have to be full of “stuff.” This can distract the viewer from the intended subject. The subject matter can be greatly enhanced when it is surrounded by negative space.

Close Up Shot Using a Smartphone



Close Up Shot Using a Smartphone



Use of Shadows Using a Smartphone

Tip 5:

To make a photograph more interesting, try different perspectives. Instead of a straight on shot, try different angles. Experiment with these different angles:

- Worm’s-eye view: A low angle shot that can make the subject look larger than normal.
- Bird’s-eye view: A high angle shot that can make the subject look smaller than normal.
- Extreme close up: This shot goes beyond a close up and allows for catching the details. Avoid zooming in because this can cause a grainy affect. Try to get physically close to the subject.
- Extreme long shot: This shot works well for landscape shots.
- Dutch angle: Hold the phone at a skewed angle, this can redefine the picture.
- Combining some of these angles can enhance the pictures further.

While keeping these tips in mind, try some of these ideas for interesting shots.

- Point the phone straight up, this can produce interesting shots especially when done in a city or wooded area. If elevated, shot straight down.
- Make use of reflections. Sunglasses, a puddle, a still lake, a drop of water, a glass of water or white wine, a mirrored or metallic surface can create an appealing photograph.
- Play with shadows or capture sunlight coming through a window.
- Look for lines and repeating shapes as in a spiral staircase.

Here are some steps that can be taken to improve a selfie shot.

1. Look up towards the camera.
2. Extend your head away from your neck for the appearance of a longer neck and sharper jaw line.
3. Try taking the picture from an angle.
4. Make sure the face is not too close to the camera.
5. Exhale while snapping the shot. This will prevent the lips from looking tense.
6. Be aware of the background.
7. The pose is all set, move the phone around to find the best light.
8. Keep the selfie natural looking, minimize the use of filters.

Although filters and apps can improve an image, it cannot replace taking a great picture that can stand on its own.

Most importantly, have fun with it!



Matcha Latte is Trending

Starbucks or Dunkin', Which company makes it the best?

Story and Photos by Maiqyunh Truong

Matcha, a Japanese term for pure, high grade green tea leaves that are ground into a fine powder, has been a staple in many East Asian cuisine. With the rise of Japanese and Korean pop culture in the west, matcha too had made it ways into the social consciousness of the United State.

Known for it many health benefits such as antioxidant qualities, promoting heart health, aids in brain function and even helpful for weight loss, matcha is a healthier alternative to coffee if you are looking for that needed caffeine boost.

Matcha tea is a traditional East Asian drink that has turned into a popular North America refreshment. It had made its way into two of the largest drink franchises: Starbucks and Dunkin' and is features on their menu in the form of matcha latte.

But which one is better? On a scale of one tea leaves to five tea leaves, a taste test is performed to rank the quality of each company's version of a matcha latte. Though surprisingly, a third and more beneficial alternative might give these two drinks giant a run for their money.

A cup of Dunkin medium iced matcha latte



-STARBUCKS-

Starbucks is among the first mainstream company to introduce the Matcha Green Tea Latte, which can be served hot or over ice.

A Starbucks Tall iced matcha latte is price at \$4.75, a 12 oz size cup that contains two small scoops of matcha powder, the customer choice of milk, sweetener, and ice.

Though the taste of the drink depends on the barista's handling of the mixture and the customer's preferences on sweetness, the Starbucks matcha latte is not quite as stellar as their brand's name suggested.

Even though the flavor of green tea is there, it is lacking in impact. The milk to powder ratio is not ideal, leaving the drink to be more latte than matcha. And when combined with ice, the mixture tastes even more bland and water down.

For almost five dollars a cup, it is rather expensive for a lackluster experience of a true matcha latte. Starbucks may be the reigning king of franchise coffee, but their Matcha Green Tea Latte certainly needs more work.



A cup of Starbucks tall iced matcha green tea latte

-DUNKIN'-

Following the example set by Starbucks, Dunkin' added their own brew of matcha latte to the menu a few months later. At \$4.71 for a medium cup that is two oz larger than the one offers by their competitor; customers do get more for what they pay.

The taste of Dunkin's Iced Matcha Latte is slightly better since their mixture uses three scoops of the matcha power, giving the drink a stronger green tea flavor. The milk and sugar ratio are fair though a little more sweetness to balance the ice would be ideal.

None the less, for the money and the taste, Dunkin' version of the matcha latte would be a better choice if you are looking for a quick but tasty refreshment.

-HOME BREW- JADE LEAF-

Despite the convenience of having your drinks premixed, the most economical and personalize way to enjoy a matcha latte is to prepare it at home.

Due to its increase in popularity, matcha products are being sold at many major groceries stores like Stop & Shop, Target, and Walmart. But since they go through an intensive growing and refining process, matcha products fetch high prices at the market.

Online market is perhaps the easiest and the most convenient place to look for quality grade matcha powder. There is no short list of brands and that saturates the Amazon and a simple search will turns up a handful of results.

The current number one recommended brand on the site is Jade Leaf and their new Matcha Latte Premium Barista Crafted Mix powder mix can be purchase at \$10 for a package of 5.3 oz.

To make your own latte drink, simply add two teaspoons of the pre-made powder into a cup, add 1/4 cup of hot water, stirred then add one cup of your preference of hot milk or cold milk and ice.

Since you are your own barista, the freedom to cater the drink to your taste is a plus when it comes to a mix drink. You also have the option of adding your own favorite brand or type of milk and sweetener.

Therefore, if you are fan of matcha, instead of spending five dollars for a fairly decent matcha latte from Starbucks or Dunkin' to ease your sweet tooth or caffeine crave, why not try Jade Leaf Matcha Latte Premium Barista Crafted Mix and put away some cash for a rainy day?

Or better yet, enjoy warm, comforting homemade matcha latte on a rainy day.



Jadeleaf matcha powder mix and a cup of homemade matcha latte Jadeleaf matcha

Date Night 101

Socially distance, *together*

Story and Photos by Danielle Branch

Let's be real; there are only so many nights we can spend on the couch before it starts getting old. With COVID-19 looming and guidelines constantly changing, a night on the town might not be on anyone's schedule this fall. But it is possible!

As temperatures begin to drop and outdoor dining begins to lose its nostalgia, it might be time to get creative with fun and cozy ideas to stay connected to the ones who mean the most to us. Whether you're planning a night out with friends or your significant other, these ideas can help shed a little light as daylight savings closes in.

It is absolutely possible to stay connected, share the love, and still stay safe during a pandemic. Get creative, think outside the box, and give one of these a try!

Geocaching

You may have heard of it, but what is it? Geocaching is a real-life outdoor treasure hunt. Using an app, you can explore different locations and search for the geocache using a specific set of coordinates. Round up your friends, pack some water bottles, and spend an afternoon exploring.

Plan a trip to a Vineyard

Vineyards might be one of the most underrated venues. Many offer live music and a beautiful backdrop. The best part? Most are free to visit! Pack a blanket and a picnic and enjoy some time outdoors.

Vineyard



Play tourist in a neighboring town

Make reservations at that restaurant you've been dying to try and map out little shops, stores, or museums nearby. Strolling through an unfamiliar area can be an adventure in itself.

Drive in Movie

Yes, these are still a thing, and making a comeback! Drive in movies and concerts have been popping up more over the last several months. Drive in entertainment allows everyone to be socially distanced while still enjoying being out of the house. Bring some folding chairs and enjoy a night under the stars.

Chefs Night In

Pull up a YouTube video or a virtual cooking class and dine in! Whip up your favorite dish or try something new. The possibilities are endless. Feeling competitive? Each person can make the same dish and turn it into a cook off.

Photo from Shutterstock

UNDERTALE

Breaking the Fourth Wall

A Review of Undertale

Story by Elizabeth Exley

You want to play a game filled with monsters, humor, magic, and a storyline that will blow your mind? If you said yes, then "Undertale" is the game for you. This role-playing video game sucks you in right from the start by telling you the story of a kid who fell down a mountain. A different version of the same story is told based on how you play through the game: pacifist, genocide, or neutral.

I don't get to play many games anymore, but this one caught my eye and I couldn't help it. I didn't even know about the game until I watched a Youtuber Jacksepticeye play through and give each character a unique voice. Undertale was created by an indie game developer Toby Fox who put in a great sense of humor and bad puns into every character you meet. Each one has their own backstory and is somehow connected to each other. Toby Fox brought this game to life and made you feel as though it could be real.

You play as a kid that you name who fell down a hole in a mountain that leads to a completely different world called the Underground. This place is hidden just beneath the surface and is protected by a magical barrier you learn more about as you go. The Underground is filled with monsters that can either help you on your journey or take you down a path you wouldn't expect.

As you make your way through each town meeting all of those who live there, something suspicious follows your every move, but you can't quite tell who or what this is.

My favorite character in the game, like most who have played, is Sans the skeleton who seems a little more mysterious than he puts off. Sans cracks some bad jokes, but also knows everything that's going on before you even find out.

As much as I loved watching and playing it the first time all the way through, knowing how it ends makes playing it a second time even better. It's like watching your favorite movie over and over again because you know what happens, but you get to watch the foreshadowing and little details you would have missed the first time around.

Undertale will suck you into spending hours going through every crevice and you still wouldn't be able to find all of the hidden gems and secrets it holds. Some of them start out a little obvious, while others you have to really grind to get. Between the wonderfully dynamic characters, suiting soundtrack, and some secrets you will just have to play to find out, Undertale is a very well rounded game.



A Beginner's DIY guide to refinishing old furniture

Story and Photos by Francisco Loreda

Today, it is hard to come by a piece of furniture that is made of real wood. Those that are made of wood tend to be too expensive, especially when you are in a budget. Buying used furniture on Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist or even garage sales to then re finish it is a great alternative to renovate your home.

To refinish a piece of furniture, it is important that the surface is clean. So, using dish soap and water with a rag to get rid of any stickiness, dirt, or any other substances. Use a clean sponge to rinse off

After the piece is clean, checking for imperfections or damage is necessary to know if gluing or repairing with epoxy or wood filler will be necessary. If there is damage that requires repairing, a quick Google search will be helpful to know how to address the problem.

Clean and repaired, the furniture will be stripped from its previous finish. Older finish can be anything from paint, stains, and polyurethane. Sanding with a 60 to 80-grit paper will help remove any older finish, using chemical strippers will help with stubborn finish.



It is important to use safety equipment like a respirator when sanding



The end result will be a smooth surface with your desired stain color

After sanding with an 80-grit sanding paper, the piece needs to be sanded with a medium grit sandpaper, to smooth it out. Once the piece has been sanded with a medium grit, a fine grit sandpaper will be used throughout the whole piece of furniture. The result should be smooth to the touch.

Once sanded, the piece of furniture needs to be stained. Using a brush or a clean microfiber towel works well. Generally, staining, leaving it for a minute and then removing the excess with a clean towel/rag does the trick. After the stain dries, it is time for polyurethane.

Try using water-based polyurethane, it dries faster and its easier to work with. Just follow the instructions on the can. Ideally, after each coat of polyurethane, a light sanding with a 220-grit sandpaper and cleaning the excess dust is needed. Do as many coats of polyurethane as you think you need, once the polyurethane dries, your furniture should be ready to use.

Extra tip: Sometimes it takes polyurethane a couple of days to cure (even when it is dry), make sure to follow the instructions on the back of the can.

Hamilton: Awakening Patriotism

Story by Francisco Loreda

Hamilton tells the story of the United States Revolution and the early days of forming a government through the viewpoint of a lesser known founding father, Alexander Hamilton.

It starts with his humble beginnings, follows his life, and ends with his tragic death. Director Lin Manuel Miranda uses hip-hop and R&B mixed with deep lyrics to transport us back in time and immerse us in history in the making through the birth of a new nation.

Not only is the music genre unexpected for a Broadway musical, but one of the main things that caught the attention of many, was the use of a diverse ethnicity cast to portray a predominantly white society from the late 1700's.

Through the portrayal of its actors and choice of music, it manages to make historic characters suddenly relatable to a wider audience. An added benefit of watching the movie, over attending a live performance, is the talented use of lighting and camera angles which help bring the audience in closer, almost inside the characters minds.

The show's lighting design is crucial to help the spectators get immersed into the world of Hamilton.



The true wonder and strength of the musical lies not in its unprecedented and talented use of R&B and hip in a Broadway musical, nor in its use of such a diverse cast. It is in the effect on the audience.

For many marginalized people patriotism is not something that is felt often, or at all. It is a shame to say that many American citizens are made to feel unwelcome in their own country, particularly within today's highly polarized society.

Hamilton, however, has the ability to remind marginalized people that the United States is about so much more than the realities and hardships of present-day society, it stands for hope, idealism, and the promise of tomorrow. Hamilton is a reminder of how such sentiments brought about the birth of this country.

The idea that all men and women are created equal, that everyone has the right to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, this reminder brings about unfamiliar, yet welcome feelings of patriotism, it also has the power to inspire and motivate people that change is possible, and that it just takes a relatively small amount of (imperfect) people to enact change.

THE CURRENT CALENDER

Made by Joseph Victorino





THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Current



Drone Photo by Francisco
Loredo

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