



Kannapolis Rotarian

INTERIM BULLETIN

WEEK OF JUNE 8 – 14, 2020

We don't know how long the pandemic will alter and interfere with our lives. For the next several weeks this publication will contain what certain "thinkers" predict how society will be reordered permanently. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily shared by the editorial staff.

Today – "A New Civic Federalism" and "A Hunger For Diversion"

"A New Civic Federalism" by Archon Fung, a professor of citizenship and self-government at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Just as the trauma of fighting World War II laid the foundations for a stronger American government and national solidarity, the coronavirus crisis might sow the seeds of a new civic federalism, in which states and localities become centers of justice, solidarity and far-sighted democratic problem-solving. When we look back, we will see that some communities handled the crisis much better than others. We might well find that success came in states where government, civic and private-sector leaders joined their strengths together in a spirit of self-sacrifice for the common good.

Consider that the virology lab at the University of Washington far surpassed the CDC and others in bringing substantial COVID-19 testing early, when it was most needed. Some governors, mayors, education authorities and employers have led the way by enforcing social distancing, closing campuses and other places, and channeling resources to support the most vulnerable. And the civic fabric of some communities has fostered the responsibility and altruism of millions of ordinary citizens who have stayed home, lost income, kept their kids inside, self-quarantined, refrained from hoarding, supported each other, and even pooled medical supplies and other resources to bolster health workers. The coronavirus is this century's most urgent challenge to humanity. Harnessing a new sense of solidarity, citizens of states and cities will rise to face the enormous challenges ahead such as climate change and transforming our era of historic inequality into one of economic inclusion.

"A Hunger For Diversion" by Mary Frances Berry, a professor of American social thought, history and Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

Some trends already underway will probably accelerate—for example, using voice technology to control entryways, security and the like. In the short term, universities will add courses on pandemics, and scientists will devise research projects to improve forecasting, treatment and diagnosis. But history suggests another outcome, as well. After the disastrous 1918-19 Spanish flu and the end of World War I, many Americans sought carefree entertainment, which the introduction of cars and the radio facilitated. Young women newly able to vote under the 19th Amendment bobbed their hair, frequented speakeasies and danced the Charleston. The economy quickly rebounded and flourished for about 10 years, until irrational investment tilted the United States and the world into the Great Depression. Probably, given past behavior, when this pandemic is over, human beings will respond with the same sense of relief and a search for community, relief from stress and pleasure.

Since we are not able to hold our regular weekly meetings at this time we need to keep in touch with everyone. Please keep us informed of anything that is happening to you or your families or if you have any needs and how we can help you. We need to stay connected with each other during this COVID-19 pandemic. There is no reason we can't continue the camaraderie we had and still have. Sharing will help us remain a close-knit Rotary 'family'. Everyone stay safe!!

THIS WEEK:

BIRTHDAYS :

No Birthdays This Week

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

June 8 – Johnny Lequire, 21 years

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES :

June 8 – Kelly & Jim Burgess

WELCOME TO ROTARY!

RYAN FRENCH, CLUB PRESIDENT

BETH TROTTER, DISTRICT GOVERNOR, DISTRICT 7680

MARK DANIEL MALONEY, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

WWW.KANNAPOLISROTARY.COM

FOLLOW "KANNAPOLIS ROTARY CLUB" ON FACEBOOK

MEETINGS: KANNAPOLIS TRAIN STATION, 201 SOUTH MAIN STREET, KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081 BEGINNING PROMPTLY AT 12:00 NOON

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 865, KANNAPOLIS, NC 28082

TO SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR THE **KANNAPOLIS ROTARIAN**, CONTACT A CLUB OFFICER OR E-MAIL WALLY SAFRIT AT WSAFRIT@KANNAPOLISNC.GOV