



Esplanade Community Group

ECG Update 11.10.20

Dear Readers,

So far, in the last few weeks, in addition to the beautiful autumn colors along the river, we've had snow, and almost a week of 70-degree days. To that we add a national election, an upcoming Esplanade election, and the ongoing challenge of Covid-19. During all this, we at ECG continue to think of ways to safely network, keep our readers informed, and support communications among the residents. In our November *Update*, we have book reviews, a new column "Eats," an introduction to our neighbor Sissela Bok, a list of future events, reviews of our Get-Together Celebration and Larry Tye's discussion of *Demagogue*, and, importantly, a description of the Esplanade voting process and the virtual Annual Meeting on November 17.

As always, we welcome readers' comments, suggestions, and feedback. For all of our events, everyone on our mailing list will receive an invitation. If you want to join, add a neighbor, or

make sure you're included, please reply to this email or contact [Mary Jo](#).

BOT Election

The Esplanade Condominium Trust **Annual Meeting of the Association of Unit Owners** will take place virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at 7 pm.

All Unit Owners, whether resident or non-resident, have received from the Management Office a package of materials for the Annual Meeting, and we have received two notices via email encouraging our participation and attendance.

A quorum of 40% of the Beneficial Interests of the Esplanade is required for the Annual Meeting and voting (the Beneficial Interest of your individual unit can be found in your original condominium documents). The 40% quorum may be obtained by any combination of proxies, ballots, or personal attendance at the Annual Meeting.

Included in the package (p. 2) is a ballot to elect four Trustees for a three-year term on the Board of Trustees.

There are five candidates for the four open positions on the Board of Trustees: Mary Jo Bane, Jane Blalock (candidate for re-election), Fred Davis (re-election), Anne Johnston, and John T. Yee (re-election).

Also included in the package are materials submitted by each of the five candidates asking for your vote and stating their reasons for wanting to serve and represent you in all matters coming before the Board. There will be no open positions for election or re-election for two more years.

As a Unit Owner, you have the choice between two different ways of casting your vote for the Board of Trustees:

EITHER:

1) Use the individual ballot (p. 2 of package) to vote for up to four candidates. You may vote for one, two, three, or four, as you see fit. As instructed in the Annual Meeting notice, please sign the ballot and return to the Management Office either in person or by mail.

OR:

2) Use the proxy (p. 3 of package) to appoint a proxy (and an alternative) to act on your behalf for **all** matters that come up in the Annual Meeting, not only for the election of Trustees but for all matters that are brought to a vote in the meeting. As instructed in the Annual Meeting notice, please sign the proxy and return to the Management Office in person or by mail.

We encourage everyone to read the materials on the upcoming Annual Meeting and to vote in the election for the Board of Trustees however you choose to do so.

Events



The Esplanade book clubs and the ECG hosted a conversation on September 29 with neighbor **Larry Tye**, author of ***Demagogue, The Life and Long Shadow of Senator Joe McCarthy***

The discussion was led by **Lisa Fursztajer**. Larry talked about the new sources he had discovered on McCarthy's life and career, about his good qualities, and about his echos in the present.

The Esplanade Community Group (ECG) hosted a **Zoom Get-Together and Celebration** on Thursday, October 29, starting at 6 pm and continuing until 7:30 pm. While we could not meet as usual in the Tye Room, a number of newcomers and long-time residents joined in sharing the evening warmly and virtually....All five candidates for election to four positions in the Board of Trustees' election on November 17 were invited to this get-together, with Board candidates Mary Jo Bane and Fred Davis joining us in a lively and informative led and moderated by Susan Barron. [Read more](#)

Coming Events

December 3: Virtual Pot Luck

February 11: Zoom discussion with Karma Kitaj on her

book *Beguiled*.

Meet Your Esplanade Neighbors

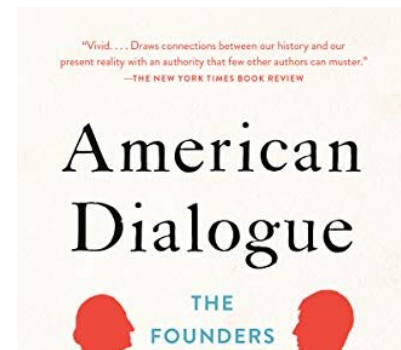


We'd like to introduce you to **Sissela Bok**, an owner since the building was built 31 years ago. In fact, she and her husband Derek, former President (1971–1991, interim 2006–2007) of Harvard, were first shown the Esplanade by Moshe Safdie, the architect of our building (who was

recently awarded the International Wolf Prize ‘for a career motivated by the social concerns of architecture’). [Read more](#)

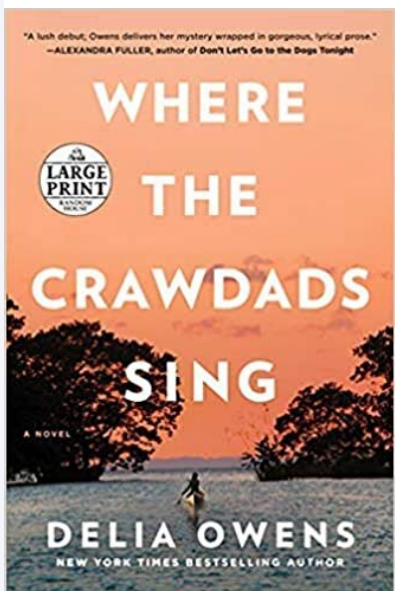
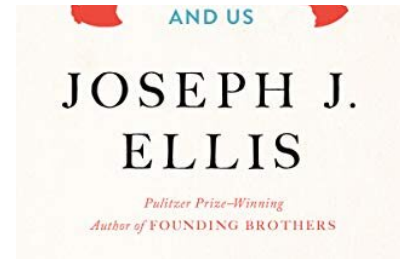
Reading

American Dialogue: The Founders and Us is a 305-page book by Joseph J. Ellis who introduces us early on to his organizing construct that consists of dialogues “between then and now.” He presents four current American topics: Race, Economic Inequality, Law, and Foreign Policy. He then selects Thomas Jefferson, John



Adams, James Madison, and George Washington to present their views and concerns about each topic and reviews what the founding fathers thought about each of them.

[Read more](#) (reviewed by Fred G. Davis)



The audio version of Delia Owens' ***Where the Crawdads Sing*** has been like manna from heaven to me. The prospect of listening to this engrossing, poetic, beautiful story lured me outside for my daily walk for weeks -- I couldn't wait to listen to a bit more, yet I dreaded coming to the end. It is for this reason that I wish to invite you to read or listen to Kya's story.

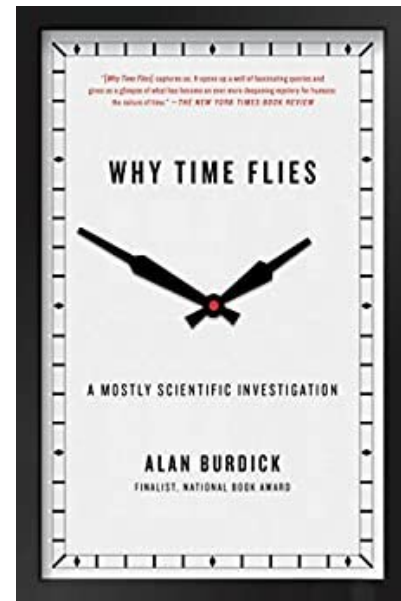
[Read more](#) (reviewed by Susan Barron)

As time warps and bends in the COVID era, I got curious about why we perceive time as we do. Reading Alan

Burdick's *Why Time Flies* provides some of the answers. Burdick examines time through the eyes of philosophers, biologists, historians, neurobiologists, and bureaucrats. It's a wide-ranging account that, in just 258 pages, answers questions like:

- Who establishes the world's official time and how?

[Read more](#) (reviewed by Lisa Frusztajer)



Eats

In this issue we're introducing a new column: EATS – a Repository for Revered Recipes. We invite you to contribute your treasured recipes to warm our hearts (and stomachs) as we cook our way through these ridiculous times. Our first contribution is from Susan Barron who brings us a family favorite.

Barron Brownies



1 stick of butter, 1 cup sugar, 2 squares Baker's unsweetened chocolate, 2 eggs, 1 teaspoon vanilla, pinch of salt. 2/3 cup of flour, 1/2 cup chocolate chips

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Grease an 8" by 8" pan (11" by 13" if doubling recipe).
3. Melt chocolate and butter in a double boiler, a single pan on low heat, or in the microwave. If using the microwave, first melt the chocolate for one minute. Add the butter, cut into pieces, and continue microwaving until both butter and chocolate are melted (approximately one more minute).
4. Beat eggs and sugar until light and fluffy with an electric mixer for about 3 to 5 minutes. The eggs and sugar **MUST BE LIGHT AND FLUFFY!**
5. Mix in the slightly cooled chocolate and butter. Beat until blended well.
6. Mix in the vanilla. Beat to blend.
7. Stir in the flour and salt. Mix only until blended together. Do not overmix at this point.
8. Add chocolate chips. Mix them in to the batter.
9. Put batter in greased pan. Bake 18 minutes (cookie tester or toothpick should just come out clean - if a bit of batter remains, this is not a tragedy). The main thing is that you do NOT want the batter to be overcooked.

10. Put the pan directly into the refrigerator to cool. Yup, this Is the secret !!!!!

ENJOY!

NOTE: The above recipe may be doubled and baked in an 11" by 13" pan. The only ingredient I do not double is the vanilla. You could add a little more than one teaspoon if you like. That part is up to you.

A Strange Year



Halloween Eve 2020



Swans a-swimming in the Esplanade Lagoon.

But no partridge in a pear tree.

VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#)

Have tickets you can't use? Need a dog sitter? Something to sell? Let us know and we'll list your items in the new **Beg, Borrow, Barter or Buy** column.

Have ideas for these newsletters and updates? Send them to [Jessie](#), [Mary Jo](#) or [Jane](#).

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