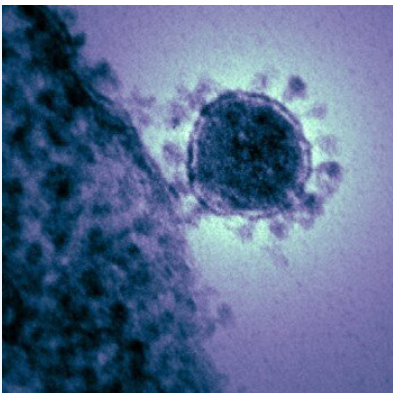

ECG Update 5.5.20

Dear Residents of the Esplanade,

We at the ECG (Esplanade Community Group) have been putting in longer hours to get our *Update* out more frequently in this time of “sheltering in place.” Our goals are to provide information about news both inside and outside the building and to entertain. To that end this issue includes critical news about COVID-19 Guidelines; book reviews from our book club members; an article about the myths of humor during crises; and one about Boston/Cambridge springtime (that we all can relate to!). We hope that you enjoy this issue and, please, if you know others that would like to receive copies, have them e-mail [Mary Jo](#). Also, we welcome feedback, suggestions, and, of course, contributions to our newsletters. Happy Reading!

What are the responsibilities of condo boards of trustees and management to inform residents about covid-19 infections in the building? To answer that question, we did some research on best practices.



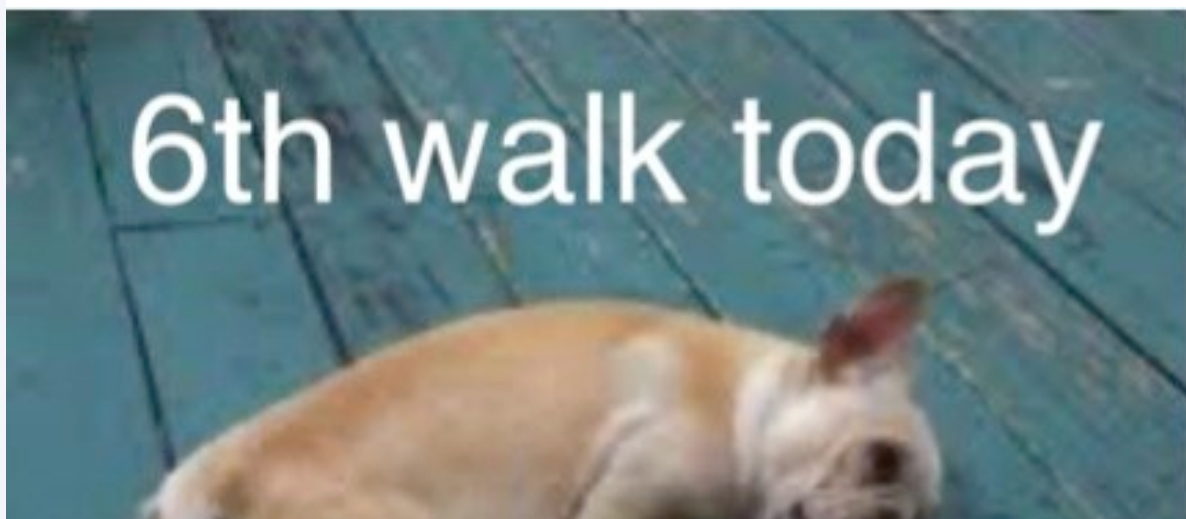
The bottom line from our reading is that we at the Esplanade have been kept well and properly informed throughout this crisis, with the Board of Trustees and management making their best efforts to balance their mandatory duties and responsibilities with the health and welfare of our residents and our community.

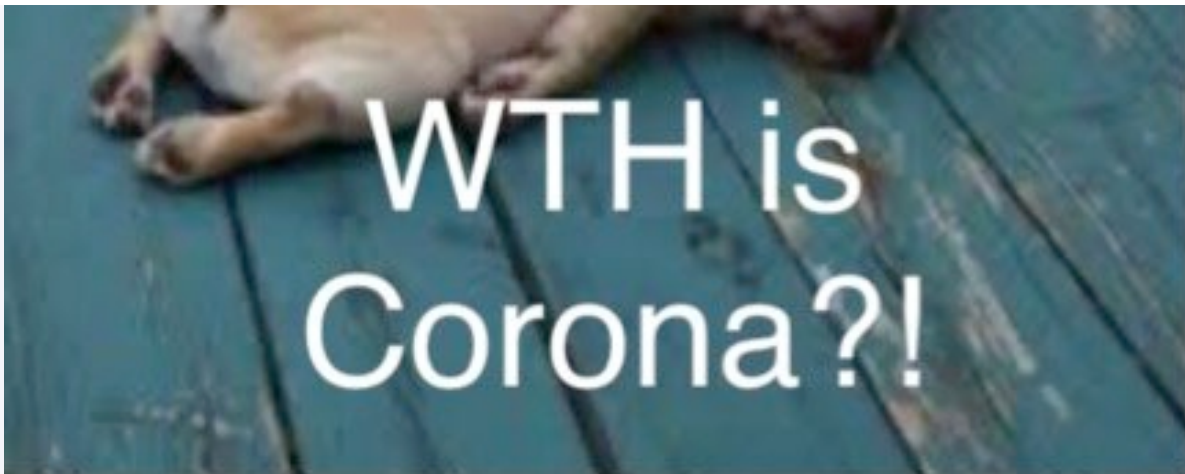
As noted in the articles below and others: 1) **Condo association boards and management are bound by a wide range of laws**, including Federal medical privacy laws protecting personal health information (including diagnoses, treatment, test results, and demographic information) under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and CDC guidelines, and thus **are not obligated to inform us and are prevented from disclosing the identity of infected residents or any personal health information unless permission is specifically given in writing**; 2) however, and until laws are changed, best practice recommends that condo association boards and management inform residents that someone in the building has tested positive for coronavirus, that he/she is in quarantine, and whether the infected person is a resident or staff person; 3) if an infected resident knows that his/her condition will be kept confidential, he/she may be more willing to disclose it, something that actually takes courage and community concern to do so and should be appreciated; 4) **it should be assumed that there are already asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic people in our building who have coronavirus and may not know it, so we should all act accordingly and follow city, state, and building guidelines.**

[Read more \(and get links to the articles\) here.](#)

Residents who have questions or concerns should address them directly to the Esplanade's Board of Trustees or management.

Let's Laugh So We Don't Cry: Myths about humor (and some humor) during times of crisis





2020 is a unique leap year. It has 29 days in February, 300 days in March and 10 years in April.

The 45th day of isolation and it feels like Las Vegas in our house. We're losing money every minute; drinks are acceptable at any hour and no one has any idea what day it is.

Read, learn and laugh with this [article by Jane Hilburt-Davis](#).

Ahhhhhhhhh, Springtime!!!!!!

I hate spring. No, I take it back. I don't hate spring. I love spring. I just hate spring in Boston. You know what they say: "Hope springs eternal." What I eternally hope is that spring in Boston approaches some semblance of spring. It doesn't.

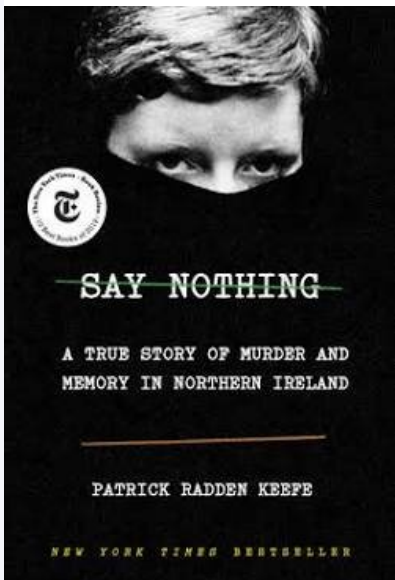




I've lived in the Boston region for 45 years and I am not afraid to say that spring in Boston is awful. As a matter of fact, a lot of the time spring here feels colder than winter. The temperature is warmer. Yet, the anticipation of warmth, coupled with the desire for it, leaves one cold. Read more of [Larry Lieberman's musings on spring](#) in New England.

Reading

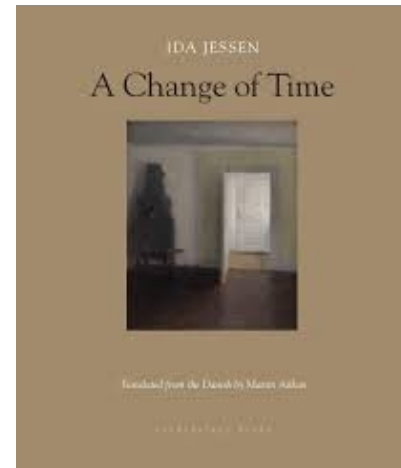
Say Nothing by Patrick Radden Keefe



A fascinating look at the “Troubles” from myriad perspectives. The author is a journalist who reported extensively on the subject so the book is chock full of details. The Esplanade Men’s Book Club found it rich in topics for discussion, including the history of the tension between Northern Ireland and England, the violent warfare between the religious factions and the British, kidnappings, hunger strikes, and bombings, all interwoven within the story of the disappearance of Jean McConville, single mother of 10, in 1972. The author actually discloses the probable identities of her kidnappers and murderer. [Read more](#) (reviewed by Charles Glovsky)

A Change of Time by Ida Jessen

This novel, translated from the original Danish, is the fictional journal of a middle-aged woman as she becomes widowed and responds to her husband's death. The protagonist lives in a small Danish village and the book is set in the early 1900s. [Read more](#) (reviewed by Lisa Frusztajer)



Girl, Woman, Other by Bernadine Evaristo



As I head into my third month of quarantine I wanted to recommend the book that our book group read last month. It was the first time the Booker Prize was given to a woman of color and was shared with Margaret Atwood, which caused a little bit of controversy.

Bernadine Evaristo, the author, was thrilled to share the prize and felt it was not at all complicated for her. She was happy to tell the story of these twelve remarkably diverse, energetic and complicated women who are part of the Black British community and whose stories were not often shared. [Read more](#) (reviewed by Fran Putnoi)

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

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