



ECG Update 6.10.20

Dear Readers,

We are all are aware of the stresses caused by the COVID-19 and we'll continue to inform and hopefully entertain. In this issue we want to show our support for the Black Lives Matter movement, social justice, and the peaceful protests that are occurring worldwide. To that end, we call your attention to two of our residents'— Bill Wilson and Vibha Pingle — thought-provoking and moving articles. We are also excited to announce a new feature “Beg, Borrow, Barter or Buy”--- available to all are readers. Have tickets to sell? A couch to give away? A condo to rent? Need a dog sitter? Send them to [Mary Jo](#) at Beg, Borrow, Barter or Buy and get results!

As you can see, we continue to add features that our readers are requesting as well as keeping up to date with news inside and outside the Esplanade. We welcome news, suggestions, and feedback. Send to [Mary Jo](#).

Happy Reading!

THE OTHER SIDE OF BLACK LIVES MATTER

Esplanade neighbor William Julius Wilson published this piece in December 2015; it remains relevant. Wilson is the Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor Emeritus at Harvard University.



Several decades ago I spoke with a grieving mother living in one of the poorest inner-city neighborhoods on Chicago's South Side. A stray bullet from a gang fight had killed her son, who was not a gang member. She lamented that his death was not reported in any of the Chicago newspapers or in the Chicago electronic media.

I have been thinking about that mother a good deal recently, as the Black Lives Matter movement has dramatically called attention to violent police encounters with blacks, especially young black males. [Read the entire piece here.](#)

**BLACK LIVES MATTER
PROTEST**



Vibha Pingle writes: I felt compelled to join the Black Lives Matter protests following the brutal murder of George Floyd. But I am concerned about joining the organized protests because of Covid-19. I also was troubled by how protests and protestors are viewed and felt driven to help “normalize” protesting about Black Lives Matter. [Read more here.](#) Contact Vibha [here.](#)

THE FAITHFUL GOOSE

I thoroughly enjoyed Larry Lieberman’s clever and funny diatribe *Foul/Fowl Play* in your excellent May 22 edition. I also sympathize with his exasperation about the Canada geese’s constant fouling of the grass and walkways outside our door. I wish they were as ugly as rats so I could hate them more.

But I must confess that I get some



pleasure from seeing them on my walks along the river every day in this Covid-constrained season, along with the cormorants and soaring seagulls. And one Canada goose in particular engaged my attention. [Read more](#) (by Bob Kagan)

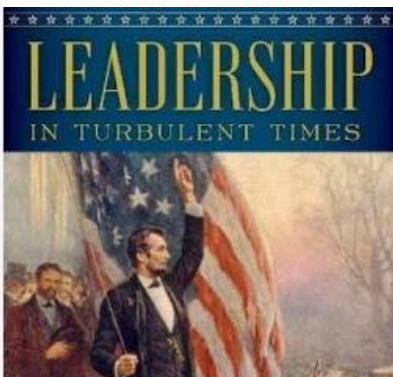
THE HERRING MAVEN

My wife, Gloria, has a secret. Elders of our tribe who live in the suburbs know the secret. They always want to know when the food of ecstasy, the paradise of taste, will be bestowed upon them. My wife makes herring. [Read more](#) (by Larry Lieberman)

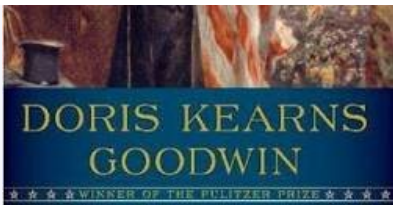


Reading

Leadership in Turbulent Times by Doris Kearns Goodwin



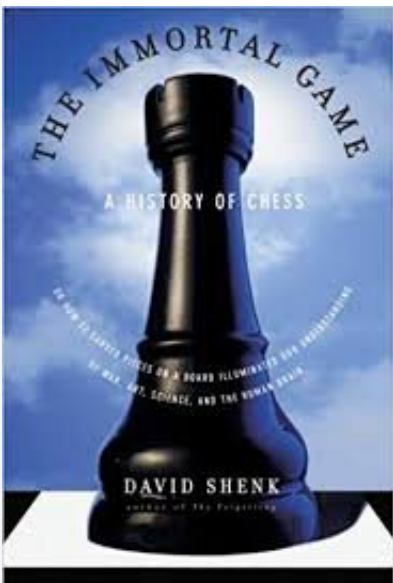
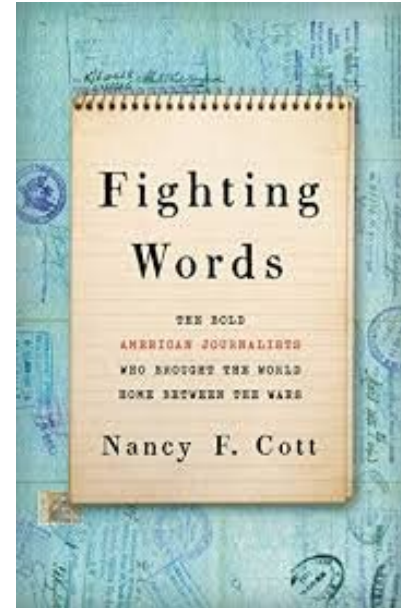
In this relevant book for our turbulent times, Doris Kearns Goodwin focuses on four American Presidents at times of great national crisis. The four, about each of whom Goodwin has already



written splendid biographies, are Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, and Lyndon Johnson. [Read more](#). (Reviewed by Sissela Bok)

Fighting Words by Nancy F. Cott

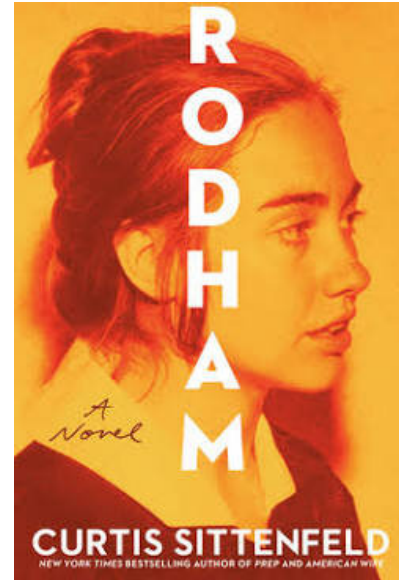
This new book by Nancy F. Cott, Jonathan Trumbull Research Professor of American History at Harvard, traces the lives of four noted American journalists---Dorothy Thompson, Rayna Raphaelson, John Gunther and Vincent Sheean. [Read more](#). (Reviewed by Janet Aserkoff)



The Immortal Game by David Shenk
This was a risky book selection for our club. A few knew nothing about chess. Some had limited familiarity and others knew the moves but not really how to play.... The subtitle of the book tells the story. "A History of Chess Or How 32 Carved Pieces On A Board Illuminated Our Understanding Of War, Art, Science, And The Human Brain." [Read more](#). (Reviewed by Larry Lieberman)

Rodham by Curtis Sittenfeld

What if she hadn't married him? When you need something frivolous, turn to this fictional depiction of Hillary's career if she had turned down Bill's marriage proposal after he revealed himself as a sexual predator. [Read more.](#) (Reviewed by Mary Jo Bane)



Letters to the Editor

Dear ECG Update,

Larry's extraordinarily clever piece on FOUL/FOWL PLAY is hysterical!!!

BEAUTIFULLY DONE!!! Thank you!!!!

Martha Stark

Wow-

Awesome update, interesting and always good reading! ECG rocks! Have a lovely, happy Memorial Day weekend! 🙏

Ed Sullivan

Dear ECG Update,

When I was growing up in Texas, deer were looked upon as food and hunting deer was a near universal avocation for those with access to open land. Coyotes were looked upon as pests that harassed and sometimes killed newborn cattle: for my grandfather on the ranch, seeing a coyote was a reason to shoot at it. Bobcats were looked at as a good thing to kill and make into a rug. Consequently, wild things were wary and it took a little skill and stealth, or luck, to see them



Fast forward to Connecticut, 2020. Already overrun by deer, turkeys, coyotes (and in some parts of the state, bears); the huge decrease in human presence outdoors during the pandemic has encouraged even the more wary animals to extend their range. Here's a photo of a bobcat in our back yard in Fairfield CT taken in late afternoon by our daughter last week.

John T. Schulz III M.D.

Dear ECG Update,

Thank you so much for posting the articles and letters about “On

Being an Elder in a Pandemic” and ageism. They are most interesting for anyone following debates about responses to the present Covid-19 crisis -- not only for elders but for people in all age groups. We all now have reason to consider how to deal with risks of infection, even of life-or-death decisions such as those having to do with ventilators. Alas, most of us know young and middle-aged individuals struck down by the virus, though older people are clearly at greater risk from being infected and, if infected, of dying. Given the reach of this pandemic, the importance of advance care planning stressed in The American Geriatrics Society’s “Position statement” (pt. 7) has relevance for old and young alike.

Sissela Bok

Dear ECG Update,

Here’s a good idea and resource for Esplanade residents—contact the Beacon Hill Village. They offer many interesting services.

Here’s the contact info.: info@beaconhillvillage.org.

Amy Kwei

Beg, Borrow, Barter or Buy

Two Esplanade neighbors are hoping to sublet their units. If you are interested, or have any tips for them, please contact them directly.

Sunny, large one bedroom with exquisite waterfront view from both living room and bedroom. About 1400 square feet, eat-in-kitchen, new hardwood floors, new lighting. Study can be used as a second bedroom and comes with king-size cabinet bed.

Available furnished or unfurnished. One deeded parking space.
GREAT FLOOR PLAN!

Contact [Jane Gould](#)

2 Bedroom, 2 Bath nicely furnished condo for sublease; \$3,800 monthly with 1 garage parking space, heat/AC, water, fitness center, pool, included. Start as early as June 15 and until August 2021 (length flexible). 24-hour concierge. Walk to MGH, MIT, many restaurants. 5th floor, overlooking garden, view of Charles River.

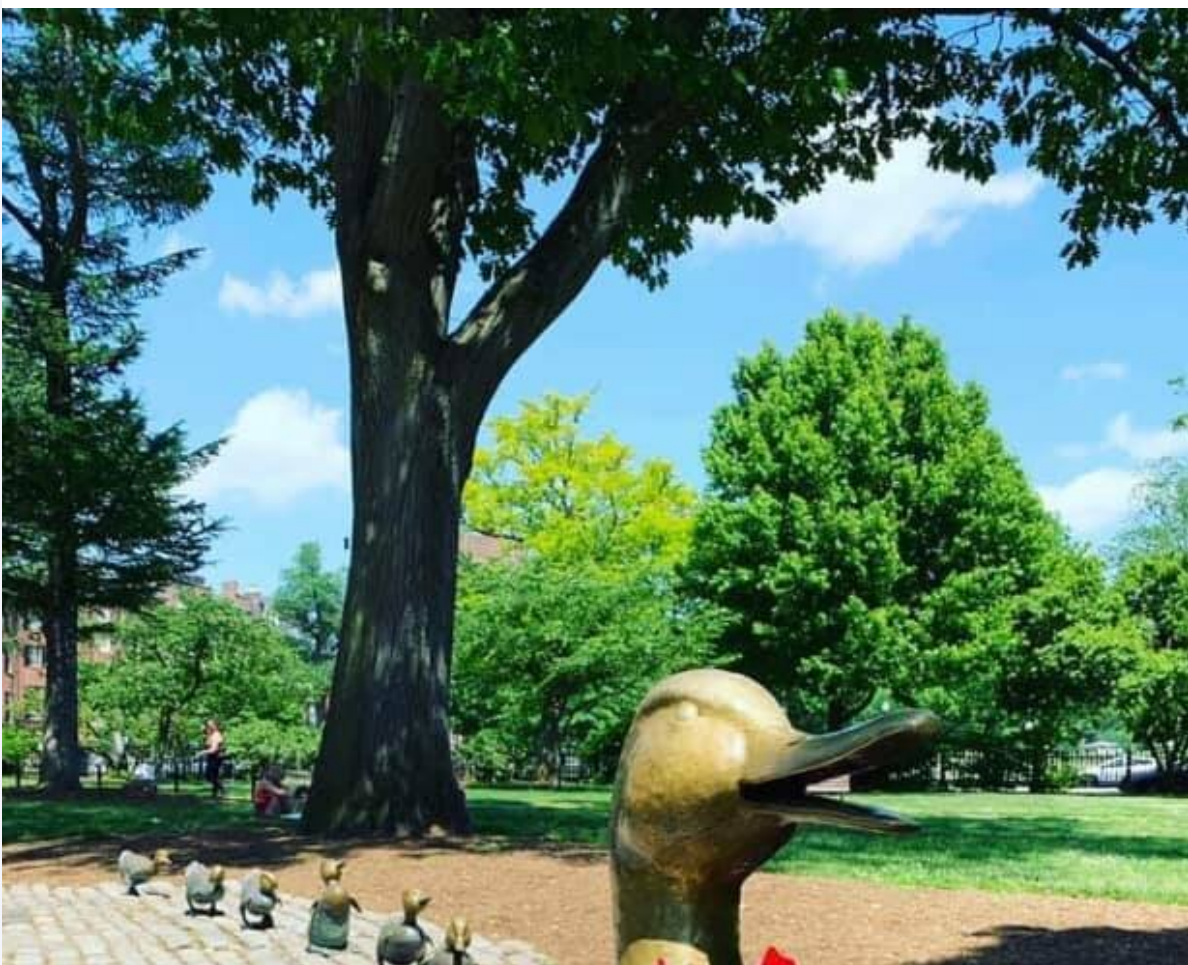
Contact [Jeff Cooper](#)

From Jane Hilburt Davis:

A student group at Harvard has assembled a cadre of volunteers to help people who may need extra contact during the pandemic.

Here is the group's Concordium offer in case you or anyone you know might want to take advantage of their program:

"[The Concordium](#) is a Harvard-based social impact venture that matches Harvard undergrads with seniors from the Greater Boston Area based on shared interests. In this manner, they can engage in friendly and interesting conversations via phone once a week. Due to COVID-19, students and seniors alike are feeling especially isolated and may benefit from additional social support. If you're interested in making a new companion across distance, please contact us [here](#). concordiumteam@gmail.com. We can't wait to meet you!"





We hope you've noticed our new ECG Logo. It was created by Brayan Restrepo. He's an art student at the Massachusetts College of Art and a part-time Esplanade concierge. Thank you, Brayan.

VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#)

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

Esplanade Community Group , 75-83 Cambridge Pkwy, Cambridge MA 02142, United States

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