

BUCKS COUNTY HERALD

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"Another Bloody Mary?" he asks. "Why not?" A year ago, I was having brunch with a family I love. Laughter and conversation flowed easily. At the end of the meal, he discreetly paid the bill and walked me home. Forty-two years ago I was serving him grapeam crackers and milk in my kindergarten classroom. Can remote instruction ever nurture a student-teacher bond that spans the decades? It's one thing to make it through a pandemic year. It's another thing to have one of your favorite students escorting you into the Golden Years. Cheers to the "Teacher's Pet."

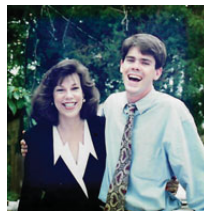
Inspired by the Washington Post's weekly series called "My Life in 100 Words" and The New York Times' similar current feature called "Tiny Love Stories" (a story of 100 words or less about any aspect of love), Lynda Jeffrey Plott, who usually gives a New Hope Ghost talk in the fall, wrote her own tiny story.

She wrote the tiny story above on the first day of school in Fairfax County, Va. She was feeling both relieved to be a retired teacher (couldn't imagine trying to teach 5-year-olds via Zoom) and also, somewhat nostalgic for the good ol' days when life was "normal" and when teachers

and students had the opportunity to forge a "real" relationship.

As the years roll by, Plott cherishes all of the friendships she has been able to establish with some former students. "Face-to-face learning in the classroom, is the solid base that's allowed many friendships to grow," the teacher said.

Lynda Jeffrey Plott of Washington, who had a 30-year teaching career in Fairfax County, Va., retired in 1999. Nathan Reed, D.C. attorney, was in Miss Jeffrey's kindergarten class at Belle View Elementary School in 1978.



A reunion photo with teacher Miss Jeffrey and former student Nate Reed.

Charles Meredith's column will return at a future date.

LETTERS TO THE HERALD

September 2020 – living in a surreal nightmare

I can't shake the feeling that I am living in a surreal Turducken of a nightmare about a comedy macabre of a farce about a pandemic directed by the Marx Brothers of the Three Stooges dressed up as orange clowns running the government with the Keystone Cops as their officials.

Stephen Donovan, Revere

Can we find enough rakes to clear the forest?

Fires rage in the West. More than 4.3 million acres burned. And the fires rage on. Whole communities lost. Thousands of people lost homes. Some lost lives. Why didn't the nation listen to our president and rake the dry forest floor on millions of acres? Even those in very remote areas. We only needed a few million people with a few million rakes and many million large trash bags. But then where would we safely store the millions, maybe billions, of tons of the dry stuff?

The timber industry slammed the federal government for mismanagement of its forests. The federal government owns 33 million acres of forest land in California. Has President Trump sent federal workers to rake California land owned by the government?

Michael Frank, Doylestown

Wildlife corridors can help humans too

2020 has taught us the problems with fractures and fragmentation, whether social, political,

or ecological. If we are to move forward, we need to pull together, cooperate and be more connected. In Pennsylvania we have a way to move towards those goals.

Our state legislature is considering the creation of wildlife corridors that would physically connect fractured and fragmented habitats. This is a rare example of an initiative with bipartisan support, in part because there are so many wildlife and human benefits to the corridors.

Wildlife corridors help to repair the fragmented habitats that are currently causing a decline, and even loss, of many of our native birds and wildlife. Fragmentation can reduce wildlife's ability to migrate, find a mate, and even secure enough food and water. This loss of habitat is especially harmful to our many rare and endangered species.

Benefits of corridors do not stop with birds and wildlife, they also have many benefits to humans. By providing continuous habitat, wildlife's contact with people will be reduced, which lowers the likelihood of diseases transferring from animal to human populations.

Wildlife corridors can also protect human health by reducing wildlife related car accidents, an area of great concern here in Bucks County where we have the third highest deer/car crash rate in the state.

Corridors will also help maintain biodiversity which supports the outdoor recreation industry. According to the Outdoor Recreation Economic Report, over 250,000 jobs in Pennsylvania are sustained by outdoor recreation - more than three times the number that the natural gas industry em-

plays in our state (72,000).

Ask your state representatives to support wildlife corridors.

Stacy Carr-Poole
Executive Director
and Alison Levine
Chair, Advocacy Committee
Bucks County Audubon Society

Fueling the hysteria

Why on earth would you publish a letter like the one last week sent in by Joe Sundeen? Not a single fact concerning the current administration, just the usual alarmist whining about our president.

Surely as editors you'd at least make an attempt to encourage fact-based discussion, rather than helping fuel the hysteria?

R.H. Adam Howell
Doylestown

Left bias a response to politics in election year

In response to Jim Kelly's letter in the Sept 10 issue, yes there is a left bias in this paper, in my opinion. This might be due to the position taken by Republicans in office.

Because this is an election year and there are so many critical issues involved everyone feels the need to voice opinions, now and on election day.

Free college, free medical? When did VP Biden promise those? Open borders were never part of the Democratic ticket but our country used to believe that immigrants were welcome.

And bringing the Ten Commandments into this is just wrong. First off, people can believe in doing the right thing and respecting others without religion or the commandments.

More important, how can you quote three commandments in your letter as an example when our president has broken two of them and states publicly that he could break the third and get away with it?

Randy Cohen, Chalfont

Questionable description

While we can't fault local merchants for hosting the First Family, it did give me pause to see Ivanka Trump at Tabora Farm.

And for the Tabora owner to call Ivanka or any member of the Trump family "generous"? One need only look at this family's lack of empathy or personal philanthropy, as well as their self-serving approach to public office - and "generous" indeed becomes a questionable description.

One can only further question how the owners could allow their children to be used as props on behalf of a family that seems to have no moral compass.

Laurence Jahns, Point Pleasant

Shooting range a hazard

I own the RiverHill Schoolhouse, next to the Del Val Fish and Game shooting range. Tonight I heard a semi-automatic weapon being fired several times. This is a serious safety risk to our local neighborhood, to me and my tenant and my dog and to all local residents who have children and pets in homes that surround this range.

There needs to be a change or more strict policies to protect us.

I am considering organizing a protest. The members are not the ones who live here and these bullets are close enough to stray into my home.

Kate Smookler, Point Pleasant

Two score and seven years ago

On Nov. 17, 1973, President Richard Nixon declared in a press conference: "I am not a crook." This was in response to charges related to the Watergate break-in.

On Sept. 10, 2020, in response to a reporter's press conference question as to why he lied to the American people regarding COVID-19, President Donald Trump said, "I didn't lie."

Richard Nixon was proven to be a crook by virtue of the tapes that were released by a unanimous decision of the Supreme Court. Nixon resigned in disgrace.

President Trump has, as chronicled by the Washington Post, made over 20,000 false or misleading statements as president. With that as a backdrop, it is reasonable to conclude that the president did lie to the American people about the dangers of COVID-19 over the last eight months. Now we have the Woodward tapes in which President Trump admitted that he did not wish to "alarm the public." President Trump even lied when he said, "I didn't lie."

Unfortunately, this is where the Nixon and Trump parallels part.

Nixon resigned after a Republican Congressional delegation let him know that he no longer had their support, and that he would be impeached. Contrast this with the current Republican Congressional leadership which marches in lockstep with President Trump.

These are the very same politicians who once called candidate Trump "a race baiting, xenophobic, religious bigot"; a "sniveling coward, pathological liar and serial philanderer"; a "jackass, kooky and idiot" and many more egregious characterizations. Now they are the enablers, fueling this president's arrogance that drove him to speak unguardedly with Woodward in 18 interviews.

Where are these formerly critical voices when Mr. Trump attacks his generals; undermines his intelligence agencies;

and criticizes and dismisses low-leveling diplomats, inspectors general and prosecutors when they deign to fulfill their responsibilities? Where are these enablers when he undermines the FEC, EPA, FBI, etc.?

Where is their humanity and sense of justice when Gold Star parents are ridiculed, children separated from parents, bigots are called "fine people," or our military personnel are called losers? Why are they not clamoring to speak out about the incongruity that exists around his rationale for "down playing" COVID-19.

President Trump says it was to avoid panic, yet in the next breath he stokes fear by saying that all manner of ill will befall suburbia should the Democrats defeat him. He invokes all the "dog whistles" that divide our nation. Perhaps President Trump's worst remark came on July 3 when he said that schools are teaching children to "hate their own country." Is this down playing panic?

Here is what Winston Churchill - a leader Mr. Trump does not call to mind - said as Britain was confronted with real fear: "The British people can face any misfortune with fortitude and buoyancy as long as they are convinced that those in charge of their affairs are not deceiving them, or are not dwelling in a fool's paradise."

I do not believe that this Republican Congress will ever visit President Trump and recommend that he resign. The heavy lift to remove this president will be left to us, the American voters, on Nov. 3. It is in the execution of this process that we embody the closing sentiment of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address when he resolved that the dead on that battlefield will not have died in vain and "that the nation, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Joseph Franlin, Bedminster

HISTORY LIVES

Jean Rollo, Doylestown Historical Society



Butler's Mill. Following other Welsh immigrants, Simon Butler (1684-1764) immigrated to the area known as "North Britain" or "New Britain" between 1715 and 1720 and settled at the confluence of the Pine Run and the northwest branch of the Neshaming Creek. There he built one of the earliest grist mills in central Bucks County and became a large landowner, purchasing tracts comprising most of today's Chalfont Borough.

Butler served as the only justice of the peace in the area and wrote wills, settled disputes, surveyed lands, settled estates and assisted in laying out public roads. He promoted the establishment of the New Britain Baptist Church and gave his name to Butler Avenue (the main east-west road). Over

200 years later the Simon Butler Elementary School was constructed in 1965 on land he once owned and was named in his memory.

Butler's Mill was the nucleus of the town and the destination of many of the early roads laid out from ferries on the Delaware and points in upper Bucks County. The mill burned and was rebuilt several times until finally succumbing to fire. However, the Butler homestead still stands at 116 East Butler Avenue. Over the years it has been a residence, a bed and breakfast, and today, the Butler's Mill Corporate Center.

Sources: "History of Bucks County, William W. H. Davis, 1876" and "A History of Chalfont," Chalfont Borough Bicentennial Committee, 1977.
Doylestownhistorical.org



Graffiti under 202

This was done in the last 24 hours it wasn't there yesterday morning (Sept. 9) The bridge authority has security cameras right there.

Ari Spectorman

Letters to the Herald

Send letters to P.O. Box 685, Lahaska 18931, or bridget@buckscountyherald.com or fax to 215-794-1109. Letters may be edited for clarity and to fit space available. Only signed letters will be used and a contact phone number must be submitted with letters. Letters that contain slanderous or profane language will be rejected.