

# The Prisament Paper

VOL. I Issue 2

OSSINING, NY SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- New York Governor Cuomo officially announced a "lockdown" of New York State to fight the Coronavirus, effective today at 8pm. People are encouraged to stay home as much as possible, but may go out for necessary provisions or for exercise as long as they stay six feet away from others.
- Tulsi Gabbard dropped out of the 2020 Presidential Race.
- Tom Brady officially joined the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Poetry

## AGAIN

by Elena Prisament

You walk out of Spring to Summer, and believe you're fully healed  
And Peace does dull your edges; Your spikes are now concealed  
You feel the warmth you hoped for, when the sun shines on your face  
And you finally can rest now, now that there is no race  
Your feet finally grounded; Your mind is back to Earth  
And never do you wonder, about Life and Death and Birth  
But when Summer turns to Autumn, and you look up in my eyes  
You'll want to be that broken spear of ice hurtling through the skies

You are long gone from Winter, and Life has cured your scars  
Inside of Summer's kind heart, even night is lit with Stars  
And wonders did await you, when you threw down your sword  
The feel of kindred fire, thawed memories you stored  
Relax next to the sunrise, watch colors turn you Gold  
Know Home will never leave you, and all you need you hold  
But when green leaves turn orange, and you stand and look at me  
You'll want to be that broken spear of ice hurtling through the sea

## MEET XENOBOT, THE WORLD'S FIRST LIVING ROBOT

by Clayton Prisament

You heard me, living robots. The Xenobot is a microscopic organism that was created by scientists at Tufts University and The University of Vermont. The Xenobot only contains 2 type of cells: heart cells and skin cells. What these brilliant scientists did was take stem cells from a frog eggs embryo and performed hours of micro-surgery on these tiny living robots. Although it takes hours just to make one Xenobot, these robots have amazing potential. A few things these robots may be doing in the near future are cleaning up microplastics in the ocean or repairing delicate human organs.

The Xenobot is simply astounding. For instance, when you rip it apart it has the ability to put itself back together. The Xenobot can also move in strait lines or in circles and it can be programed to follow commands. Scientists are currently working on a new Xenobot that can carry a payload such as microplastics that contaminate oceans.

Fun Zone

## SPELLING BEE EXTREME!

by Lucas Prisament

(inspired by Frank Longo, NY Times Magazine)

Rules:

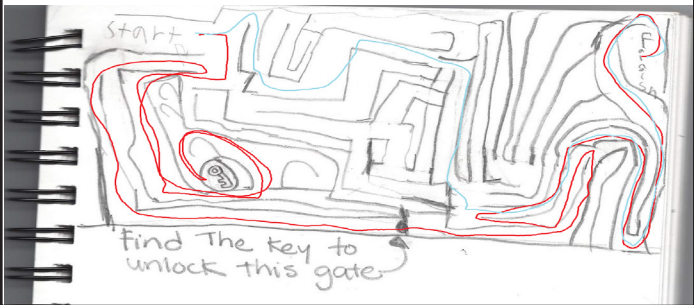
- Form words of 6 or more letters using the letters in the wheel.
  - Every word MUST use the center letter.
  - You may repeat letters.
- Rating:
- 5 points: Good
  - 7 points: Awesome!
  - 10 points: Intelligent
  - 15 points: Genius

Scoring:

- 6-8 letter words: 1 point
- 9-10 letter words: 2 points
- 11+ letters: 3 points



Two solutions to last week's maze (red and blue):



## WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR SUPPLY CHAIN?

by Grandpa/Uncle Marc

As this pandemic continues, we hear about shortages for everything from food, to medical supplies, to many other items we use and need daily. So, what happened?

The answers are fairly simple in one sense, but much more complicated in another. Here are three key reasons that have exasperated this situation and help explain what is going on:

- JIT – JIT** is a management concept called “Just-In-Time.” Over the years many companies started to produce, and inventory items, only as needed and when there was demand for a product. This is called a pull vs push approach for manufacturing. Certainly, there are many solid operational and financial reasons for this approach, but what it does is keep finished inventories and WIP (work in process) at minimal levels. When demand changes upward, as it is doing now, it becomes very hard to react quickly, as you don't even have the raw materials to make the product, and there are significantly long lead times to produce more.
- Extraordinary Demand** – As mentioned above, our systems today just cannot react to changes in demand, if those changes are like 40-50% or more, as we are seeing today for basics like toilet paper or hand sanitizers or facemasks for hospitals. This is almost unprecedented in history, and to bring on more capacity for the items we need or want, takes as I mentioned, significant time and resources, and cannot happen overnight.
- Global Sourcing** – As many of you know, I spent about 10 years at the hospital building what we called our “global sourcing program.” Besides giving me a dozen “business class” trips to China, the goal of this program was to actually expand our vendor base for needed items, and to be closer to the actual manufacturer of the items being purchased (hence getting them at lower total costs). The problem we face now, is that many of the items we need, especially for basic hospital supplies, are not made here in the USA, and we have seen what has happened in China and their ability to make these items for export (what they make now is mostly used within China first, due to their great demand). Again, unfortunately, we really have very little options except to “beg and hope” things get better overseas, and they ship us more ASAP.



Empty Shelves  
The Ossining, NY Stop & Shop in March 2020

That is enough for now, and please look for my future columns on how business reacts to this virus.

## THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING (TALES FROM ISOLATION)

by Elena Prisament

I learned how to fly today.

Okay, I know it isn't really flying. Not like, in-the-air-wings-flapping-bird kind of flying. But I consider it flying, in a way. It certainly feels like it, sometimes.

I place my hands carefully on my littlest brother, Lucas', shoulders, in front of me. My other brother, Clayton, does the same to me from behind me. “Ready?” I say. “One, two, three, sit!” We all sit down on each other - Lucas on my lap, me on Clayton's, until it's only Clayton's one leg stretched out behind him keeping our balance. “Steady?” I ask. “Yes,” They both reply. “Okay. Code green,” I say, signaling the next phase of our acrobatic “clown sit” stance. Lucas lifts up both of his legs from the floor. Then me. And we're both in the air.



"Gym Class!"  
Elena, Clayton and Lucas practicing acrobatics while school is out

This was one of the first moves I taught my brothers today. After learning the basics, we ended up exploring our skills and inventing new acrobatic positions. Some got to be very complicated.

It was strange, and felt new (though I knew it wasn't really), to trust my brothers this much. We hadn't hung out this closely in a long time. There was school, and homework, and after school activities taking up time. And then in our free time, Clayton usually played video games, - headphones on, oblivious to reality - I could be found with my mind either in the clouds, a book, or a new language, and Lucas would be left to play alone.

We had many family dinners, and were very close, but hadn't really played freely together in a while, though I have memories of similar moments when we were younger.

We're in our backyard trampoline. Clayton lies down, palms out. I place my hands on his legs, and his hands go on my shoulders. “Strong grip!” I remind him. “No, no, keep your legs bent!” I'm terrified. I barely have any concept of his strength, but he insisted on letting him try something harder, and as always, I'd given in. I lean forward. His arms hold steady. “Okay.” I let the trampoline's bounce give me some momentum, and my feet lift off the ground. And then I'm in a handstand, upside-down, supported only by Clayton's hands. It's thrilling. It's scary.

I'm flying!

And then his arms bend instinctively, and we topple over, a two person tower falling, and we're laughing. We bounce back to our feet and try again, something different this time. Lucas joins us, clambering onto our shoulders as we hold his legs.

Our parents find us. My mother takes out her camera, and my father seems to almost have a heart attack. “Just... be safe, okay?” He says. “Promise me you'll be safe.”

None of us say anything.

As soon as they go back inside, we're back to practicing our version of soaring.

At first, I had been really reluctant to let Clayton and Lucas do acrobatics with me. They had no experience, and who knows if they were still mad at me for eating the last slice of apple pie? But I decided to trust them, and I'm so very glad I did.

We leap and we climb. We hold on to each other and we let go. We step on each other and we lift each other up.

Why do I find this so beautiful?

I don't know. It's just three kids playing on a trampoline. Two hours of screaming and laughing in a part of home they haven't been in a long time. A mother with a camera, a father with a big heart, three siblings finding and riding on each other's wings.

When your only ground is someone else's hands, it's not up to you to fall or stay upright. And when someone else willingly lets you become their earth...

There's something magical about the irony of choosing to give up control that, I suppose you could say, makes me fly.