ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The U.S.N.S. Comfort hospital ship arrived in New York to assist with the city's coronavirus response.

- Upcoming celebrations of Passover beginning sundown on April 8, and Easter on April 12, will be severely constrained due to the ongoing lockdowns.

- NY Governor Cuomo has issued an executive order that schools must cancel their spring break in order to waive the 180 day obligation. *See Op-Ed, right column.*

Reflections

THE SAFFRON MONKS

by Rozanne Prisament

After 9/11 a chain link fence was erected around the perimeter of the site. People came from all over to hang flowers and posters of encouragement on every square inch. A few days later, a group of five men with shaved heads wearing sandals and long yellow tunics with a red border, appeared. "Buddhist monks" my colleague said, "their robes are not yellow, they are saffron."

The saffron monks were still there at the end of the day. In fact, they were still there at the end of every day. Deep in prayer, they made a spectacle in their quiet, intense devotion. People stopped talking and drinking coffee when they passed the monks. We were astonished at their ability to concentrate in the commotion and grating sounds of demolition.

Where did they sleep? Where did they eat? Where did they go to the bathroom? How could they stand there all day without even a park bench to sit on? When the days grew darker, we had a more pressing question: how come they were not cold? Still in sandals and their saffron robes, they continued their deep prayer ritual even in the dreary, wet snow. Strangers in a strange land, reaching out to God for us!

In late June, Century 21, the largest store across from the rubble was reopening. We were beyond joyous to see Mike Bloomberg, the mayor, and George Pataki, the governor, cut the ribbon to the store. Recovery was possible! The pizza shop on the side of the building also reopened. Now we could buy lunch out and go shopping—who would have believed this nine months ago? I looked at the fence to see the monks, but they were gone and they never came back.

Today I think about the saffron monks, and I am very comforted by the fact that wherever they are, they are certainly praying for mankind.

April 2020

---

*Meme*while ... by Rob Prisament

Happy Passover 2020

Birthday Zone!

Happy Birthday Noah!
April 1

On page 2: Poetry! Fun zone! and more!

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH MIMI ROCAH

Transcribed from live interview by Elena, Clayton and Lucas Prisament

As we all know, former federal prosecutor (and our cousin) Mimi Rocah has decided to start her bid for Westchester DA (District Attorney). Running as a Democrat, Mimi Rocah is set to run against incumbent Anthony A. Scarpino Jr. Below is the transcript of our exclusive interview with Mimi Rocah.

What inspired you to run for Westchester County DA?

I was inspired to run for DA because it is a position which better serves our whole community. I have a general devotion to community service. I have been inspired by people who have never run for office before - especially women - stepping up right now in this time to help make our government - at all levels - better.

What are the responsibilities of the DA?

The role of the DA is a type of lawyer. We act like investigators and lawyers who investigate and prosecute crime. We have to figure out who committed a crime, and make sure they have a fair trial. And if they get convicted of a crime, then they might go to jail, or get a sentence or a fine. That's the main job of the District Attorney.

What differentiates you from the incumbent DA?

I will be a much more proactive DA, a much more innovative DA, and a really progressive DA. And I will bring a different perspective to it because I am a woman who has also been a prosecutor for 16 years. The incumbent DA was never a prosecutor before.

How was your campaign affected by coronavirus?

It's been very affected by it. Candidates running for office everywhere - including the presidential candidates - now have to do everything digitally. So, we have video meetings, and video campaign events, and we're doing a lot more on social media. And you have to be very mindful of the fact that people are going through a really hard time. You have to raise money as a candidate, and it's definitely harder to ask people to donate to a campaign right now when

PHOTO: MIMIROCAHFORDA.COM

Vote for Mimi!
Here with Aaron, Sabrina and David at their Scarsdale home. The Prisament Paper endorses our cousin Mimi for Westchester County DA. :-)

Op-Ed

GIVE ME A (SPRING) BREAK!

by Clayton Prisament

With stress building up for parents, students, and teachers, many were hoping to let all their worries go during spring break. Spring break is a week off from school around Easter and Passover.

Many students have been struggling during "remote learning" and parents are having to multitask: Working from home and having to constantly re-focus or help their kids on their classwork. Teachers have been expected to post daily assignments and to grade all the work from home just like normal, but what's not normal is a that what should be a stress-free week has disappeared with a snap of Governor Cuomo's fingers.

Many kids are being overworked and must work all day to keep their grades, teachers who may also have kids have to post assignments and help their children on their schoolwork. Spring break is also the last weeklong break until the end of the school year.

Some people just need a good break to recharge after being power depleted by the burdens of school. Especially in this troubling time, a small vacation would benefit everyone.

In other words: People need a break, a Spring break.

Fiction

CHAIN STORY - INSTALLMENT 2

Continued by Clayton Prisament

Email us to submit a continuation for the next issue! The only rule is you can't end the story.

"Curious" I said, shoving the envelope in my back pocket as I grabbed my bags and made my way down the stairs. I tried to catch up with the rest of the crowd, but only a few people remained and I panicked. As I made my way down the stairs I heard an unusual rumbling noise. My heart raced as I told myself "It's nothing Sophia, just the furnace room."

My mother died when I was 12, the last of the Brooker bloodline (not including me of course), 3 years after my father left. I had never heard good things about orphanages so I used my mom's savings to move into Jamison and Co. Studio Apartments to have a clean safe place to live. At first I was worried about how I would have enough money to support myself and still go to school. But then on July 19 the letter came signed by nobody, to nobody, to my luck, when I opened it up I found a wad of cash tied with a rubber band just like in Hollywood. A fresh $20k! I know people say money can't buy happiness, but that certainly made my day. After that every year for 4 years on July 19 I found an envelope with my money. But this year, this year there had been no envelope...

To be continued ... by YOU!

CHAOS THEORY EXPLAINED

by Gregory Prisament

Chaos Theory is a mathematical theory that describes unpredictable systems. A *chaotic system* has an extreme sensitivity to *initial conditions* - meaning a small change at an early time leads to a big change at a later time.

Imagine in January 2020 that someone named Alice is unaware that she has Covid-19. She goes for a walk in busy downtown Seattle and sneezes, infecting a passerby Bob who then gets on a plane to Detroit, Michigan, eventually leading to an outbreak there. If we change the *initial condition* slightly by having Alice walk 8 more feet before sneezing: she instead infects passerby Charles who then goes on a road trip to Portland, Oregon leading to an outbreak there. In this hypothetical scenario, a minor 8-foot difference at the beginning leads to a drastically different outcome - an entirely different city has the outbreak!

We can explain phenomena like this with math! The story above would be hard to model, but we can show similar results with a simpler system: kneading bread dough (or Grandma Rozanne's famous Scotch dough).

Pretend the orange line is our dough and it stretches from -1 to 1 on the number line. When you knead dough, you
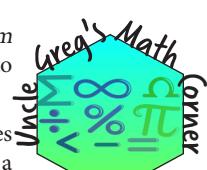
Wishes I Keep to Myself

by Sabrina Anders

Wish I could fall into my book of stories
Ever patient on my shelf
Holding wisdom between its faded letters
Unknown to many
Beloved by few

To dance with Peter Pan
Never growing up
Running from Captain Hook
Waving his sharp stump
Telling stories with Wendy

Or maybe run with Robin Hood
His friends dashing around in the woods
Steal from the rich, give to the poor,
Oh I wish I could do that in this world
Without judging eyes, a silent thrashing.

Shall I dance with Cinderella?
Or sweep the step family floors?
Maybe find a lovely carriage
Ride into the night.
The songs of robins whispering, a melodic sight.

Turn the page, a chapter or two.
The frog prince is waiting
Tiana is too.
Stroll in the swamp
Buss tables in the cafe
In New Orleans, who knows what will happen today?

Down the rabbit hole I go
Spinning closer to all who know
Just how deep my mind can go
The red queen awaits,
A death sentence hanging in her mouth.

Maybe I would like to hide
Among the roses
Where Belle's palace resides
Read in the library
Talk to the plates
About worries my mind cannot escape

I wish to dance among the stories,
Calm and immortal in their grace
To know why they carry
Such a solemn face
When told by the brothers grimm

Oh to dive among the fish
Maybe Ariel could grant my wish
Ursula lurks in her cave
Lost souls crying in their watery grave
The palace gleams unaware
The world looks the same when eyes are bare

Crystal cold
Elsa sings as the ice runs
Just as singing cools my mind
In a puddle of calm
Away from stress
A lethal net

I wish to watch the painting of history
Through fairies and knights
Dreams long long ago
Far far away
Glorious in their reign

This is my wish,
An impossible feat
All I ask
Is to get my
Once upon a time.

Chaos Theory Explained

stretch it and then fold it over back on itself.
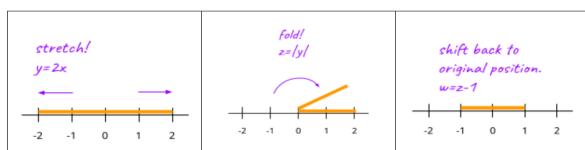
Combining the above operations we get:

$w = |2x| - 1$

Grandma can tell you that you don't knead just once, you repeat it over and over:

$x_1 = |2x_0| - 1$
$x_2 = |2x_1| - 1$
$x_3 = |2x_2| - 1$
    ...

Now let's drop a grain of rice into our dough at position 0.123 and see where it ends up. Since this is a *chaotic system* even the tiniest change to the grain's initial position drastically changes its ending position after just a few kneading steps. We can see this by dropping another grain in at position 0.124:

Grain	START	x_1	x_2	x_3	x_4	x_5	x_6	x_7	x_8	x_9
A	0.123	-0.754	0.508	0.016	-0.968	0.936	0.872	0.744	0.488	-0.240
B	0.124	-0.752	0.504	0.008	-0.984	0.968	0.936	0.872	0.744	0.488

We can also look at the distance between grains A and B:

|A-B|	0.001	0.002	0.004	0.008	0.016	0.032	0.064	0.128	0.256	0.512

Notice that the distance between the grains (known as the "error") is growing exponentially - it doubles with each step. Any system whose *error* eventually grows to the size of the entire *domain* is *chaotic*. Another way to think about this: if you add a drop of blue food coloring to the dough before kneading, eventually the entire dough ball will turn blue.

Exercise: Investigate what happens to other rice grains with different starting positions between -1 and 1 when you knead the mathematical dough. Do you notice any patterns?

PHOTO: MARC PRISAMENT

No Human Visitors, but ....
A turkey enjoys the day in Marc and Rozanne's backyard. The massive reduction in human activity seems to have emboldened local wildlife to explore new areas and generally be less evasive.

Solutions to last week's Mathematics Word Search
Congratulations to our friend **Ilinka Nikolov** who found all the words!

A Dialogue

by Elena Prisament

A: Ahem. What is 367 times 54?
B: 19,818.

A: Good. Who was the 4th president of Mexico?
B: Anastasio Bustamante.

A: Correct. When did Mt. Everest Form?
B: Clears throat. About 60 million years ago.

A: The "clears throat" is a stage direction. You're not supposed to say it.
B: Oh. Sorry.

A: It's fine. How do you spell "chiaroskurist"?
B: C-H-I-A-R-O-S-C-U-R-I-S-T

A: Very good. Now, why-
B: This is too easy! I'm not doing this anymore!

A: What do you mean? The questions are from the "Impossible Trivia" book!
B: Yeah, but I'm just reading the answers from my script!

A: Well, of course they're on the script! It's a play!
B: But then I don't have to think at all! This isn't helping me get smarter!

A: You couldn't answer these questions without the script!
B: This is making me feel like I'm cheating! The answers are right in front of me!!!

A: Well, then your character is smarter than you! Deal with it!
B: Screams loudly. I DON'T WANT -

A: No! "Screams loudly" is also a stage direction.
B: Oh, oops. Wait, look - "chiaroscurist" is spelled differently in your line than in mine. It has a K instead of a C.

A: Chiaroskurist? Oh yeah, you're right. But how do you know yours doesn't have a C instead of a K?
B: I have no idea! I've never seen that word before in my life!

A: Do you think the playwright just made it up?
B: Maybe. Let's ask the director.

A: Yeah. Let's ask the director.

Interview with Mimi Rocah

so many people are having trouble just making ends meet for themselves and their families.

What would you do about coronavirus?

That's not really part of the DA's job, but there are a few things about it that are kind of relevant to the DA's office. For one, the government right now is defining what is an essential business. And some of the things that are being defined as an "essential business" are - to me - pretty questionable. In particular, gun shops, and also certain banking businesses… Banks are obviously essential, but there are all of these money fund offices that are open, which don't need to be. Obviously that doesn't seem essential in the same way, and could certainly be done from home. I know a lot of people still going to their offices for work.

Point two: Law enforcement has to enforce these new rules. So when they see people gathering in groups, or hanging out in restaurants, or having their own little get-togethers and things like that, the police and the law enforcement have to enforce the laws against that. That's dangerous for the people gathering, and it is not a good thing. I think that people who aren't following the rules are putting not just themselves at risk, but really the first responders, and that's very upsetting.

Elements Crossword Puzzle

by Lucas Prisament, with references from "National Geographic Science Encyclopedia"
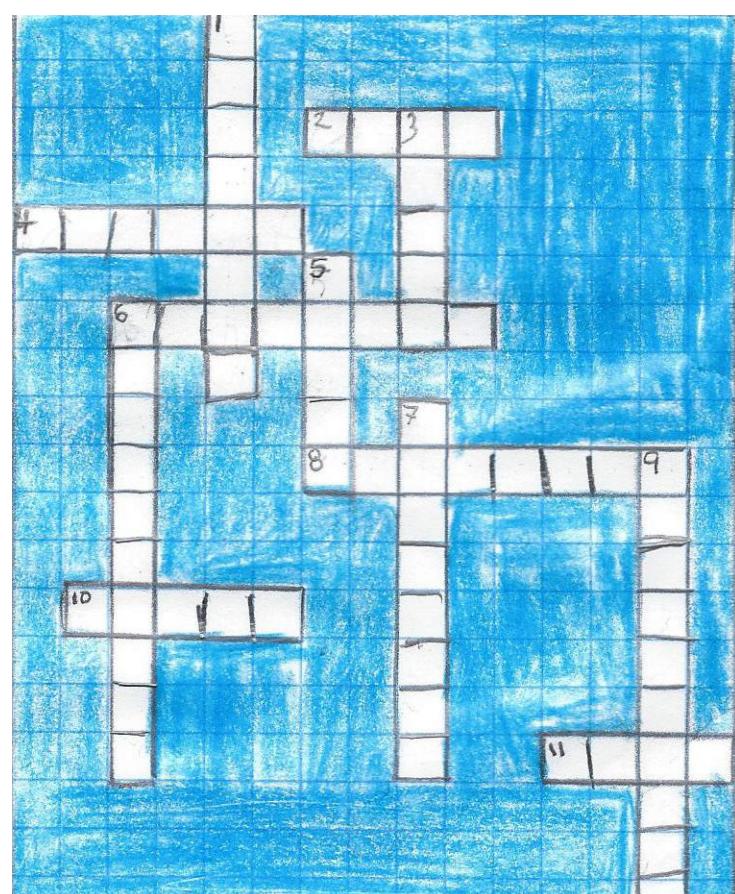
Down
1. These are the second most reactive elements.
3. These are colorless, non reactive elements.
5. Radon and Krypton are _____.
6. _____ metals are good conductors of electricity.
7. This is the only group that includes elements that are solids, gases and liquids at room temperature.
9. Silicon and Arsenic are called _____.

Across
2. The atomic number of this metal is 30.
4. _____ are shiny, tough and malleable.
8. It's atomic symbol is Sc.
10. Every element has its own _____ number and symbol.
11. This element is used to make lights.