



April 10, 2020

Easter weekend. I got reminiscing with my mom last night. She'd wake us up on Easter morning declaring "Christos Anesti" and then start singing hymns. Easter hymns are especially joyous. She used to dress us up in Easter bonnets, Mary Jane shoes with white ankle socks, pastel colored smocked dresses, and, if memory serves, white gloves! Can you picture it? The photos are horrifying! But mom loves them, of course. She also reminded me of the Easter egg hunt that was staged one year before church, but while we were there, the squirrels got enamored with the shiny chocolate egg coverings and they were gone before we got home! We are going to have a virtual dinner with her on Sunday. I imagine this is how many of you will also be connecting with family. Enjoy. This will be one for the memory books! Challenging times, especially for those without many friends and family to rely on. As David Brooks said in his NYT column today, "it's time to practice aggressive friendship with each other - to be the one who seeks out the lonely and the troubled." We can do that. I know we can.

If you haven't already, please let your kids know the campus is closed. I don't want to have eager children and grandchildren arriving on Sunday to greet you, only to be turned away. Thanks!

For those of you who may not have heard, Governor Scott today extended his Stay at Home order until May 15th. Rest assured, our efforts to stay at home have been working to slow the impact of the virus, but he feels like this is still a necessary step to mitigate the spread. This is likely a big disappointment to many. I realize this isolation is wearing on you all, but I appreciate your continued willingness to comply despite the difficulty. We are already four weeks in, and so far no COVID on campus which is both incredibly lucky and our goal!

A note on your menus from Dining:

If your completed menu disappears from your door before the allocated time, don't despair! It has been removed by those magicians who bring you your dinner and has been delivered safely to dining.

Walgreens prescriptions:

We know that many of you may have a prescription at Walgreens, which does not deliver. Starting next week a member of our Wellness Center team has volunteered

to pickup on Tuesday afternoons. Please have your prescription called in by Monday afternoon so it can be ready. (The Wellness Center number is 264-5139.)

Just finished up my first round of video chats with the IL residents. It's been fun to see everyone, catch up, answer questions, hear feedback. I have scheduled round two of calls with residents. I have three next week and three the following. I'm mixing up the neighborhoods a bit so you get a chance to see different folks during these calls. I hope you can participate.

Thank you to all our seamstresses on campus. I understand that 37 gowns have been completed and more fabric is on order. As you know, we are challenged to get a hold of Personal Protective Equipment for our Linden staff. Disposable gowns are in short supply so these cloth ones that we can wash are a huge help! Thank you! And I understand there's still a need for cloth masks, so if you have the urge, keep those sewing machines chugging along. The cloth masks will not go to waste!

The latest Happenings Calendar is attached to this email. Lots of great happenings this weekend and next week! Enjoy.

Finally, today's burst of humor!

My Self-Isolation Quarantine Diary (courtesy of a resident's funny brother!)

Day 1 – I can do this!! Got enough food and wine to last a month!

Day 2 – Opening my 8th bottle of wine. I fear wine supplies might not last!

Day 3 – Strawberries: Some have 210 seeds, some have 235 seeds. Who knew??

Day 4 – 8:00 pm. Removed my Day Pajamas and put on my Night Pajamas.

Day 5 – Today, I tried to make hand sanitizer. It came out as Jello shots!!

Day 6 – I get to take the garbage out. I'm so excited, I can't decide what to wear.

Day 7 – Laughing way too much at my own jokes!!

Day 8 – Went to a new restaurant called "The Kitchen." You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.

Day 9– I put liquor bottles in every room. Tonight, I'm getting all dressed up and going bar hopping.

Day 10 – Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He's a Web Designer.

Day 11 – Isolation is hard. I swear my fridge just said, "What the hell do you want now?"

Day 12 – I realized why dogs get so excited about something moving outside, going for walks or car rides. I think I just barked at a squirrel.

Day 13 – If you keep a glass of wine in each hand, you can't accidentally touch your face.

Day 14 – Watched the birds fight over a worm. The Cardinals lead the Blue Jays 3-1.

Day 15 – Anybody else feel like they've cooked dinner about 395 times this month?

Peace everyone.

Martha

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martha", written in black ink.

Martha E. Maksym
President and CEO