



Green Animals Topiary Garden

The Elms

Picnic with a Green Giraffe, Greek Gods & a Million-Dollar View.

Picnic Baskets Welcome!



The Breakers

Enjoy our landscapes, gardens & fresh air with our new *Stroll the Gardens & Grounds* package.

Stroll among a menagerie of topiary animals at Green Animals. Hang out with the Greek statuary at The Elms. At The Breakers, enjoy a breathtaking view of the Atlantic Ocean and meander along the recently restored serpentine path.

\$18 Adult / \$8 Youth 6-17 Members Free

The Breakers 10 am - 5 pm	The Elms 9 am - 4 pm	Green Animals 10 am - Sunset
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Includes admission to the grounds only. Does not include interior entry to The Breakers, The Elms & Green Animals.



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POLI-TICKS

Another sickness is lack of unity

The statistics are bad enough. With 4.2 percent of the globe's population, the United States accounts for about 30 percent of COVID-19 mortalities. According to the CDC, 80 percent of those are age 65 or older. Others are black Americans, who have two-and-a-half times the death rate of their white counterparts.

Faced with these realities, one response has been that the elderly should be willing to risk their lives to reopen the economy (Texas Lt. Governor Dan Patrick). The other reaction has been to ignore what the indictment of minority deaths are to this American society.



Arlene VIOLET

In fact, far too many Americans are contemptuous of doing anything that mitigates the impact of the contagion. Contempt for the common good is paraded as a virtue and a patriotic badge of honor. This righteous callousness has widened the crack in our democracy, where citizens are incapable of uniting to fight this pandemic.

Yes, there have been amazing acts of bravery and self-sacrifice, particularly by first-responders, but their example is offset by the pseudo-Americans who literally spit in the face of their fellow citizens and who assert a "birthright freedom" not to wear a mask or social distance. This indignation at being asked to make the most minimal effort to help protect their countrymen is as astonishing as it is appalling (Williams HARPER'S, August 2020, p. 9).

The coronavirus spread is now confining children to another round of remote learning. Ironically, the states with the worst infection rates are insisting on opening the classrooms with very little science or rea-

soning.

It should be a primary concern of all Americans that this country is not healthy, and not only because of the pandemic. Collective sacrifice is out the window. Political rhetoric has encouraged the most basic disregard of one another. Religious principles like "Love your neighbor" have been trumped by political allegiance to the "gods" of politics. In effect, this country has metamorphosized into a cult with some groups.

The body politic is sick. Whether folks of good will can turn this epidemic of smug, self-centeredness remains to be seen. Right now, the disregard of the sick, the infirm, the weak and the impoverished, is in vogue. Anti-expertise fervor has replaced science.

How else would anyone explain the lack of appropriate masks, testing capacity and misinformation about unproven and actually lethal substances to "cure" the virus? In fact, the effort is just the opposite, i.e. to blame everybody else for the pandemic, including China. Certainly, everyone is aware that this virus emanated from the Wuhan City, but its spread here is totally our own doing because of a lack of early response to curb the contagion and the lack of protective gear and equipment and a lack of a national plan.

By telling states that they were responsible to handle the epidemic, the lack of a national strategy drove up prices astronomically because of competition and the lack of a national cause. This "on your own" approach mirrors the ethic in the country today, where folks just don't give a darn.

I know it's quaint, but I still hope that this country can get back to "I wear my mask for you and you wear yours for me." Otherwise, we are goners in more ways than one.

Arlene Violet is an attorney and former Rhode Island Attorney General.

SCHOOL: With the fall in flux, interest in home-schooling is on the rise

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allows access to all the organization's resources — though there are enough to get you started on their site for free. Their workshops are also free. Workshops, normal held monthly, are being held weekly (and virtually) during the month of August. Visit ENRICHri.org for details.

Though there are plenty of families homeschooling older students for the first time, Marcia estimates the majority of new inquiries are coming from the parents of

younger students who struggle with distance learning and don't want to deal with the restrictions of in-person classrooms. She estimates that about half their new homeschoolers will return to regular classrooms when they feel more comfortable, while others will get into a groove and decide to stay with it. Either way, they are here to help.

"We don't want people to be anxious about the unknown," she said. "We want families to know that they have flexibility and the freedom to choose."

My child is not communicating as well as his peers. Should I wait and see if his speech will improve on his own?

Many parents worry when their child is not communicating as well as children the same age or even younger. In many cases, late talkers will eventually develop speech and language skills at their own pace without any formal intervention.

There are times, however, when a child may have a speech or language disorder which is the cause of their inability to communicate. It is always best to seek the services of a Certified Speech Language Pathologist to formally assess your child's current speech and language skills.



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