



the spectator

VOLUME V SPECIAL ISSUE

THE MADEIRA SCHOOL

MAY 2020

A Community United in a Global Crisis: *Community Service is More Important Now than Ever Before*

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Assistant Editor (Spring)

In the United States, service is more important now than ever before. Employees are getting laid off from their jobs. Schools are shutting down. Necessary supplies from grocery stores are proving difficult to access and find. According to Liz Reinert, Executive Director of Suited for Change, "COVID-19 has taken all the inequities and injustices of Washington, DC and suddenly, harshly made them worse. The economic and social burdens of this crisis will fall disproportionately upon our communities of color – especially women of color." Even worse, the number of volunteers participating in service projects is now on the decline.

At the moment, volunteering with other individuals is difficult because people are only allowed to work in small groups. Lilly Tanenbaum, a junior at Madeira, indicated that "while it is harder to do many of the things that were done as service before, like volunteering at a food-bank, there are so many more people who need help [...] that we must be creative in finding new ways to help people in need."

Thankfully, Facebook, NextDoor, Suited for Change, A Wider Circle, and other significant organizations are working to

continue community assistance through virtual platforms. In 2017, Facebook created a Community Help feature with the goal of assisting people in the midst of a major crisis (i.e., terrorist attacks, natural disasters, etc.). Currently, they are expanding this platform in response to the recent COVID-19 outbreaks, connecting users from all around the world in the center of this major global crisis. Individuals can now virtually reach out to those affected by the virus and users will soon have the option of providing financial support for nonprofits. Furthermore, the NextDoor app is now providing a Help Map where people can

We must be creative in finding new ways to help people in need.

identify locations of those in need and healthy community members can be of assistance to those areas.

Helping launch women into the workforce, Suited for Change is an organization located in Washington, DC that has served over 28,000 women since 1992. In response to COVID-19, Executive Director Liz Reinert indicates that Suited for Change has developed an online version of their "professional coaching sessions [to] help clients identify and utilize their individual



Food bank donations compiled in boxes. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

strengths in the workplace." In addition to an online platform, Suited for Change has also provided a client resource page that includes free food resources, information on how to prevent infection, and numerous others.

A Wider Circle, an organization located in the DC area, collects donations from members of the community, such as couches, desks, books, or other household items, and displays them in their warehouse for disadvantaged members of the community to "shop" for free! Despite the hardships of the COVID-19 crisis, A Wider Circle is still working to create a positive, lasting impact on members of our community. Rachael Buck, Director of Outreach and Volunteer Programming at A Wider Circle, indicated that their "goal is to help our community rebuild stronger than we were before. [They] will be working even harder to ad-

dress the systemic causes of poverty, so that equity of opportunity is present in every community."

Readers may find themselves asking, how can the community get more involved in service during these uncertain times? First, a community member can reach out to local service organizations and ask how a volunteer can assist, such as reaching

How can the community get more involved in service during these uncertain times?

out to clients and checking in on them, ordering grocery supplies, etc. Also, one must be thoughtful when purchasing food from the grocery store. According to Feed America, 72 billion pounds of food goes to waste - so do not waste! Furthermore, as stated by Lilly Tanenbaum, "the best thing

people can do right now is donate, whether that be supplies or money. It is hard to give in-person help right now, but we can still help by donating." Suited for Change has a Mother's Day donation challenge posted on their website and A Wider Circle just launched a #ShowUsWhatYouGot campaign.

Above all else, stay healthy and do not put yourself in risky situations. Grace Thomas, a junior at The Madeira School, indicates that "minimizing contact is the most important thing. [...] I would encourage people our age who are less susceptible to COVID-19 to volunteer to get groceries for others or work at food distribution sites. But I don't think anyone should feel guilty for not doing traditional service. The biggest service any of us can do for our communities is stay at home." During these uncertain times, we need to unite as a community and emerge stronger than ever before.

The Truth About GMOs

Understanding the Presence of GMOs in the Modern World



Though there are risks associated with genetic engineering, most genetic modifications are small and can yield great benefits. Photo courtesy of Rawpixel.

Maria Lyons '20
Contributing Writer

Genetic engineering is a scary term. It's the premise of countless sci-fi dystopias, but in real life, it's something to be appreciated more than feared.

(To be clear, this article is about artificial molecular editing of DNA—not the sort of "genetic engineering" that's been practiced by selective breeding over thousands of years.)

The greatest fears around

genetic engineering seem to concentrate on the unintended consequences. But every responsible

Genetic engineering absolutely encompasses certain risks, but the benefits can be enormous.

geneticist builds multiple failsafes into their products; these can take the form of killswitches, infertility, or other forms of self-destruction

that happen when an organism leaves its desired environment. When I worked on a potential probiotic bacteria, we implanted a gene that would only allow the bacteria to grow in the presence of a rare type of starch. If the bacteria escaped from the lab, it would only live for a matter of hours.

It's also important to remember that GMOs are already everywhere. According to the Center for Food Safety, 92% of corn and 94% of soybeans grown in the US are genetically modi-

fied, and you may not have even noticed. That's because most genetic modifications are extremely small and a net benefit to the consumer: for example, if plants require less water to grow, a massive conservation of resources can be achieved. And what's more, genetically modified fish and amphibians are sold all over the country—and while the ethics of a patented species can be debated, the bright colors of the animals themselves pose little threat to the ecosystem.

Genetic engineering absolutely encompasses certain risks, but the benefits can be enormous. For example, Golden Rice is a modified strain of rice that contains the vitamin beta-carotene, which the body manufactures into Vitamin A. Although the project is not yet widespread, it could cure one of the most common nutrient deficiencies on the planet.

Genetic engineering is just another tool in humanity's hands, and like all others, it should be approached with caution and skepticism; however, we should not allow our fears to keep us from using it altogether.

**CONGRATS
TO THE
CLASS OF
2020!**

Though the end of the year has not gone as planned and the seniors must celebrate from a distance, the Madeira community wishes all the best to the beloved class of 2020. Seniors have been Zooming, Netflix Partying, and connecting with friends from a distance over the last two modules of the school year. Though the seniors are excited for the next phase in their lives, we hope they will remember the sisterhood of Madeira for the rest of their lives. Each member of the class of 2020 has left her own individual legacy at Madeira. The class of 2020 will be greatly missed!

**WE LOVE
OUR
SENIORS!**



Two months ago, I was dreaming of a sunny day in May on the Oval. In this dream, I imagined myself and all of my friends wearing our college shirts, smiling, and laughing as our knees became covered in chalk from the college logos we had drawn all over the pavement. I was excited to finally have this one moment; I had looked forward to drawing my college's name on the Oval for all of high school. I had seen College Shirt Day photographed and displayed all over Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat for the past three years as the classes of 2017, 2018, and 2019 celebrated their exciting futures, and I never thought that my class would not have this special moment, too.

Flash forward to right now, I am just grateful that my family and friends are all safe at home. Instead of looking forward to Senior Prom, Affirmation, College Shirt Day, and Graduation, I now look forward to walking out-

side with my dog, going for runs with my friend (six feet apart), and seeing my advisory on Teams' virtual meeting platform. Many of my classmates feel the same way that I do: we are nervous and scared for the uncertain future, restless in our homes, and fighting the urge to watch Netflix all day as we try to convince ourselves that the school work we are assigned now is way more time-consuming than it ever has been before.

I never thought I would be writing my last Letter from the Editor from home in these circumstances, nor did I foresee that the most exciting season of newspaper I would ever participate in – over thirty staff members strong! – would be cut extremely short. There will be no more of the familiar, cream-colored newspaper – the one that smells like old books and ink and glue – with *The Spectator* scrawled across the top and the names of the best newspaper teammates I have ever known listed in the top right-hand corner of the second page. Ms. Heishman, Ms. McGrory, and Ms. Sundberg introduced me to a passion I didn't know I had and pushed me to be the best editor I could be; I am disappointed I will not be able to hand them my final issues of *The Spectator* as a senior editor.

There are silver linings to every frightening and frustrat-

ing situation, however. Though the tunnel is dark and may seem never-ending, the joy I have experienced over connecting with my family, reuniting (over FaceTime) with friends from elementary school, and developing new hobbies has revealed the everlasting optimism of humanity. The dedication shown and unimaginable sacrifices made by medical workers, delivery drivers, grocery store cashiers, and all workers who must work to keep everyone else afloat have attested to the endurance of human strength.

The silver linings of a global pandemic might seem so faint they appear invisible, but when I have looked closer, I have discovered a brilliance unlike any other I have seen before. I urge you, too, to look a little closer.

On Thursday, March 12th, students were struck with the overwhelming news that, following two weeks of Spring Break, school was going to be cancelled for module six. Thoughts were whizzing through our heads: "is Friday going to be our last day of school for the entire year?", "will my Co-Curriculum placement be cancelled?", "I struggle to learn independently, so am I going to flunk out of high school?" The circumstances were becoming increasingly confusing and fright-

ening. And we couldn't quite grasp what was going to happen next.

Ten weeks of "distance" or "remote" learning. 1680 hours away from school until summer. 100800 minutes. Given that the average teenager spends 2 hrs and 22 minutes on social media each day, it is estimated that an individual student will spend about 170 hours on social media (possibly more) during modules six and seven.

We live in a world with an ever-increasing desire to fit in and feel accepted. As indicated by Dr. Tim Bono, author of *When Likes Aren't Enough*, "when we derive a sense of worth based on how we are doing relative to others, we place our happiness in a variable that is completely beyond our control." Social media often results in something otherwise known as 'Facebook envy,' which is when one undergoes some form of jealousy towards their friend on social media. Many social media users base their success and self-worth on oth-



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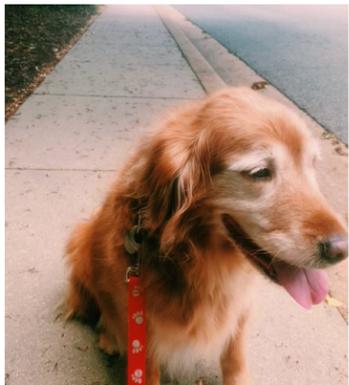
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ers' experiences, and are caught in the endless cycle of: "how many likes did I get on my latest post?" or even, "who liked it?"

Despite the negative effects of social media, online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter are now more important than ever before. Through these online platforms, children, teenagers, and adults are provided with the opportunity to share their personal testimonies, experiences, and challenges as well as offer support for those facing difficult situations. In the center of a major global crisis, social media networks have the capacity to uplift, inspire, and unite people from regions across the globe.

What are Madeira Students Doing during Quarantine?



(Above) Eliza Cart '20 is taking advantage of extra time at home to take her dog on plenty of walks and observe the world around her. Eliza has used her quarantine time to create a gratitude log, and she has included some of the photos from her walks in her log.

(Below) Caroline Huber '21 is enjoying spring by taking pictures of blossoms.



(Above) Isabella Han '21 spends quality time at home with her dog Ketchup.

(Left) Sydney Gu '21 enjoys dumplings and homemade pizza.

(Below) Mikayla Connolly '20 has been practicing her baking skills by making 'The Perfect Chocolate Chip Cookie.'



How to Submit to The Spectator

At *The Spectator*, we encourage any member of The Madeira School to submit to the newspaper. Articles submitted are subjected to a staff peer review and edit, then submitted for editorial review. Submission does not guarantee print, but it does help! Of particular interest to the staff are articles concerning the Madeira community, club news and events, and sports. Submissions should be sent to the editors or the advisors, Mrs. Heishman and Ms. Sundberg at thespectator@madeira.org

Corrections

Any corrections should be sent to *The Spectator* lead advisors, Ms. Sundberg and Mrs. Heishman, at thespectator@madeira.org. The publication seeks to always publish corrections as they come to our attention.

Disclaimer

The contents of *The Spectator* are the opinions of the student staff of Madeira publications. The content does not reflect the opinions, ideas, or attitudes of the advisor, The Madeira School or its administration, Board of Directors, and faculty or staff. Madeira student staff is protected by and bound to the principles of the First Amendment.

Artists Supporting Artists How the Art World Functions in Quarantine



Art galleries everywhere are creating online platforms to provide viewers with access to artists' newest work. *Photo courtesy of Pixabay.*

Gabby McClellan '20
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With nearly 200 thousand posts in six weeks, the #artistsupportingartists hashtag has created a massive movement of creative people eager to continue sharing their work in the middle of a world-altering pandemic. Professional artists, ranging from painters to sculptors and photographers to printmakers, have started a trend to keep the art world afloat and broaden the public's access to their work through an online, social-media based hashtag. Artists participating in this trend have offered accessibly-priced pieces of their work, and once each artist reaches a profit of \$1000, he or she pledges to purchase the work of another artist participating in the hashtag, which keeps the cycle going. The art world, like so many industries, has sought new avenues to maintain public

engagement and fiscally support independent, professional artists.

Besides continuing to support the sales of their fellow artists in this world-altering time, artists with planned gallery openings have worked with their galleries to create online, interactive

The art world, like so many industries, has sought new avenues to maintain public engagement and fiscally support independent, professional artists.

tours of their artwork. Galleries like the JD Malat Gallery, based in London, England, have created incredible online gallery walks to offer artists and art lovers continued support and means to view new works. By creating digital 'viewing rooms,' galleries have further opened their exhibitions to a wider public.

Quarantine Rallies Animal Lovers to Adopt Animal Shelters Stay Afloat Thanks to Increased Adoptions and Foster Families

Jacqueline Ayers '20
Assistant Editor (Spring)

Disruption and chaos have become the norm since mid-March, when many aspects of American life were put on hold to stem the spread of the coronavirus. While many communities have visibly risen to the challenge of combatting the disease, most notably doctors and nurses, there are many industries, nonprofits, and community members that, though they do not receive quite as much recognition, have made sacrifices for others during this tumultuous time. Animal lovers are one example of communities across the country have opened their hearts and homes.

Covid-19 rendered animal shelters inoperable in a matter of days, leaving many shelters with grim options should they be forced to closed with animals still inside their crates, cages, and pens. Shelter closures came at perhaps the worst possible moment, too; new, unwanted litters are often born in early spring and brought to shelters across the country. Volunteers, however, have demonstrated their unwavering dedication by taking to social media to publicize the countless "quarantine buddies" who need to be adopted or temporarily fostered. Drive-



Pet adoptions are on the rise due to quarantine. *Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.*

through events have been organized, during which shelter staff members provide a new family

Additionally, many families who have become home to abandoned dogs, cats, bunnies, and even horses have voiced their gratitude for their quarantine partners on social media, often relating that social distancing has been much easier with the help of a new friend.

with pet food and their new furry friend. The events have become extremely popular amongst those animal lovers who would rather not commit to adopting a new pet long-term. Other shelter workers and volunteers have

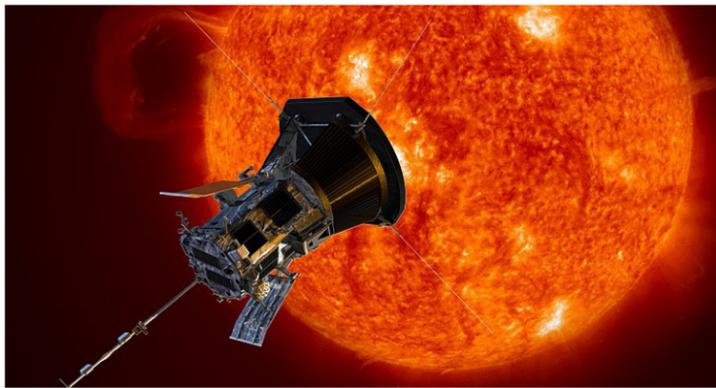
made creative use of popular social distancing platforms like Skype and Zoom to organize meet-and-greets between community members and abandoned pets.

The results of the social media campaigns, temporary foster placements, and Zoom sessions have been heartwarming. In many areas, such as Santa Rosa County Animal Shelter in Florida, virtually all shelter animals have been adopted. According to Luis Quintanilla of the Humane Society of Harlingen, Texas, the reduced shelter staff members are breathing a sigh of relief. Additionally, many families who have become home to abandoned dogs, cats, bunnies, and even horses have voiced their gratitude for their quarantine partners on social media, often relating that social distancing has been much easier with the help of a new friend.

To the Sun and Back: Solar Orbiter Offers New Way to Study the Sun

Elena Jochum '21
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On February 9, 2020, NASA launched its Solar Orbiter, a new probe aiming to study the sun up close. A product of the collaboration between the European Space Agency and NASA, Solar Orbiter was developed by Airbus Defence and Space and launched by the Atlas V rocket. Part of NASA's broader goal to study the sun, Solar Orbiter is anticipated to explore a field of astrophysics known as heliophysics. In its broadest sense, heliophysics is a comprehensive term for study of the sun and how it affects the rest of the solar system. The field encompasses both astrophysics and meteorology, including solar physics, nuclear physics, electromagnetic properties of the sun, and space weather. Because the sun is the only star scientists can closely observe, studying the sun provides crucial knowledge when exploring the broader study of stars. NASA's now extensive investigation of the field of heliophysics began with the Wind satellite, which was launched on November 1, 1994. Wind's mission, as the name suggests, is to study the solar wind: the radio waves and plasma that comprise the wind as well as its



An artist's rendition of the Parker Solar Probe approaching the Sun.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons. sphere and the solar wind: two important, deeply interconnected areas of study. The solar wind is a constant flow of charged particles, or plasma, emitted from the sun. Traveling all throughout the solar system, the solar wind engulfs the solar system in a bubble of

Now, Solar Orbiter has the exciting opportunity to carry on Wind's as well as subsequent heliophysics missions' legacy. Solar Orbiter is currently in its testing phase; until May, scientists are remotely running tests on the orbiter's ten instruments. Then, the spacecraft will take about two years to reach its primary science orbit. Once in its elliptical orbit, Solar Orbiter will make twenty-two close approaches to the sun, delving within Mercury's orbit roughly once every six months. At its closest, the spacecraft will come within twenty-six million miles of the sun. The orbiter's main focus is the helio-

sphere and the solar wind: two important, deeply interconnected areas of study. The solar wind is a constant flow of charged particles, or plasma, emitted from the sun. Traveling all throughout the solar system, the solar wind engulfs the solar system in a bubble of

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magnetic fields known as the heliosphere. The heliosphere serves as a protective bubble around the planets, shielding them from interstellar radiation. Solar Orbiter

aims specifically to find out how the sun creates and controls its heliosphere, which is extremely important for the safety of the planets in our solar system. The solar wind is a crucial area of study as well, as large concentrations of plasma from coronal mass ejections can interfere with the Earth's magnetic field, disrupting electrical equipment, satellites, and the power grid. The solar wind also poses a security threat to astronauts, who are vulnerable to harmful radiation from the bombardment of charged particles.

Solar Orbiter carries ten scientific instruments in order to study the heliosphere and solar wind: six remote sensing instruments to image the sun, the corona, and any mass ejections, alongside four in situ instruments to collect data on the environment around the orbiter. The remote sensing instruments, such as the orbiter's ultraviolet imager, primarily return images, which scientists can then use to make remote observations and match with data in order to form a complete understanding of the data. The in situ instruments return information focused on the charged particles of the solar wind and the magnetic field generated by the sun. For example, Solar Orbiter carries an Energetic Particle

Detector to measure electrons, which scientists can use to map the inner heliosphere. Another of the in situ instruments is a magnetometer, which collects data on the sun's magnetic field; using this information, scientists can better understand solar eruptions.

In addition to collecting data on its own, Solar Orbiter is also set to work closely with NASA's Parker Solar Probe. Designed and built by the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, the Parker Solar Probe has given scientists greater insight into reversals in the sun's magnetic field. The probe is currently studying the sun's corona, or the halo of plasma that surrounds the sun. Together, the Parker Solar Probe and Solar Orbiter can take detailed measurements of the corona in order to more fully understand of the movement of plasma around the sun.

Solar Orbiter's mission offers scientists with an exciting way to study the sun: up close, scientists have the opportunity to collect more accurate, detailed, and comprehensive data than ever before. Once in its primary orbit, the orbiter will hopefully return beautiful images of the sun as well as data that will further our understanding of the fascinating field of heliophysics.

Self-Isolation in 1928:

Henry Beston's *The Outermost House*

Elena Jochum '21
Layout Editor (Spring)

Wouldn't quarantine be more enjoyable in a little cottage buried among the great dunes overlooking the Atlantic? Henry Beston, an American writer and naturalist, experienced his own form of self-isolation by living alone in a Thoreau-style retreat to the beach of Cape Cod. Initially intending to spend only two weeks at his summer home in Cape Cod, Beston became so "possessed" by the beauty and mystery of the coast that he ended up staying for a full year. *The Outermost House* is Beston's account of living on the beach of Cape Cod; he records his observations of wildlife, shipwrecks, the earth and sea, as well as his thoughts on humanity's relationship with nature. In the same way that Beston was enraptured by the world around him, *The Outermost House* is captivating in that it embodies the same sense of beauty and mystery that he experienced. Especially in such uncertain times, Beston's poetic descriptions of life on the coast provide a refreshing escape to a world full of life and natural splendor. Beston celebrates the coast's biodiversity through his observations of wildlife and expresses a certain reverence

for the earth and sea, remarking on the majestic power of natural forces such as the wind and waves. Beston's fascination with the natural world reverberates through *The Outermost House*, in turn inspiring readers to find the beauty in their own worlds.

In addition to the book's refreshing content and inspiring message, Beston's style makes *The Outermost House* all the more pleasurable to read. The clarity and richness of Beston's language mirrors that of the world he inhabits. His carefully-crafted descriptions gracefully capture the form, tone, and movement in nature that he observes; as such, *The Outermost House* reads almost like poetry. Beston creates a living, dynamic coast: the crashing waves, shifting dunes, and painted sky each have their own character and remain shrouded in their own mysteries. Beston's use of figurative language adds a layer of richness and complexity to his otherwise simplistic style. As a writer, he is particularly adept at bringing life to descriptions of color and light; his vibrant descriptions of the hues of the sea and sand provide unique character to his portrayal of the coast. Perhaps the most delightful aspect of Beston's style is the sense of compassion with which



A drawing of one of the coast guard stations along Cape Cod. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

he writes. Beston regards all life—every insect, bird, or tree—with the utmost sympathy, admiration, and respect. Describing the wild-life of Cape Cod as the "peoples" of the earth and sea, he celebrates

Beston regards all life—every insect, bird, or tree—with the utmost sympathy, admiration, and respect.

every living thing he encounters.

Interwoven with his poetic and inspiring depiction of the coast are Beston's thoughts on humanity's relationship with the natural world. In *The Outermost House*, Beston implores his contemporaries to retain a sense of mystery and wonder with regards

to the natural world. Citing his society's increasingly clinical and scientific regard to nature, he comments that society has perhaps lost a part of itself by neglecting to revel in the beautiful mysteries that the natural world has to offer. Almost one hundred years later, society has only continued to unravel more of the mystery shrouding nature, making Beston's message even more potent today.

Beston's thoughts on solitude and separation from society may also be of particular use to current readers. Living alone on the beach for a full year, he naturally takes time to reflect on isolation in *The Outermost House*. Recounting the sense of isolation during the desolate winter on the coast, Beston asserts that he did not feel alone; even without the

constant hum of insects or the flight of birds to keep him company, he still felt surrounded by the sheer force of life. Beston did not feel alone, even living such a drastically isolated lifestyle, reassuring readers that there will always be life and hope around us.

The Outermost House instills in the reader both a sense of tranquility and a feeling of connectedness with other living beings. With a style that radiates compassion and life, Beston creates a coast blooming with wildlife and color as well as timeless themes. As such, almost one hundred years later, current readers can follow in Beston's example: celebrate the beautiful, mysterious world around you, be compassionate to all life you encounter, and create inspiring things.

Quarantine Bingo

Gone for 3 days without showering	Haven't been outside in at least one week	Cried	Read a book	Did NOT clean out the house
Binged at least an entire season of a show within one week	Started a new hobby	Baked way too many cakes/pies/cookies/etc.	Zoomed with over 15 people	Gone for a 4+ mile walk
Cleaned out the house	Tried meditation	FREE SPACE	Shopped online	Started a new show on Netflix
Did a workout class	Made a TikTok	Tried a new recipe	Gone for more than 3 walks in a day	Engaged with friends via FaceTime, Teams, Skype, Zoom, etc.
Wore pajamas during a school day	Visited the refrigerator at least four times in one day	Realized meditation doesn't work for you	Did an art project	Ordered take-out



Comedy Movie Recommendations for Quarantine

Bridesmaids - Hulu, HBO

How to Be Single - Cinemax

Spy - FX

Late Night - Amazon Prime

Booksmart - Hulu

Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle - Hulu

I Feel Pretty - Showtime, Hulu

Murder Mystery - Netflix

Superbad - Hulu, Netflix

The Favourite - Hulu

The Death of Stalin - Netflix