

THE IMAGINE SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020



SPECIAL ISSUE CELEBRATING **PERSEVERANCE**
KIDS SEPTEMBER EDITION VOLUME 13!



"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pushing Through Limits

by Shelby Fenton

Perseverance is pushing through tough experiences we face. I want to talk about how our world isn't fit for people with disabilities and how people with disabilities must persevere in everyday life.

To start name-calling can often be ableist. Children with disabilities are frequently called ableist names. They also hear others use their real conditions as insults. A popular insult today is to call someone autistic. Calling people autistic is ableist because people with autism aren't dumb they are regular people.



Imagine Teens leading a Healthy Harvest
#FOODFORFAMILIES service Sept 12th!
See pages for 3,5 & 6 for more info!

...continued from page 1

People with disabilities need to persevere in everyday life. First, it's harder to do everyday activities and some places aren't handicap friendly. It took my brother extra time just to zip a coat and other activities such as holding a pencil. In some towns, people with disabilities have to travel to other cities just for lessons that help them. Some gymnastic clubs don't have programs to help disabled people and swim clubs. Secondly, children with disabilities that go to school need to persevere all the time. Some schools don't have enough money to help children with special needs properly or don't know-how.

People with disabilities persevere and persevere so much they do things better than people without disabilities if they persevere enough.

Darroch is my brother and has Cerebral Palsy and has had to persevere his whole life from birth. Cerebral Palsy is caused by a head injury during a short window of time before and after birth. There is a large spectrum of Cerebral Palsy. He started by using a leg brace to straighten his leg. He found special classes and therapy to help. Eventually, he didn't need the brace after working hard enough. Darroch took classes and can now ski, swim and do other activities that would've been easier for a child without disabilities. My brother's journey with perseverance inspires me to be more like my brother and work harder.

People with disabilities persevere every day and it's something to be appreciated by treating them with respect and not to be ableist.



Shelby (13) and her brother Darroch (7) are all smiles when they're together :)

Shelby Fenton (13) is a 9th grader at St Timothy's Junior & High School in Cochrane, Alberta, Canada

Follow us on Instagram! @theimagesociety



Ascension Church Food Pantry

by Sophia Lupton



In 2017, we joined the Ascension Church for our religious education and confirmation. The church became our community and welcomed us with open arms. We decided we wanted to give back, and so we decided to help out in the food pantry. We were given this opportunity because I am a member of the Ascension Church Spirit Squad Youth Group, and my brother joins me as he is still currently taking religious education classes at the church.

Over the past three years of working at the pantry, we would volunteer on occasional weekends when we were able to. Back when we first started there, it seemed like there were only a handful of neighborhood people who would come by to pick up some staples to last them a week. Now with the current COVID-19 pandemic, it seems like there are many more people in need who come to the pantry for their provisions. We work much harder and regularly now to prepare for the Saturday food distribution events. We have helped clean the pantry closet, unload the food from the trucks, sort and package the food, and finally distribute the food. We work very hard at the pantry, but it is worth it to give people a healthy and safe meal as well as make a lot of people happy.

We are very dedicated to volunteering during this pandemic because we know that many people are less fortunate or have fallen on hard times because of the pandemic and cannot afford to buy the food that they need. We are so glad that we have the opportunity to work at the Ascension pantry along with a lot of great volunteers. My brother and I are also thankful to Robin Klueber, the Pantry Director, who makes all of this happen and has allowed my brother and I to contribute. By helping others, we feel closer to the community and are able to show our gratitude during this difficult time.



Sophia volunteering at the pantry! Thank you for your essay!

Sophia Lupton (15) is an 11th grader at Columbia Secondary School.



This Fall is **HEALTHY HARVEST** season at The Imagine Society! To learn more check out pages 5 & 6!

SHINING STARS!

A SHINING STAR BRINGS POETRY TO DOING GOOD AND SPREADING GOODNESS!

Charles Waters has become a real creative mentor to *The Imagine Society*. Charles is a children's poet, actor, and co-author of *Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship* and *DICTIONARY FOR A BETTER WORLD: Poems, Quotes and Anecdotes from A to Z*. You might recognize him from the June 17th Issue's Shining Star Interview or been a part of his August 19th Youth Poetry Workshop. The workshop helped introduce us to the power of poetry. How important it can be to look at the world in a new way: one of wonder, humor and reverence. We want to take this opportunity to thank Charles for becoming a mentor and inspiration to our Imagine Teens with his commitment to creativity and generosity. His poems have appeared in anthologies including *One Minute Till Bedtime* and *The National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry*. He has conducted his writing workshops for elementary and middle school audiences all across the country.

THANK YOU CHARLES FOR INSPIRING US WITH YOUR WORDS AND YOUR SPIRIT!



A SHINING STAR WHO HAS GROWN INTO A LEADER AND SOCIAL ADVOCATE!

Emily Blumstein (21) has become a true leader at *The Imagine Society*. She's currently in her Junior year at *Rutgers School of Nursing*, and blazing her own path as a future Health Care Hero who strongly believes in being a defender for the right to comprehensive health care, especially for women. She's the Resolutions Director for and active member of the *Rutgers Student Nurses Association* spearheading a project called "*Preparing for the Polls*" to promote civic engagement for nursing students. During the summer quarantine, Emily was volunteering at the *NYU Urban Garden* in NYC. Right now she's working on her own special project to try and put together an educational and working garden for *The Imagine Society*. Her incredible volunteer work with *The Imagine Club* has helped lead to the success of so many events!

THANK YOU EMILY FOR BRINGING YOUR COMPASSION TO EVERYTHING YOU DO!



If you would like to share what you or your group is doing, would like to contribute to the next newsletter or even be a guest editor please email us: outreach@theimagesociety.org

FALL MEANS A HEALTHY HARVEST AT THE IMAGINE SOCIETY!

We announced a new mission for our #FOODFORFAMILIES campaign - this Fall will be a HEALTHY HARVEST for one and all! On August 21st we packaged a donation of our Veggie Rice and Beans recipe and ingredients for St Clements Food Pantry in Hell's Kitchen feeding 425 families! Then on September 12th, we provided 300 packaged donations featuring recipes inspired by Eileen Yin-Fei Lo, famous chef and grandmother of Imagine Society member and superstar Elle Ferretti-Gary - see the *next page* for Elle's story and one of the recipes! Thanks to our dedicated donors, tireless volunteers, and an incredibly generous donation from Saratoga Peanut Butter, between these two services we were able to help 725 of NYC's food insecure families. These are our neighbors and now our friends. Thanks to brilliant photographer Enid Alvarez @koolkat130 you can check out both amazing services in the photos below! For all the teen led recipe videos go to theimagesociety.org/service





My Grandmother's Cooking

by Elle Ferretti-Gray



My grandma has had me in the kitchen with her since I was a baby. I would sit in my carrier, perched on the kitchen table so as to give me the best vantage point to watch her cook. When she cooks, she follows recipes all her own, literally. She has written 11 cookbooks, each one contains delicious recipes straight from her heart. I am fortunate to be able to eat her food as often as I do, but certainly not as often as I would like. Her food tastes like home to me, and every bite triggers a memory of times I cooked with her, times she told me about her childhood and learning to cook from her grandmother. There is no one more special than my grandma.

That is why I am so excited to share her recipes, or versions of them, with everyone at Food For Families. My grandma has cooked all her life, and takes such joy in cooking that no matter how long her day is or how tired she is, she is affronted by the suggestion of not cooking. I hope that everyone enjoys this taste of her food, even if it is slightly different to what she normally makes. I hope that the love and effort she puts into her cooking, into spending time with me, into everything she does is still tangible.

Elle Ferretti-Gray (15) is in 10th grade at Avenues the World School

See below and the following page the recipes inspired by Elle's Grandmother Eileen Yin-Fei Lo that were packaged for a #FOODFORFAMILIES service at the Ascension Food Pantry on September 12th! For more information and for all the recipes and videos visit our website at: theimaginesociety.org/service

Cold Sesame Noodles aka Ji Mah Mein

8 cups water
8 ounces soba noodles
1 1/2 tablespoons sesame or canola oil



Instructions:

1. Bring water to a boil. Add noodles and stir. Cook for 1 1/2 minutes, until al dente. Run cold water into pot, then drain noodles. Run cold water again into pot and drain noodles. Repeat once again.
2. Place drained noodles in a mixing bowl and toss with sesame or canola oil. Refrigerate, uncovered, for 1 hour. Meanwhile make Sesame Sauce. To make the Sesame Sauce combine in a bowl and mix well:

1 teaspoon tahini paste pre-mixed with 1/4 teaspoon oil	1 1/4 teaspoons tabasco pepper sauce
3 tablespoons peanut butter	1 tablespoon sugar
2 teaspoons white vinegar	5 tablespoons chicken broth
2 tablespoons soy sauce	Pinch of ground pepper
	2 tablespoons finely sliced scallions
3. When noodles are cool, toss with Sesame Sauce, and serve.

To view youth-led tutorial video y la receta en español visit our website TheImagineSociety.org/service and follow us on Instagram @TheImagineSociety

Cauliflower with Peppercorn Salt aka Jah Yeh Choi Far

- 1 slice of fresh ginger, cut 1/2-inch-thick, lightly smashed
- 2 garlic cloves
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 3/4 pound cauliflower flowerets

- 2 large eggs, beaten with a pinch of ground pepper
- 4-5 cups canola oil
- 1 1/4 cups flour



Instructions:

1. In a pot place 2 quarts of water, the ginger, garlic cloves, and salt, and bring to a boil. Allow to boil for 2 minutes. Immerse the cauliflower flowerets in the water and water-blanch for 2 minutes, until moderately soft. Turn off the heat, run cold water in the pot, and drain off.
2. Heat the oil in a wok or pan to 350°F. Spread the flour on a large plate or tray. Keep the beaten egg at hand. Dip the cauliflower into the flour, shake off excess, then dip in the egg to coat well, then back into flour. Shake off excess and lower into the oil, cooking half of the cauliflower pieces at one time. Fry for 4 to 5 minutes, until cauliflower turns golden brown and the coating becomes crisp.
3. Drain on paper towels. Repeat with second batch of cauliflower flowerets. (Keep first batch warm at stovetop. Do not place in oven, for they will become soggy.) Serve immediately with Peppercorn and Salt

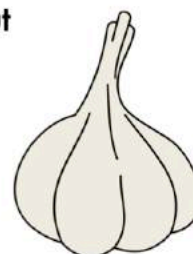
To view youth-led Tutorial video y la receta en español visit our website TheImagineSociety.org/service and follow us on Instagram @TheImagineSociety



Stir-Fried Green Beans with Garlic & Ginger

- 8 cups cold water
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 slice of fresh ginger, cut 1/4-inch-thick, lightly smashed
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 pound green beans, drained

- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 1 slice of fresh ginger, cut 1/2-inch-thick, lightly smashed
- 2 whole garlic cloves
- 3/4 teaspoon salt

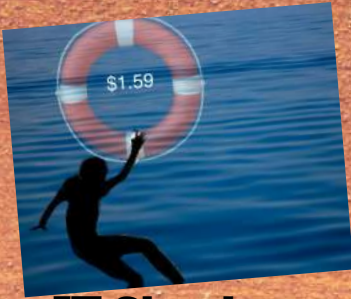


Instructions:

1. In a pot place the water, 1 teaspoon salt, 1/4-inch slice of ginger, and baking soda, and bring to a boil over high heat. Add the green beans and water-blanch for 30 seconds. The beans should be bright green. Turn off the heat, run cold water into the pot, and drain. Repeat, then drain until all water runs off.
2. Heat a wok or pan over high heat for 30 seconds, add the canola oil, and coat the pan with a spatula. Add the 1/2-inch slice of ginger and stir for 20 seconds. Add the garlic cloves, stir, and when the garlic turns light brown, add the 3/4 teaspoon salt. Stir. Add the beans and mix well. Cook for 3 minutes. Turn off heat, transfer to a heated serving dish, discard garlic and ginger, and serve.

To view youth-led Tutorial video y la receta en español visit our website TheImagineSociety.org/service and follow us on Instagram @TheImagineSociety

#OneFiftyNine



JT Sheeler



By Jack Gaffigan
age 14



Lily Vaysman



Emery Brown



Gigi Fitzpatrick



Jim Lujan

We are so proud of our #OneFiftyNine Campaign! After my interview with James Winans of The Bowery Mission, all of us worked really hard to come up with slogans to raise money for meals for \$1.59 each! All of these great designs and more were posted on our Instagram

@TheImagineSociety and we raised enough money to provide 2,155 meals and INSTINET HOLDINGS INC. who matched our donation so together we made it possible for 4,000 meals for our neighbors in need!



Eric Salazar



Fitzpatrick



@bowerymission



Hannah Fenton



Please see below an excerpt from one of **The 2020 Clara Lemlich Awards Imagine Society** interviews between 2018 Honoree **Kitty Weiss Krupat** a trade unionist and lifelong social activist, who has been a passionate advocate for workers, women's, immigrant and gay rights, and **Lucy Geer (16)** Junior at Trinity School. To learn more about the 2020 Honorees and read the full interview please go to: <http://www.laborarts.org/connectingactivists>

What about unexpected pleasures has Kitty Krupat's work provided?

Ms Krupat told me how meaningful it has been to work with people. She's been able to develop very profound relationships. Her life has been enriched by solidarity and it has a real meaning to her. The people she met have become lifelong friends and comrades.

Kitty Krupat went to Graduate School (American Studies) at age 57. She says it was an integral part of her development to finish her education. She learned the activist life and the intellectual life are deeply connected. This helped her activist work. Learning about all these topics in a new way was a huge unexpected pleasure. She became a labor academic.

Another unexpected pleasure that Ms. Krupat mentioned was the feeling of winning when she achieved her goals. Every victory was a stride towards equal rights, and seeing the people she has been fighting for benefitting from her work was and is extremely rewarding.

Throughout her years of work and service she has also realized that her three careers are interconnected and each one set her up for success in the others. Her three careers or titles were, as she put them: *an Editor, an Organizer, and an Academic*. She is able to incorporate these three skills into everything she does and is grateful that she gets to utilize and connect all of her passions as a professional.

Right now Ms Krupat is doing a lot of work with the new sanctuary coalition. Working with immigrants is a pretty new experience for her. With President Trump elected immigrant issues have been escalating. Kitty was retired but she knew she had to be involved in helping immigrant rights. She's always felt the need to be active. But now she wanted to work with individual people, which was a brand new kind of activism for her. In her past experience she used to work with larger scale companies. During this time she's learned a huge amount about immigration law too. As Ms Krupat tells me, it has been a very humbling experience seeing people struggle under President Trump's immigrant policies.

LUCY GEER'S FINAL THOUGHT: *Thank you to Kitty Krupat for allowing me to conduct this meaningful interview. You have taught me that perseverance, and pursuing my passions no matter what will always lead me down the right path, and I will think of your words not only during my life as a student today, but all throughout my future professional life.*

Kitty has never stopped the fight for equal rights!



Thank you Lucy for your incisive and in depth interview!

BLACK LIVES MATTER ACROSS THE USA

Welcome to Part Three of our special four-part series in which *Imagine Teens* interview photojournalist and friend **Tobias Everke** @tobias_everke about his travels throughout the United States during the Black Lives Matter movements across this country.

We continue the series with **Paul Bloom (age 16, a Senior at Bard High School Early College Manhattan)** and Part Three: Seattle's Occupied Zone.

PB: What brought you to Seattle at this time?

TE: We were sent yet again by BILD Zeitung, Germany's largest tabloid, to report on what the president described as 'terrorist.'

PB: Can you briefly describe the events that led to the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone and the broader Seattle protests?

TE: As far as I know, the Seattle protest started as a result of the George Floyd killing. After intense confrontations between police and protesters, the use of tear gas, pepper spray and flash bangs against demonstrators, the police left their local precinct and CHAZ (Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone) was established. It was an area of about six city blocks, that had different names during its existence. (CHOP-Capitol Hill Organized protest or Free Capitol Hill). The protesters wanted to cut the police budget in half and use the money for social programs. They also wanted a guarantee from the city not to be prosecuted.

PB: Is there a theme that you tried to capture in your work, or a string that you think ties your photos together?

TE: I never approach an assignment with a preset mindset. Once there I try to capture what I think represents an honest 'picture' of what is going on. In this case, after the president's comments ("ugly Anarchists" and "Domestic Terrorists" had taken over the city), we (the world) were under the impression, that violence was preminent. Instead the atmosphere reminded me of an East Village street fair. Families with children, free food, music etc. For me, there is only one photo that captures the bigger purpose of the 'occupation' or 'movement': the close-up of the Seattle Police Department sign, on which 'police' was replaced with 'people'.

PB: Most of your photos focus on a movement through graffiti and street art. How do you understand this form of expression, and how do you think it will be utilized going forward?

TE: There was nothing else for me to photograph, other than graffiti and street art. We arrived almost two weeks after it had started and all was mostly very peaceful. I do like art as a form of expression. Even graffiti can have its place, but the 'artists' are not always responsible in choosing a good canvas. But either way, it is better than rioting and looting.

PB: How did you experience CHAZ? How do you think it will impact our future discussions and policies on police?

TE: My impression of CHAZ was, that many demonstrators welcomed the opportunity to do something different from their usual daily routine. They were hanging out with their friends, got free food and seemed idealistic, but naive. I do not think, that the three weeks of CHAZ will have an impact on any police policies throughout the country. I am not sure, if and what it changed in Seattle, since I did not follow the story after we left.



PART THREE: SEATTLE'S OCCUPIED ZONE

...continued from page 9

PB: In many of your pictures, anti-police sentiment and violence are shown to be necessary for racial justice. Is this something you see as being central to the movement's progress, or does this strike you as radical among the protestors and policy-makers?

TE: Wow, these are very deep questions. I am only a photographer... Violence in any shape or form does not help any movement, it only gives the other side material to distract from the real issues. I think the one day protest by NBA and MLB players not to play, was much more powerful and hit a nerve. I am a little surprised, that especially the black NBA players went back to playing the following day, and that now the NFL started almost normally. The possible impact from major sports, especially during a pandemic and lockdown, when everyone is looking for entertainment and distractions, is immense. If you burn down a car dealership, you get bad PR around the country, but the general public is not effected. But if the couch potatoes can not watch their sports, you rattle their lives. Plus people with money, TV networks and sponsors would feel it and hopefully would put pressure on politicians.

PB: How would you explain the events in Seattle to someone quarantined at home? What could we not understand just by looking at the news?

TE: When watching the news, be critical and ask questions. Ask yourself if it makes sense, what you hear and/or see on the news. Always try to find different, but established news sources. Unfortunately news tend to cover the 'unusual' and therefore newsworthy things. So, if someone got shot, its being reported and the three weeks of CHAZ get a violent reputation. If I would have photographed the countless homeless who showed up to get free food, nobody would have published that story. (Capitol Hill is a hip neighborhood with a homeless problem).

PB: Was there anything you experienced in Seattle that you think you could only understand from being present at these protests?

TE: Yes, we interviewed the so called leader of CHAZ/CHOP, Raz Simone, who is very eloquent and smart. He walked around with a handgun after getting countless death threats on social media. It hit me, that despite being smarter than myself, that because of racism, he has probably a harder time to find a job than me.

PAUL'S FINAL THOUGHT: *I think Tobias brings up an incredibly important, yet oft-ignored, understanding of all types of media. News has to be new, and it has to be shocking. This can be good or neutral news, but because of what psychologists refer to as the 'negativity bias,' we are more likely to engage with and remember news that is upsetting or harmful. Journalists know this, and with the current issues surrounding print and online media, they will do what they can to attract us to their piece.*

Our brain's obsession with what's wrong, and a media that capitalizes on this phenomenon, can induce a fatalistic mindset among people not on the frontlines. This thinking is reductive and unhelpful because we begin to see complex issues as bias-affirming sound bites.

Most of the coverage that I engaged with surrounding CHOP was completely polarized and extreme, waging an ideological battle rather than one of facts. There were absolutely times where I got sucked into some of these narratives. However, Tobias reminds me that the culture war in our media and country can be divorced from the typical experience of people on the ground. A simple TV protest disengaged from rhetoric and hype can work wonders on the layman inundated with sensationalist reporting.

It is clearly important to understand that these issues are more complex than can fit into a tweet nor a 1500 word op-ed. As emotional as these pieces make us, it is necessary to step back and consider both perspectives, but also objective facts.

Coming up next Issue: Part 4: Atlanta and the Killing of Rayshard Brooks

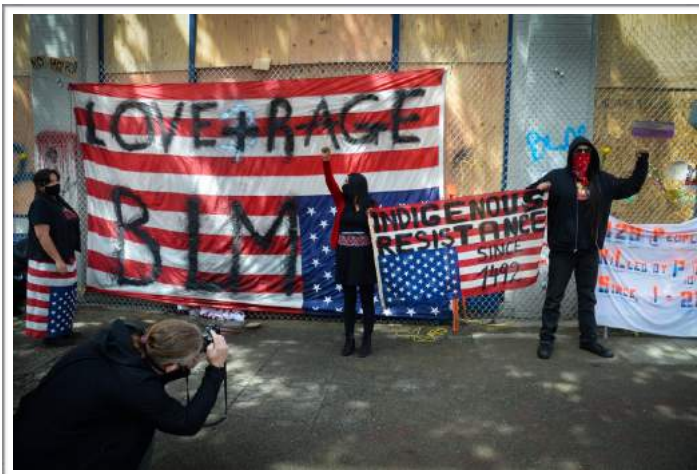
Please see the next page for Tobias's photos from Seattle's Occupied Zone



The word "Police" on a sign above the entrance to the local police precinct was overpainted with "People."



A poster on the side of the empty police precinct with pictures of other victims in Washington State between 2013-2020.



Indigenous demonstrators support the BLM movement, but also point out to their own struggles (since 1492).



The side of a building is used as a canvas for graffiti artists to express themselves.



After a car drove into protesters inside CHAZ, the demonstrators secured the streets with barricades.



A "Dream Board" gives people the chance to leave thoughts and messages on paper. In the background protesters used old sofas and chairs to meet for discussion groups.

SPO

TTED

ON

THE

STR

EET!

SPECIAL **PITTSBURGH** EDITION! From the streets of our sister city Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania!



Send in your "Spotted on the Street" photos to: outreach@theimagesociety.org



FUN PAGES



Edited by
Junior Member
Katie Gaffigan
(11)



Katie's
Fave
Memes
:)

Lol!



I CAN'T GO TO THE MOVIE THEATER OR PIZZA PARLOR! I MISS MY CLASSMATES



ANNE FRANK AND HER FAMILY SPENT TWO YEARS IN AN ATTIC



YEAH, I EXPECTED THAT BLANK LOOK AND NO COMMENT



The "Curtis" comic strip. (Ray Billingsley / King Features Syndicate)



Perseverance Puzzle

ICDEDTAONI

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

6

TIIRENMEONADT

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

8

DARNUCNEE

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

GITR

--	--	--	--

5

XEMOI

--	--	--	--	--

2

NUPKS

--	--	--	--	--

4

1

NAAMIST

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

7

TENCATYI

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3

--	--	--	--

1 2 3 4

--	--	--	--	--

5 6 7 8 5

Unscramble each of the clue words.

Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.



Edited by Junior Member Katie Gaffigan (11)

Answer Key: Dedication, Determination, Endurance, Grit, Moxie, Spunk, Stamina, Tenacity.
Final Phrase: Keep Going!