

THE IMAGINE SOCIETY

APRIL 28, 2021



SPECIAL ISSUE CELEBRATING *Renewal*
KIDS APRIL EDITION VOLUME 20!



We are beginning to understand that
the world is always being made fresh
and never finished; that activism can be
the journey rather than the arrival.

- *Grace Lee Boggs*

RENEWAL OF OUR PARKS

by Mikayal I. Din

To me, the word *renewal* means bringing something back that is weakening but not yet dead. The park cleanup work we do with **MV4NY** is helping us renew our community parks.

For example, if we didn't clean the trash, it would cover space where new trees could blossom and more trash would come. So we are renewing the physical space.

But, we also renew something in people's hearts. We renew the part of their heart that was sad



Loving Artwork by Gabriella Nuzzi (13)
student at Wantagh High School!

continued from page 1...

because their park was dirty. When they walk past a clean park, it makes them feel emotions of joy, safety, and a sense of belonging.

All in all, cleaning the park helps the physical space thrive and flourish. The people in the community feel renewed about their space and themselves. Thank you for reading my article.

Mikayal I. Din (10) is in 5th Grade at PS198/Isador E. Ida Straus. Mikayal is also a Junior Member of MV4NY (Muslim Volunteers for New York)

RAMADAN

by Salaar I. Din

Once there was a boy named Shawn,
One day in Ramadan,
Shawn snuck out at dawn.

He went to see his friend Sean,
On the way he saw a homeless man ,
So he stopped to give him half of his naan.

He wanted to help the man,
Because that's what's said in the Quran.

Then when he got home,
He saw dying flowers,
So he gave them soil and water,
Which felt like eating an ice cream cone.

The homeless man and the flowers both got renewed,
Both acts that the special month of Ramadan approves.

Salaar I. Din (8) is in 3rd Grade at PS 77/Lower Lab. Salaar is also a Junior Member of MV4NY (Muslim Volunteers for New York)



Salaar (left) and Mikayal (right) volunteering at The Ascension Church Food Pantry with both **The Imagine Society & MV4NY!**

Brilliant work
Mikayal &
Salaar!

You
are superstars!

Follow us on Instagram! @theimagesociety

More about Grace Lee Boggs:

A Lifetime of Activism for Women and People of Color
by Elle Ferretti-Gray

Dr. Grace Lee Boggs (*April Cover Quote*) is one of the most remarkable women that I have had the privilege to learn about. A lifelong activist for everyone, especially the Black community (according to NPR, she was believed to have been "Afro-Chinese"). She was Chinese American. She studied at Barnard College before getting her Ph.D in Philosophy from Bryn Mawr, and had so much trouble finding a job due to her Chinese heritage that she was forced to work for the University of Chicago's library for a stipend of only ten dollars a week. She had to live in a rat filled basement. This led to her introduction to activism, as she made her first connection with the Black community. She was quoted as saying, "I was aware that people were suffering, but it was more of a statistical thing," Boggs said. "Here in Chicago I was coming into contact with it as a human thing." Her interactions with disenfranchised people led to her eternal activism, that outlives her and always will.

There is so much to admire about **Dr. Grace Lee Boggs**, from her mindset as a Chinese American woman getting a doctorate in 1940, and as someone who has always let her voice be heard whenever she had something to say. Her introduction to activism was very harsh, as reality slapped her in the face. The most important thing I have learned from reading about **Grace Lee Boggs** is that it is never too early to start speaking up, and that you don't have to be personally affected by the thing you are advocating against to speak up, as soon as you are aware of injustice you must try to stop it. In this time of a 150% spike in anti-Asian hate crimes, let us all look to this inspirational first generation Chinese American, and strive to make her proud.



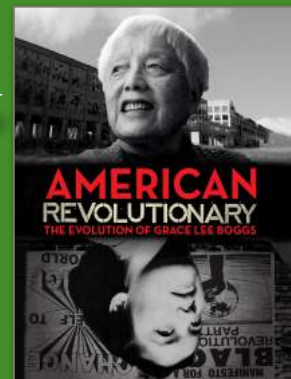
Grace and her husband James created a school!



Mural in Detroit



Grace in nature!



Documentary about Grace's life!



Grace and Husband James Boggs



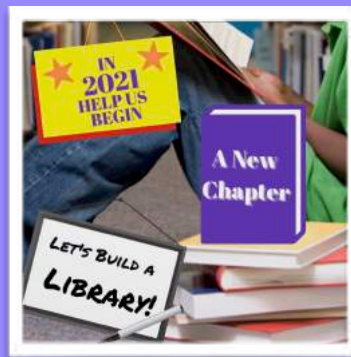
#ANewChapter



* * * Chapter 2 * * *

by Margot Lymbery

When **The Imagine Society** started collecting books for **Horizon** and **Crossroads** Juvenile Detention Centers, my mother and I immediately thought to bring the initiative to the **Brearley** middle and upper school. I emailed my grade-head and, after a lot of back and forth, organized a week-long book drive right before our spring break. I created a poster and sent it to all of the students from 5th grade to 12 grade, and began to pester them with emails asking for donations. The first few days were a slow start, with only a few books in the box at the end of the school day, but I continued to torment my friends and classmates with reminders to donate, and ended up bringing home 30 books that Friday alone. Organizing the book drive by myself was a great learning experience, but I'm so glad that I was able to do it and thankful for everyone who donated!



Margot Lymbery is in the 11th Grade at The Brearley School

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Celebrating The Imagine Society's

3rd Annual Wellness Basket Drive

by Marre Gaffigan



It was a joy for me to participate in one of the most beloved traditions of Easter and Spring by being a part of the third anniversary of creating beautiful wellness baskets filled with exquisite and much needed gifts for our friends at Siena House Shelter on Easter morning!

To help the courageous women, their adorable babies, and the tireless, dedicated staff that care for them celebrate joy, hope, new beginnings, as well as the dignity of every human person, **The Imagine Society** raises money and creates a baby registry in order to create handmade, bespoke baskets filled with lovely essentials and gifts for the mothers and babies experiencing homelessness. We were in the middle of organizing last year's Spring gift drive when the pandemic hit in March of 2020. We were motivated to create and deliver those baskets no matter what, so we met up on Zoom (a new thing back then, which is interesting because now it's a part of my everyday life) and figured out how to make this important event happen safely, effectively, and efficiently no matter what. The desire to show love and support to our fellow humans was too powerful to ignore. The plights of new mothers as well as pregnant women experiencing homelessness that are now facing a pandemic really put my own life in perspective.

I think it was important that last year's gift drive happened at the beginning of the pandemic because it showed me, and really all of us kids in **The Imagine Society**, that we would be able to move forward with our dreams and work, even if we had to be really tenacious and creative about the method. This year, we are much more familiar and aware of what precautions and steps we need to take in order to complete the job safely.

This year, while the group was planning and assembling the baskets for the moms and babies, my fellow team members, **Alessia** and **Sabrina Turner**, put together gorgeous Easter baskets for the staff. These special baskets were filled with all kinds of treats, including the traditional "L'uova di Pasqua", chocolate Easter eggs individually wrapped and containing an Easter surprise. The Turners were able to also include authentic Italian panettone cakes donated by **D. Coluccio & Sons** in Brooklyn. A big thank you to the superstar Imagine Turner-Larucci family for their outreach to this incredible new sponsor!

I am also so inspired by all of our youngest members, pre-teen, teen, and adult volunteers that took such great care in selecting the products and creating these beautiful gestures of love. **Dash Hall**, one of our youngest volunteers at age nine, designed the cover art for the cards that were included in every basket. Each card was then hand crafted with a personal message and became its own unique work of art. **Gigi Fitzpatrick** led the **Saint Patrick's Old Cathedral Family Religious Education** program, including **The St. Patrick's Warriors** (of which I am a member, not to flex), to dedicate a Sunday afternoon to creating the cards with Easter and Spring-inspired messages. **Foster Schrader**, an Imagine Society youth leader, gave a special nod to Passover with the idea to add individually wrapped, delicious macaroon cookies, a traditional treat for Jewish families who only eat unleavened bread as part of this centuries-old religious tradition.

Please enjoy the photos of the creation, assembly, and delivery of the 2021 Wellness Baskets. Hopefully next year things will be back to somewhat normal and we can visit our friends at Siena House and meet the babies that we already feel are part of our family!

Marre Gaffigan (16) is a Junior at Marymount School of New York



Marre Gaffigan (left) with siblings (clockwise) Katie, Jack, Michael and Patrick!

Check out the next page for photos!

Mother Nature

by Zaylen Palacios

We said "fossil fuels"
The Mother ached

She said "I'm sick"
We said "It's fake"

The trees said we're dying
We said "you're lying"

And the Mother was crying,
Crying,
Crying

The Universe said "Your sickness I will rid"

Then came Co-VID
Abrupt, in a *flash*

Then the stock market crashed!
And we lost all our cash!

WE said we're dying
The Universe said "You're lying"
And we ached

We told her "we're sick"
She said "it's fake"

Now the mother heals
And the Universe reels
And the trees say "you got what you deserved"

And as this day of nature approaches...
And we deny we can appreciate what our world has brought,

I say "Thank you, Universe"
For healing her sickness

"Thank you trees"
For giving us air to breathe

"Thank you, Earth"
You can shelter us like no other

And "Thank you, Co-VID"
For saving our mother



Thank you Zaylen
for your profound
poem!

Acknowledgements:

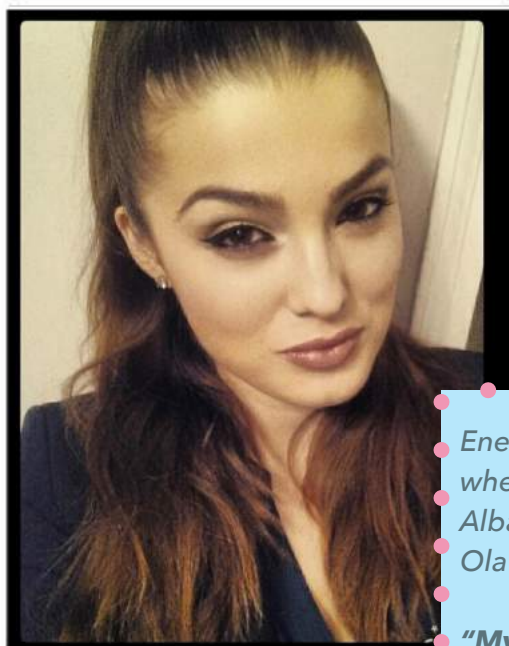
John Byrne, who prompted the idea of appreciation, and inspired me to write this poem. This poem was based on the evaluation of the benefits of social distancing on the environment.

Awakening

by Enerjola (Ola) Elezaj

Soul and spring dance
in a disturbed peace, a dream a
vision to achieve, I hear a voice
and then another... I listen
to music from the Sky's orchestra
I listen to it hard, I listen to it loud, I
listen to it more than it can be
heard... toss to the crazy wind
that, like the life ocean's waves
is kissing today's shore leaving
all sadness behind...
Toss to the eternal serenely
crazy spring in my soul and
mind...

Enerjola (Ola) Elezaj is a BOLD Cancer Wellness Intern and student at Hunter College



Thank you Ola for your beautiful
poem and for being a future
Healthcare Hero!

Enerjola is on the Pre-Med track at Hunter College. She wrote this poem when she first came to the United States at the age of 25 in 2015 from Albania with the dream and aspiration to become a doctor and save lives. Ola tells us :

"My aspirations are more prominent now after Covid-19 than ever."

EARTH DAY POEM

By Olympia James Hall

We can all thank the earth in a little prayer.

I thank the sun.

The sun gives us light and warmth.

I thank the water.

The sea is fun because we can play and splash at the shore.

The rain brings us flowers in Spring,
and the rivers give us fresh water to drink.

I thank the trees.

The trees give us wood to make fire and leaves for fresh air
to breathe and some provide fruit to eat.

The earth is beautiful.

Amen.

Thank
you Olympia for your
amazing poem
and caring
about the Earth!

Olympia James Hall (8) is in 2nd Grade at Sacred Heart

In the Depths of the Ocean

by Sammi Manessis

There is always a need for change in the world
Whether on land or in sea, even when we don't know.
While people have the privilege to make a change
We must also allow the animals to grow.

In the vast blue oceans of our world,
Lies species that are suffering near and far.

Day by day, night by night,
We lose another hopeless sea star.

Not only the sea star endangered by we,
But the dolphins, whales, and sea turtles alike.
The time for change is now and we must hurry,
Before the wretched climate change attacks with its last strike.

So many of the simple things we do,
Are hurting the animals we never knew...



Sammi Manessis (16) is a Junior at Wantagh High School

Well
done
Sammi!

COVID-19: Looking Back

by McKenzie Post



Thank you McKenzie for
your heartfelt and
inspirational
essay!

During the Covid Pandemic, many things have impacted and shaped my life. The end of my junior year was cut short with prom, and a few events cancelled and now — our senior year is definitely one of the hardest and saddest years of school. Also during this time, my anxiety and other mental health struggles worsened a bit along with millions of others and teens especially. It's very difficult trying to maintain stability when the world is less than stable. The biggest impact on me has been so many experiences and opportunities being taken away as a result of the painful conditions we are facing — who knows what could've been if this didn't happen?

Many teenagers just want to live our lives and hang out with our friends but we really can't gather and do the normal things we want to do. There have been a few incidents of school closures because kids are getting understandably impatient and upset, but we have to realize the severity of the situation going on in our world. During this time there have been some positives as I got to spend more time with my family, picked up some new hobbies, wrote a lot of music, watched many shows and movies I would never have time for, and learned more about myself as a result. Until this is fully "over" I will continue to do my part to keep the community and my friends/family safe since I have seen the true severity since my family members are front line workers at hospitals. It was really painful to see my aunt break down because people would come in with COVID and die right in front of her—younger and healthy people, too. I realized how grateful I am for my family, my health, and the comfort I have when millions have nothing. Sure, I am still struggling with my mental health and worrying about my teen years and life experiences, but it will be one of the biggest lessons and I think we all should really learn from this and come together as one.

McKenzie Post (18) is a Senior at Wantagh High School

An Embarrassment of Rights

by Jack Gaffigan

The photos taken in Boulder, Colorado by photographer **Tobias Everke** motivated me to write this essay and share my opinion about gun violence in this country. We value our rights and freedoms in the United States, but as the constant, incessant, repetitive mass shootings illustrate, it is a necessary part of living in a just and civilized society that our rights and freedoms must have logical limits. Most of the people who fight for their right to buy and own any kind of gun use the justification that they would never misuse their legally owned gun, so they do not want limitations on their freedom. That might be true for them, but because deranged, violent and mentally ill people can so often legally buy weapons and use them to randomly kill innocent people, we have to work together as a country to give up some of our freedoms to protect the innocent.

There have been so many mass shootings in the news for my entire life, it would take every page of this newsletter to list them all. It is important for me to remember that these shootings are real, happening to real people, so I don't get numb to hearing about "another mass shooting." After seeing these photos taken by someone I know, who was there in Boulder at the place where it happened, made it so real to me. I wanted to find out more, so I did.

On March 22, 2021, a 21-year-old man wearing a tactical vest, walked into the parking lot of King Soopers grocery store and started shooting people, outside and then inside the store. Shooting people. People just like you, me, your friends, your family and your grandparents. People were minding their own business. Going to the grocery store either to stock up on supplies during a global pandemic, or ironically, some were there to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. A vaccine to protect themselves and other people from getting the virus that kills people. Ten people were killed that day as a result of the senseless actions of a madman. Everyone who was there ran and hid and feared for their lives will be forever traumatized, as will the families of the victims, and also the family of the shooter.

The gunman was armed with both a military-style semi automatic rifle and a pistol. Police records show that a week before the attack, the same man had purchased a Ruger AR-556 semiautomatic pistol, a version of an AR-15 style rifle, a rifle that fires the same small-caliber, high-velocity ammunition, first developed for battlefield use. Police stopped him by shooting him in the leg, and he is now charged with ten counts of murder. No matter how long he goes to jail, those ten people are gone forever, and they just started out the day by going to the grocery store to work, to shop or to get the vaccine. There is no known motive of why the gunman took those people's lives. The gunman's own brother described him to the Daily Beast as, "mentally ill, paranoid and antisocial." Yet he passed a background check a week before to legally purchase a military style, semi-automatic weapon.

Instead of being shocked that this man, whatever his mental issues were, would be allowed to walk into a store and buy a weapon designed to kill as many people as quickly as possible, I am more shocked about the fact that these kinds of weapons are for sale to any idiot who wants one. Why would anyone need the "right" or "freedom" to have a weapon designed only for killing massive amounts of human people? Sure, we should have a right to shoot a can off a log, or to hunt quail, or for whatever reason you need to feel important or entertained by having a big dangerous



Outside the scene of the Boulder, Colorado Mass Shooting, photo by Tobias Everke

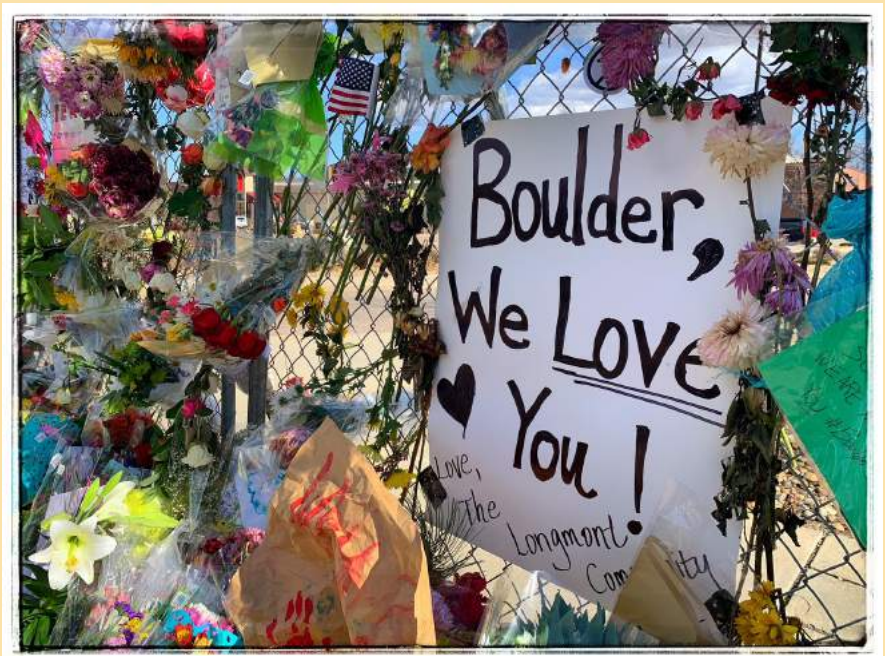
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toy that destroys things, but why the semi-automatic? Why don't you just play a video game? Trust me, it's fun. And you don't have to worry about your kid blowing his head off if you leave your video game closet unlocked by accident. Why would these weapons still be legal when they are so unnecessary? Clearly, the answer is "money." People are making a ton of money off of the sales of these deadly weapons. Every time there is a mass shooting there is a rise in gun sales, according to a study by Stanford University, reported by CNN. The reason for this has been shown to be because the gun loving lunatics think there will be stricter gun laws after the shootings, so they stock up on big expensive guns. And those people selling the guns who are making money, are giving a ton of that money to pro gun politicians who then fight like hell to keep the insane gun rights. I'm not being ablest when I say "insane."

Albert Einstein, who if you don't know him is a well-known historical smart guy, once said, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results." Keeping military style weapons available to the public is insane because in almost every mass shooting, one of these legally sold, semi-automatic weapons is used. Over and over again. Same results, people die. For no reason.

We easily gave up our rights to carry a bottle of water on an airplane. Even though it's inconvenient, we do it because for one, we are afraid that some radicalized terrorist is going to blow up a plane with an explosive liquid. But we also do it because the government told us we had to. Otherwise, you know we would all bring our water bottles on the plane. Why is this so different? We also understand why we would go to jail if we drove a car at 100 miles an hour. Most people would do that for fun, but because there is a law against it, we don't do it. It's not only "crazy" people who would drive that fast, but a lot of people would also do it for excitement, or to get somewhere quickly. But we don't, because we understand that it is a logical limit on our freedom to protect ourselves and others. What is the difference with guns? It doesn't make any sense. People argue that guns don't kill people, people kill people. That's true but it's a hell of a lot easier for people to kill a lot of people with semi-automatic guns.

The Boulder Colorado shooting happened six days after the shooting in Atlanta targeting Asian women. It happened so soon after it was almost easy to be insensitive about what happened in Boulder. I am grateful to Tobias for sharing these photos, because it gave me an idea. To help us not become numb to all the mass shootings, every time there is one, I think we all should write down the names and a little information about the people who were killed. Even if you don't have an opportunity to write an essay in a paper or a magazine like I do, just write the names on your phone or a piece of paper and share it with someone. Maybe if everyone did that, they would be more willing to give up a little of their freedom in order to protect the innocent.



Community Memorial honoring the victims of the Boulder, Colorado Mass Shooting, photo by Tobias Everke

Jack Gaffigan (15) is a Freshman at York Prep

Please check out the following page for Jack's tribute to the victims of the Boulder, Colorado Mass Shooting

Here is what I found out about the ten people who died in Boulder, Colorado on March 22, 2021, according to NPR.org obituaries. I have summarized some of the descriptions below. The victims ranged from age 20 to 65. Some of them were shopping at the store; some worked there. One was a police officer who arrived to help:

ERIC TALLEY, 51

Boulder police Officer Eric Talley is being mourned as a brave officer as well as a husband, a brother and father to seven children.

KEVIN MAHONEY, 61

Husband and father of two, his daughter, who he walked down the aisle in her wedding last summer is expecting his first grandchild. He was at the store because he'd offered to take over the grocery shopping duties for his family.

TERI LEIKER, 51

Teri Leiker was a dedicated King Soopers employee who had worked at the store for more than 30 years. Teri leaves behind her family, her boyfriend Clint, and many close friends that truly cared about her.

RIKKI OLDS, 25

Rikki Olds worked as a front-end manager at the King Soopers grocery store. She was described as a leader, not a follower who was fiercely protective of her loved ones and brought joy to her friends with a smile that could light up a room.

LYNN MURRAY, 62

Lynn Murray was a retired photo editor, and artist. She was at the grocery store working as an Instacart shopper when she was killed. Her daughter describes her as "the most beautiful person I ever met, the warmest, kindest, most positive person." Her husband said of her death, "Our lives are ruined, our tomorrows are forever filled with a sorrow that is unimaginable. She was one of the greatest people you'd ever want to know: hard working, loving and compassionate, caring, went out of her way to make sure everyone else had a smile on their face."

TRALONA BARTKOWIAK, 49

Tralona "Lonna" Bartkowiak was a founder with her sister of Umba, a clothing and art store in downtown Boulder. She was the eldest of four siblings in a close-knit family. She was described her as "an amazing person, just a beam of light." Tralona had recently become engaged.

SUZANNE FOUNTAIN, 59

Suzanne Fountain was an actress who had performed with the Denver Center for the Performing Arts' theater company and a financial counselor at Boulder Community Health, where she helped clients navigate Medicare. She was also a house manager at a music venue and community center that produces a radio show. Her coworkers and friends said, "Suzanne was a bright light to all she met, and we were proud to have her in our community. This is an unfathomable loss for all of us and a painful reminder that our society can and must do a better job to prevent these acts of violence from becoming normalized in our culture. This is heartbreaking."

DENNY STONG, 20

Denny Stong's Facebook profile describes him as a resident of Boulder and an employee of King Soopers since 2018. "I can't stay home. I am a Grocery Store Worker," his profile picture says. Stong's family said he was "a kind soul with a funny sense of humor and unique interests," and said that he had risked his life to protect others during the attack. "He did nothing wrong and deserved this in no way at all. He made no choice that led to this. He simply showed up to work, and was in the wrong place at the wrong time,"

JODY WATERS, 65

Jody Waters had an eye for style and design, which she channeled into a career in fashion. Her friend described Waters as a gentle spirit. "When you were in her presence, you felt the love...she was looking to be her best self. I'm just heartbroken. It just seems so senseless, this person just went and killed her. And he didn't know her." Waters had two daughters and a young grandchild.

NEVEN STANISIC, 23

Neven Stanisic, described as "a very good, shy, hardworking boy," was the son of Serbian refugees from Bosnia who came to the U.S. in the 1990s and was hard-working and faithful, church leaders said Tuesday. "His family fled the war in the former Yugoslavia and everything they had was either left behind or destroyed," the Rev. Radovan Petrovic of Saint John the Baptist told The Denver Post. "They left everything to save their lives, and came here to have a new start." Stanisic was working for a company that maintained coffee machines. He had just finished working on a machine at the Starbucks in the grocery store. Stanisic was likely the first victim, having just gotten into his car, where he was shot.

SPOTTED

ON

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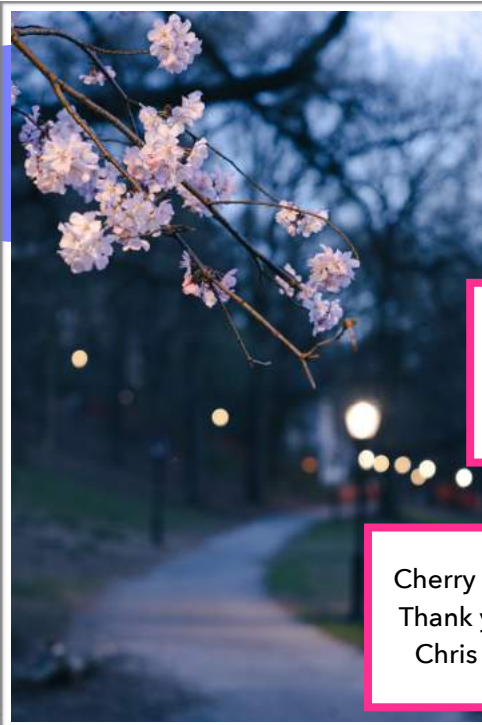
STR

EET!

Thank you to The Palacios Family
for this special bloom straight from
Lafayette Street in NYC!



Thank you to The Gaffigan Family
for this spotted from a front lawn in
Westchester, NY. A family who
believes in the Easter Bunny and
a whole lot more! We stan!



Tulips in Bloom! Thank you Imagine
Society Friend and Photographer
Enid Alvarez for this closer look at
the beauty of a flower! @koolkat130



Cherry Blossoms in Riverside Park!
Thank you Imagine Society Friend
Chris Chen! @chrischen_photo

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

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More

FUN PAGES

Edited by Junior
Member Katie Gaffigan (11)
& special guest Junior
Member Audrey (12)!



IF WE JUST WORK TOGETHER



Katie's
Fave
Memes
:)

Lol!

LIZ AT LARGE



TEAMWORK



AS A TEAM



COMMUNITY CHANGE

WORD PLAY



Edited by
Junior Member
Katie Gaffigan
(11)...

and special
guest Junior
Member Audrey!
(12)



Community Wordsearch

U	W	A	R	M	T	H	N	I	E	O	D	Y	R
G	E	R	E	V	I	S	U	L	C	N	I	S	E
T	E	A	M	W	O	R	K	D	A	I	E	R	H
Y	T	I	L	A	I	N	E	G	E	H	I	I	T
T	H	C	I	T	E	H	T	A	P	M	E	O	E
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T	I	M	O	Y	R	E	D	A	R	M	O	C	L
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U	G	L	T	Y	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y
L	M	Y	L	E	V	I	T	C	E	L	L	O	C

COMRADERY
TEAMWORK
BENEVOLENCE
TOGETHER
WARMTH
GIVING
LOVE
FRIENDSHIP
HARMONY
INCLUSIVE
GENIALITY
THOUGHTFUL
CONNECTION
COMMUNITY
CARING
COLLECTIVELY
PEACE
EMPATHETIC
FAMILY
AMITY
KIND

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2283944/>