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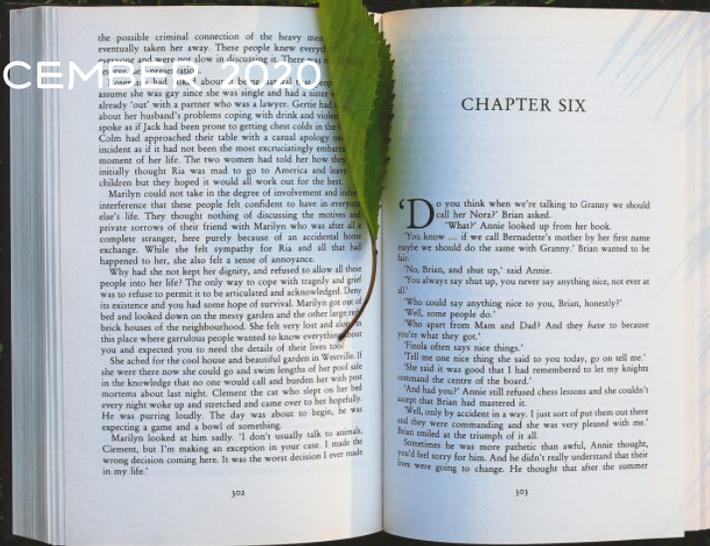
Hello Lovely Green Print Readers,

Welcome to the last issue of 2020! I will admit, that as we near the end of another fall semester and just this year in general, there are a couple things to reflect upon. First and foremost, given that we are still in the middle of a pandemic, our staff wants to make sure that our readers are staying safe and virus free. In this issue we offer and encourage ways for you and your loved ones to enjoy the holiday season while taking extra precautions to protect one another.

The holidays might look different this year, and the change may leave people feeling a range of emotions from guilt to loneliness, and sadness. But while life may be different this year, there are things that people can do to make this challenging time a little easier. During times of increased social distancing, people can still maintain social connections and care for their health. Phone calls, video chats and virtual parties can help you and your loved ones feel emotionally connected, and less lonely. I trust that stay-at-home restrictions are beneficial and exactly the implementation we need to transition out of this pandemic.

Secondly, I just want every student reading this to take a deep breath and pat yourself on the back. Given the situation we are in, online schooling was the only way to ensure students around the world would remain safe. It goes without saying that this altered way of life was quite the adjustment, both physically and mentally. We didn't get to feel the vibrancy of the Rutgers campuses nor did we experience the special energy that our student body brings. It's safe to say that I am feeling down and miss it just as much as you guys do :( However, never fear because together we can, and we will work through this demanding and stressful time. Keep your heads up and masks on.

Love,  
Samara Mowla  
Editor



# Environmental Humanities and Reimagining The Stories We Tell

By Anjali Madgula

Sunrise Movement Rutgers (@sunrisemvt\_ru on Instagram) is an organization I am involved with on campus that focuses on fighting for a Green New Deal and transformative justice through abolition and Indigenous solidarity. We collaborated with Edison4RacialJustice to create a zine for Indigenous People’s Day this year during a teach-in led by Autumn White Eyes (they/them, she/her). At the teach-in, we talked about settler colonialism and how it is upheld through erasure of Indigenous Peoples History and ongoing oppression of Indigenous communities. Through my last two years at Rutgers, I’ve learned so much about what is at stake when we talk about the climate crisis, by being involved with community organizations in and out of Rutgers. A lot of what I was learning required confronting capitalism and questioning what I had been previously taught.

As a student of English Literature and Environmental Policy, I am really interested in what storytelling and culture has to do

with envisioning a livable future. I was raised in a Hindu family and often participated in learning about Hindu deities. However, it was only during quarantine that I realized that the Hindu Goddess Sita is the daughter of the Earth Goddess Bhumi. This really stuck with me because being the daughter of the Earth is an identity that I believe would fully shape a person’s worldview. Yet, in most retellings of the Ramayana in media and publications, there is not enough emphasis on Sita’s role as the daughter of the Earth Goddess, and her individual power. We often tend to view her in relation to Ram-as a dutiful wife, ideal mother and a symbol of virtue and purity. I believe that reframing Sita’s story from the perspective of her truth, courage and strength is very important.

Fortunately, I got a chance to work on a retelling of Sita’s story by participating in a South Asian Storytelling Event called “Sacred// Profane”. Each performer created a piece of

retelling that challenged a cultural myth by interrogating patriarchy, sexuality, gender, etc. I wrote about what I would imagine Sita would react as the daughter of Bhumi, watching the Earth be ruined through war and extraction, and how she would react to the violence she has faced from men who demand her purity.

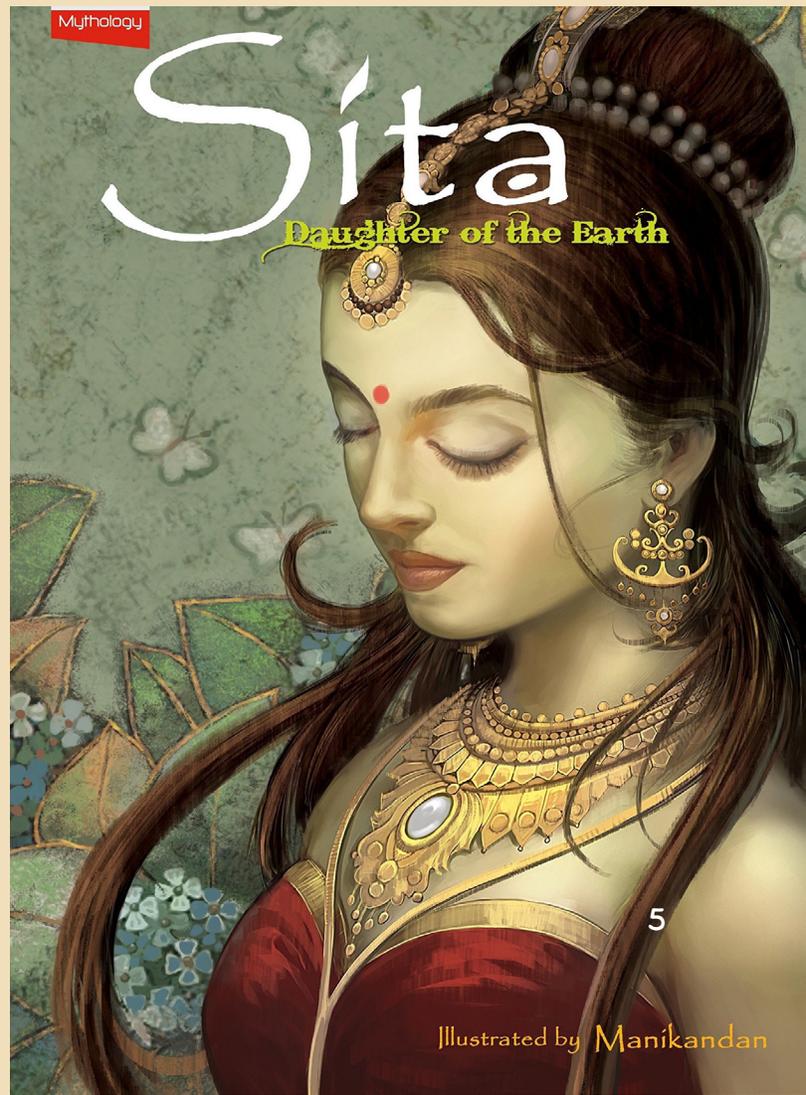
“No one ever tells me that I have my mother’s eyes or hair/ Or creativity/  
But they recognize us/ In how we are meant to be at once loved and ruined/”

Writing this, despite it being a character that isn’t me, felt fully empowering. To reinvent a story that I was constantly told as a child, and ask for better representation made me feel more included in my own culture. I believe that humanities plays a large role in cultivating the future we want and filling in the gaps of what we are missing. One field that is up and coming and asking a lot of questions about how we talk about ourselves and our relationship with each other and nature, is Environmental Humanities.

“The environmental humanities did not just emerge from Western academic thinkers: indigenous, postcolonial, and feminist thinkers have provided major contributions. These contributions include challenging the human-centered viewpoints that separate “nature” and “culture” and the white, male, European- and North American-centric viewpoints of what constitutes “nature”; revising the literary genre of “nature writing”; and creating new concepts and fields that bridge the academic and the political, such as “environmental justice,”

“environmental racism,” “the environmentalism of the poor,” “naturecultures,” and “the posthuman.” “- Wikipedia

We often separate nature from how we write about ourselves. In fact nature is usually an aesthetic in literary fiction rather than something that is evolving and being affected by us. Scholars are now saying that climate fiction is the only realistic fiction there can be. Novels without a climate crisis in their narrative are in a fantasy scape. The Overstory by Richard Powers is a wonderful experimental novel where the trees actually send messages to the characters and exist not in the background of the character’s lives, but as characters themselves. I highly recommend it!





# Shop Small In NJ

By Samara Mowla

My favorite part of the holiday season is picking out the perfect gift for my loved ones. Nothing compares to watching my mom smile with elation as she opens the thoughtful present I chose for her. In the months leading up to the holidays, I search far and wide for just the right gift. I've found that small businesses provide consumers with the unique opportunity to find unique presents. Small business owners also strive to survive and one of the biggest advantages they have over large retailers is the ability to provide more personable, hands on, and memorable customer service.

During COVID-19, small businesses have been greatly impacted. Local stores across the country continue to struggle and many of them are already out of business. According to one report, during the first three months of the pandemic's surge in the US, small business revenues were down 40% overall, and 40% of small businesses closed (Hamilton, 4). This holiday season

it's more important than ever to support these businesses that make our community so special. Shopping small supports local economies and local families. Although the temptation of Amazon's "buy now" pressures most people, the consumer's dollar goes much farther with a small business.

Retailers like Amazon and Walmart may provide convenience, but their curated gift guides lack personality and uniqueness. Shopping from Amazon this holiday season will ensure all the presents under the tree are the same. Nobody can deny the impact that gifts have when it comes to creating a stronger bond and maintaining deeper connections with one another. You get a different kind of care and quality in small businesses and their products

These are some of my favorite New Jersey small businesses to support this season. These stores have some of the most special gifts and it is ensured that your money is supporting the local economy!

ShopBridgesBoutique, Howell NJ: This online store has a great inventory of women's clothes and accessories. The boutique aims to bridge women of all styles together. They also offer free local deliver and pick up. Find them on [www.shopbridgesboutique.com](http://www.shopbridgesboutique.com)

Waterlily, Springlake, Manasquan, Bayhead NJ: Waterlily has been one of my favorite places to shop for years. They have a unique collection of women's clothes, jewelry, and accessories. Every item in their store is thoughtfully selected and promised to make a special gift. Find them on [www.waterlilyshop.com](http://www.waterlilyshop.com)

Rook Coffee, multiple locations: Rook Coffee has a cult-like following for New Jersey coffee addicts. This holiday season pick up their comfortable hoodies or trademark mugs for the caffeine addict on your shopping list. Find them on [www.rookcoffee.com](http://www.rookcoffee.com)

Giftbar, Montclair: The name really says it all here-the Gift Bar in Montclair has the best selection of gifts for everyone on your list. They carry something for mom (candles), something for your pop culture obsessed cousin (The Office coloring book), and maybe even something for yourself. Find them on [www.shopgiftbar.com](http://www.shopgiftbar.com)

This holiday season, it is so important to support our amazing local businesses. These shops keep our communities alive! Make sure to stop by your favorite shops to find the perfect present for your loved ones.





# 5 Strategies for Making the Most of A(nother) Virtual Semester

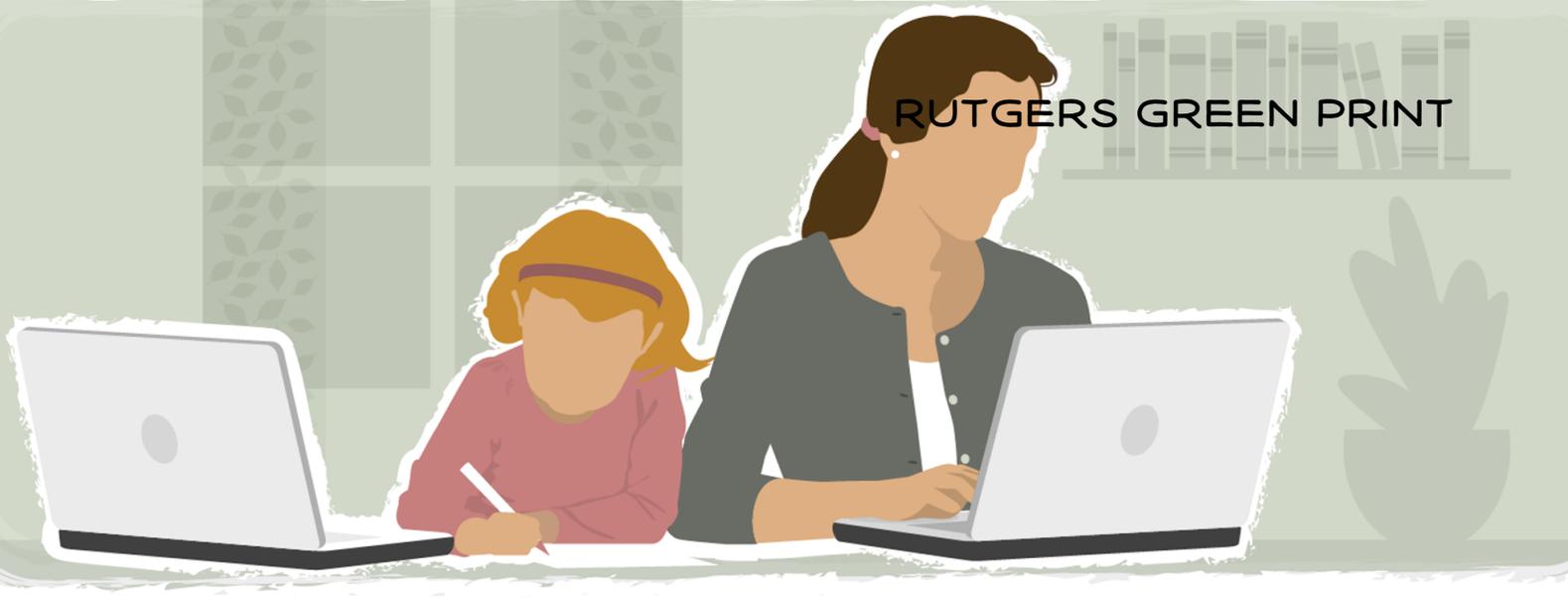
By Wamia Siddiqui

Rutgers has declared that classes will be online next semester, and if you're anything like me, you're devastated to not be able to see your friends, classmates, and professors in person. Classes can be very overwhelming, so here are some tips to incorporate and think about as you navigate choosing your schedule and strategizing how to make online classes more interesting, painless, and meaningful. Note: definitely apply the tips that are applicable to you and your personal situation.

1. Choose synchronous classes. Yes, really. At first inclination, it might seem like a great idea to take classes asynchronously, without live class meetings and without the worry of sitting through hours of Zoom calls. In some ways, asynchronous classes

have their benefits--such as putting lecture videos on 2x speed. However, synchronous classes are much easier to stay on top of, as the weekly class meeting means you'll never find yourself halfway through the semester wondering what's going on, making deadlines much easier to stay on top of. They also allow for much more valuable interaction with your classmates and professors.

2. Review the syllabus for every single class. Scour the Internet, ask upperclassmen, and check department websites prior to committing to take any class. Especially during COVID-19, it is important you know exactly what is required of you at any point in time, and a syllabus can let you understand what the course



structure is. Questions to ask yourself and gauge based on your learning style include: Is this class mostly lecture and exams, or more seminar style? Does participation, attendance or discussion get taken into account during grading? Is there a final exam or project, is it cumulative? Are exams open-notes? Make sure you can answer these questions fully prior to the end of add-drop week!

3. Take Lab Courses online while you can. Get the time consuming laboratory courses, like Organic Chemistry Lab or Intro to Experimentation, out of the way, while you can. Your future self will thank you later when you aren't spending anywhere from 1 to 5 hours in a humid building basement each week trying to complete experiments step by step. Even if you enjoy laboratory research, you are much better off spending that time working in a science research lab, than in the course.

4. Create your own independent study course if a course you'd be interested in doesn't exist. Independent studies enable

students to delve really deeply into a course with a very specific topic, which is a great way to also get to know and work closely with a faculty member in an adjacent field. Plus, independent studies are mostly asynchronous, so they also fit within the context of online learning really well and will not require adjustments in your schedule to accommodate!

5. Work on meaningful projects and experiences in and outside of class! Online learning is really all what you make of it, and a lot of the time the assignments for remote classes may feel like they primarily involve mindless busy work or rote memorization of lifeless, lackluster Powerpoints for exams. If you do find yourself in classes such as these, make a conscious effort to seek out experiences such as virtual research, internships or externship programs, conferences, webinars and events from around the country now being held online, to make the most out of the situation. Immerse yourself in at least one or two meaningful projects and take pride in your resilience.



# Environmental War: A Pyrrhic Victory?

By Nitish Mirchandani

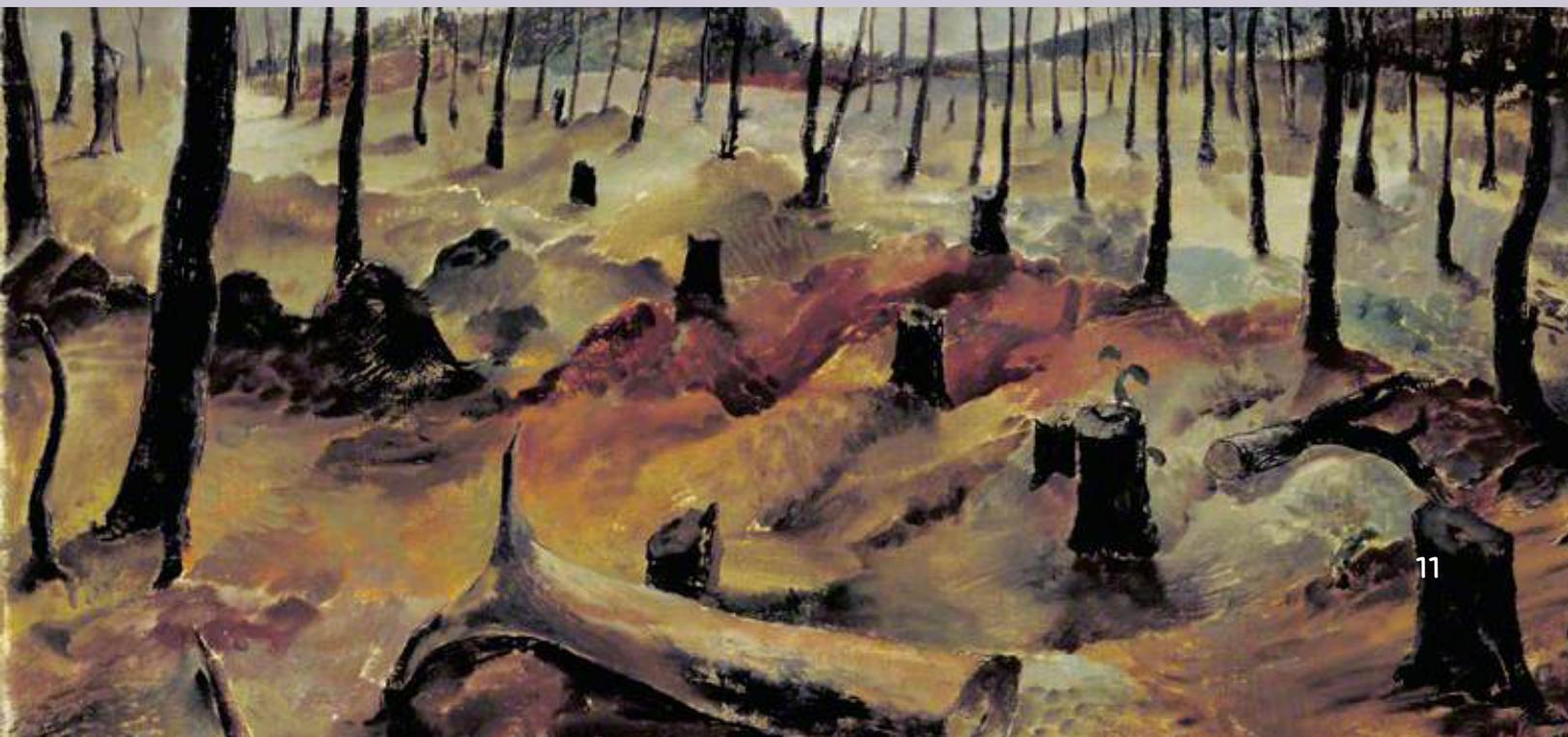
The United States has the largest military budget on the planet in order to maintain the largest armed forces on the planet. The activities of the military do not exclusively pertain to waging war, and include offering military guidance, providing equipment or perhaps varying forms of relief to allies that need it. With this being said, it is important to understand that warfare is a universally brutal act whose nature cannot be changed. The use of ballistic missiles and drones has made it easier to deal with large groups of adversaries while increasingly desensitizing the general public to the destruction of warfare, including the significant environmental fallout that comes with it. Consider the current conflict in Yemen, which has spawned one of the greatest humanitarian crises on the planet. The Saudi-led coalition has decimated the Yemeni

landscapes, rendering natural resources inaccessible or unusable. The civilian death toll keeps mounting, and news outlets tend to focus on traditional military fallouts, like airports or hospitals being bombarded, while covering the region. These stories are important of course, but it deters the focus from the fact that about 7.5 million people are suffering from food scarcity. Death under a bomb is instantaneous and more merciful than forcing people to slowly lose their lives to starvation, malnutrition and the resulting diseases. Humanitarian aid is slow to arrive in the region owing to traditional military activities which cause the destruction of airports that provide vital drop-off locations for much needed relief. The pursuit of regional hegemony is coming at a severe cost and the ones suffering the most are those who have the least to do with it.

This jarring fallout from warfare is not new—environmental warfare has been waged in the name of self-defense with equally devastating consequences. Take the Yellow River Flood of 1938, wherein the Chinese Kuomintang (KMT) destroyed the Huayuankou dike on the Yellow River in order to stop the advances of the Imperial Japanese Army during the Second Sino-Japanese War. The idea was to quite literally wash the Japanese out of their occupied territories by flooding them, which would have also served to stop their inland advance towards the city of Wuhan. The strategy remains controversial and its value questioned, as it is widely considered one of the largest acts of environmental warfare in history. The maneuver hurt Chinese civilians and domestic interests with somewhere between 400,000 to 900,000 dead, and 5 million to 12 million affected. The long term impacts of the decision proved to be devastating to the locals since their farmland was destroyed and no longer arable. Local infrastructure

was either ruined or decrepit, denying the survivors any means to start over and rebuild their lives. Furthermore, the political impacts of the choice led to an increasingly fraught situation with citizens decrying the incumbent KMT government and pledging loyalties to the rival Communist Party or even the Japanese in some cases. The fallout would go on to become a bone of contention between the KMT and the CCP leading up to the battle for the control of China.

Though I believe that warfare is endemic to the human condition, I also find a growing urgency in revising our current foreign policies. James Mattis, the former Secretary of Defense, once said, “If you don’t fund the State Department fully, then I need to buy more ammunition ultimately” and he was correct. When we do not invest fully in diplomacy, we will be forced to resort to weaponry as the solution. What is the point of waging a war to “save” people if they are left with only piles of bones and mounds of ashes to live among?





# *Bucket List For The Traveler: Ramapo Mountain State Forest*

By Jeremy Lewan

Ramapo Mountain State Forest, located in Oakland, New Jersey, is a hikers' paradise. It has an extensive network of scenic trails, a veritable woven tapestry, allowing hikers to crisscross the Ramapo Valley. There are two parking lots from which you can start your hike in Ramapo. Take the blue trail from the lower parking lot or the yellow trail from the upper one to get to Ramapo Lake, a glistening sapphire gem set perfectly in the verdant valley. From the blue trail, you can connect to the white trail, which will take you on a steep hike to the ruins of the Van Slyke Castle. The history of this once-grand structure is a story fascinating enough to be made into a movie.



Ramapo Lake in the Spring



Ramapo Lake in the Fall



The story revolves around a nurse named Ruth A. Cole. In 1905, she was employed by Charles E. Halliwell, a tobacco company executive. After nursing him back to good health, she and Halliwell, 25 years her elder, were married. Just a few months later, he suffered a sudden stroke and died, leaving Cole a huge sum of money equivalent to over \$130 million today. In 1909, she married William Porter, a stockbroker friend of her late husband, and the story of the castle began with that marriage.

With the fortune left by Halliwell, they built a lavish weekend getaway castle in the Ramapo Hills called

“Foxcroft.” Two years later, Porter was killed in an automobile accident returning from Foxcroft to New York. In 1913, Cole married her third husband, Warren Van Slyke, an attorney. Foxcroft was renamed the “Van Slyke Castle” and the newlyweds split their time between Jamaica, Queens, and the castle. Van Slyke died in 1925 and the widow Cole lived year-round at the castle until her death in 1940, at age 64.

The property was sold by her family to a couple who subsequently sold it to a woman named Suzanne C. Christie. The castle became involved in a bitter divorce, after which it was abandoned

and torched by vandals in 1959. Enscorced in vines and trees, the scorched ruins of the mansion, along with a deteriorating pool and water tower, are the only remnants of an earlier time.

Standing on the porch of the ruins, the New York City skyline, Ramapo Lake, and the valley are all visible elements in the beautiful vista that Mrs. Cole and her husbands enjoyed. When standing in the middle of the castle, it is interesting to envision speaking to Mrs. Cole in her living room, now in shambles, and wonder what it would have looked like a 100 years into the past.

Aside from the intrigue of the castle ruins, Ramapo Mountain State Forest is a beautiful and serene area not far from the hustle and bustle of New York City, and is certainly worth the trip.

# STAYING SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

By Chris McGinley



It's almost that time of year again. As everyone around the country begins to make plans for this holiday season, it is important to remember that this year's festivities may be a little different than what we're all used to. With the COVID pandemic reaching astronomical case numbers and officially becoming the third leading cause of death in America<sup>1</sup>, this holiday season's personal protection equipment is no longer a choice but rather a necessity!

Keep on reading for some helpful tips on how you can help keep yourself, and your loved ones, safe this holiday season!

## Tip 1: Gather around the dinner table...over ZOOM!

As the holiday season approaches, it is essential for everyone to take a step back and think before making their plans. As wonderful as it may be to gather around the table with your family, it is important to acknowledge and understand how these gatherings can quickly become super spreading events. Instead, have a smaller meal with people who you have been quarantining with. While enjoying the intimacy of the smaller gathering, you can

set up a screen to zoom with other loved ones who may not be in your quarantine bubble. At the end of the day, by staying home, not only are you keeping everyone safe, but you are also missing the annoying holiday traffic!

## Tip 2: If you MUST meet in person, be outside!

While any potential gatherings can be risky, it is better to do it outside where there is fresh, circulating air. According to the Mayo Clinic, being outside is a much better option due to the fresh and constantly moving air displacing the aerosol droplets that carry the coronavirus through the air<sup>2</sup>. But, even though you may be outside, it is still important to always wear a face mask and be at least 6 feet apart. Being outside does not prevent COVID from spreading. Practicing safe habits does. At the end of the day, it is best to stay isolated from others, but being outdoors is more advantageous than being inside.



Tip 3: Stick to individual servings rather than buffet-style dishes.

Even though most holidays are centered around big trays of food that everyone enjoys, it may be best to stick to individual servings to reduce cross-contamination. While the food itself may not have any pathogens, it is very likely that the outer edges of the bowls and/or the actual serving utensils that pass from hand to hand may have the germs of someone who could be asymptomatic. By having your own serving, there is less potential transmission between persons as utensils and food is passed around. It may feel strange to not have these holiday meals served family-style, but those few seconds of weirdness are much more ideal than the days of feeling decimated by COVID.

Tip 4: Remember to enjoy the holidays and find a way to find cheer!

This quarantine has significantly impacted everyone, and it is important to recognize the implications this isolation has on our mental health. As the CDC and many other sources are reporting, this pandemic is taking a significant emotional toll on many. While everyone may react to this pandemic

differently, it is important not to minimize or ignore anyone's feelings during this unprecedented time. At the end of the day, the most important thing you can do during this holiday season is to try and fill your days with things that make you happy. Check on loved ones and find ways to safely keep your spirits up. Whether that's extra holiday baking, creating art, or anything that excites you, try to find something to make you smile!

This pandemic has affected us all in very different ways. It is important to realize that as cases seem to spike, the need to quarantine is no longer about 'me', but rather 'we'. We all need to practice safe and healthy habits in order to reduce the spread so that we can get back to leading the lives we want to live. It is also critical to remember that everyone has different comfort levels within this pandemic. While you may be comfortable eating inside at a restaurant, your friend may not be. It is important not to minimize other people's concerns with this pandemic and respect their wishes. This time is very uncertain and daunting for everyone, so it is best not to force someone into doing something that they are uncomfortable with.

At the end of the day, it is best to stay safe and cautious rather than carefree and reckless when it comes to something as important as your health.

Some friendly reminders before you go!

1. According to various sources like The New York Times, there were 11.1 million cases of COVID in the United States as of November 16, 2020.

2. Within an indoor setting, it was found that COVID aerosol droplets (those are the particles that infect you!) can stay floating in the air for roughly 3 hours. This translates to roughly 30 minutes in an outdoor environment.

3. COVID has been characterized as a disease that can exponentially spread. This means that due to its high degree of contagiousness, a single person can infect multiple, and then each person they infect goes on to infect twice that many (if not more) therefore creating what is known as super spreading.

4. If you have had COVID before, that doesn't necessarily make you immune. Leading scientists in the field are still unsure if having the virus prior makes you less susceptible to it in the future. Also, current studies are unsure as to how long any potential immune response lasts within the body.

5. Be careful of closed tents when dining "outdoors". If you and a group of people are in a confined space, like a tent in the parking lot of a restaurant, the air is behaving the same as it would inside. The inside of the tent is essentially trapping any pathogens inside, rather than allowing them to freely dissipate, therefore generating a potential buildup of viral particles in your immediate surroundings that you are directly breathing in.

6. At the end of a day, wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet apart, respect other people's boundaries, and be smart with any potential gatherings.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and most of all, stay positive! This quarantine won't last forever!





# Thanksgiving 2020-Coronavirus Edition

By Jessica Mukhija and Subhodeep Chakrabarty

Thanksgiving Day is a holiday celebrated by Americans on the fourth Thursday of November. This holiday dates back to the Civil War Era, and originated on The Mayflower. New York is known to be the first state to officially adopt this holiday and this eventually spread to states all over the United States of America. This day signifies colonists coming to America for the first time and founding a new country. Thanksgiving was first celebrated when the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Native Americans shared a feast together in the fall of 1621.

It later translated to something all American families and friends celebrate as a way of saying “thank you” to each other for being in their lives. However, many Natives feel that Thanksgiving was the start of oppression towards their community which is why many survivors prefer Thanksgiving become Indigenous People Day. At Rutgers Newark, I (Subhodeep) got the unique opportunity to meet a Native American tribe leader and discuss the impact of Thanksgiving in the lives of indigenous people. They believe that Thanksgiving is a day of Healing. It marks the day when large native populations were

historically massacred. It is important for us to pay respect to the indigenous lives lost on this holiday.

Food also plays a significant role in Thanksgiving’s tradition. In the current century, the traditional Thanksgiving family meal includes turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, gravy, and cranberry sauce. However, eating duck was initially significant during celebrating the holiday. After President Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863, the turkey became the popular holiday staple food instead.

Though we are all isolated due to the current pandemic, technology allows us to come together in many different ways. Virtual calls on Facetime, Zoom, or any other platform can be used by families to eat together while in their separate homes. People can also use the Netflix Party feature to watch holiday movies together. They can shop together online the day before and after Thanksgiving, and engage in gratitude activities virtually by having everyone on the call discuss what they’re most thankful for.

# Passion Puddle Playlist

By Funda Akilli

Hello everyone! As the fall semester comes to an end, this playlist represents our transition into the winter season. I've included a compilation of some of my favorite songs. I wanted to create a fun and joyful combination of music that will allow us to enjoy ourselves even in the most stressful situations. Hope you guys enjoy it as you sit back and relax this holiday season!

1. Maroon 5 – Memories
2. The Neighbourhood – Sweater Weather
3. Ali Gatie – Running On My Mind
4. Khalid – Better
5. JVKE – Upside Down
6. BTS – Dynamite
7. 24kGoldn ft Iann Dior – Mood
8. Justin Bieber ft Chance The Rapper – Holy
9. Bazzi – Beautiful
10. Jason Derulo – Take You Dancing

# Works Cited

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Illustration: Book (Sita: Daughter of the Earth: A Graphic Novel) illustrated by Manikandan

## Shop Small In NJ

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## Environmental War: A Pyrrhic Victory?

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Image Credit: Imperial War Museums

## Bucket List for the Traveler: Ramapo Mountain State Forest

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## Staying Safe This Holiday Season

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## Thanksgiving 2020-Coronavirus Edition

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A man with a beard and a straw hat is holding a large sunflower in a field. The sunflower is the central focus, with its bright yellow petals and dark brown center. The man is wearing a striped shirt and sunglasses on his hat. The background is a clear blue sky with some clouds.

DESIGN  
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COVER PHOTO  
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