

The Sun'll Come Out Tomorrow!

Composed from an Interview with Harriet Higgins of Homer, New York

It's May of 2021 and Harriet Higgins is sitting in the non-fiction room of the Phillips Free Library. In her hands is a ribbon of cloth on which she is stitching small, bright sailboats. The sailboats, though still, seem also to glide freely on the wind. "Needlepoint," she smiles.

The past year has been one of real change. Harriet is one of those who contracted Covid early in the pandemic. She was very sick, but oddly, with no fever. Still, she knew it was serious. Fortunately, most of her symptoms lasted only a few days. Her son contracted Covid also. Though that was over a year ago, the flippant behaviors of this much studied virus continue to baffle us all.

The isolation of the past several months has been hard, but Harriet has enjoyed recreation at Greek Peak, and an ever-popular exercise class via zoom, led by Val Cleland. "Cooking has been fabulous too, trying new recipes," she adds. She really appreciates the fresh, beautiful items at Anderson's Farm Market. Harriet also stays in touch with her sons, Pete, a nurse at Cayuga Medical and John, a business developer in New York City.

Community needs never left her mind throughout the pandemic. She continued to help a variety of service organizations, through Rotary she has been delivering food throughout the county, packing books from closed elementary schools to be distributed in other parts of the world, and helping with construction and remodeling at the YMCA, YWCA and the Salvation Army. Harriet misses the rich array of cultural performances temporarily silenced and dimmed by the pandemic, especially plays at CRT, the College Community Orchestra where she is a violinist, and the United Presbyterian Church Choir where she is an alto.

Harriet spent four decades on Wall Street and is a registered investment advisor through Mayflower Capital LLC where she is CEO and owner. During the lock-down days she worked both in and out of the home office, staying attentive to her clients and their needs. Sometimes that meant calculating time zones as far away as Alaska. "There is no 'back to normal,' "she tells us. "We have to keep moving forward. We've all got to get used to a changing comfort zone. On to the next project!"

Currently several projects occupy her time. She is negotiating for office space to establish an office and investment center for strategic advice and community classes in downtown Homer. She is excited about opening this new chapter of her life, which aligns with one of her favorite Broadway melodies, "The Sun'll Come Out Tomorrow." Harriet looks forward to a busy summer at her family property along the ancient, rocky shore of beautiful Skaneateles Lake.

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