

Maureen Starace (submitted June 11, 2020)

COVID-19

Looking back to March of 2020 there was a tremendous sense of foreboding. The personal freedoms that we take for granted were slowly being taken away. The very things that human beings find joy in were no longer acceptable. The constant barrage of being told what one can and can't do went against the very grain of what it means to be an American. Any sense of hope was constantly being dashed as the country tried to grapple with the situation. These were very dark days. The month of April brought about the lowest point certainly here in New Jersey when even local and state parks were closed. One felt most sad for the children who have suffered the brunt of the loss of freedom. Very sad, but children are the most resilient of us all and will most likely not have such negative memories of these times. The month of May brought slight improvements but mostly to other states not as hard hit as New Jersey, but at least there was a glimmer of hope. Now it is the month of June, and although far from normal life, the situation has improved. There are fewer reported cases of coronavirus with the number of deaths down as well. Fortunately the warm weather is here and outdoor gatherings with precautions are being allowed. Until there is a vaccine for this virus, life will be lived precariously by many people. I, for one, have continued to live life as normal as possible throughout these past few months and hope to continue to do so as life moves on.