

LST534 Newsletter

January, February, March 2013

Volume 17, Issue 1

NATIONAL DAY OF LISTENING

Since 2003, a project called “StoryCorps” has collected and archived more than 40,000 interviews from nearly 80,000 participants. Each conversation is preserved at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. StoryCorps is one of the largest oral history projects of its kind, and millions listen to the broadcasts on the internet and on Public Radio at NPR’s Morning Edition.

StoryCorps says, “we do this to remind one another of our shared humanity, strengthen and build the connections between people, teach the value of listening, and weave into the fabric of our culture the understanding that every life matters. At the same time, we will create an invaluable archive of American voices and wisdom for future generations. In the coming years, we will build StoryCorps into an enduring institution that will touch the lives of every American family.”

Statement of Principles

StoryCorps is built on an uncompromising commitment to excellence across all

aspects of the project, from collecting, sharing, and preserving people’s stories; to organizational management; to maintaining an extraordinary work environment where respect and dignity are paramount.

- The interview session is at the heart of StoryCorps. We treat participants with the utmost respect, care, and dignity.
- StoryCorps has a relentless focus on serving a wide diversity of participants.

StoryCorps is a public service. Anyone and everyone can record their story. And if anyone should, it is you guys...the Veterans of World War II. StoryCorps salutes those who have served in the armed forces.

Here is how you record your story. It is easy to visit www.storycorps.org. Or call this number: **800-850-4406**

STEP 1: Make a reservation

Think of a person whose stories you would like to hear, or someone who might like to ask about yours, like a

grandparent, sibling, or friend. Then find the location nearest you and reserve an appointment online or by phone.

STEP 2: Prepare for your session

Read what to expect and visit their great questions page.

STEP 3: Record your story

Bring your friend or loved one to the StoryCorps recording facility. Trained staff will explain the process, make you feel comfortable, and sit with you during your 40-minute session. At the end of your session, you’ll receive a free broadcast-quality CD to share with family and friends, and a second copy will be archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

More ways to record your story:

Do-It-Yourself Interviews:

Download our free and easy to use Do-It-Yourself Instruction Guide and learn how to record interviews and start your own family archive at home.

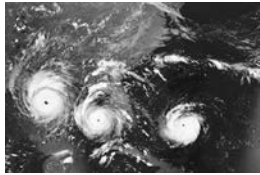
LST534 Newsletter

StoryKit Program: Individuals and families can rent portable recording equipment packages called StoryKits to record interviews at home.

Door-to-Door Service: Organizations and institutions can sponsor on-site recordings at the location of their choice through our Door-to-Door Service.

StoryCorps also has an app for iPhone users.

News Super Storm Sandy



Many of you asked questions or wondered about me and other shipmates affected by the powerful Hurricane Sandy that hit the East coast on October 29th, 2012.

Hurricanes are warm water events. It is rare for hurricanes to make landfall in the United States north of the Carolinas. Once a storm moves over the cold waters of the mid-Atlantic, it is no longer a tropical storm. Sandy was classified as a "post tropical" storm as it moved north and collided with other weather systems. Therefore it got the name, "Super Storm" or "Frankenstorm".

Hurricane Sandy came ashore in New Jersey at speeds of 94 miles an hour. Try telling the citizens of those coastal areas that this was NOT a Hurricane!!

Hurricane Katrina made landfall in New Orleans in 2005, as a Category 3 Storm. It battered New Orleans with maximum sustained winds of 125 miles per hour. Katrina is considered the most destructive hurricane to ever hit the United States, causing more than \$81 billion dollars in damage.

The damage from H. Sandy is estimated to be between \$20 and 40 billion dollars.

I was in New York City when Sandy hit. I volunteered in preparation of the storm, setting up hurricane shelters and evacuation centers. The center I worked at was capable of housing, sleeping and feeding 400 persons and we were even pet friendly.

I called Andy and Rose Cumella to see if they were OK and yes, they had no damage from this storm. Albert Straka on the other hand, was not so lucky. Their beach house was destroyed. But they were safe and Albert's kids have vowed to rebuild.

I'm sure many of you saw "The Crane" dangling and bobbing around on West 57th

Street in mid town Manhattan. Look at it:



This is about 4 blocks from my apartment. I'm 100% convinced that the Good Lord intervened and kept that crane from falling. It was dangling by a thread. West 57th Street has apartments, retail stores and businesses all along both sides of the street. It that crane arm had come off, in 100 mile an hour winds, the damage and destruction would have been monumental. It dangled there for over a week before the Buildings Department and the owner of the crane could figure out what to do about it. All the while the entire area was evacuated. Finally, they figured out they could carefully move it around to the building and attach it to the building itself.

Many subways and buildings flooded. In fact, Bellevue Hospital is still evacuated while they repair the electrical system and machines in their basement. Subways are almost 100% back to normal.

LST534 Newsletter

Everyone in Manhattan knows someone who was affected by this storm. A lot of people who work in the City live in New Jersey, Staten Island and Brooklyn. These folks have lost their homes and most of their possessions and yet they manage to come to work each day, in restaurants, buildings and service businesses.

I commend these people. It will take months and months to clean up, clean out and rebuild the devastated areas of lower Manhattan and the outer boroughs. The City of New York, New York State and New Jersey are all taxed at trying to be everywhere, helping everyone.

Let's say a prayer for each and every one of them.



The Fiscal Cliff means WHAT???

Long ago, people traded, bartered, or used commodities to pay for things they wanted. Over the centuries, societies developed more sophisticated forms of currency until, about seven thousand years ago, money in the form of coins came on the scene. The earliest paper money has been traced back to China in the tenth century. Our government issued its first paper currency in 1862.

Originally, the coins people handed over for goods or services were made of

precious metals like gold and silver, and were therefore worth the value of the metal they were from. Later, societies adopted "representative" money. Coins and paper notes had no value themselves, but represented the precious metals the government had stored away. For example, a British pound was worth a pound of silver.

On April 2, 1792, Congress established the U.S. Mint to produce coins made of silver, gold and copper. It wasn't until the ramp up of the Civil War in the mid-1800's that the U.S. moved to paper currency. The first paper notes, issued in 1862 were simply government guarantees that the holder would be able to exchange for coins in the future.

As our government continues to fight over money, it is sometimes important to think back and realize that each promise should represent the value of its commitment. Does our paper money have the same value as our fore fathers imagined? Is any of our money actually backed by gold in a vault somewhere???

Source: *NY Post Classroom Extra*, September, 2012



HOLIDAYS

January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



February

- 2 Ground Hog Day
- 13 Ash Wednesday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 18 President's Day



March

- 2 Read Across America Day
- 10 Daylight Savings Time
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 31 Easter



BIRTHDAYS

January 4

Ed Overstake
2440 World Parkway Blvd. E.
#38
Clearwater, FL 33763

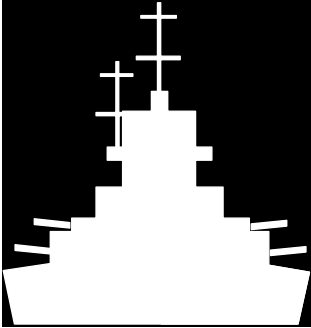
January 14

Frank Frame
PO Box
Jal, NM 88252

March 26

Willie Gunn
105 Bull Street
Swainsboro, GA 30401

LST534 Newsletter
250 West 49th Street
Suite 400
New York, New York 10019



LST534

LST534 Newsletter

Just for Fun

I asked my three year old daughter what she liked to eat. "Nuts" she replied.

Oh, I said...walnuts, peanuts?

No she said...DONUTS

My Mother is still having trouble understanding her new smart phone.

Upon receiving a text message she said to me, quick, hand me a pencil and paper so I can write this down.

Source: Readers Digest.

Nautical Terms

In memory of James Richard Drew who contributed to this column until his passing.

Striking for a rate: Men not selected for a Navy school; learning on the job for a certain rate

Rate: Special designation for serving in a particular job

Rating: Designation of achievement

Editor and Comments:
Linda Alvers
250 W. 49th Street, Suite 400
New York, NY 10019
1.800.237.1224