

# SILHOUETTES

BY TIFFANY RAZZANO

Raised on a small farm in Hudson, New Hampshire, Sister Claire LeBoeuf enjoyed an idyllic childhood.

Then, when she was 13 years old, tragedy struck. Her beloved mother passed away from an aneurysm and she was sent to live with her godmother for a year. By the time she returned to her father's care, he had remarried, and life was never the same. "My father was in the picture, but I felt like I didn't belong to a family," she said.

This personal experience inspired LeBoeuf, the founder of New Life Village, to dedicate her life to fighting child abuse and neglect.

In 1960, she entered the convent, and celebrates 60 years with the Congregation of the Sisters of Holy Cross this year. "I haven't regretted a day in my life," she said. "Talk about support and belonging. That's the ultimate support and belonging."

After earning her bachelor's degree and teaching in New Hampshire and Massachusetts for several years, she moved to Florida in 1977 to pursue her master's degree. It was in Tampa where she entered training in transactional analysis. "You probably know it as the 'I'm OK, You're OK' movement," she said.

Around this time, child abuse and neglect laws began to change. For years, child abuse and animal rights cas-

es fell under the same laws. But a new federal mandate required every state to adopt separate laws protecting children.

As these laws changed, LeBoeuf found herself drawn to protecting and assisting the most vulnerable children. "I

that offered hands-on training to mothers whose young children had been placed in foster care. While the kids came daily for daycare, these mothers attended parenting classes and hands-on activities with their children twice weekly.

"I realized that wasn't good enough, though," she said. Dreaming of a more intensive program focusing on the areas of parenting, self-esteem, and education, she founded New Life Dwelling Place in the mid-1980s.

This facility allowed mothers whose children were in foster care to live in the same community as them. "It was focused very much on helping women get to a place where they could get their lives back with their children," she said. "It was a very good program."

The program was based on several phases of increased responsibility with their children, LeBoeuf said.

As the phases moved forward, less staff supervision of mother and child was required. This gave mothers the opportunity to ultimately reunite with their children on their own.

It was a costly program and "the funding wasn't there," she said. In 1993, she asked the Community Council on Child Abuse and Neglect to

hope I made little differences along the way, but the system is not a whole lot better than it was back then," she said.

In the 1980s, she joined the Tampa Bay area Community Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (now called Champions for Children). She served as coordinator of a daycare program

## Sister Claire LeBoeuf



"It's a good community. There's always someone needing help and someone willing to give help."

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merge with New Life Dwelling Place, thinking "it was a bigger organization with more money...but they could see it was a financial drain on their budget as well."

Once New Life Dwelling Place folded, that same year she launched Everyday Blessings, "a child placing agency" that offered residential group care for children as well as training for prospective, foster, and adoptive parents. Today, the residential component of this program continues to exist in Lithia.

After learning about intergenerational communities, like Generations of Hope in Illinois, in the early 2000s, LeBoeuf began dreaming of creating a similar community in the Tampa area. "I thought intergenerational communities could be great here and could help families not too sure about adopting children over the age of 8," she said. "When you get children out of the foster care system, particularly those 8 and over, they're difficult to adopt. They're not the cute little babies and have behaviors that are challenging because they're survival behaviors."

In 2008, she began laying the groundwork for New Life Village, which opened in Palm River in 2012. There was a lot of work to get to that point, she said.

They originally purchased 70 acres of land in Thonotsassa for the community but learned it would be difficult to build on it. They found a foreclosed townhouse complex in Palm River on the market. An anonymous \$2 million donation allowed them to purchase the property and "we were able to start right away. We didn't have to build anything," she said. "This particular townhouse complex had all the infrastructure we needed."

Residents of New Life Village "are either seniors or families that have some form of adoption in their history," she said. Families come in all

forms, she added, including kinship grandparents who have custody of their grandchildren. The community also welcomes solo seniors who are dedicated to creating a stable environment to the foster children living there by serving as tutors and mentors.

There are more than 100 individuals living in the community's 32 units, said LeBoeuf, who serves as chair of the program committee. About 10 of these are seniors offering their support in various ways. "At our last count, there were 51 kids."

The goal is to create a connected community, she said. "Everyone is required to contribute their time and talent...They're required to do volunteer work as well...Everybody's got to pitch in. It's a good community. There's always someone needing help and someone willing to give help."

She added, "It's very heartwarming. It's heartwarming to see children who feel comfortable in their own skin, who feel like they do belong and feel happy."

There's plenty of room for individuals and organizations to assist with New Life Village's missions, whether

(Continued on page 16)

### CITY OF TAMPA PURCHASING DEPARTMENT INVITATION TO BID

Pursuant to Chapter 69-1119, Special Acts, Laws of Florida, sealed Bids will be received by the Director of Purchasing, City of Tampa, in his office until:

**2:00 PM ON 5/12/20  
GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON**

**3:00 PM ON 5/14/20  
ENGINE SUPPORT FOR ROLLS  
ROYCE HELICOPTER ENGINES**

**3:00 PM ON 5/14/20  
ALTERNATIVE SOLID WASTE  
MANAGEMENT FACILITY FOR THE  
DISPOSAL OF CLASS III WA  
PRE-BID MEETING TO BE HELD  
@ 10:00 AM ON 5/4/20 ONLINE VIA  
GOTOMEETING**

**3:30 PM ON 5/14/20  
TEMPORARY LABOR FOR SOLID  
WASTE COLLECTIONS**

**2:00 PM ON 5/19/20  
LINEN SERVICES FOR TAMPA FIRE  
RESCUE**

**2:30 PM ON 5/19/20  
REMOVAL OF INOPERATIVE  
VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT  
FOR THE CODE ENFORCEMENT  
DEPARTMENT (RE-BID)**

**3:00 PM ON 5/19/20  
FORD F-450XL CREW CAB &  
CHASSIS WITH UTILITY BODY,  
SPEC. NO. 75-20**

**2:00 PM ON 5/20/19  
PORTABLE RESTROOM FACILITIES  
FOR THE TAMPA CONVENTION  
CENTER**

**2:30 PM ON 5/21/20  
CAB & CHASSIS WITH 12 FOOT  
DUMP BODY AND CRANE, SPEC.  
NO. 53-20**

**3:30 PM ON 5/21/20  
REALISTIC TRAUMA  
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then and thereafter to be publicly opened and read. Bid documents are available at the Purchasing Department (Phone No. 813/274-8351).

It is hereby made a part of this Invitation to Bid that the submission of any Bid in response to this advertised request shall constitute a Bid made under the same conditions for the same contract price and for the same effective period as this Bid to all public entities in Hillsborough County.

Dated: 5/1/20  
Gregory K. Spearman, CPPO  
Director of Purchasing

City of Tampa, FL  
306 E. Jackson Street  
Tampa, FL 33602

5/1/20 1T

### CITY OF TAMPA PURCHASING DEPARTMENT INVITATION TO BID

#### SHELTERED MARKET SOLICITATION

This is a City of Tampa Sheltered Market solicitation for City of Tampa certified Small and Local Business Enterprises (SLBEs) and underutilized Women/Minority Enterprises (WMBEs) under Ordinance 2008-89, Equal Business Opportunity Act and Chapter 69-1119, Special Acts, Laws of Florida. For information on becoming certified as a Small Local Business Enterprise or Women/Minority Enterprise firm, please call the Minority and Small Business Enterprise Office at 813-274-5522. Sealed Bids from City of Tampa Certified Small Local Business Enterprises and Women/Minority Business Enterprises for the furnishing of the following will be received by the Director of Purchasing, City of Tampa, in his office until:

**2:30 PM ON 5/12/20  
DEZURIK PARTS AND VALVES  
(SHELTERED MARKET  
SOLICITATION)**

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Dated: 5/1/20  
Gregory K. Spearman, CPPO  
Director of Purchasing  
City of Tampa, FL  
306 E. Jackson Street  
Tampa, FL 33602

5/1/20 1T

### NOTICE OF INTENET TO PARTIALLY VACATE

Notice is hereby given that Richard Shimberg intends to apply to the city of Tampa, Florida to vacate a certain portion of the plat or map of Government Lot 3, Section 15, Township 30 South, Range 18 East, City of Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, portion being vacated described as follows:

THE WEST 201.50 FEET OF THE NORTH 61.50 FEET OF GOVERNMENT LOT 3, AND THE WEST 201.50 FEET OF THE SOUTH 89.00 FEET OF THE NORTH 150.50 FEET OF GOVERNMENT LOT 3, OF SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 30 SOUTH, RANGE 18 EAST, ILLSBOROUGH COUNTY FLORIDA, LESS THE WEST 30.00 FEET THEREOF FOR MACDILL AVENUE.

For additional information regarding this notice contact the Subdivision & DRI Coordinator, City of Tampa, 1400 N. Boulevard, Tampa, FL. 33607, Phone (813) 274-3100 ext. 48274

5/1-5/8/20 2T





# Chairman of the Bored

by Gene Siudut

## Crazy Like a Fox

While COVID-19 is banishing most of us to the confines of our homes, we can still look out the window to see what's going on outside.

And by window, I mean the Internet.

When I was a kid, that view was television, and it still is for many, but social media seems to be king when it comes to the absorption of information. The problem is most people are giving as much information as they are absorbing and it can be quite dangerous.

Let's travel back to mid-'80s Glassboro, New Jersey. It was around then that I thought there was a chance my dad was a little crazy. When he filled out magazine subscriptions or anything to do with a distribution list, he would often change the spelling of his name or use a fake name entirely.

I believe I first discovered this when he received mail with his name spelled Mark and not Marc, which is his how he spells his name, and a weird variation of our last name. But he knew exactly why it came that way.

He set it up.

The way my dad explained it to me was there was a whole industry out there of people who want to find out everything they can about you - your name, buying habits, interests, etc. In order to get that information, someone has to collect it, so every time you subscribe to a magazine or order something through the mail or use a credit card, there are people collecting that information and selling it.

In essence, he believed people were selling his information without his permission. When he signed up for a magazine or something to come through the mail, he would create different spellings of his name so he would know who was selling his name and how much selling they were doing by the amount of marketing he would receive toward those other spellings.

It seems Orwell chose his year wisely because "1984" was coming to fruition on Ellis Street. I had no idea then who George Orwell was. All I knew was my dad must be

out of his mind.

Back in today's world, the collection of data is so commonplace we don't even think about it. We give our information away with full knowledge it is being traded, sold and manipulated into doppelgangers that are indistinguishable from us. Worse yet, the companies that are there to protect our information seem to have worse security than Stalag 13 but instead of one Sergeant Schultz, there are thousands.

And what companies don't know about us, we eventually will tell them. The window we are looking out of is a view of an Internet that tells us every thought, passion, like, dislike and piece of historical information.

Our social media has pictures of our kids with GPS embedded into them. We post pictures of our food while we're eating it. We belong to alumni pages. We identify others in our families and connect to them as brothers, sisters, sons and daughters. We post surveys of our favorite music,

first pet, first car and political views. Our places of employment, where we live, birthdays, email addresses and cell phone numbers are there for the taking.

And we give it willfully.

Anyone with bad intentions and a computer can create a dossier about us within minutes and know the answers to almost any security question a bank or credit card company would ask. They can guess our passwords because they know the year we are born and our mother's maiden name. Not because they hacked into anything but because we are connected to our mothers online and they give away their maiden names in their profile.

We even agree to let websites plant programs in our devices so they know what we are looking up online and within seconds, we see advertising for those items. It happens every time we click that "OK" button on the terms and conditions of a site that prevents you from going on without your consent.

There used to be a thing

called privacy. The notion of what that was when I was a kid is long gone, but it doesn't all have to be.

We don't have to check in when we're at a restaurant. We don't have to click "like" on everything we like. We don't have to spend every day saying, "Look at me and what I'm eating and what I bought." And we should never, ever, ever fill out and share facebook chain-mail such as surveys. All of that information only helps someone who wants to do you harm.

As a writer, I understand my own hypocrisy, as I write every thought that comes into my mind and I like posting pictures of my basketball team and different events that help drive business. But some things, I do keep private. And you should too.

I suppose I need to offer my dad an apology all these years later and say, "Marc Siudut, you were right."

Or was it Mark Sivdot, Mack Suter, Marcus Sudut or Mike Smith?

Gene Siudut, if that is his name, can be emailed at [gsiudut@lagaceta newspaper.com](mailto:gsiudut@lagaceta newspaper.com)

## Silhouettes

(Continued from page 14) raisers or hands-on programming for the families living there. Monetary donations are also always welcome, especially as the community embarks on a new building campaign.

Reflecting on her decades of work with foster children, LeBoeuf said everything she's done during her long career has led to the creation of New Life Village. "It's always been a gradual movement from one thing to another and always wanting a safe, stable and permanent home for children," she said. "It's something that I had for 13 years, but something that I

would have wished for a few more years until I entered the convent."

Even with all she's accomplished, she's quick to credit those around her, from those who have funded her various projects to those who have rolled up their sleeves alongside her. "My faith and trust are what brought it together, but I get a lot of credit for doing what so many other have contributed to doing," she said. "I'm just really an instrument. I feel what I've been faithful to doing is listening to the direction. I feel I've answered the call and now need to listen to the direction."

## HOROSCOPES

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** The Lamb is usually excited about taking on a new challenge. But if that's a touch of doubt you're feeling, maybe it's you telling yourself to go slow on this until you learn more about it.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** Accepting new commitments when you haven't yet finished the batch on hand could be a bit rash. Better to ease up on the new ones until you get further along with your current lot.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** Try to be more open-minded in working toward a resolution of that standoff between yourself and a colleague or family member. A little flexibility now could work to your advantage later.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Some people might be anxious about your plans. So you need to take time to explain what you expect to do and how you expect to do it. And don't forget to ask for suggestions.

**LEO (July 23 to August 22)** Dealing with an unfam-

iliar problem can be difficult. The wisest course you can take is to ask for advice from those who have been where you are and have come through it. Good luck.

**VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** Tackle a frustrating job problem by considering possibilities you might have ignored before. This reassures colleagues you're serious about finding a solution, even if it's not totally yours.

**LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** Your balanced approach to life proves to be helpful this week when someone you care for needs your spiritual comfort, while someone else benefits from your tough-love practicality.

**SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** Once again, you're likely to be asked to keep a secret for someone. But do you really want to do so? Be honest with yourself and with your needs before you make any such commitment.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** Taking a more direct approach from the

more diplomatic one you've used before could make a difference in finally resolving a too-long-held disagreement. Try it.

**CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** Being asked for advice is flattering to the Sea Goat, who has a habit of saying the right thing. This time, expect someone to be especially impressed and to act on that sentiment.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** With a number of pressures easing, your project could be making a lot more progress than you expected by this time. That's great news. But don't let yourself be distracted; stay with it.

**PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** An interesting challenge looms that could be exactly what you've been looking for. Discuss this with colleagues who could have much to contribute and who might want to join with you.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** Your heart is always open to offer loving concern for others. And they, in turn, reach out to complete the circle.

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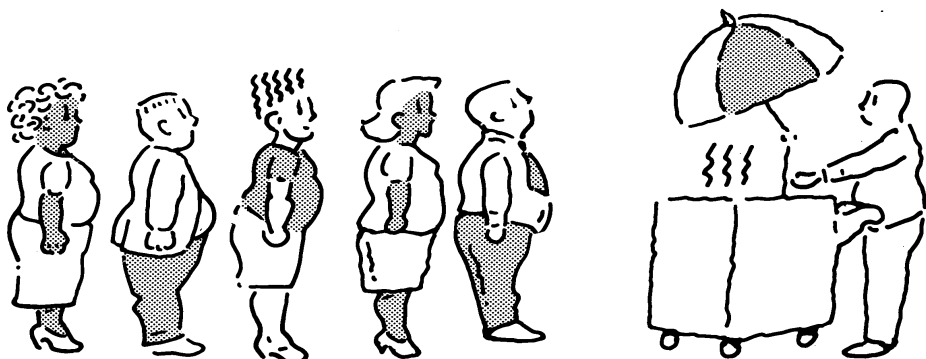
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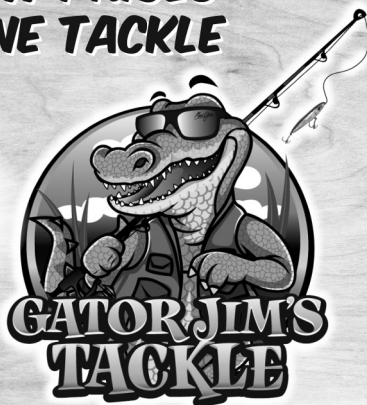
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