HOT PICKS JUNE 11-17

EDITOR'S NOTE: There is so much happening in the world: pandemic, instant recession, police and protesters, elections, Trump, Russian interference, Yellowstone earthquakes. During a recent Zoom conference, a coworker marveled, "Remember when Australia was on fire? That was just January." Media consumption and literacy is super important right now. But there is so much swirling around us, coming from multiple platforms, from mysterious sources, that it gets confusing. Here are a few ways to maintain a healthy media diet.

1) Slow it down. Make time to read slower, trying not to let emotions overrule reasoning. Click on embedded links and read them. Look up words you're not familiar with. Consume news slower, like you would a meal.

2) Scrutinize it. Beware of media you've never heard of before. If someone is hostile to trusted sources—like the World Health Organization or National Institutes of Health—watch out.

3) Skew older. Reputable and long-established media have an interest in protecting their reputation and nurturing a long-term relationship with their readers, listeners and viewers.

4) Read other opinions. That includes media with a different point of view than you hold. Know what (and why, hopefully) folks on a different spectrum are thinking.

5) Check sources. Watch out for media websites that don't do original reporting, but simply recycle others' reporting. Real news sites will reveal where information, quotes and statistics came from.

6) Turn it off. When you're oversaturated and you get too anxious, hopeless or confused, stop and read a book, go for a walk, do some chores, play with your kids. Participate at your own pace. —Walter Ryce

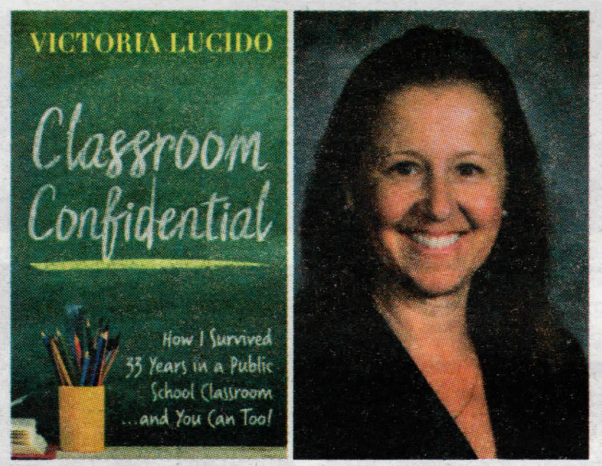
THE TO-DO LIST:

WATCH: FREE BLACK FILMS

I think the opposite of racism is not tolerance, which means putting up with something; nor is it acceptance, which posits that one party judges another. I think the true opposite of racism is understanding. Because racism is a lie, a scheme constructed between you and other people. So one way to fight racism is to discover why institutions and people in power would want you to believe in lies—a worthy pursuit. And the heralded Criterion Collection, which preserves and publishes important films, is pursuing another way: spreading understanding by sharing films by and about black people. They announced last week they are donating thousands of dollars to organizations supporting Black Lives Matter, and lifting the paywall on select films from black filmmakers and on documentaries about the black experience. On their website it's called Black Lives. And free films include Maya Angelou's *Down in the Delta*, Julie Dash's *Daughters of the Dust*, Les Blank's *A Well-Spent Life*, Leilah Weinraub's *Shakedown*, Agnes Varda's *Black Panthers*, Charles Burnett's *My Brother's Wedding* (the *New York Times* called him "the nation's least-known great filmmaker") and more. These are independent and artistic works. It's not Netflix and chill. It's more like Criterion and grow. At criterion.com.

BINGE: PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION

A camera can give extra importance to its subject; the reasoning is that there must be a good reason that someone is pointing a camera at it. So when we see the Central Coast on TV, we are interested and invested. AMP (Access Media Productions, formerly Access Monterey Peninsula) is our public access television station and has been filming and sharing local public, nonprofit and government events on five channels (and website) since 1998. Things like Monterey Architectural Review Committee meetings, like the one on March 20, 2019, where they discussed how a request by Mountain Mike's Pizza to increase signage from 14 square feet to 19 square feet would be inconsistent with the city's approved sign program. Through a partnership with Voices of Monterey Bay, AMP hosts crime reporter Julia Reynolds Martinez's podcast, "Gray Area," about the local justice system. One AMP producer, Noah, hosts a street interview show in which she and cameraman Kodiak film different people at Monterey's Tuesday farmers market and edit it with quick cutaway shots, zooms on people in the background, outtakes and technical hiccups, funny asides and oblique freeze frames on things like the prop mic that Noah uses ("very *Between Two Ferns*-esque" says the subtitle). AMP's mission is about free speech, citizen participation and preserving democracy, but it's also got ramshackle charm, eavesdropping fun and neighborly connection—those aren't mutually exclusive. accessmediaproductions.org.



Victoria Lucido has written an insider's take on teaching, based on her 33-year career in MPUSD.

READ: *CLASSROOM CONFIDENTIAL*

Victoria Lucido taught in the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District for 33 years, mostly at Colton Middle School. She wrote a book about it titled *Classroom Confidential: How I Survived 33 Years in a Public School Classroom...and You Can Too!* Which sounds like an advice book, which it is. But it also offers non-teachers her personal tour through the teaching profession. "Think twice before agreeing to teach summer school," she writes. "If you need more money in the summer, it would be better to be a waiter, a golf caddy, or anything but a teacher. Summer is the time to refresh and rejuvenate." And here's another: "The school custodian and the school office supervisor can make or break your career." Which sounds dramatic, but Lucido also taught drama. She admits that she's of the old school, thus passages like "I've always believed students should have a healthy fear of their teachers." Which sounds kind of Machiavellian, but is interesting. One chapter is titled "Staff Meetings: A Necessary Evil or a Complete Waste of Time?" You can get the book on Amazon, or get it delivered by emailing vicielucido@gmail.com. victorialucidobooks.com.

VISUALS

WESTON COLLECTIVE SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

The 16th annual scholarship competition encourages local high school and college students to submit work in the tradition of black-and-white, West Coast, fine art film photography that Edward Weston helped to grow into a respected contemporary artform. Eighteen portfolios were selected. The process happened online, and the work can be viewed at thewestoncollective.org/2020. Because of the pandemic, the nonprofit Weston Collective has lost some income streams, but hopes to earn some back with another initiative, an online auction of photographic work by folks like Cole Weston, Manuello Pagenelli, John Sexton, Jerry Takigawa and Wynn Bullock. The auction closes on June 15 and can be accessed at thewestoncollective.org/covid19.

LIZ MONROE MUSTOE

RECREATED LOCAL ART CHALLENGE

Good ideas, like viruses, circulate. The Museum and Cultural Arts Office of Monterey admired the Getty Museum's shelter-in-place challenge, which encouraged folks to recreate works of art in their homes with household items. And it was a hit: creative and funny and cultured all in one social-distancing package. So the MCAO borrowed the idea, asking locals to recreate notable local paintings and share them. One of the most charming came from Natalie via Facebook, recreating David Ligare's "Conte de Monterrey" using an abalone shell, googly eyes and a battery. It's a humble homage that honors art while having fun with it too. See the results at monterey.org.

(LEFT) C/O CITY OF MONTEREY, A RECREATION BY MELISSA AND SCARLET (RIGHT) *WOMAN READING* - CHARLES ROLLO PETERS III