

The Fine Print

LF Communications, Inc.

914.243.9761

LFCommunications.com

thefineprintny@verizon.net

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by Lisa Fine

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The number 100 is a significant marker for many occasions. Remember the first time you counted to 100, put 100 pennies into a roll, made 100 dollars, or got a 100 percent on a test. Well, along with all of the New Year and holiday festivities, comes a personal celebration – this is my 100th weekly column!

For me, this is a noteworthy milestone because I don't think of myself as a newspaper writer or a reporter. I see myself as a member of the community who tries to stay informed about what is happening.

Writing this weekly column for our community newspaper is important to me on many levels. I say 'our' because without you, the people in the community, there would be little need for this information, let alone an entire paper that reports news for us.

Whether I am getting my morning coffee at the bagel shop, dropping off dry cleaning, shopping in the food store, going to the gym, waiting at the post office or at the drive-up window of the bank, ordering flowers at the florist, attending a school function or high school baseball game, eating dinner at the pizza shop, etc, etc – people in the community and the concept of neighborhood is reinforced in my mind everyday and at every turn.

Clearly, the community is not a place where we 'just happen to live' or 'hang our hat' – but where we spend our time working, playing, shopping, helping others and trying to do the best we can. This is the place where we raise our children and hope that they follow our good lead.

Everyday all of the aspects of community come together and play a vital role in our lives.

Through my columns, I have the opportunity to share information about 'our' community - about a business, a new store, a fundraiser or an event. I find it particularly rewarding that people in our community have responded to my pleas to support others and to help make a difference for those in our community who are in need. From school supplies to food drives to winter coats, significant donations were made to various local agencies. Thank you for your kindness, generosity and consideration to help those in our community.

As I close this 100th column, I reflect on the hundreds, actually thousands, of businesses, services, organizations and people that make our community a special place.

Best wishes to all for good health, joy and happiness all year long. Peace.