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THE LATEST FROM LINDA

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Hello to all,

Welcome to Spring and all the hope it brings. In deciding what to write for this issue, I've been reflecting back on the year we've all had a lot of time to reflect upon. Although everyone has been touched by at least one aspect of our shared experiences in isolation, we've not actually been able to share much with each other in person. I hope this Spring truly signals a new beginning and look forward to seeing you in person on a project soon. Linda

NEWS YOU CAN USE - REOPENING

It's certainly been difficult to work with city employees while they've been working from home. I'm sure you've noticed the after hours emails which likely result from shifted work schedules and settling into work-from-home routines. Some people have to juggle work space with other household members and others are juggling childcare duties that didn't exist pre-pandemic, and the list of issues goes on. In fact, some of you may also face similar disruptive circumstances, further complicating things.

There is good news though. Changes are coming to the city's in-person staffing plans which have the potential to help us all move projects forward. Mayor de Blasio announced that city office employees will begin returning to work in person on May 3. However, be cautioned that this date is not for all employees and rot for every day. Return to work will be phased in gradually. Updates to city agency suspensions and reductions can be found clicking **here**. Although New York City personnel will start to return to their offices on May 3, many state office employees are already back. It depends on regional guidelines and job category. You will need to check with your individual staff contacts at both the state and city levels for specifics.

NEW BOOK - UPDATE

In the last newsletter, I mentioned my recently published book - *Artifacts that Enlighten: The Ordinary and the Unexpected*. It's eleven easy-to-read chapters, each by a different author. Chapters present artifacts that are special either because they are so ordinary, or because they are so unexpected, or perhaps because they are a little of both. When initially released, the book was only available as a print-on-demand book from the publisher (Society for Historical Archaeology). The exciting news is the book is <u>now available on Amazon</u> and at a reduced price. If you get it, please let me know what you think.



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