

TEEN VIBE

For Teens - By Teens

Illuminating Teen Voices for the World to See!

BOOK



REVIEW



By: Michael
Tamborini - MHS

Hello TEEN VIBE readers, of MHS. I love reading the one in this review. I'm an avid reader in general. I read novels, books, poems, comics, and more. I may even review some comics in other issues of TEEN VIBE. I also play the electric guitar, a Jackson JS22-6 dinky; it's currently the love of my life. Lastly, I'm a total coffee lover, and before you try and guess, I drink my coffee hot and black.

The book 1984, by George Orwell is about the horrors and slow degeneration of society as it becomes more and more controlled by the government, and how it is currently happening under the noses of everyday citizens.

Within the story, characters Winston and Julia are released towards the end after being captured, the sheer emotion, or lack thereof is a crucial and important moment which gave me such an unnerving and uncomfortable feeling that no other media has seemed to replicate.

If I'm being honest, I can't find a bad part, perhaps my least favorite part is how rushed, nonsensical, and the lack of explaining there is to changes in society under a totalitarian rule, such as the other simplification of language and how it's sort of an excuse to have people speak in very lazy ways. Although this could be used in the books benefit as it reflects how it sucks the emotion away from people.

My favorite genres of stories are "epics", realistic-fiction, adventures, crime stories, and political commentaries.

Thank you so much for reading this review and I highly recommend this book if you haven't read it already. For me, it's a page turner.

I am Michael Tamborini more classical books like

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

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ROCKET MAN SPACE-X**

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Billionaire Rocket Man

by Gianna Thomas MHS



Elon Musk, the billionaire business mogul who is currently dominating the commercial space industry and pioneering some of the greatest innovations since the time of Nikola Tesla (Elon's muse), is leading a venture to explore space in ways never before witnessed. Elon's privately owned spaceflight company, Space-X receives headlines with words in the titles like, 'Historic!' and 'Innovative'. His accomplishments will undoubtedly join the ranks of the world's greatest innovators and entrepreneurs, but is there a downside to his success and unique outlook?

Although Elon and his companies will ultimately create numerous advances in transportation technologies, Musk's optimism and morality is something that many people have questioned. One such area is whether or not humans can and will make it to the red planet (Mars). The millions and billions of dollars it takes just to test different concepts and prototypes is certainly not lunch money. It takes large investments from both the private and public sectors to see where this unique vision of Elon's will end up. Reaching for the stars has a hefty price tag. Makes some people wonder if there are better ways of spending such funds to improve the planet we currently living on?



SpaceX shared this image of the Starship prototype in late September 2019

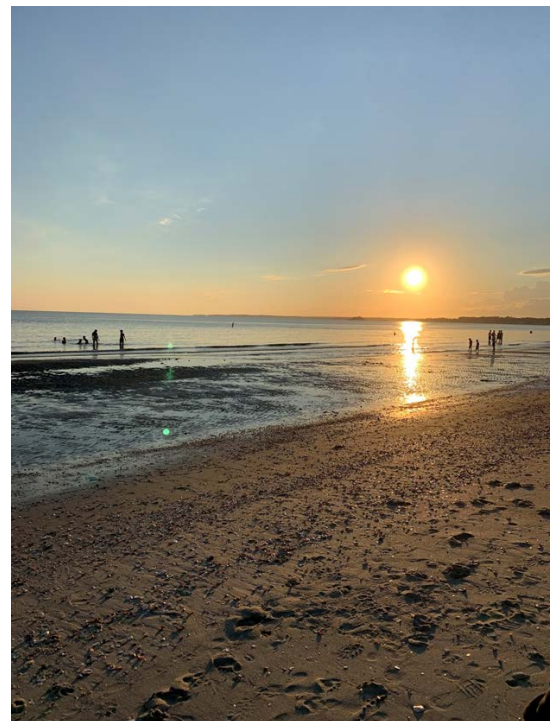
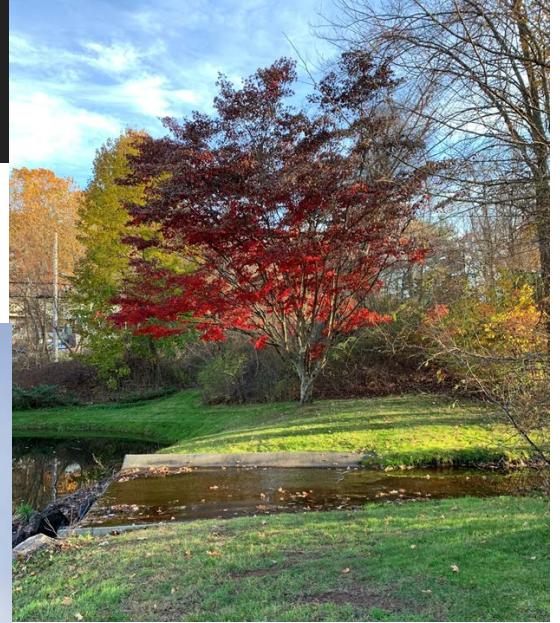
Life on Mars - SpaceX's next big venture that is slowly becoming a reality with each new set of tests and developments. The idea of sending anybody to Mars and sustaining life 50+ years ago seemed utterly impossible, perhaps it still is - only time shall truly tell. Currently, Elon plans to send roughly a million people to Mars using technology yet to be created but his team is hard at work to make this idea a reality. Such efforts are exciting to see firsthand but Earth is still a big deal and could use a little of Elon's creative genius to solve pressing human created issues as well. Elon plans to colonize Mars and make trips to the red planet more than just simple exploration, his vision is another home for human life. Elon states, "The objective is to become a spacefaring civilization and a multi planet species." Who knows, perhaps in our lifetime a vacation spot might just go from the Maldives to Mars - that's if people are willing to shell out a measly \$200,000+ per person. This estimate seems a little low considering what the final outcome of the spacecrafts will be in terms of cost, capability, and safety.

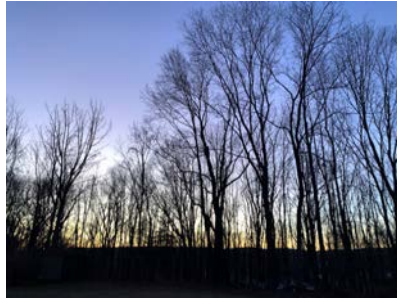
Regardless of how Elon is viewed, you can't deny that his innovations make our world slightly more and more technologically advanced with each new invention he and his team create, the next seemingly more crazy than the last.

EMMA'S

Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring

PHOTO
COLLECTION





*All photos by Emma Tine
-Mercy HS*

Asian Americans Face A Wave of Discrimination During the Pandemic

Collaboration
Op-Ed
Article

by Nethra Sundaram of MHS & Sriya Lanka of Farmington HS

Normalized racism has always been an issue for the Asian American community, but since the start of the pandemic, stories like these have become a natural occurrence. Violence, racism, and discrimination have become more frequent and hate crimes towards Asian Americans have skyrocketed. In September of 2020, an NYPD study showed that there was a 1,900% increase in Asian American hate crimes, and 20 of them occurred in the first half of 2020. Not only that, but according to a U.N. report, 1,800 racist attacks against Asian Americans occurred in 8 weeks from March to May in 2020. However, what many do not realize is that this is nothing new, and that's the problem.



Photo by Ringo Chiu/AFP via Getty Images

Some history:

After the Opium Wars (1839-1860), China was in debt, causing an influx of Chinese Immigrants to the United States. In 1852, 20,000 Chinese immigrants came to San Francisco resulting in an altercation with the White gold miners. As a result, the Foreign Miners Act was enacted, in which Chinese miners were forced to pay a tax of \$3 a month (about \$100 in 2021). Efforts to silence Chinese Immigrants continued with the 1854 ruling of People V.S. Hall which decided Chinese Americans wouldn't be able to testify in court, enabling the growing violence. The Chinese Exclusion act was furthered with the Geary Act of 1892, which extended the Chinese Exclusion act for about 10 years and required Chinese Immigrants to carry "certificates of residence". If they didn't have these documents, they were condemned to deportation and could only be bought out if they had a "credible white witness". Chinese Americans continued to be discriminated against by the government with acts like the Immigration Act of 1924 placing them, and other ethnic groups, as "undesirable" in the United States. It wasn't until 1943 when the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed and Chinese Immigrants and their families became eligible for citizenship.

Discrimination towards Asian Americans isn't just limited to the Chinese Exclusion Act. During WW2 the government displaced around 110,000 Japanese Americans, mostly from the Pacific Coast, and forced them into concentration camps. It wasn't until March of 1946, the last Concentration Camp closed.

The reason we bring up these various discrimination acts and occurrences is to emphasize the fact that discrimination against Asian Americans is not atypical in the U.S. (or anywhere else in the world for that matter). This has been a part of America's story since the very beginning, and the pandemic has only escalated this behavior. And although these attacks are not uncommon, they are very rarely showcased or talked about in news outlets and the media.

Getty Images

A few of the MANY cases that have transpired since March 2020:



- A 91-year-old man was shoved in Oakland's Chinatown.
- The attacks have not stopped in 2021; an 84-year-old Thai man was killed in an unprovoked attack in San Francisco.
- A 64-year-old Vietnamese American woman was attacked in San Jose and robbed of \$1,000.
- On January 28, a young man by the name of Vicha Ratanpakdee was shoved to the ground in San Francisco while taking his morning walk.
- Stop AAPI Hate, a coalition consisting of several Asian American advocacy groups, stated in an August 2020 report that over 2,500 hate crimes against Asian Americans have occurred across the country since the group was founded in March of 2020 (just within six months).

article continues on next page

SO, HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Be kind

- While it may seem silly, being kind and open-minded can make you an ally against discrimination.
- Amplify Asian voices

Support groups committed against discrimination.

- If possible, donate to charities and organizations that help with these causes.
- If donating isn't an option, signing petitions can go a long way as well.
- Some great groups to support include stopaapihate (stopaapihate.org).

Educate yourself on the topic

- Taking time to learn about the discrimination Asian Americans face can also make a difference:
- <https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/metrofocus/clip/exploring-hate-potential-surge-hate-crimes-against-asian-8fd>
- <https://youtu.be/TijyKX30VAA>

Spread the word

- Social media has become a huge part of our lives now and is a prevalent way to share stories and spread awareness. A simple post can go a long way.
- Make sure people know what is going on. Have conversations with your friends and families. If enough people stand together, we would be unstoppable.



photo by artist [Noah Zhou](#)



ASK SOFIA!

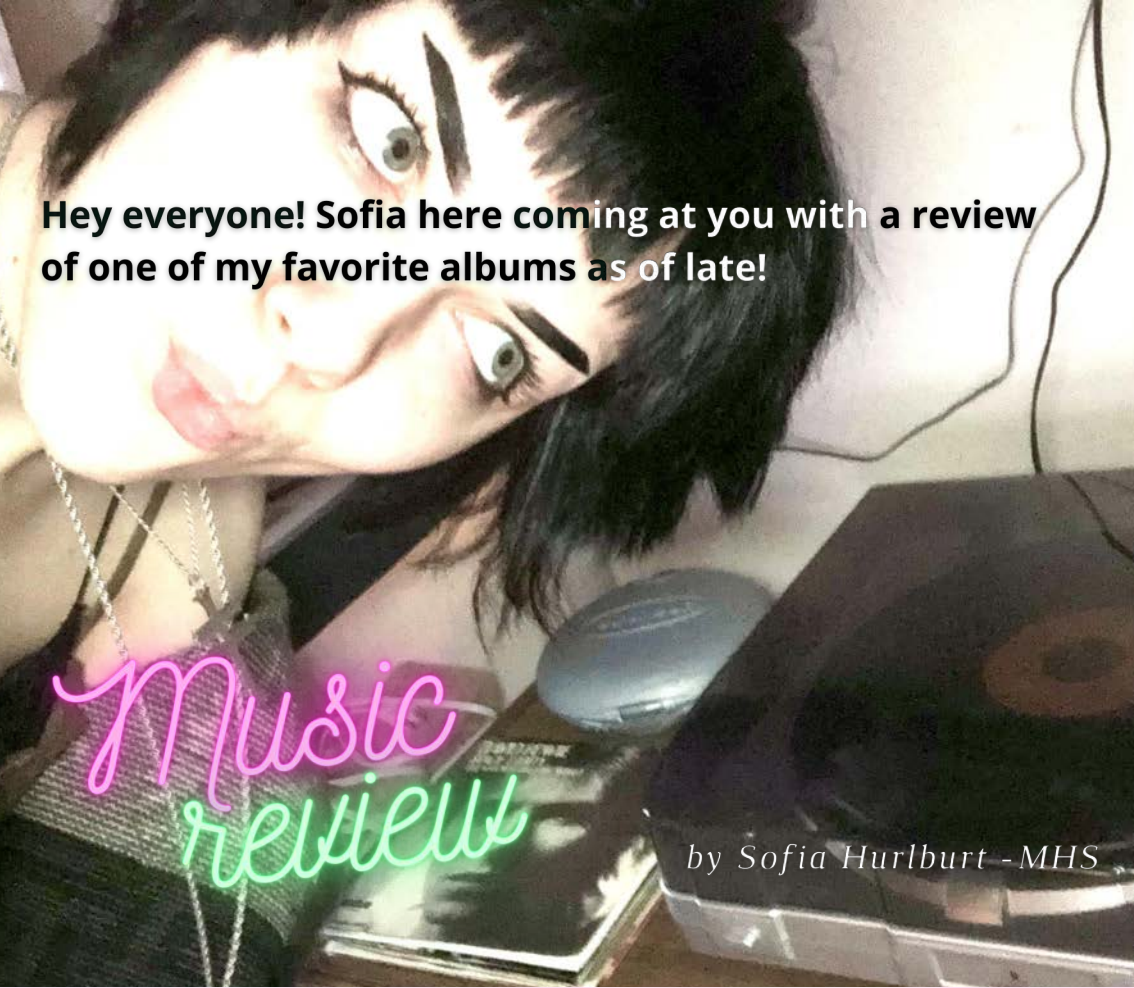


HEY TEENS, COULD YOU USE A LITTLE ADVICE?

Have you ever had a problem that you just didn't quite know the answer to (not your homework)? Or have you ever felt like few to no options existed for you on a particular issue?

Perhaps there's a conflict with a friend/person that you just can't seem to sort out. Maybe you've been having trouble making an important decision like what would be the perfect gift to give someone you're dating. Teen life can be full of these messy uncertainties.

If you would like some free, supportive, and constructive advice, then this is the right column for you! Click [here](#) or type the link into your browser (<http://bit.ly/4AskSofia>) to send in your queries. Your submissions remain anonymous and could appear in the next issue of TEEN VIBE!



Hey everyone! Sofia here coming at you with a review of one of my favorite albums as of late!

What I've Been Listening to This Month!!

- Clay Pigeons - Michael Cera (look for a review of his album in next month's issue!)
- Like, everything by David Bowie! :^D

.....
In the Aeroplane Over the Sea - by Neutral Milk Hotel
genre: alternative/indie

In the Aeroplane Over the Sea is a unique album in a lot of ways. It's an album with strange lyricism that keeps you wondering what the true meaning of it is, feeling familiar and even nostalgic at times.

The first two songs, King of Carrot Flowers Pt. 1 and King of Carrot Flowers Pts. 2 & 3 thrust you into a lively, vibrant setting. The guitar provides a gentle introduction and as the lyrics go on they paint a raw picture of the early years of the singer's life with an unnamed person. In my mind it describes an intimate relationship with this person in which they escape from the reality of their lives.

The second track is a bit more confusing. It starts by praising Jesus, a somewhat unexpected shift in tone accompanied by crashing instrumentals and a fast tempo. The track quickly begins to sound more like a rock song as the lyrics dissolve into a more abstract image, with recurring themes of learning to speak, and learning to swim. It gives you the image of someone who is perhaps overcoming the struggles of the first track, and besides that the message is up to your interpretation.

The third track, my personal introduction to the album, is the titular In the Aeroplane Over the Sea. To me this hits the hardest, as it paints a beautiful picture of life and happiness. The singer highlights the brevity of life, how quickly moments fade away. Life will eventually end, but for now we can hold on to the sweet, strange moments and live for now. This is, without a doubt, my favorite song from the album, and if you listen to any one song from In The Aeroplane Over the Sea I hope you choose this one. After this track you begin to feel a bit more grounded in the world Neutral Milk Hotel is portraying, one that can be sad but is always full of life and optimism and hope for the future. The line, "Can't believe how strange it is to be anything at all," really exemplifies these notions.

The fourth track, Two Headed Boy, begins another two song saga which we will revisit at the end of the review. The strong vocals are refreshing, accompanied mainly by guitar. It's another track without a clear meaning, but the themes of death and regret permeate. It leads into The Fool, a short, waltz-like break from the album.

This is followed by Holland, 1945, an upbeat tune with sad lyrics. It's here that acute listeners start to recognize the many references to Anne Frank, a young German-Dutch diarist who lost her life in the Holocaust, as the singer describes her story and legacy. The first verse is prefaced by "The only girl I've ever loved." This, without a doubt, is a strange choice. Jeff Magnum, Neutral Milk Hotel's lyricist and vocalist, has stated that most of the songs on An Aeroplane Over the Sea are influenced by Frank's diary. With this knowledge the melancholic nature of the album makes a lot more sense, and your perspective on many of the tracks may shift. It's beautiful to me that her life is honored in this way, as it was so tragic and short and it often seems stories like hers are overlooked or simplified when the people involved were very much real and complex individuals.



The next track, Communist Daughter, uses the struggle between fascism and communism in the early 1900's as a metaphor for the societal expectations that are often placed on human sexuality. It's a short, slow, melodic track. Next up is Oh Comely, following similar themes. It explores an adulterous relationship from the perspective of their child, a sad, personal viewpoint that hits hard. Once again the lyrics are strange and leave a lot of room for interpretation. It's also one of the longer tracks, with a slow, intimate vibe. The instrumentals are topped off with trumpets near the end, making for an emotional conclusion.

Ghost, the third to last song, talks about a ghost in the singer's house, and it's another one of the most direct references to Anne Frank's life, describing a girl who now "knows she'll never be afraid," living in a place "Where no-one can escape." It's an upbeat track with depressing lyrics, much like most other songs on the album, and it leads into [untitled], an exciting and upbeat break from all the sadness. It seems like a moment of rejoicing, filled with enthused bagpiping. In Ghost, the singer remarks that "all goes on and on," aligning with the theme of death as a celebration of life rather than the end of all things. This track seems to reflect this realization, joining the rest of the album in an exploration of life's highs and lows even in the face of extreme sadness and tragedy.

Finally we make our way to Two Headed Boy Pt. 2, which caps off the album with a profoundly sad tone, feeling like the end of a long journey. It has strong themes of loss and separation. The lyrics express that crumbling after loss, holding on to what once was, is counterintuitive and life will still go on. The line "When we break we'll wait for our miracle," followed by "God is a place you will wait for the rest of your life," implies that waiting on some miracle to pick you back up is pointless. The world is as abundant in miracles and joy as it is in tragedy, and it is all up to you where you'll end up. In the end, all we have are our experiences and our own minds to rely on, and the world will go on no matter what choices we make. After a tear jerking couple of minutes we hear Magnum set his guitar down as he leaves us to ponder the true message of his album.

Without a doubt, In the Aeroplane Over the Sea is an album which leaves us to draw our own conclusions- and much like life itself, it's our choice what to make of it all.

If you have thoughts on this review, what reviews you'd like to see in the future, or just want to discuss the album, feel free to shoot me an email at: sofia.teenvibe@gmail.com !!!



WE ASKED, TEENS ANSWERED!

What would a superhero
just for teens be able to do?

"Create laughter, cheer us up."

"Supervise parents."

"Complete our chores."

"Defend us against harm."

"Take the SATs for us."

"Provide us with endless energy."

"Change failing grades to As."

"Give us coffee/caffeine."

"Fly us to different places."

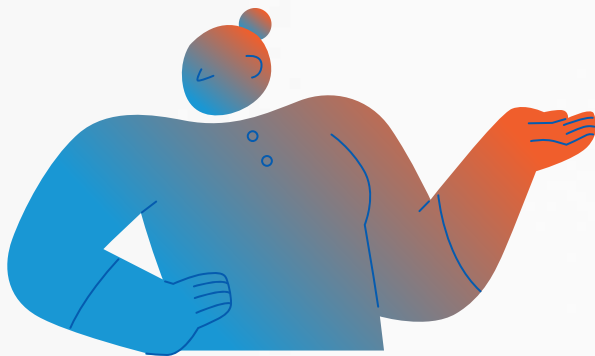
"Help good adults."

"Find things we've lost."

"Replace gross foods with tasty foods."

"Make the world a safer place."

"Give great advice."



10 teen tips for parents

THEY JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW

1) Treat us with respect, don't always just take things away. Try to trust that you raised us right.

2) Being home most of the day doesn't mean I'm available 24/7.

3) I also get really tired, even without working a full-time job.

4) Listen more, no - really listen. We are in training for adulthood so help us out and be good examples.

5) Don't force us to eat everything you make/cook.

6) Allow us to make some mistakes without completely losing your cool.

7) Please don't guilt trip us.

8) Treat us with love, even if it seems like we don't deserve it.

9) If you cook cookies and expect us not to eat them, that's just wrong.

10) Laughing at/with someone doesn't mean we're flirting.

EVENTS FOR TEENS

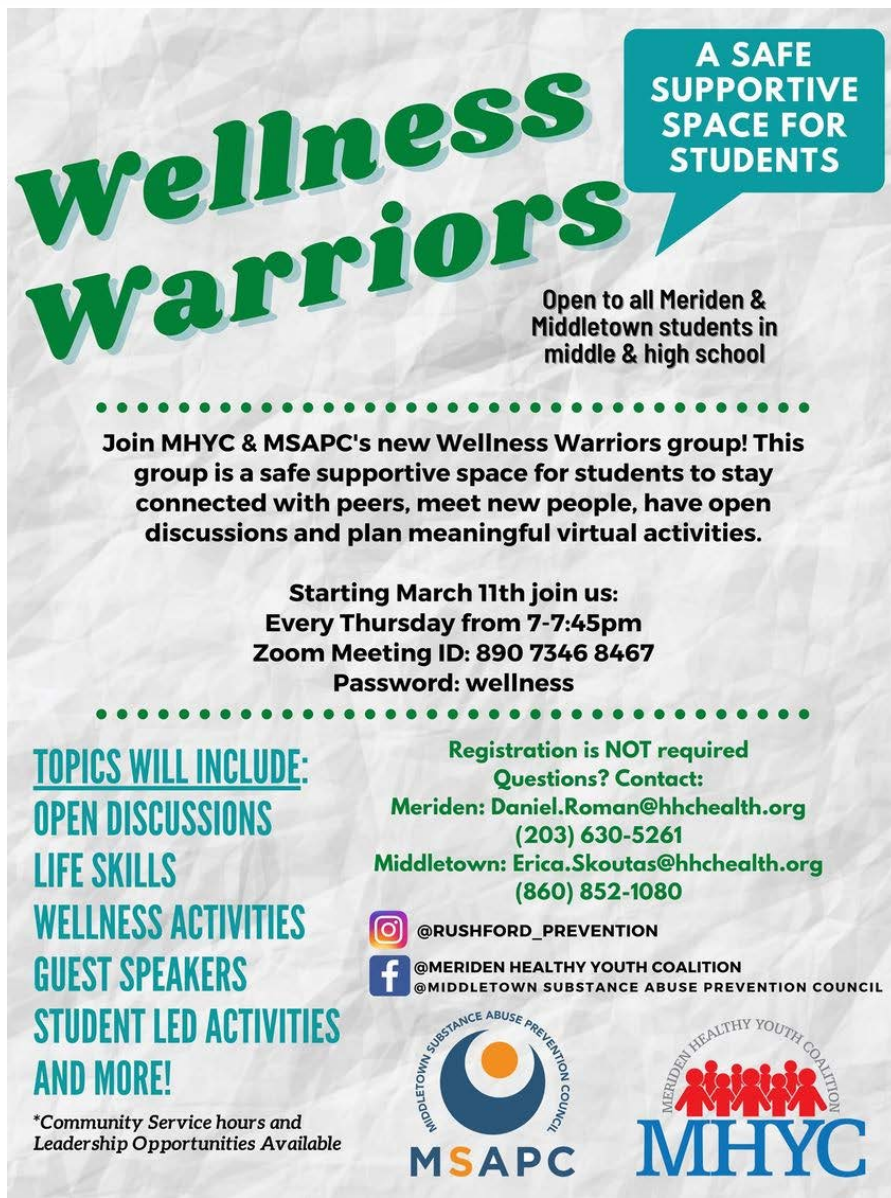


Must register
for zoom link

Tea Time for Teens
March 15, 2021
3 P.M



RUSSELL
LIBRARY
A great place to be.



wellness warriors

A SAFE SUPPORTIVE SPACE FOR STUDENTS

Open to all Meriden & Middletown students in middle & high school

Join MHYC & MSAPC's new Wellness Warriors group! This group is a safe supportive space for students to stay connected with peers, meet new people, have open discussions and plan meaningful virtual activities.



Starting March 11th join us:
Every Thursday from 7-7:45pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 890 7346 8467
Password: wellness

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:
OPEN DISCUSSIONS
LIFE SKILLS
WELLNESS ACTIVITIES
GUEST SPEAKERS
STUDENT LED ACTIVITIES
AND MORE!

Registration is NOT required
Questions? Contact:
Meriden: Daniel.Roman@hhchealth.org (203) 630-5261
Middletown: Erica.Skoutas@hhchealth.org (860) 852-1080

@RUSHFORD_PREVENTION
@MERIDEN HEALTHY YOUTH COALITION
@MIDDLETOWN SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL

*Community Service hours and Leadership Opportunities Available



TEEN VIBE thanks you for reading and sharing this month's issue. If you are a teen who is interested in joining TEEN VIBE, or would like to submit content to potentially be published in an issue of TEEN VIBE, please e-mail us for additional information or details.

To subscribe to TEEN VIBE
email the word "subscribe" to: teenvibect@gmail.com

TEEN VIBE is a partnership program (Middlesex Y and Russell Library) that meets (virtually) once a week for an hour. Teens learn how to create and share news-style content and other materials that are informative for both teens and the broader community.

