

# THE LEO HOUSE



332 WEST 23RD STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10011 212.929.1010

*A heart in New York City*

Winter 2020

## 2020—*A Year Like No Other*

**F**or the first time in its 130-year history, the doors of The Leo House closed on March 25, 2020.

By March 25, 2020 the Corona virus was causing so much illness across the state and in the city of New York that both the governor of the state and the mayor of the city ordered the closure of many essential businesses including hotels. The Leo House closed that day and remained so until June 1st. There were no guests and most of the staff had been laid off. These factors took a severe toll on the business. When the doors re-opened on June 1st, guests started coming back, but slowly and very few in number. Travel restrictions and quarantines keep many from traveling to New York and at this point in time operating costs continue to rise.

Guests have appreciated what The Leo House provides every day: safety, cleanliness, great breakfasts, and a location close to the many cultural sites of the city. If you have the means, we ask that you consider making a contribution to help us continue what we do best. It is always a good time to support The Leo House for we put contributions to work to maintain the facilities and upgrade them when financially feasible.

Thus we need assistance to maintain the premises if you, too, appreciate its hospitality and care and to see it flourish for years to come.

There are several ways to make a contribution to The Leo House. One is the contribution envelope included with this mailing. Another is the Donation tab on The Leo House website: [www.leohousenyc.org](http://www.leohousenyc.org).

A third is through The U.S. Pontifical Mission Society website: [www.missio.org](http://www.missio.org). At the site, choose 'Guest House that Welcomes the World', secondly choose 'Learn More' and from there follow the prompts.

The Leo House continues to be grateful for any and all contributions.

### Reservations:

[lhreservations@332west23nyc.org](mailto:lhreservations@332west23nyc.org)

### Phone:

212-929-1010 ext. 219



**The Leo House welcomes you now and in the future!**





Breakfast  
Is Served

Breakfast service has been streamlined temporarily for the safety of all guests and staff. Iris Guida is seen behind the plexiglass panels, and shown also are food items for a continental breakfast served daily with coffee and tea.

Remembering the Deceased

For the past years Friends of The Leo House have given contributions as Memorials for deceased loved ones, relatives, and colleagues. Prior to November 1, 2020 a “Book of Life” was prepared and all names submitted were listed. Staff and guests added more names of deceased family members, making the total close to 300 persons named.

At morning Mass in early November, the Book was blessed, placed on the altar and it remained there for each celebration of Mass during all of November, the month the Church remembers and prays for the faithful departed.

“Blessed are You, Lord our God, Keeper of the Book of Life.

\*\*Leo House History \*\*

A unique document was found residing in The Leo House Archives along with many other items and dates back to 1886 when it was first started. To the far right is a photo of the *Matrimony Register*, started on January 15, 1886, recording the marriage of Nicklas Kronebusch and Katharina Hilger. The tome contains over 1600 marriage records that took place at The Leo House when it was located at #6 State Street.

It became imperative that these records be digitized because the 10-lb book was in very fragile condition and started to disintegrate. The spine which measures 14 inches long and an inch and a half thick was completely gone. All binding and glue had dried up and every thick page was loose and very brittle; any edge chipped away easily, like a potato chip.

Prior to the work being saved electronically, a gentleman from Ohio who knew nothing of The Leo House, phoned and requested information about the

We pray for all these named persons, who have passed through the doorway of death, and we pray for ourselves as well.

Support all those families and individuals who lost these loved ones and support them with Your Holy Spirit. Grant them the courage to embrace the mystery of death as part of life’s plan.

On this day of *Remembrance of the Deceased*, we celebrate the mystery of Your holy ones, among whom are all those named here.

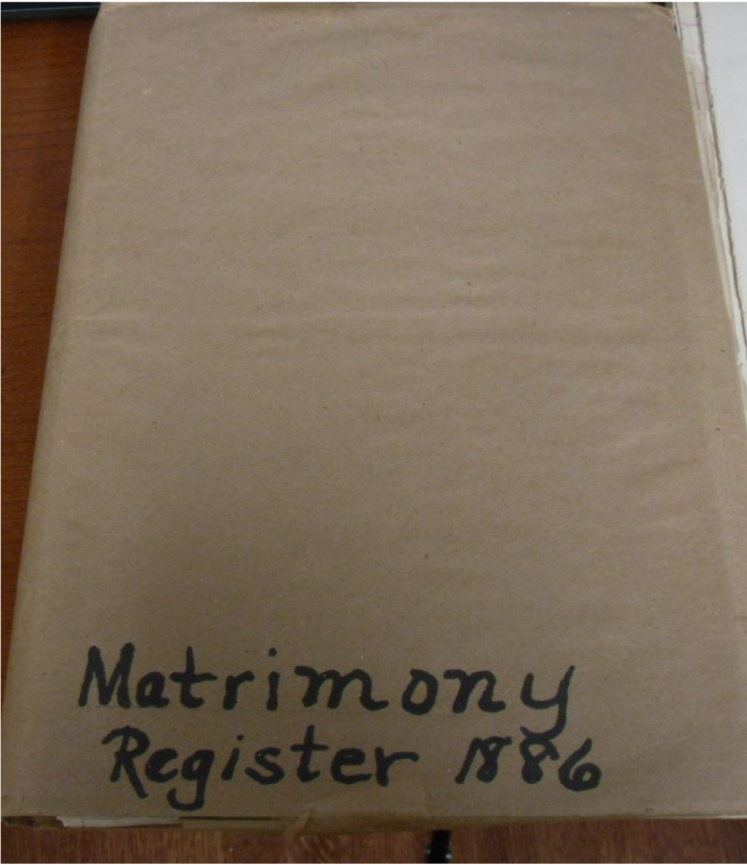
Gracious Lord, may all the holy deceased live forever in the splendor of

\*\*From the Archives\*\*

marriage of his grandparents. He had in hand a copy of their Marriage Certificate which took place on August 29, 1895, and wanted to know if a record of the event existed. Yes, the record was found on page 27 and was recorded with his grandfather’s name, grandmother’s maiden name, an address in Ohio where they were headed, the date of the marriage, names of two witnesses, and the priest officiating at the wedding. Their record was #629 on page 27. The book goes on for 68 pages, containing dozens (think 100s) of more records.

If you know for sure that your relatives were married here, *The Register* probably shows a record of it.

For sure, *The Register* offers proof that many were married here between 1886 and 1900.



Deceased Relatives and Friends Remembered by Benefactors

Agnes Hennesey	George Tyson	Harold J Spreen, Jr.	Lou Anne LaBerge Max	Pearl Robbins	Sister Pat Younger CSA
Ambrose N. Hallquist	Skip Tyson	Helen Sambs	Lucille Giese	Stacy Wells	Sister Paul Ann Dinkel
Amy Engelbrecht	Deborah Tyson	Henry L. Hackmann	Marcie Mojzis	Peter Hildebrand	Sr Thomas Ann Reynolds
Ann Bender	Delia Lommori	Irene Brzezinski	Margaret Laskey	Rev. Baltaser Szarka	Sister Florita Fleck, CSA
Ann Maureen Dorrian	Dexa Pachner	Jacob Tabachnick	Margaret Linson	Rev. Louis Aiello	Skip Tyson
Antonie Groschel Lederer	Dorothy Kelly	Janet Warshawsky-Ram	Margaret Slocum	Rose Ales	Stan Naylore
Arlene Bardry	Dorothy Schlag	Jim Anhalt	Margie Vermaelem	Sadie Lourdes Walker	Stell Wunt
Babriela Sotelo	Dr. Samuel Tabbat	Joe Sambs	Marjorie Williams	Salvador Valente	Stephen Anderson
Ben Kraus	Edward Redmond	John Moreland	Marie Therese Haas	Ivette Valente	Sue Herr Kowalewski
Berkley Kent	Elaine L Kraus	John Steplitus	Mary Nicholls	Shirley Chadwick	Thomas O’Sullivan
Bernard Mussman	Elwood Kent	Joseph Castro	Albert Nicholls	Sister Matilda Meis CSA	Kathleen O’Sullivan
Berta Fischer	Ernest Ehrsam	Joseph V Seria	Mary Flynn Delaney	Sister Roberta Meis CSA	Tina Azzi Brunoro
Bertram Williams	Bertha Ehrsam	Julia Kent	Mary Higgins Clark	Sister Paulina Meis CSA	Tom Petersen
Bill Kearin	Esther Klaif	Karen Coneys	Mary Iocovozzi	Sister Jane Meis CSA	Victims of 9/11
Bishop John Kinney	Fanny Tabachuick	Katheran Kazmier	Mary Kay Sullivan	Sister Alice Meis CSA	Virginia Adler
Brian W Nelson	Father Bernard Mussman	Katherine Chapin Helper	Mary P Monaco	Sister Anne Karlin CSA	Virginia Van Horssen
Catherine Laskey	Father Philip Fabiano .	Katherine Morrell	Maureen Costello-Estberg	Sister Bernadine Dreiling	Wendell Banks
Catherine Marinelli	Father Bernard Quinn	Kathleen K Leather	Michael Gannam	Sister Frances Clare	William Charles Syron
Charles E Smith, Sr.	Florence J. Turner	Kevin McCarthy	Marion Gannam	Sister Katherine	Mary Elaine Syron
Chris Garifo	Frank Skutsch	Kitty and Augie Muller	Patricia Rock	Sister Lois Karlin CSA	William D Naddy
Dan Handley	Gabriela Sotelo	Lea Azzi Bortoluzzi	Patrick Ales	Sister Muriel Perpetua	William Glen Cuthbeet
Fran Handley	Gregory VanGaver	Lorraine Fowler	Paul Cox	Sister Nadine Foley OP	





**UP HERE!**

**DOWN THERE!**

Highline Park is a new phenomenon in the immediate neighborhood of The Leo House and for the past few years has become one of the biggest tourist attractions in the city. It also brought skyscrapers to the westside of Manhattan. In early 2020 a new ‘neighborhood’ officially opened at the northern boundary of The Highline and is known as Hudson Yard and it’s also home to a new skyscraper named “The Edge” which towers over the westside of Manhattan and the Hudson. The day it officially opened, Leo House guests were present on the 102nd floor and came back with the message, “You can see The Leo House really well from up there.” One has to “see it to believe it,” so the photos above show “The Edge” from street level at The Leo House, and The Leo House from sky level, taken from the 102nd floor of “The Edge.”

To take a dynamic tour, go to the website for “The Edge” at [edgenyc.com](http://edgenyc.com). The views of the Hudson River are a reminder of the water landing of Capt. Sully’s passenger jet several years ago and the elevator ride down from the 102nd floor is like riding a drone down all the avenues and around all the tall skyscrapers of the city!

## **In the News**

A reporter from *The Wall Street Journal* phoned and requested information about *The Little Free Library* here at The Leo House. On October 14, 2020 Sister Marilyn Ellickson was asked many questions about the one created here out of two antique phone booths. Long ago they had been used to make long distance calls out of the building; now obsolete because of cell phones. Five ‘little free libraries’ were in the city when this one started, now there are over 100. Why? The public libraries are currently closed for browsing, and people like sharing books; children especially enjoy the libraries. The *WSJ* article included the fact that our library has many travel guides and many paperbacks that one would read on an airplane. Because of a charter number received from the foundation, TLH library and location is included on an international map. An added plus—free publicity! The Leo House charter number is 43614. It’s fun scanning the international map, to see all the countries where little free libraries have sprung up. The map is shown on the website for the organization at: [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org). The *Wall Street Journal* article was published on Oct. 20th, the reporter was Anne Kadet.