

Letters to the Library



Describe yourself in a sentence or two, for example your age and occupation (or, if you do not have one, what you like to do). What is your household like?

I'm a late middle-aged married person, distance learning while I wait to return to work. My invasion of the kingdom ruled by a long-retired spouse includes undermining his stranglehold on our home's sole computer.

What is your day to day routine like now? What has changed? What has not changed?

I try to put in close to full-time hours while learning from video, audio, webinar, Universal Classroom (thanks, public library!), You Tube, literature, and news feeds. A 3 o'clock walk with masked friends as often as possible is new. Our division of labor (he cooks, shops and cleans) is unchanged.

What precautions have you taken against the virus? How have you prepared? Were there any difficulties (shortages, high prices etc.)?

I wear a mask and observe social distance whenever I'm outside. We were caught somewhat short of cleaning products, but we have enough masks (thank you, co-worker!) and hand sanitizer now (thank you, neighbor).

What have been the biggest challenges for you during this time?

Worrying about my children and grandchild, all of them far away. I'm anxious because one works and because one can't - a daughter in a big city ER, and a son in the restaurant world.

How have you stayed busy?

Besides computer work and walking, there's been a huge spike in telephone and video contact with friends, co-workers, and relatives. I talk to at least two or three people every day. I send notes to people who are in isolation.

Have there been any positives to this situation?

Yes! Hours to experience what seems like the most beautiful spring in my memory, learning about a wide range of people, cultures and performers. Learning how to set up google docs! Appreciation for every meal and every friendly encounter. The absence of morning alarms. Discovering that Minervini's Pizza has displaced The Big Three in my heart. Thank you, Minervinis!

What local Wallingford places/businesses do you miss most?

Archie Moore's, Michael's Trattoria, Anna V Salon.

How have you stayed social while social distancing?

Very. Our walks include curbside visits with friends. Zoom happy hours connect me with people I haven't seen in years.

What is the first thing you are doing when things go back to normal?

Dinner at Michael's - clams casino, warm bread, vodka gimlet.

How did you celebrate the Holidays? Did you see family in person, digitally, or not at all?

Only by telephone. My husband made a fantastic rack of lamb. I missed my sister's annual brunch.

How will you be celebrating Wallingford's 350th Jubilee? If you were here for the 325th Jubilee, do you have any memories you would like to share?

N/A

What do you miss most about the Wallingford Public Library? What is the first thing you will be doing when you can come back into the building?

The new books. Seeing if there may be a hold in for me!