

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 am 29 years old and work as a Children's Librarian. I am married to my husband who works at Yale and we have a 16-month-old. We also have two cats Arya and Pippin.

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

On a typical day, we sleep in as long as we can until our daughter wakes up. At the beginning of quarantine she would wake up around 5:30-6am, but now she sleeps until 7am! My husband and I have our morning coffee while our daughter eats breakfast. We play until 9am and we ease into our workday. We work the most when she naps from 10-1pm and then when she wakes up we feed her lunch and take a walk. When the workday ends, we wind down with dinner, books, and TV. Two parents working from home has been a huge adjustment. We both love our jobs, and we often have to sacrifice our personal work time so the other one can get things done. We've become more liberal with our daughter's screentime, which we never did before quarantine. The biggest thing that has changed is not being able to go on adventures! We're used to being on the go, but it has been nice focusing just on our family and doing projects around the house.

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

My sister-in-law works in healthcare, so she was able to get us a few masks to get us started. The first week we were quarantined, I actually had minor symptoms and a low-grade fever for 24 hours, so I didn't leave the house (even to go outside) for 14 days. I was not tested. Thankfully, we have not had many difficulties during the quarantine. We had enough TP and paper towels before quarantine to last us through these past 8 weeks, thankfully, because every time my husband goes to the store there hasn't been any! He still shops once a week, sometimes our groceries will last 10 days, but often not. We were sanitizing our groceries when they came into the house, but we've eased up on that the past couple weeks and just wash the produce. The key precautions we've taken are: my husband is the only one that goes to the store, we use hand sanitizer before we leave the car and when we're getting back into the car, we rarely leave the house for anything other than groceries and walks around the neighborhood, we always wear masks in public, and we're washing our hands a million times a day.

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

Enjoying the time I've been given to spend with my family and feeling the pressure of also performing a full time job.

How have you stayed busy?

Working, playing, walking, gardening, watching A LOT of TV, eating way too much pizza.

Have there been any positives to this situation?

Watching my daughter grow every day. There will never be another time in her life where she has both her parents with her 24/7, since we work full-time and she goes to daycare. Also, my husband travels for work, so I selfishly love that he's home with us.

What local Wallingford places/businesses do you miss most?

The library, walking to Mr. D's for coffee, getting my hair done at Salon Nathaniel Signature.

How have you stayed social while social distancing?

We facetime with family, play online collaborative games with friends, Zoom with co-workers.

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

Going to Target and just walking around.

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

We stood on my parent's lawn and waved from afar.

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?

I miss my co-workers! I've been in constant communication with my department, but it's not the same as being together. The first thing I'll probably do when going back to work is using the video editing software in the Collaboratory to edit videos for the children's department!

Photo:

