

# 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 a 38 year old physician and a mother of a 3 year old. My husband and I like the quaint towns of CT so moved here from the neighboring state.

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

I am able to spend more time with my little one. Homeschooling is not something in which I have had any training. Therefore, it was a steep learning curve to figure out what to do with him and how to teach him basic things. I don't miss the long office hours and getting home at 9pm only to have notes to finish and labs to review. I never thought of it before, but I was missing out on the right to be a mother whenever I would step into that medical office. My patients lives seemed to engulf mine and slowly began to erase my sense of duty to my family. This was a wake up call and forced me to see that I did not have work-life balance.

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

I make sure I wear an adequate face covering and wash my hands/face when I come into the house. I was in the middle of switching jobs when the pandemic shut down everything so I was out of work for 5 months until my new job let me start. I had to really budget things especially because the price of necessities like milk, eggs, etc went up considerably. Toilet tissue and hand sanitizer were scarce initially then we were able to obtain it. I also noticed there were long lines at the gas station once phase II of the state reopening plan went into effect and more people were excited to be out and about.

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

My biggest challenge is trying to figure out a consistent schedule especially with the little one who thrives on consistency.

## **How have you stayed busy?**

I have been busy at work part-time. I also have had time to actually enjoy my 13 acres of land. I go for walks, garden and even throw water balloons with my toddler.

## **Have there been any positives to this situation?**

Yes. I have reclaimed what it means to be a mom. I enjoy daily cuddles and spending more time with my child. I don't have to rush out the house early every morning and drop him off to daycare. I am just happy he is safe and healthy at home with me and my husband.

## **What local Wallingford places/businesses do you miss most?**

Napoli and the Thai restaurant down rte 5 were my go to restaurants. I also loved getting frozen yogurt with little cheesecake bites on top near the movie theatre.

## **How have you stayed social while social distancing?**

I call my parents and siblings almost everyday. I usually put them on hangouts so they can see whatever mischief the little one is getting into at night before bedtime. We also have zoom meetings for the extended family on Sundays. In addition, our religious meetings are on zoom. I observed a baptism of a friend's little girl in a lake right from the comfort of my sofa. The brother performing the baptism was wearing a mask.

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

I need to go get my frozen yogurt with cheesecake bites and fruit flavor balls. I will certainly savor the moment.

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

We keep in touch with family regularly so no big deal we couldn't visit.

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

I will be doing something fun with the family at home. I am not sure what yet.

**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 the children's section. The aquarium and train station are the most adorable parts of library.

**Photos:**

