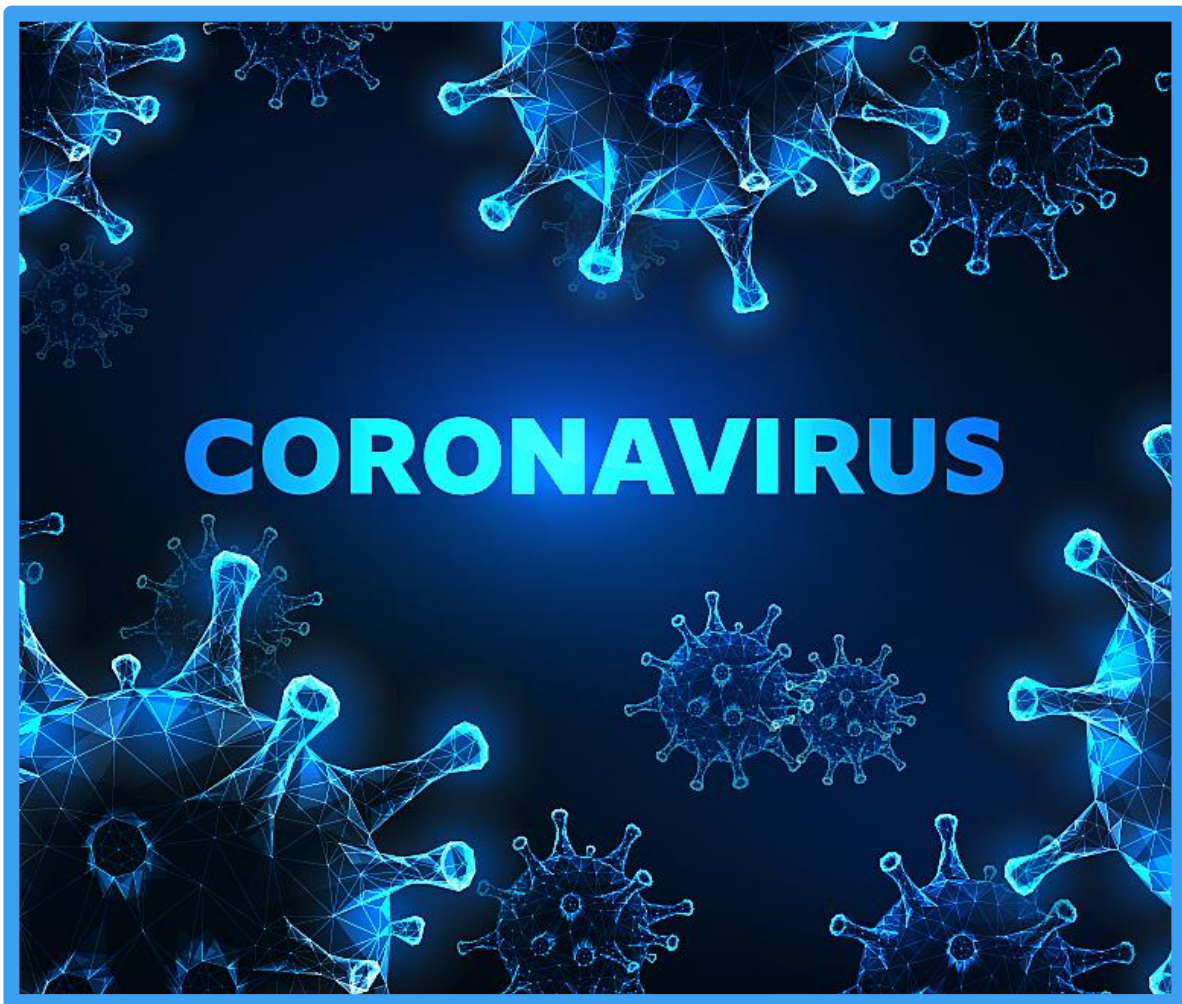


The Tuesday Club



Sharing Memories



**of the 2020-21
Coronavirus Pandemic**

A Compilation of Memories

*Created by The Tuesday Club
during the 2020-21 Coronavirus Pandemic
to preserve a time in history.*

Officers

*President Bonnie Geyer
Vice President Shirley Johnson
Treasurer Cindy Whitney
Secretary Mabel Schumacher*

*With special thanks to
Past President Angela Nelson*

June 2021

How This Project Got Started

March 1, 2021

Tuesday Club Friends,

One year ago, our lives changed significantly with the advent of the coronavirus. We masked up, maintained a physical distance even from friends and family, and skipped holiday gatherings. And Tuesday Club, for the first time since 1918, stopped meeting in person. Unmasked, we became part of a historical event that will undoubtedly have an impact for years to come. And it's had an impact on each of us.

We are inviting you to share your insights on this past year. What were your challenges? What lessons did you learn? Were there positive aspects that surprised you?

If you would like to participate, please send your thoughts, one page or less, by April 1st, to Mabel, who will work her magic to combine them into one document. This document will then be included in the Tuesday Club archives in the Hoard Historical Museum, becoming part of the historical record of this year. It will be preserved not only for our future members, but others who want to read a first-hand experience of life during Covid-19. Thanks.

Bonnie Geyer, President

April 5, 2021

Greetings, ladies!

Who said Mabel wasn't a pushover? We had set an April 1 deadline for you to send your "Memories of the Pandemic" I have already received responses from 8 members.

After talking with Bonnie, we thought it might be good to extend the deadline so others might have a chance to become an important part of preserving history. Your input doesn't have to be involved, just your personal impressions of the "pandemic world."

The new deadline is **Friday, April 23**. After that time, I will collate the submissions into a document and send it to you. Thanks so much!

Mabel Schumacher, Secretary



Diane Abendroth

I now understand the meaning of the word "malaise."

"Anticipation" is a word I don't use much anymore. "Future" is indefinite.

The word "plans" usually only works in terms of "What's for dinner?"

Granddaughter's upcoming wedding--a small gathering or maybe with lots of family and good friends to celebrate the occasion.

Work. So glad we are retired, but so very glad for those who are able and continue to keep their work schedules for our benefit.

Getaway—but to where?

Exercise with a mask. Not fun.

The computer—new ways to meet and greet without a mask.

Walking is great exercise, even when it is super cold.

Church can be on the phone, TV or even on the car radio listening in the church parking lot.

Family. How lucky we have been!

Friends. The key to normalcy no matter how we connect with each other. Yes, I do miss Tuesday club.

In other words...



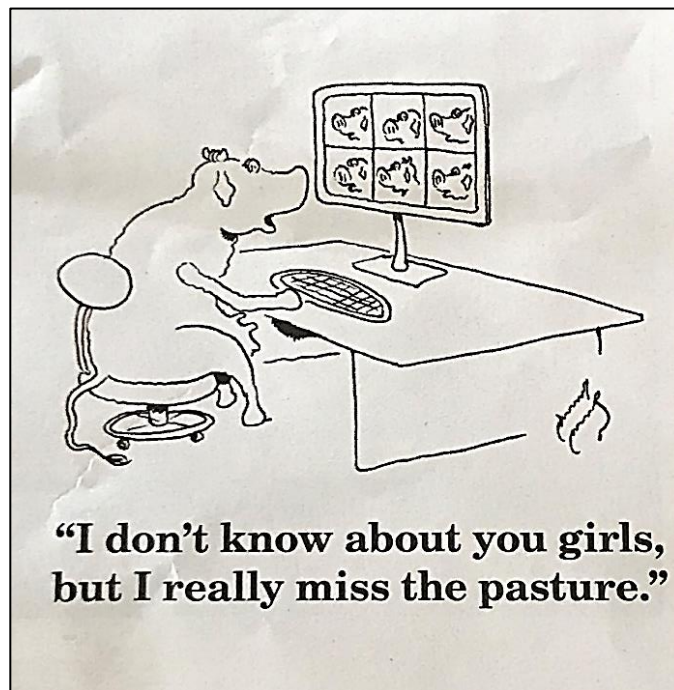
Lori Bocher

When I consider how the COVID pandemic has affected me, I often think about how lucky I am that I was in a good stage of my life to endure it. I'm retired so I didn't have to worry about work or losing my income. My kids are grown so I didn't have to help them with virtual schooling or make agonizing decisions about whether or not to send them back to school. I had no elderly parents to worry about or to be in a nursing home where I couldn't see them. And I don't have grandchildren yet; a lot of my friends REALLY missed hugging their grandchildren. Also, I didn't have any health conditions to worry about. And I'm an introvert, so staying at home wasn't that difficult for me.

Here's what I missed most. Large family gatherings during the holidays. Attending church in person and singing in a gospel choir that I belong to. Exercising at Anytime Fitness or in group classes. Traveling in the U.S. and abroad.

Here's what I gained. An appreciation of the opportunities to enjoy the outdoors in and around Fort Atkinson -- the bike trail, the city and county parks. Time to work on genealogy and history projects.

My favorite COVID cartoon came from the *Hoard's Dairyman* magazine.



Susan Buell

My COVID-19 year actually began in Florida. We had rented a condo with friends on Siesta Key, had settled in, gotten groceries, and made plans to get together with friends who lived in Sarasota. We had our first evening on the balcony with wine and were making plans: walk to the beach, walk on the beach, walk home from the beach, and decide where we were going to eat out first. No listening to the news, no searching the iPads for emails from home. The guys planned to golf even more, and we always have a wonderful time together.

It was all going well until our kids started calling about “the pandemic” and coming home! What were they talking about? The beaches were full as were the restaurants and shops! Finally, reality set in; we had one last night out at a restaurant, outside, tables at a distance, thinking this will be over in a couple weeks!!

We have never seen airport security so empty or passed through so quickly. By the time we boarded, the plane was full, and people were slightly nervous. Clothing was pulled over noses because masks had not become fashion accessories yet.

Here we are a year later. I have had one new hip, one less gland, lots of therapy and two grandchildren who have gotten a lot taller since we haven’t been able to see them nearly as often. So much disruption to everyone’s usual lives, but through it all, what I’ve realized is how wonderful people are and how much family and friends truly mean. There have been less rushing and “noise” and more time for thought and appreciation. When we can finally be “normal,” I hope normal will be more enjoyed.



Betty Covey

The advent of the coronavirus has had a positive and negative effect on my life. I was able to get a lot of projects done that I had put off for weeks/years. It made me feel good to get them done but I also realized how much I need interaction with other people. I missed social contact a lot. Friends and family were the hardest but even going to the grocery store and not seeing or talking with anyone was hard. I learned to smell the roses and started making phone calls and sending notes to people. To my surprise, people sent me notes too. Everyone wanted contact with something.

Texting, phoning, Facebook, and Zoom are not a substitute for face-to-face interaction which I found out was very important.

Ann Engelman

I have three impressions.

1. Calendars just stopped. An adjustment for some but many I talked to were so relieved. I have vowed to not return to pre-pandemic craziness.
2. Many slept, really rested.
3. Those that could, enjoyed being at home. Many missed interactions, especially close families. Many were, and still are, hurting.

We helped as we were called.

Vaccinated now, there is a melting of anxiety on several levels.

We count our blessing every day. Every. Day.

Count Your
BLESSINGS

Joan Jones

I learned to knit in Girl Scouts in 5th Grade. We made 5-inch squares for Afghans for the soldiers. I still like to knit squares—very soothing. I probably have knit many at Tuesday Club.

During the stay-at-home time, I got out my basket of squares and sewed them together. I also always knit mittens and hats.

I also always read mysteries, so I read bags full in the past year. I also turned to rereading old favorites like Trollope.

Our real project has been our dog, Darla. She came to us via our son in law. She was picked up at a truck stop by a trucker who eventually couldn't keep her. She arrived in January. We had hoped to have her have some needed training, but it was not possible. She is smart, lively, likes TV, howls (this is not encouraged) and she loves daily walks which is good for us. What a companion she has been through these months.



Jane Kloplic

When the pandemic hit, like all non-essential businesses The Fireside was forced to close. All of our part-time staff and most of our full-time staff was laid off, keeping just our management team which shifted to working from home. We were busy with such tasks as moving people's reservations for rescheduled shows and thinking outside the box about how we could generate some revenue while not knowing how long the shut-down would continue. The first things that came from that were the online gift shop and curbside carryout, both of which required online ordering software we didn't currently have.

Unable to find an affordable solution that would integrate with our existing inventory software, the gift shop staff had to maintain dual inventories. That meant that whenever anyone purchased an item either online or in the shops once we re-opened, that item had to be manually taken out of the other inventory system. Despite the extra work, building an online shop allowed us to sell some of the new spring and summer merchandise we had already purchased for the season.

Beginning with our Friday Night Fish Fry, we began weekly curbside events for that and experimented with other nights eventually settling on Wednesday and Friday as our carryout nights. We also held bigger events for a Mother's Day Brunch carryout and eventually Thanksgiving and Christmas take-and-bake. Our system of having the customer check in along the front of the building where staff would relay the order number to the team inside the main entrance where the order would be packed and delivered once the customer drove around, proved to be the smoothest carryout operation in town!

Prior to re-opening the dining room for our Friday Night Fish Fry, our Operations Manager went through the training and put procedures in place required by the Wisconsin Restaurant Association for The Fireside to be certified for their "Ready to Serve Safely" program. That, along with the CDC and National Restaurant Assn guidelines are what we have been following for distancing, crowd size, cleaning, and mask recommendations.

Eventually, when it became clear we wouldn't be opening our next production scheduled for April, we moved A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR BASEMENT to 2021. Then about a month later we moved WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS to the following year as well. Faced with moving a third show, CINDERELLA, which was supposed to open in late July, we started planning a "summer concert series" featuring top Fireside performers and tribute artists in solo or duo performances for small, socially distanced audiences. Our concert series has now filled the summer, fall, winter, and spring while we await enough easing of the restrictions to allow us to mount a bigger production.

Promotion for all of these products – gift shops, curbside carryout, dining in on Friday nights, and the concerts - has been done with little to no budget relying on emails to our existing customer base, social media, our digital sign, and online calendar of event listings. Our dedicated management team members have branched out to help in other departments wherever the help was needed and learned many new skills in the process. Thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout the past year which includes anyone who has:

Agreed to delay their reservation for one of our shows.

Attended a weekend concert.

Joined us in the dining room for a Friday Night Fish Fry.

Ordered Curbside Carryout on a Wednesday or Friday night.

Got take home dinners for Mother's Day, Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Visited our gift shops, including our summer sidewalk sales and Holiday Open House.

Shopped on our new online store.

Ordered a gift card for someone.

Put up with our frequent emails to stay up to date on what we're doing.

Commented on, liked, or shared a Facebook or Instagram post.

Told a friend about a concert you enjoyed.

Wished us well, sent an encouraging note, or missed visiting us.

Continued to look forward to when you can return.

The Fireside is committed to seeing this through to serve everyone again with the dining, shopping and theatre experience we are known for. There is hope and light at the end of the tunnel, but the timeline is still uncertain. We look forward to serving you whenever you are ready!





Carol Ward Knox

What were my challenges?

- Boredom.
- Being comfortable that what I chose to do was safe for me, my loved ones, and any people I might encounter.

What lessons did I learn?

- It's okay to slow down and just "be."

Were there positive aspects that surprised me?

- The portability of Zoom. It allowed me to work out with "live" people, attend worship services, participate in Bible studies, and interact with family members near and far. And I could do so whether I was in my "home bubble" or my "vacation home bubble." I missed going to the gym, church, and family gatherings, but could still "be there" with all.
- Relationships with the few people who were in my "bubbles" deepened more than they would have otherwise.



Zoom Videoconferencing
with my grandchildren

Merrilee Lee

To me, the good that's coming out of this situation is that it makes us more appreciative of what we have.

I've never had so many family game nights, family movie nights, and family walks/drives as we've had in the past few months.

And I wouldn't change a thing.



Joan Mittag

The start of the Pandemic got my full attention when I received word on March 16th that Tuesday Club would not be meeting on the 17th at the Library. I was to be hostess, so I immediately contacted Bon Ton Bakery and asked that if it wasn't too late to cancel my order for 40 chicken salad sandwiches and St. Pat's cookies. Next, was Florist Tim Humphrey, and he had not started on the table centerpiece yet. Both parties, as always, were very accommodating.

A planned trip to Alaska in August was cancelled, but most disappointing was that for the first time in 17 years, my daughter and granddaughters from Germany would not be with me for the month of July like always.

After cleaning and organizing drawers, closets, and garage, I saved my sanity by getting back in to quilting and completed two. I did a lot of reading and visiting with friends and family via Zoom. My grandson had a lovely outdoor wedding August 29th and Wisconsin offered one of its most beautiful summer days that pleased me and 124 guests.

I think life during the pandemic was much less busy and more relaxed. I became much more patient and decided things don't have to be done "today," you've got time. I needed that lesson.

I missed the hugs and handshakes and since my vaccines just hugged my 9-year-old great grandson for the first time in a year. I feel blessed that no one in my immediate family was ill and prayed for those that were. It's not over yet, but there now is hope. Let's all stay well.



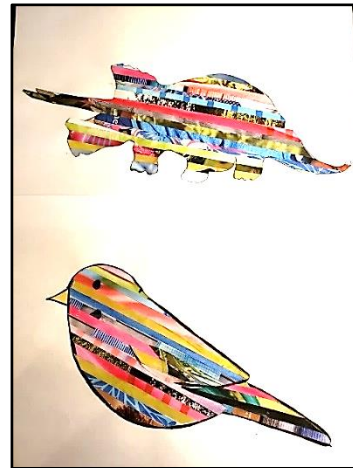
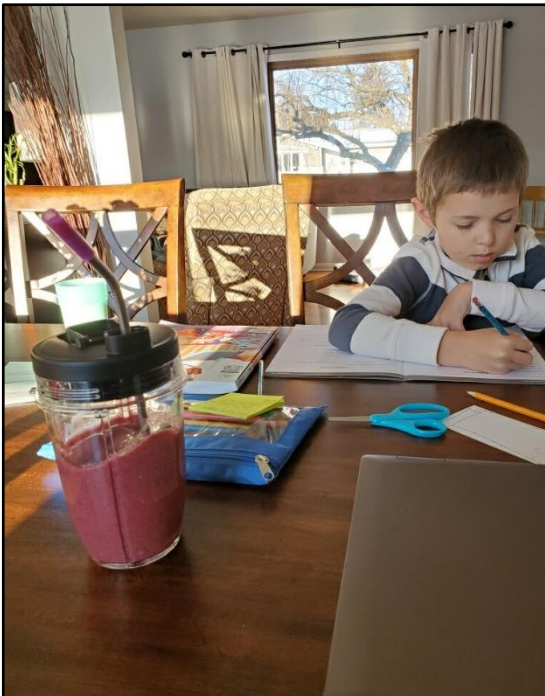
Angela Nelson

A few years ago, my word for the year was *intentional*, and I have been reminded of that when I look at my memories of the pandemic.

I have been more intentional with relationships, my belongings and overall, my time. During the past year I have simplified my home and most of all the closets. I have enjoyed the simple things of life and taken the time to smell the roses, per se.

I guess you could say that I have used this pandemic as a reset button for my life and am now more intentional than I was before. The added bonus is that people now stay out of my personal bubble.

Many parents and grandparents helped their children as they were involved in home-based virtual learning classes, and I continued to homeschool my grandson, Maximus. Here he is studying, and these are some of the projects he worked on in our art class.



Marie Dorgan Nelson

COVID-19 March 2020 - 2021

I just automatically used the Purell that sits on the table near me before I started to type. I have washed my hands and used hand sanitizer more this year than I ever thought possible. I also have used a lot of St. Ives lotion to keep my hands okay. My story started the weekend of March 6, 7 and 8, 2020. On that Friday, my husband Jim and I went to Chicago to visit my Aunt Peggy and Uncle Ralph Martin and see the artwork of my cousin Stefanie Anderson. She had created many works with my grandparents' farm in mind for her gallery show. That Sunday, Jim and I went to Nekoosa to attend a baby shower for our niece Katherine Sawyer. At the baby shower we were packed in tightly. There were some rumbles about the virus that was hitting China and was spreading. We, then, did not go anywhere for months.



COVID had hit America, and everything seemed to shut down. Our 23-year-old daughter, Clare, was working at the Minneapolis Children's Museum. The Museum was shut down and Clare came home. She had been hired to work at Old World Wisconsin for the summer before she went to grad school at Northeastern in Boston. She decided to stay in Fort and wait for her summer employment to begin, look for an apartment in Boston and find a roommate. The summer wore on and at some point, Old World decided not to open for the summer. Clare was able to do some volunteer archive work at the Hoard Museum.

Our son Ben, 19, was at UW-Madison in the second semester of his freshman year. His dorm closed and everyone needed to leave. All of his classes went online. He set up a card table in his bedroom. Usually, the internet was working. We would turn off all of our electronic devices when he had a test or quiz to take. One time he told us the test site had crashed during his chemistry exam. He wanted to know if we were off all devices. Well, the site crashed for everyone. He just did not know it at the time. Ben had earned his CNA certification and was hoping to find a job and take one class for the summer. It took a while, but he was able to interview and find a job at Fairhaven.

In August Ben did contract COVID from his job. (He has continued to work there on breaks and plans to work there this summer.) When Ben had COVID, we completely isolated him. He had the downstairs bathroom, ate separately, and showered in a shower Jim had installed in our

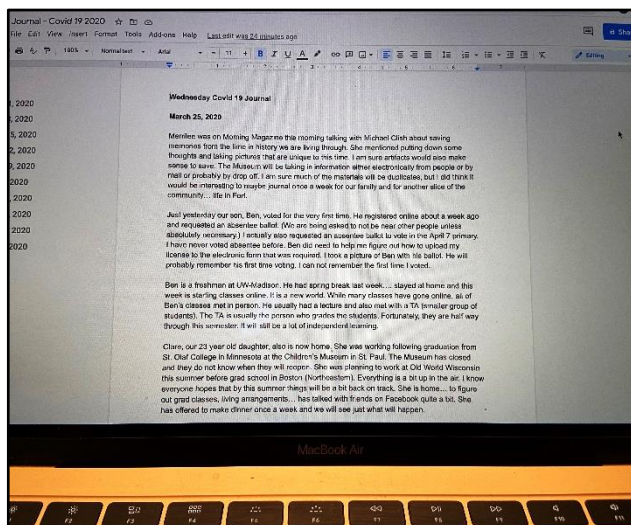
basement. We all had to get tested. I am not sure how, but none of us tested positive. Even if we were all sure we had it. The tests we took at the Fort Hospital were very accurate.

For weeks we all wore masks inside. For Thanksgiving we did have my dad over. We were actually outside for part of the time. We enjoyed the firepit and Zoomed with family. (We have Zoomed every Sunday with my family during the pandemic. Everyone usually makes it a point to be on at 11 a.m. central time. My brother Chad and his family live in California.) We masked up inside and only took off our masks when eating. We enjoyed a feast from the Fireside. They did a curbside Thanksgiving pickup.

Through all of this I can say I am Zoomed out. All of my meetings have been on Zoom. AAUW, the Historical Society Board meetings and Club 46 committee meetings have been online. The Tuesday Club has used email and videos to communicate with members. While I am grateful for the technology, meeting in person is certainly a preferred way for me to meet. (Some perks could be that you do not need to get any place, people from far away can still join and you can sometimes enjoy virtual presentations on your own time.)

I will say that I have been very impressed with how the leaders of the different organizations have adapted. The Club 46 dance committee did decide to cancel the May 2020 dance and the three dances for the following season. We are planning to have a fall dance in 2021. Through all of the pandemic my husband Jim went to work at Fort Hospital. There were some uncertain times. The hospital staff - medical and all others - seemed to work together. I am very grateful.

Our family probably spent the last summer we will have all together. That is bittersweet. We made sure that Sundays were family days with a fun activity pulled out of a bag that everyone contributed to. The most popular activity was probably playing bags in the backyard. Ben and Clare also cooked two meals a week. There was some good sibling bonding time.



I also kept a COVID Journal on my computer that I have written in each Wednesday since March 25, 2020, when the Museum Director, Merrilee Lee, suggested we write down our COVID thoughts during a Morning Magazine show with Michael Clish of WFAW radio. I have not stopped yet. This is a peek at my journal.

Carolyn Nord

My impression of the COVID pandemic is mixed. Several of my friends and family did get sick with COVID, one being a niece who almost died. We missed getting together with family and friends but realized that if all of us are careful about keeping our distance and washing hands, we will be able to see the end of this.

I miss the freedom of traveling, especially since I am in my late 70s. I won't live forever, but I still want to do exciting things. I am just thankful for what I have.



Barb Pernacciaro



Dear Mom and Dad,

You both have been gone from this life for well over twenty years now, and I still miss you very much! But I am also glad you have missed this particular current event. We all on this planet are in the midst of a pandemic - a world-wide virus named COVID-19 which is sickening and killing people.

It began in China in 2019 with small outbreaks of a disease, causing pneumonia-like symptoms but soon it spread and became more virulent. It spread to Italy, Brazil, and Mexico and eventually the United States. By January 2020, the World Health Organization declared its contagion an emergency, and by March, a pandemic.

As the year 2020 ended, the U.S. had more than 20 million cases and more than 346,000 deaths. World-wide travel bans went into effect, hospitals were overwhelmed with cases, and scientists began working on finding a cause, a cure, or a way to at least fight it with inoculations. And they succeeded with inoculations! I will complete mine this week.

How has my life changed? I have not seen my children or grandson in person for over a year. I miss my much-loved clubs and organizations that have not met face-to-face since January 2020. And coffee time on Fridays with some good friends is missed most of all. Zoom is good, but not the same.

One would think that being home all the time, I'd be cleaning and dusting and vacuuming all the time and my house would be sparkling clean from floor to ceiling, but.....nooooo!

I still must eat so I do go out for groceries, as I did this morning, only to discover I had forgotten my COVID mask, so back home first to get one. (Must stock my purse with a few).

T.V. is inundated with COVID news and updated statistics, and I'm a bit tired of that. I have a sign in my bedroom with just three words on it: EAT • SLEEP • READ. And that is about it.

I know things will get better. We shall survive!

♥ *Barb*

Ruth Schauer

As the trees leaf out and the tulips bloom, it seems that the terrible pandemic may be coming to an end. I know that I am very fortunate: only one member of my family was affected, and she has fully recovered. So many have suffered much more.

I try to be patient and to adapt to new ways of staying in touch. I have reconnected by phone with several friends from the past and enjoy phone calls and porch visits from family and friends.

And to me, the spring has never been more beautiful.



Mabel Schumacher

Just to put things in perspective, since 2015 I have been the coordinator of The Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson activities that commemorate March 13 as K9 Veterans Day in Wisconsin. Every year we sponsored a statewide ceremony to honor military, law enforcement, search and rescue, and arson dogs and their handlers. By March 2020, I had finalized extensive plans featuring a military historian and several veteran dog handlers in our program. Newspaper articles, radio interviews, social media and personal contacts announced the program to be held on Sunday, March 8, 2020. We were indeed fortunate to be able to hold the event. Less than a week later, Wisconsin and the nation went into lockdown because of the coronavirus pandemic. Life changed immediately, but I selfishly breathed a huge sigh that the K9 Veterans Day ceremony had “made it under the wire.” I’m not sorry to feel that way, just relieved. In 2021, we had a much smaller ceremony that we held virtually.

All my interactions with the community were transformed. In addition to the Kennel Club, I was secretary for The Tuesday Club. Both organizations underwent significant changes. The Tuesday Club couldn’t meet in person, and The Kennel Club had to cancel all in-person dog training classes and meetings. The officers of both groups worked diligently to devise mechanisms to keep in contact with members. The Tuesday Club “keeping-in-touch emails” and telephone calls among members increased. An entire year of non-meeting activities—dubbed “Keeping The Tuesday Club Knit Together”—were carefully planned. Even a series of email-based book club discussions were added.

The local Humane Society found itself empty as families adopted dogs while many individuals were required to work or attend virtual classes at home. To meet the needs of area dog owners, The Kennel Club wrote articles for the newspaper, website, and social media on “how to socialize your puppies during the lockdown” and developed detailed website guides about the beginning stages of puppy training.

Later adaptations for the organizations involved officer and committee meetings via the computer, virtual dog training classes, taped Tuesday Club presentations shared on the Hoard Museum’s website, Tuesday Club reports disseminated via email, and outside socially distanced activities planned for better weather when members were vaccinated.

As many others, I have been alone during this pandemic. I have busied myself with a variety of projects, reading, and enjoying life with my pets. Perhaps because of this unusual time, I have realized several things:

People are caring. I have received emails, phone calls, food dropped at the door—events that demonstrate thoughtfulness and compassion.

People are resilient. Despite the fact we were locked down or restricted for a year, I sensed a strength rise up in those around me, an attitude of “this won’t beat me.”

Finally, *people are creative.* When people of like mind put their heads together, there is no limit to what they can accomplish. A year of non-meeting activities? Taped presentations? An email book club? Virtual dog training classes? Really? Our spirit amazes me.

Thanks to our scientists, we have now been blessed with the development of a vaccine. As we look forward to a more normal future, we can do so with pride that we have endured and survived this unprecedented time in our generation. We came out the other side stronger.

A2 Daily Jefferson County Union Thursday, April 16, 2020

Fort Kennel Club: Socialize puppy while being ‘Safer at Home’

Many area families might have brought a new puppy home this spring and had planned to enroll their new furry family member in a “Puppy Kindergarten” class. These classes, like the ones offered by the Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson Inc. (KCFA), focus on socialization and confidence-building for puppies. Puppies must learn how to behave appropriately in both canine and human society, as well as how to respond to the new sights, sounds, textures and smells in their environment. That’s a lot for a young pup to learn!

KCFA normally offers several Puppy Kindergarten classes throughout the year. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent “Safer-at-Home” order, the club’s April-May session of training classes building their confidence in dealing with the world around them. It’s an important time for introducing basic obedience skills and household manners using positive reinforcement methods.

- **Fear Stage:** At this age, puppies are developing their canine social skills and are capable of bonding with humans. However, they also begin to experience fear for the first time and may develop life-long fears stemming from anything frightening or traumatic that happens during this time.
- **Ranking Stage:** Shortly after these “socialization” and “fear” periods of development, a “ranking” period begins during which puppies begin to use dominance and submission behaviors to define their place socially or improve their status in the household.

of reinforcement with things that the puppy likes—typically, things like soft pea-sized treats, praise, play, encouragement and gentle attention. Puppies usually convey their emotional state very clearly. Their handlers should allow them to take a break and have some space at their first sign of discomfort, anxiety or fear. Always go at the puppy’s pace, letting the puppy’s level of success and comfort be the guide.

- **Experience with a variety of sounds:** Puppies can get overwhelmed with new sounds. They should be exposed (gradually, with sensitivity for the puppy’s tolerance and adjustment) to the vacuum cleaner, garbage disposal, trucks, radios, hair dryers, the television and even the occasional plastic bag being shaken open. Outside sounds like thunder, “non-event.” Reinforce puppies for calmly looking at another dog and staying calm in the presence (at a safe distance) of another calm dog on leash.

to make a puppy accustomed to spending some time in a crate. Puppy parents should develop a schedule and make time for the puppy to experience some downtime or alone time. It will help the puppy to become comfortable with being alone when it is time for everyone to go back to work or school.

Several free internet-based resources, such as the American Kennel Club website, provide good-quality information about crate training. Visit <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/how-to-crate-train-your-dog-in-9-easy-steps/> for an introduction to the topic, as well as links to additional articles and resources.

“Our pets can be such an important source of comfort, by not only providing us with compan-




www.kcfadogs.org
920-568-0364
Follow us on Facebook

Virtual Dog Training
Registration Deadline—February 17
Puppies 101
Basic Skills and Everyday Manners

Outdoor In-Person Dog Training
Coming in the spring!

Fanny’s China
Presenter Ann Engelman
The Tuesday Club Presentation – Scheduled for April 21, 2020
Postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic; Taped on August 19, 2020

Susan B. Anthony: A Life of Activism
Presenter Cindy Whitney
The Tuesday Club Presentation - November 3, 2020

Mrs. C. A. Caswell and Her Family
Presenter Bonnie Geyer
The Tuesday Club Presentation – March 16, 2021

Marti Tenzer

This is something I wrote for our Synagogue Torah project reflecting on the 2020 Pandemic. It was written in September, sharing that the Tenzer family's 2020 has been unbelievably eventful. There were a few highs, but unfortunately, some very deep lows.

In January, our daughter Jennifer decided to take a year-long break from working as an Investment Banker—a well-paying job that, as parents, we found difficult to understand how she could just walk away. After leaving NYC to travel the 7 continents, COVID-19 derailed some of those plans. She was caught up in the “Nowhere to Dock” scenario during a cruise to Antarctica in March. All of the countries were shutting down access.

After some dicey days of trying to get Jennifer back to the US, we were successful; and after a period of quarantine in Texas, she has been road tripping around the US. In hindsight, we are thrilled she is not trapped in her tiny NYC apartment. A side benefit, she met a really nice guy on her Antarctica cruise, and they have been together ever since. Life can be quite a journey if you are open to its possibilities.

After being quarantined in their Independent living retirement community with virtually no ability to get out and socialize, my in-laws became very depressed. Len's parents, Annette and Irwin Tenzer, basically gave up. They both kept telling the family they had lived a long and full life and were ready to go. Much to our sorrow, they both passed away over the summer—Annette in early July and Irwin a few weeks later in mid-August. This was devastating to our family. The only positive thing was that we were able to visit mom in the hospital just before she died, and we were able to see Dad at their apartment during the same time period. We were also fortunate to be able to hold funerals for them and visit, socially distanced, with extended family and a few friends.

Shiva was very surreal as we were unable to have visitors, but at least we were able to attend Zoom Shiva minyanim for both of them, which really helped in the grieving process. We are obviously still grieving, but feel we did everything we could to honor their life and influence in ours. May their memory remain a blessing always.

During this time, my daughter-in-law, Amy, completed her Conversion studies in May. As a result of COVID-19, her final meeting with the Beit Din, Mikva, etc. was delayed. In a rather surreal situation, Annette passed away before this occurred later in the summer. Amy had a special relationship with Annette and chose her Hebrew name as her own. Life can be very hard at times, but this was a very life affirming moment for our family—a beautiful tribute to show love and respect for a very special woman.

We are hoping for a more positive outcome to the end of the year 2020. The one thing that we know and hold fast to, is how important the support of our family, friends and community are. In that regard we are blessed and hope those blessings can be shared by all.



Sharing the blessing...loving memories of when we were together at Thanksgiving in 2019.

Mary Touton

During the time of the pandemic, I have kept myself busy. I made three quilts and three braided rugs. I went up in the attic and found some batting and a lot of pieces of material that I wanted to use up. Some of the material was a lovely yellow color, and I ended up making a baby quilt out of it. A little later I found out that I am going to have a new great-grandchild. I wish I knew if it was a boy or a girl, but either way...I'm ready.

In the morning, I take advantage of sleeping late. I talk to my daughters every day, and I have other friends that I get to talk to daily. One lady lives in California.

What I have really enjoyed are the audio books from the Library. I just call the Library and tell them the types of books I enjoy, and they get them ready for me. My son runs back and forth for me and handles the pickup and delivery. Sometimes he goes in the Library and other times he picks them up outside. The Library has been very helpful getting me the 4 or 5 books a week that I have been listening to. They know I like biographies and historical fiction. The Public Broadcasting System ran a program on Ernest Hemingway, so I just asked for one of his books.

In the past I had never listened to the television program, "Little House on the Prairie," not even with my children. About 8 months ago I got into Laura Ingalls Wilder and ended up getting all the books to listen to and the entire television series on DVDs to watch.

I haven't gone out, even to get groceries. I use a service called "Instacart." They have delivered everything that I need right to my door.

I'm not complaining. I am safe and have a lot of things to entertain me. The pandemic is just something that we had to go through. It was really something, but now with the vaccine we'll be able to get out more. We'll still want to wear masks and keep safe, but it will be nice to see friends again.



Cindy Whitney
A Year Like No Other

The day our governor declared that all public schools were to be shut down was the day I began to understand that the rumblings of a highly contagious virus spreading across the world were real and serious. I quickly planned out two weeks of groceries so my husband and I could hole up for the duration. Then we both waited for the virus to strike as one waits for a predicted thunderstorm. The virus crept in slowly at first, but instead of moving on, it continued to grow.

When we ran out of groceries after two weeks, I set my alarm to wake up early so I could be at our grocery store when it opened. I avoided any aisle with someone already in it, and I bought enough food to last for three weeks. Our dining room table became an extra pantry to store it all. As the weeks went by with no end in sight, I continued to shop for three weeks' worth of groceries at a time. I began to get more comfortable with shopping after our state's mask mandate went into effect.

My husband and I are retired with a stable income, for which I felt incredibly lucky. I worried a lot, however, about others who were dealing with stresses that we didn't have. We began to donate more generously to places like our local food pantry and organizations such as Doctors Without Borders.

Our biggest challenge came through our son Tom, his wife Becca, and their two young children, working as missionaries in Angola. At first things were fine there, because the Angolan government had quickly closed its borders and restricted any travel within the country. I had, however, just mailed out a huge box of books and materials for our granddaughter to learn to read. The box reached New York right as everything shut down there. Eventually, as we tracked the package, we learned it was being returned to sender because the closed borders in Angola prohibited any mail getting through. We waited and waited for the box to be returned, but we began to wonder if we would ever see it again.

In early summer, our son surprised us by saying that he and his family were looking for a way to get a flight back to the US, but no flights were going out of Angola. Our granddaughter's passport needed to be renewed in the US by November, and it was a potentially serious problem if it didn't get renewed in time. After weeks of searching for a way to get back to the US, they finally found a small opportunity with a couple of Angolan governmental flights to Lisbon. From Lisbon, as long as they didn't leave the airport, they could get a flight to the US without COVID tests that would take days for results. There were lots of hurdles for them to

make it work, but we were thrilled when they arrived in Wisconsin in August. After a two-week quarantine, we were so happy and relieved to finally see them!

As careful as we had been about protecting ourselves from COVID, we now had to put trust in our son and his family, along with our daughter-in-law's family in Racine, to live a lifestyle that followed the strict COVID guidelines so the risks of exposure to the virus would be minimized for all of us. It wasn't a hard decision for us, just riskier than we had been, and so there was always a small tinge of worry.

Now, months later, our son and his family will be returning to Angola soon when their extensive paperwork required for return is completed. In reflection, the one aspect of COVID for which I will always be grateful is that we've had an extra half year with our son and his family nearby. There have been countless hours of play with our grandchildren that otherwise would not have been possible.

By the way, that box of reading materials? It sat in New York for seven months before making it back to our front porch one day. We were thrilled to see it, especially since the intended recipients were now here to make use of it. Our granddaughter has begun to be a reader!



The “before” and “after” of opening the missing box—
a true survivor of the pandemic!

Marsha Wilson

When our entire family gathered at the end of January 2020, little did we know what the rest of the year would bring. Our daughter, Nora, had traveled here with her Bulgarian husband, Zlatozar, and daughters, Dalia (3) and Donika (9 months), from Shenzhen, China. Their plan was to stay for a week during Chinese New Year. Our daughter, Bethany, her husband, Roberto, and their 2-month-old son, Franchesco, drove over from Madison. Since Bethany was still on maternity leave, they were planning to spend most of the week here with Nora's family. Our son, Hart, his wife, Heather, their daughter, Irulan (9), and son, Vorian (7), flew from the Seattle, WA, area for a long weekend since the children had to return to school. Our daughter, Abby, her husband, Trendon, and 3-year-old, Rayelle, and 1-year-old, Emberlyn, drove down from Neenah, WI, for the weekend as well. This was going to be the only opportunity for the whole gang to get together and for everyone to meet the newest members of the family.

During Nora and Zlato's supposed weeklong visit, travel back to China became impossible due to COVID-19. They had packed for a short visit and had come from a subtropical area of China to frigid Wisconsin. I had bought a week's worth of warm clothing for the girls but, they wound up staying with us for 7 ½ months. I am thankful for thrift stores like St. Vincent de Paul, Goodwill, and Twice Is Nice, and rummage sales, for I found additional winter, spring, and summer outfits for them for very little expense. To go from being empty-nesters to having a household with an active 3-year-old and baby 24/7 for an extended period of time was an adjustment for everyone. Fortunately, Nora was able to continue to work her job remotely, but due to the 13-hour time difference, she had to split her workday so that some of her work time was during the night when her fellow workers were in the office in Shenzhen, China. She would typically work from 10 am – 2 pm and from 7 pm – 11 pm our time. Since Zlato owns his own company and it is tied into education, he was not able to work while they were here. I helped out a lot with childcare but working out role expectations were sometimes hard. I love being Nana but did not want to be the sole caretaker for the girls while Nora was working. This was hard for Zlato because they were used to having a live-in nanny in China and Bulgarian Dads don't typically do childcare. The other aspect of life together that we worked out after the first couple of months was sharing grocery costs and alternating cooking dinner—a great plan.

The above minor challenges were nothing compared to the joys and blessings we experienced during their stay. Having little ones to read to; play games, color, bake, do puzzles, pretend, dance, and make crafts with; take to Frostee Freeze, story time at the library and first Fridays at the museum (when they were open), was so much fun! We were doubly blessed by next-door neighbors who had 4 children who enjoyed playing with our grandchildren. Nearly every day, the kids would run back and forth between the swing sets, sand boxes, slides, and their trampoline, laughing and playing from dawn to dusk. Our two backyards were like one giant

playground. We celebrated birthdays, Easter and had barbeques together. When the weather was hot, we both had kiddie pools, sprinklers, and other water fun for the kids. In spite of the coronavirus, our families shared the same "bubble."

Because of the pandemic, we did not see as much of the rest of the family as we normally would have. Brett and I did manage to squeak in a week's visit to Washington state to visit Hart's family in mid-February, right before the shut-down. All 3 of our daughters and their families were able to meet up in Dubuque, IA, in July, for a long weekend with us. The weather was great for outdoor activities, thankfully! Brett and I were also able to watch our 2 granddaughters in Neenah, when Abby gave birth to their 3rd daughter in November. We also celebrated Franchesco's first birthday on Thanksgiving Day with Bethany and Roberto at our house and Christmas with them at their place in Madison. Otherwise, social visits, meetings, etc., were relegated to Zoom, Facetime, Facebook Messenger, or Skype. What did we do before these technologies?

My husband, Brett, worked throughout the pandemic. He is employed as a float family practice physician for UW-Health. When COVID numbers were at their highest, he was assigned to working in Urgent Care instead of Family Practice Clinics. This was more stressful than usual, both for him and for me, as he was having to take care of more patients who tested positive for COVID-19. I thank God for protecting him!

When Nora's family was able to travel to Bulgaria to visit Zlato's Mother in September, our house went from crazy busy to deafeningly silent. (I am writing this in March 2021, and they are still not able to return to China.) I think I would have lost my mind if it hadn't been for my good friend, Penny, who faithfully walked outside or snowshoed with me throughout this whole ordeal. Having someone I could safely see and talk with several days a week has been a sanity saver. The social isolation that COVID-19 has required has made me cherish worship services, Tuesday Club, Bible study, small group, Club 46 dance club, going out for dinner or to a movie with friends or just meeting friends at a coffee shop or in my home all the more.

The pandemic has also forced me to slow down and spend more time at home, allowing me to finish a few undone projects and to read more. I have had to be more creative in keeping in touch with our grandchildren in the Seattle area. Over the past few months, grandson, Vorian, has taught me to play chess via Skype; and Irulan and I have been reading books to each other.

Sadly, we have lost several friends and loved ones this past year, some to the coronavirus and some to other causes. We are so grateful for the COVID vaccines that are becoming more available every day and for the hope that we have that this pandemic will someday be a thing of the past. I don't think I will take the ability to move around in public freely without a facemask or hand sanitizer ever for granted again.

Deb Wishau

In my view there were many good things as well as bad things that happened.

The bad things were:

Countless deaths • long lasting health problems for some after having the virus • the many men and women working on the health care front battling the virus for so many patients while endangering their own • people who died from causes not related to COVID that feared going to a hospital • people losing jobs • some children falling behind in their studies with online learning • many suffering with deep depression • major confusion on how to deal with such a monster!

The good things were:

Families were bonding more like eating dinner together • playing games and enjoying the great outdoors • people and businesses coming together donating to those who were in need • businesses large and small reinventing themselves to stay afloat • people learning new skills or starting up past hobbies like cooking, art projects, gardening, etc. • people returning to their faith giving thanks for all that is good and meaningful in their lives • to be grateful realizing that every day is truly a gift.

COVID has tested all of us to the core with every emotion imaginable, both good and bad. In the end we as a people have found that we're tougher than we thought! Life is worth fighting for and all that it has to offer, the good as well as the bad.



Mask Humor

You should try taking a vision exam with a mask on. My eye doctor had the technician put tape over the top of my mask so my glasses wouldn't fog up and I could see the letters!

I pulled into the grocery store parking lot and put my mask on as I walked to the entrance. Grabbing a cart, I wheeled in and started down the aisles. As a rounded one corner, I nearly bumped into another shopper. We both said, "Excuse me," and started to walk on. We then did a doubletake. It was my sister! We hadn't recognized each other because we were both wearing masks.

I went into the lobby of the hospital to go to my X-ray appointment. Naturally, I had to enter masked; and before I got to the desk, someone came to me to take my temperature. I guess my default was set to "thermometer in my mouth," so I took off my mask. She patiently told me she was taking my temperature on my forehead. 😊

It was Election Day, and I was walking past the Municipal Building. A car came around the corner and the lady was waving at me. I waved back but I really couldn't tell who it was until she pulled up to the curb to go in and vote. She rolled down the window and said, "I'm so sorry; I thought you were Joan Mittag." I took off my mask and looked at her and said, "I am Joan Mittag." We both had a good laugh over that one.

Last fall, when some people refused to wear a mask for many reasons, I found it quite amusing when my 7-year-old granddaughter ran back into the house and returned outside with her mask on. Her comment was, "Oh, Grammy, my nose was cold. I just had to put on my mask."

I was so happy when my weekly art classes resumed recently. A requirement to participate was to wear a mask. As class went on, I didn't even notice the mask on my face anymore; I was completely wrapped up in my newest drawing. Boy, was I surprised when I erased one of my lines and automatically blew to remove the little bits. I got a puff rebound on my face, but nothing moved on my paper. My friends and I got a big chuckle over this.

We held an outdoor event to unveil a donated statue and to honor all the skilled artisans who had worked on the project. Everyone was asked to wear masks. During the picture-taking part of the event, the photographer teasingly said, "Smile!" One of the strapping young workers was heard to whisper, "Smile with your eyes, everyone." A good lesson had apparently been learned by all!

I just bought a new iPhone and had set up the facial recognition feature to unlock it. I was a bit surprised (and dismayed) when my new phone did not recognize me with my mask on!

I decided to wear my mask driving from errand to errand, because I wanted to save time. Well, as my last bit of travel occurred, my glasses fogged up and I went right past the shopping center and almost through a red light.



I am someone who really enjoys looking people in the eye and smiling at them when I am out and about. One of the first times I went shopping during the pandemic, I was in Menards up in Johnson Creek. I was being my usual friendly smiling self and not a single person smiled back at me! I was feeling forlorn and rejected until I finally realized that people I was passing in the aisles had no idea that I was smiling at them because of my face mask.



I was shopping for flowers a year ago and kept passing this woman as we walked back and forth. We both stopped looking at a particular flower and looked at each other. She said, "Deb?" and I said, "Nancy?" We laughed thinking how silly is it that friends that get together frequently become instant strangers because of wearing masks. We agreed we were ready for ditching the things. A year later we're still wearing them! When the vaccinations started, we could hardly wait. Once we received them, we got together with our good friends with masks on. We looked at each other and tore them off, feeling a great sense of relief and gratitude that we could finally be together again.

**“Saving Our Sanity”
Projects and Activities
During the Pandemic**

**Strong women always find a way to survive difficulty.
The methods they choose are manifested in creative and varied ways.**

Many members turned to activities such as quilting, books, and gardening.



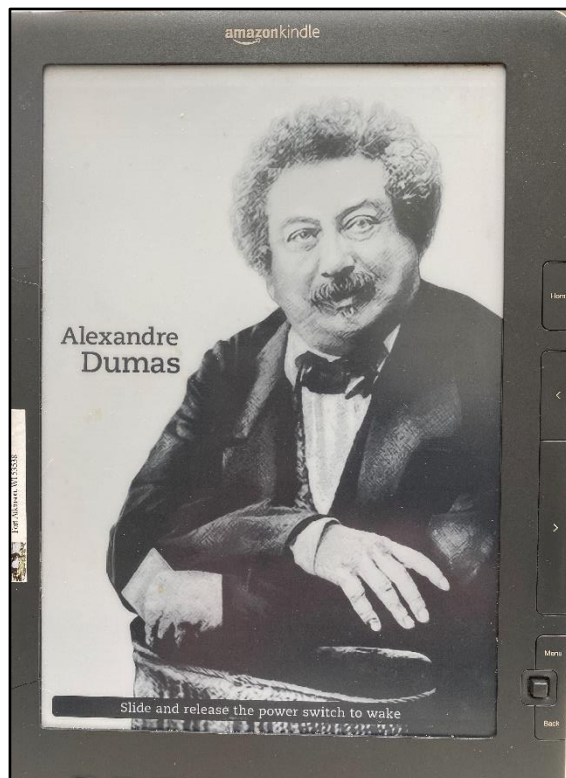
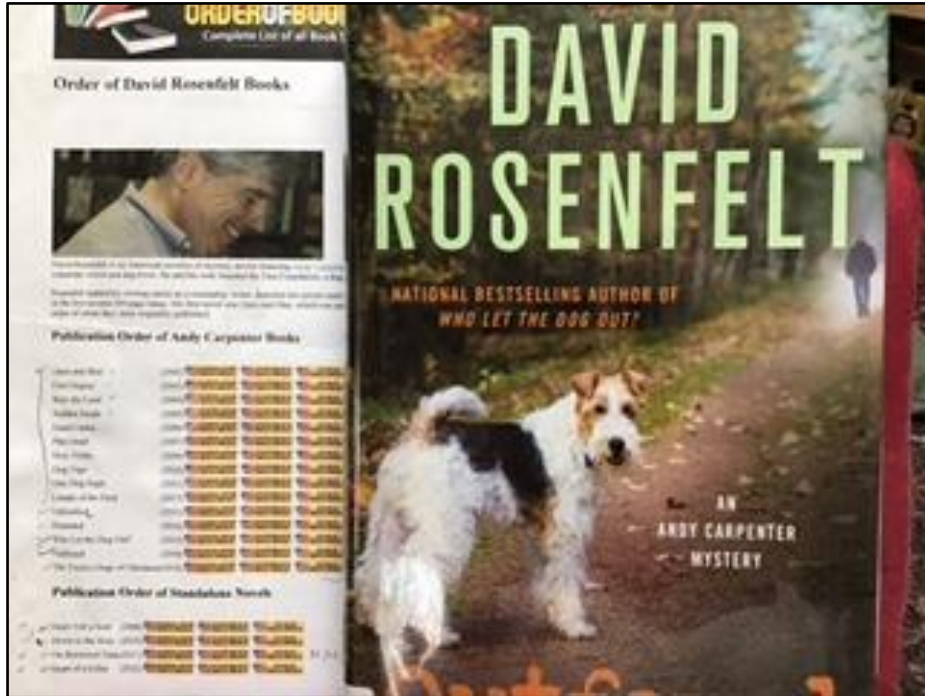
**A quilt or two,
Artwork,
Books
With a doll house added for good measure!**



More quilts. They are so soothing...both to make and to use.

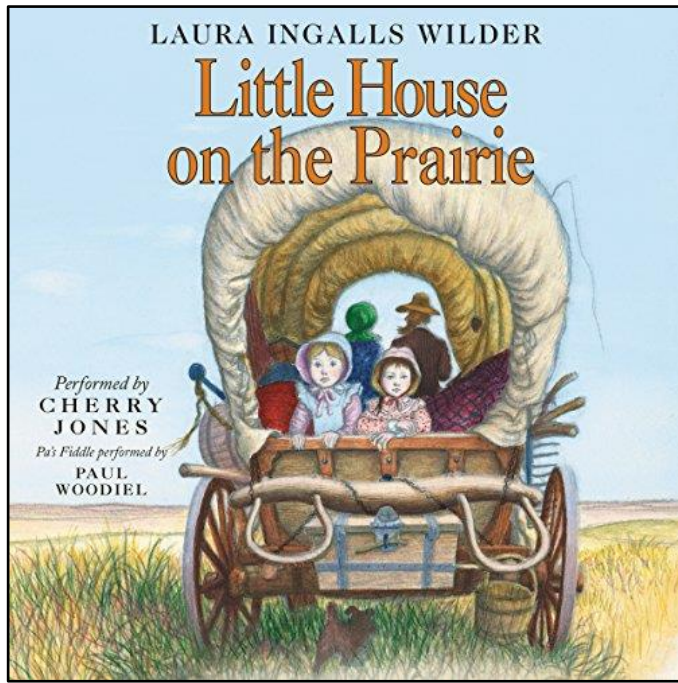


Going back in time and rereading a favorite series of mysteries by David Rosenfelt who had visited Fort Atkinson as part of a Paddy's Paws Dog Rescue program.



Adding to the collection of books stored on an Amazon Kindle Reader.

Ordering books and DVDs from the Dwight Foster Public Library.
"The staff was so accommodating, even though the Library was closed."



Creating a cigar box diorama



CIGAR BOX DIORAMAS

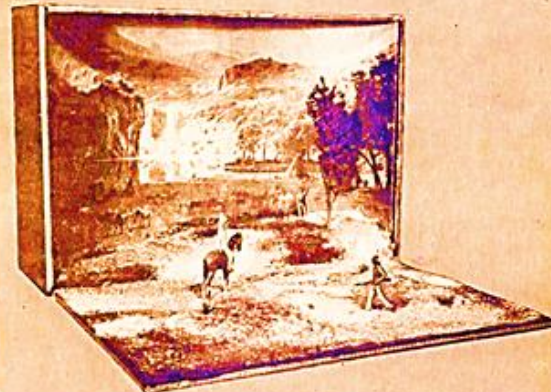
These little displays can be used in many ways. They are simple enough that a child can make them, effective enough to stimulate interest in the subject portrayed. They can be made by the teacher and used to spark interest in new units or made by the students as projects for the unit. They are useful as follow-up projects after a field trip to a museum, industry, or other place of interest.

One need not be an artist to create interesting and acceptable displays. There are many items available from novelty stores, souvenir counters, or ten-cent stores, which can be adapted to use in the cigar boxes. Pictures clipped from magazines can be used for backgrounds, as can the large picture post-cards now found nearly everywhere.

The person who exercises imagination, seeing space ships in plastic hair curlers and rocket ships in metal pencil protectors, will enjoy making the exhibits and will be able to share the creative experience with others.

ARMINTA NEAL
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Denver 19, Colorado

CIGAR BOX DIORAMAS



A "How to do It" Handbook

by ARMINTA NEAL

Exercising and getting out in nature



“I walked at least 8,000 steps each day.
The exercise and fresh air did help immensely.”

**Taking safe day-trips around Wisconsin,
And oh the sights you can see!**



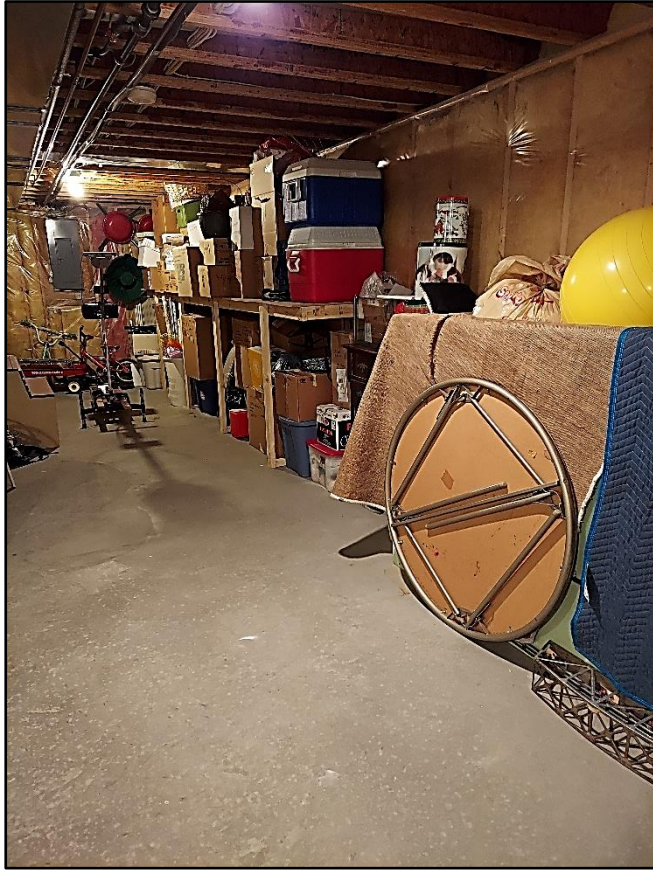
Puzzles, puzzles, puzzles!



Families cooking at home became the "New Normal"



House projects galore!



I wish I had before and after pictures, but I don't. Believe me the basement was an accumulation of 25 years.

We built the shelves, sorted, boxed, and threw out a lot.

I painted my bedroom and got new bedding. I just wanted a new look. (It was a tan/brown look.)

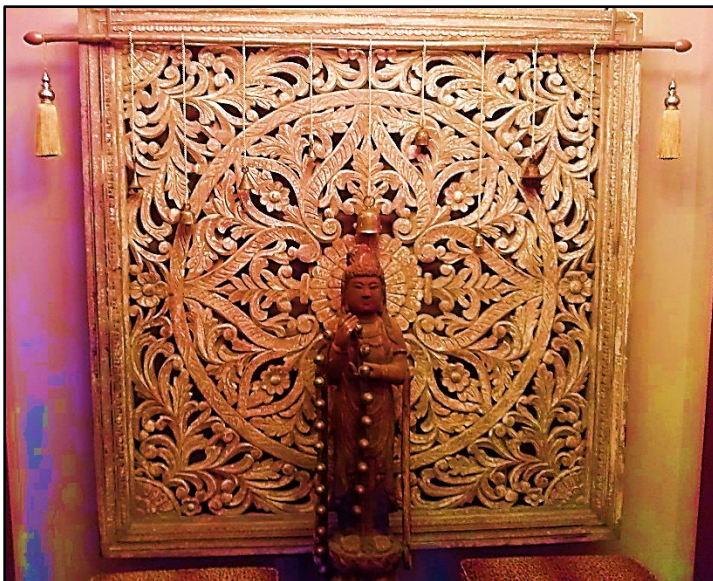
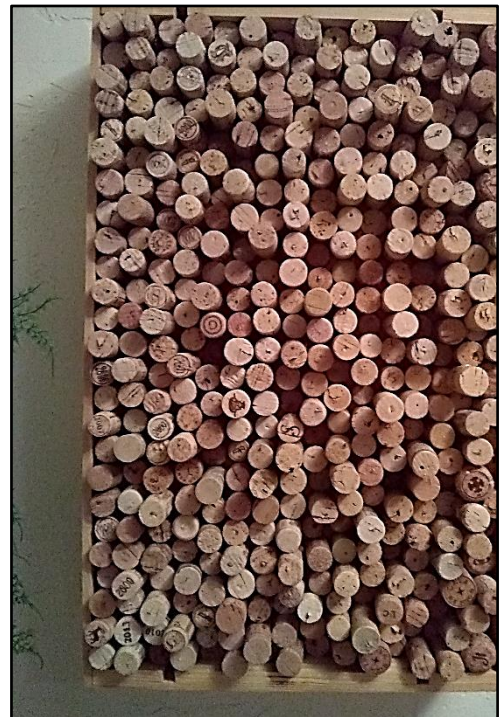
Still on my to do list is to recover my dining room chairs.





Recovered vintage Stickley Settee and pillows.

I made a cork art board installed in a wine crate for our wine cellar – cut and used about 850 wine corks.



Jim and I installed this carved panel from Thailand, and I hung Asian bells from a bamboo rod I painted and tied them with gold roping.



I designed and installed the centerpieces for an outdoor barn venue wedding for a friend of mine. Hanging from the ceiling is chandelier made from watering cans filled silk flowers pouring fairy lights to look like water and garland.

This picture is the antique tool wall to express the bride and grooms "Love grows here" theme.



"Thank goodness for these projects. They kept me occupied while dealing with this uncomfortable year and worrying about my husband who was in the middle of it at the hospital."

**And sometimes family IS the project!
Our family from China planned to visit for 7 days
and ended up staying 7 months.
We REALLY had fun!**



**Pets became an important part of family life.
People adopted dogs and cats from the Humane Society and
enjoyed the companionship they shared with their furry/feathered friends.**



A long-awaited 2021 gathering...together at last!

You are invited!
Tuesday Club Gathering



Where: Rotary Pavilion
Located in Rock River Park

When: Tuesday, June 8th



Time: 1:30 p.m.

- There is a covered shelter with picnic tables.
- Masks are required.
- Social distancing will be observed.
- Tuesday Club cookies and individual water/juice will be available.

Please come and celebrate our wonderful friendship!



The first in-person gathering after 16 long months

June 8, 2021



Tuesday Club members who were able to attend the vent



Event attendees who contributed to Memories of the Pandemic

Photos by Christine Spangler

The Language of a Pandemic

