

Royce and Amy
9758 Tellison Way
Westminster, CO
80021



Christmas has quietly come and gone for another year. We hope your celebration was as happy as it could be! We know many are anticipating 2020 coming to an end as quickly as possible (it can't get here fast enough). Many in the education field feel that it is day 2,050 of March! It figures that there was an extra day in this, of all years. Our friend, Joan, was born on that extra day and she turned "16" this year and decided to retire; we hope she makes it to 25 :-). We both had monumental birthdays in 2020, as well, which puts our combined ages at 100! Maybe that makes us sound old, so we are actually only half of 100. Maybe someday we will get to celebrate in style!

I managed to stay in graduate school this year despite some challenges. The biggest one being the ability to learn whatever is presented. I seem to be a bit more discerning in what knowledge I think is useful and what is not. The analogy of a sponge is often used in children's learning. Adult learning is more like a tray coated in Teflon with a small vessel in the center. Some of the knowledge collects in the vessel, but most of it slides right by and disappears off the end, like something a 'flat earther' might describe. But I will keep going! Maybe someday I will earn that degree...

We were making plans for the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration in March when everything came to a screaming halt due to COVID-19, aka 'The Covid'. For some reason, starting the day with a pint of Guinness is not as appealing when it's in the kitchen watching the neighbors walk their dogs. That doesn't mean it didn't happen. By the end of the summer that attitude completely changed, as we spent quite a bit of time on the driveway and front yard with adult beverages visiting with the neighbors (and their dogs). It turns out this was a good year for many people to get a dog. We were not one of them as we still have our cat, Kami, who is somewhere between 14 and 19 and seems likely to live to 25. She is going deaf so when she meows, which is often, everyone can hear her, even if she can't hear herself!

In March, Amy's school transitioned to remote learning, which stopped her LONG commute to Ft. Lupton (YAY!). She and her teammates scrambled to assemble an online classroom when most of their students did not have access to technology. They did their best to keep the students learning and growing, which was a challenge. "Luckily", our Spring Break vacation plans to California were cancelled so we could both spend time on school instead. That's just one of the many forgettable memories from this past year.

In the spring and summer there were several new additions to our family. Our niece, Morgan, and her husband, Tyler, had a daughter, Brynlee. Our nephew and his wife, Dakota and Lauryn, had a son, Hayden. Cousin and wife, Mark and Erin, had a daughter, Lucy, along with 2 co-workers, as well. Because of 'The Covid' we have had to settle for pictures. Hopefully, we can enjoy their presence in the coming year.

We had to cancel another one of those pesky vacations at the end of the school year. We waited as long as possible, but the destination resorts were still closed and a visitor quarantine was imposed. So, unfortunately, we didn't make it to Hawaii this year to celebrate our Anniversary, or whatever reason we told to get some free swag. The live webcam from Kaanapali Beach is an inexpensive, but not particularly satisfying, alternative.

Living vicariously through webcams/youtube has been a frequent activity in this crazy year for me. There's the bald eagle cam, the elephant seal cam, the South African safari cam, the Aurora Borealis cam, the space station cam, ... This brings up the variant to Covid we've experienced recently. The Dormant Covid, D-COVID. This is the variant that causes inactivity and results in corresponding weight gain - one of the symptoms being the disappearance of your feet when standing upright. Much of this stems from the adoption of the delivery of everything to one's home.

My step-dad, Carl, took a tumble around Memorial Day. While he was in the garage he fell off a stool and severely injured his left leg. He was able to have surgery relatively quickly, but the recovery has been long. We spent several weekends in Wyoming this summer rearranging things around the house. Initially, he used a walker but couldn't put any weight on his leg, so a better description would be a 'hopper'. Hopping around the house was quite a chore. I'm sure it made the bathroom seem like it was always over the horizon somewhere. He has recovered and is now able to walk (and hop) on his own.

We did take one plane trip this summer to Minneapolis. Unfortunately, it was for the funeral of Uncle Everett (my godfather). We were blessed to have him as a part of our lives and thankful it was possible to have a church funeral for him. The weather was very cooperative so we were able to gather with family outdoors and celebrate his life. Amy's Aunt Mary passed away, as well - the last of Terry's sisters. She was an amazing lady and is greatly missed by those who knew her. A former co-worker, Jeff, also passed away this summer from cancer. Jeff and his wife, Danielle, used to host an amazing Halloween party. One such party in 1999 marked the start of Amy and I dating, the beginning of it all. Jeff was near our age and this was one of the things that made us feel half of 100 (or older) this year. He was a great person and is missed by all.

As the year went on, we started to hear of more acquaintances contracting Covid. Our friends, Darren and Christy from our couples group, informed us that Darren's dad caught it and passed away in a relatively short time period. He lived in a small town in Iowa and had been staying home, so it was very unexpected and sad news. Our friends, Marti and Wayne, also contracted it and both have recovered.

As the summer of staycations rolled on - we re-discovered the 2 wheeled contraptions hanging in our garage. I pulled mine down and hopped on it to test it out. I coasted smoothly down the driveway, which was a good sign. As I approached the street, I pulled the rear brake and got no response, which was not a good sign. Then I pulled the front brake and also got no response, which is a REALLY bad sign. Luckily, we live on a quiet street and I came to no harm as I coasted out into the middle of the street with an extremely tight grip on the handlebars and a deer-in-the-headlights expression on my face. After some repairs, we were able to enjoy biking around the area. We are grateful to have so many places to ride within the neighborhood. And, in case you were wondering, the brakes held up all summer.

I was also able to enjoy golf this summer. Golf, like most things, was a little different. Due to the restrictions on many other activities, golf became a much more popular activity. The typical 9-holes after work was a struggle to finish by sundown due to all the newly minted enthusiasts looking for something to occupy their afternoons. On the upside, I have found that playing fewer holes results in a better sounding score. That's my unsolicited advice if you want to better **your** golf game.

While I was enjoying my summer - Amy had other things to do - like finding gainful employment. She started looking for a new job in March, as the drive to Ft. Lupton was too much for her (in case you do not know - she HATES driving. Guess that is why I am always the chauffeur...) She did not have much luck until the end of the summer because so much was up in the air. In early August, right before school began, she found the world's most perfect job in Kindergarten at Hackberry Hill Elementary in Arvada. I think it's called Huckleberry Hill - doesn't that sound better and easier to remember? Anyhow, it is literally on the corner where she conducts most of her commerce (the bank, the grocery store, the teacher store, Target). The school is actually within biking distance, but she has found driving to be more convenient to complete her role as a consumer getting our economy back up and running. In-person school lasted for a few months before being forced to remote learning due to a spike in 'The Covid'. She is hopeful to go back in person in mid-January. She believes this job was meant to be and she LOVES everything about it - the administration, her colleagues, her kids, the families, and the commute - 8 minutes on a bad day! She did recently find out that since she was a temporary hire (which she knew) she will have to reapply if there is a vacancy for 2021-2022 (which she did not know). She is so hopeful that she will get to finish out her teaching years in such a wonderful environment!

I'm still working at Seagate. While most of my team works remotely, I tried it for about a week and, let's just say, it's not for me. I've been going to the office most days because I am ESSENTIAL (according to others - like my boss)! Thankfully, the cafeteria re-opened, so I'm spared the chore of making my own lunch (much to Amy's chagrin). Supposedly, there are about 200 of us at the office - but I don't know where they are hiding. I've thought about pulling the fire alarm to find out. I rethought that as it is a big enough hassle just getting in the building with all the restrictions and protocols that I wouldn't want to make everyone go through re-entry.

Amy's mom, Rose, caught 'The Covid' and was in the hospital in early December. She was there for about a week, but is back home now with oxygen to help her breathing. We speak with her often and keep her in our prayers. She seems to be recovering and we hope any long term effects will be minimal. We know that is not the case for all who are recovering and pray for them, as well. Speaking of prayers, we are praying for all who have been adversely affected during this year with lost loved ones, lost jobs, and any other suffering that is occurring. We are also praying for cousin Mark and his family who have experienced some difficulties in 2020. We hope the vaccine will help some things return to normal including employment, sporting events, plays, dining out, church, travel, and most of all, spending time with family and friends.

Here is to the greatest year EVER in 2021 and many blessings to you and yours. Thank you to everyone who was essential this year in helping us all weather this particular storm. We have learned many lessons this year as a nation and world. One lesson for sure is that we're now arguably adept at Google Meet/Zoom. If you want to have a virtual visit with us, just let us know; we'd love to chat with you. We miss seeing everyone and can't wait until there is no such thing as VIRTUAL game night!

All the best ~ **Amy & Royce** Our contact info: rmuchmor23@yahoo.com - 303-880-7938 moran.amy70@gmail.com - 303-908-8082