

Glade Community Historical Society, Inc.

One pandemic per lifetime is more than enough and most of us will be happy to say goodbye to 2020. Since March, we have cocooned or isolated, dealt with loneliness and powerlessness as we created smaller, more restrictive patterns of living. We have worn masks for the safety of others, as well as for ourselves, and washed our hands till chapped. We commend our essential workers and appreciate their daily efforts to keep us safe. We can help them by wearing our masks and avoiding social gatherings.

Contact with family and friends has decreased while home delivery and online services increased. The virus restricted our choices. Air travel, museums, shows, movies, restaurants stopped or were restricted. We are fortunate if we had food, clothing and shelter and did not grieve the loss of a loved one during these past months. We observed inequality and injustice as people experienced job and economic losses. We lost important public figures, role models and relatives to covid. We had a Presidential election with increased mail-in voting. Much chaos occurred in 2020 but, mostly, our perspective view was from our sofas and guided by the media of our choice.

We discovered or revisited ways to entertain and comfort ourselves. Our fears fluctuated through the year and monotony took on a whole new meaning. We established or enlarged a virtual world of email, instagram, facebook, Zoom, snap chat and Tik-Tok. Probably we read more books, watched more television, comforted ourselves with food and stopped looking in mirrors. Several television series revealed our ages and stages of interest. Often old crooks seemed less scary than modern crooks and good modern characters were hard to find which contradicts the real world of more good people than bad. The Queen's Gambit brought a new interest in chess to the forefront and YouTube continued to teach us.

We are tired and thousands of our citizens have died. But, cases continue to rise and more holidays and winter months are still ahead before mass vaccine distribution. We must continue to remain alert and be protective of ourselves and others. Let us

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celebrate that we live in a democracy. Let us celebrate our survival and our health. Let us celebrate our virtual connections and take time to reflect on our lives as we establish priorities and goals for 2021. Let us develop renewed interest in creative endeavors. Let us appreciate the beauty of nature in our environments and parks. Let us increase our gratitude for all the opportunities and experience that we previously took for granted. Let us continue to reach out to friends and family members and spend more time with our children and grandchildren as this pandemic is especially difficult for them. This is the season to celebrate our connections and when it is safe, let us meet together again.