

December 2020

Greetings from Redlands, California:



2020 was a landmark year in so many ways. For the Javor family, it was the year we excelled in the Olympic event of canceling vacations. As the world was swept by the pandemic, so went our travel plans to the east coast, Hawaii, and the southwestern US. While disappointed, we were pleased that we would not be contributing to the global spread. When things had started to calm down in the summer months, we ventured into the new (for us) and magnificent realm of state and national parks. We drove up to the far reaches of northern California and spent several days relishing the hushed grandeur of Redwoods National and State Parks. Later in the summer we spent two wonderful weeks in Yellowstone National Park and Glacier National Park. We were grateful for the chance to visit all these outdoor locales, enjoying the natural wonders they hold and learning some of the history of national parks in the process.

Here are some things we have learned in 2020:

- Whoever said “the days are long but the years are short” did not know about 2020.
- Of all the things I learned in grade school, trying to avoid cooties was the last one I expected to use later in life.
- Steps to properly prepare for your Zoom meeting: 1) duct-tape your cat to the wall.
- Most days find me looking out the window to see which chapter of Revelation we’re in today.
- I’m not going to be caught out again by lockdown; I’m moving in with my hairdresser.
- Dear Plexiglass... thank you for protecting me from the cashier that just touched everything I’m taking home.
- Halloween this year was totally unnecessary: I’ve been eating candy and wearing a mask for seven months.
- I’m not turning my clock back in November because the last thing I need in 2020 is an extra hour of it.
- A friendly reminder: Wearing a mask while alone in a car is only helpful if you stole the car.
- I’ll be home for Christmas; been here all year anyway.

When California shut down in March, it meant distance learning for the kids (Rachel, grade 5 and Nathan, grade 1) at Mesa Grande Academy. We were blessed beyond measure with the world’s greatest teachers as they finished out a trying year. In the meantime, both Ed and Leonard transitioned to working from home, while Gina continued working at employee health two days a week. We learned new skills like how to wipe down your groceries in 5 minutes or less, making your own Clorox wipes when you can’t find them in stores, and hand-washing 201. Sewing proficiency became a coveted talent as we struggled to find the balance between sturdy and comfortable ear loops, all the while getting creative locating stretchy material when there was no elastic anywhere. We will never forget The Great Toilet Paper Rush of 2020. Hand sanitizer became a new accessory: one in the purse, one in the car, one in the entryway. To commemorate our lost trips, Gina decided to embark on culinary travel, allowing the family to sample various dishes from around the world. This plan backfired when the pounds crept up. The beginning of a new school year meant starting 6th and 2nd grade at a NEW SCHOOL: the kids transitioned to Loma Linda Academy, a decision made chiefly (and ironically) to take advantage of the now largely-nonexistent music programs. We pray for the day when we can all create music again in a congregate setting; in the meantime, we are grateful for music teachers who make it work.

In November we were present for the doubly blessed event of our nephew Andrew’s baptism and the baby dedication of our niece, Sydney, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We celebrated with an international Thanksgiving meal and a visit to Rio Grande Valley State Park. We are grateful for Christmas and all it represents. Here’s hoping for a better 2021!

Love,
Ed, Gina, Rachel, and Nathan Javor

