

# 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'm 17 years old and a senior in high school. I'm entering a 4 year college next year and currently live with my mom, dad, brother, and cat. I'm a girl.

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

I wake up a lot later than I used to, around 11am on average. Most of my work for school is less stressful because rather than having an hour and a half chunk of time during the day when I have to learn the material and do my work, I can take it easy and do it whenever I am ready. I spend a lot more time outside, playing games like basketball and softball with my mom. Oddly, I've also been talking to my friends a lot more. Before the pandemic, I was absorbed in my schoolwork and my job, not really making time for friends, but now I facetime my friends every day. I've been finding recipes online and cooking them, which can be a challenge because we don't have many spices or certain ingredients in our house and obviously can't run out to the store whenever we need something, but I've been making it work (even though I'm not that great of a chef)!

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

I go out on walks a few nights a week and I always wear a mask, which makes it a little hard to breathe but I know it is worth it when I see someone else out and about. Crossing the street when I see someone is still a strange feeling.

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

Both of my grandparents, who are in their 80s, are in the hospital with COVID-19. Before the pandemic, I visited them every week. After I stopped visiting in early March as a precaution, I would facetime them every day. Now that they are in the hospital and tired out I'm not able to talk to them as much. It's really scary to have someone you love so much in such pain and not even be able to visit them and tell them how much you love them.

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

Other than taking long walks, I've been watching a lot of movies and TV shows. Since the weather is getting nicer lately I'm spending more time in my backyard and just relaxing with my family. Playing chess is a new hobby of mine, although I'm not very good at it. I'm hoping to learn to embroider as well.

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

Through the "Adopt a Senior CT", I matched with an 'adoptive' family who have sent me a card and some wonderful gifts that make me feel special and cheer me up after missing so many of the senior year experiences. I'm also so grateful that we were able to have powderpuff, one very important senior year event we didn't have to miss.

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

I miss going to Colony Diner with my friends!!

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

Luckily, we have so much technology to help us stay connected during social distancing. I'm on facetime calls with a couple of friends every day and zoom calls with a bigger group once a week. Google Meets for classes are also a fun way to see/hear my teachers again.

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

If things go back to normal and my grandparents are okay, I'll visit them first. I'm so excited to see them and I really hope that they make it through this because I love them so much.

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

For Easter, my immediate family made the amount of food we would have normally served our larger, extended family and had plenty of leftovers! We spoke to some family members over the phone but mostly spent time with each other.

**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?**

N/A

**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 collaboratory!!! I wish I could use it now while studying for AP exams, using the cool board hooked up to a computer is always the best way to review with friends.