

Dear Families,

Whether biological, spiritual, chosen, workplace, metaphoric or otherwise, our Metaphoric Family prays your family has a delightful, enlightening, and transformative year end and holiday season grounded in love.

Like those the world over, 2020 has been a year where so much and so little has happened at the same time -- in the same way that this sentence itself says so much and so little. It was an opportunity to connect with loved ones in new ways, make new connections with those around us, and for everyone under 40 to teach someone over 40 how to operate a Zoom.

For our family, 2020 has been a year where some of those who have been distant in the past have showed up, and we're grateful and recognize that.

Cousin **Jen** spoke with several of us -- and a few us of several times throughout the year. She reliably showed up to sing happy birthday to MillerMOAD (Pat). We're astonished. She really figured out how to post memes and GIFs on Facebook this year, which we're all trying to support as a much healthier replacement addiction.



Therapist: so when do you think your anxiety started?

Me: .....



Aunt **Amy** successfully kept another human being alive for the duration of 2020, and we're so impressed. While online fitness classes have been somewhat disappointing for her, she's been making up for it by aggressively walking in all forms of weather -- additional human in tow! She's

been largely successful at social distancing restrictions, and less successful but making progress on enforcing restrictions on how many toys are allowed into her home.

**Ari**, who is one of Steph's children, has been showing up for their community with care and vision in 2020: donating to many causes, sharing through mutual aid, teaching online library skills, and even giving out wine. There's still at least one jumpy bunny in their life, and Ari made a cameo appearance at a Richard Simmons Sweat in to the Oldies workout.

Neighbor **Ceilidh** has taken to Twitter this year -- thinking no one would notice but we did. When not stanning Stacy Abrams and fighting for racial justice, her curation of cute animal posts continues to be where she shines and aligns.



**Brant** has been part of the family for awhile, but we only remembered this a few weeks ago. Please stay tuned until next year.

**MillerMOAD**, the half of the shared personality presented by Pat, continues to be more worldly than everyone else and barely made it back to the United States on the last flight out before Morocco closed down for the first wave of COVID. She made up for some of the lack of travel ability by taking up hiking and kayaking -- but mostly her time at home corresponded with a rise in the attentiveness that Mr. Darcy the Dachshund needed to keep him out of trouble. Also,

amongst other practical posts this year, <https://howmuchtoiletpaper.com/>.

Family Therapist **Jessica** is still trying to maintain a friendly but healthy professional relationship with the Metaphoric Family.

Aunt/Family Cat **Marina** is now a PhD (though that didn't stop the academic work drama), has taken up gardening, and, in addition to already being known to go into periods of being a cat herself, is also becoming more of a cat lady this year while at home. We all still dearly miss hedgehog Molly, especially as quarantine has led to the launch of online hit show, American Hedgehog Warrior.



Daughter **Dawn** is, to the best of our knowledge, still alive.

Daughter **Lizz** is, to the best of our knowledge, still stanning Ke\$ha but seemingly has shifted to RBG and even President-Elect Biden, after discovering a flip phone picture from a decade ago that she has with him. She also graduated law school!

Daughter **Melanie** continued to pursue her interest in Kafka: *"You do not need to leave your room. Remain sitting at your table and listen. Do not even listen, simply wait, be quiet, still and solitary. The world will freely offer itself to you to be unmasked, it has no choice, it will roll in ecstasy at your feet."*

Sibling/Daughter/Mother **Ryan** moved from Papua New Guinea to Switzerland via Pennsylvania and an undisclosed location in someone's basement in Boston. Ryan also tried to figure out the Middle Way in politics, and we wish him the best of luck in that perilous endeavor. Ryan continued to poke on Facebook with theological opinions while exploring the progression of fanfic to slashfic by proxy.

Brother **Rachel** did not continue singing lessons after a one-time performance of Death Cab for Cutie in 2019. But did move houses, chase waterfalls, and became a gardening yoga witch.

**When  
you buy  
your 1st  
House plant**



**When  
you buy  
your  
237th  
House plant**



Sibling/Mother **Steph** also chased waterfalls while mediating the politics of everything in rather adept ways on Facebook. Meanwhile, on Twitter, Steph found friendship in the burgeoning corners of Weird Christian Twitter that embraced virtual life and started online prayer groups.

Daughter **Vivian** is in the process of making crafts, learning to code, and resisting the social pressures to buy an air fryer. She also celebrated 7 years as Editor-in-Chief of Good Baskings, which is notable in a year when we could all expose ourselves to some warmth and derive satisfaction from things.

Neighbor **Amanda** was a frontline healthcare hero this year. We're grateful for all the lives she's helped and those she's cared for as a nurse. She is a hustler. Which is why she had to reassure us that she was ok after she willingly had at least several weekends off this year.



Neighbor **Carol** ordered a new fridge back in March and because of the corona virus is still waiting on it. No one else was aware of this fridge backlog. But, she's keeping healthy going up and down the stairs to her mini-fridge in between commercial breaks of her favorite TV pastors.

Neighbor **Irina** has had less guests this year, and thus has had less people to lovingly, persistently offer all of her food and drink in her home.

**BorgerMOAD**, the other half of the personality that is the ma/pa/they-triarch of the Metaphoric

Family, has stepped up his podcast appearances as a hopeful trial run for what we all have been encouraging him to do, which is start his own podcast. While helping so many with book recommendations, Byron's business also helped others by giving away this thing which is apparently called a fax machine:

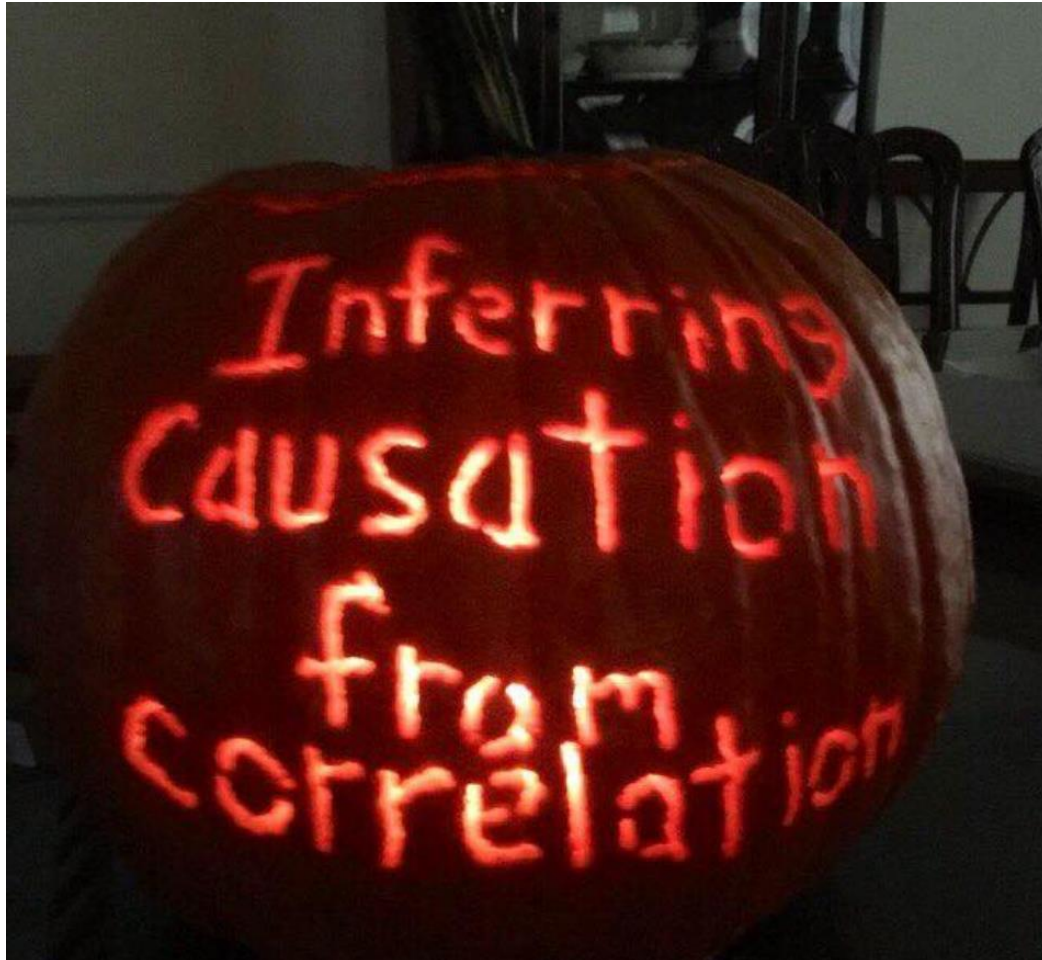


Neighbor **Sarah** remains a silent and supportive force for the Metaphoric Family. And, on social media, just silent.

Son **Shree**'s relationship with the family has almost exclusively always been at a distance, and so it's no surprise that his thoughtfulness in the year of non-physical connection was a comfort to all of us. Shree is also concerned that President-Elect Biden does not support a rigorous Green New Deal.

Sister **Laurel** hasn't found a situation that couldn't be turned into an art experiment using her friends, and 2020 has been no different. Most recently, Laurel hosted a multi-collaborative pirate themed virtual birthday party. She also participated in the ongoing Emotional Support Canadian

program for stressed Americans leading up to the November election. And, as a Pacific Coaster, was in addition to her delightful role as Emotional Support Sibling for drunk East Coast family members that want to talk late at night when everyone else is sleeping.

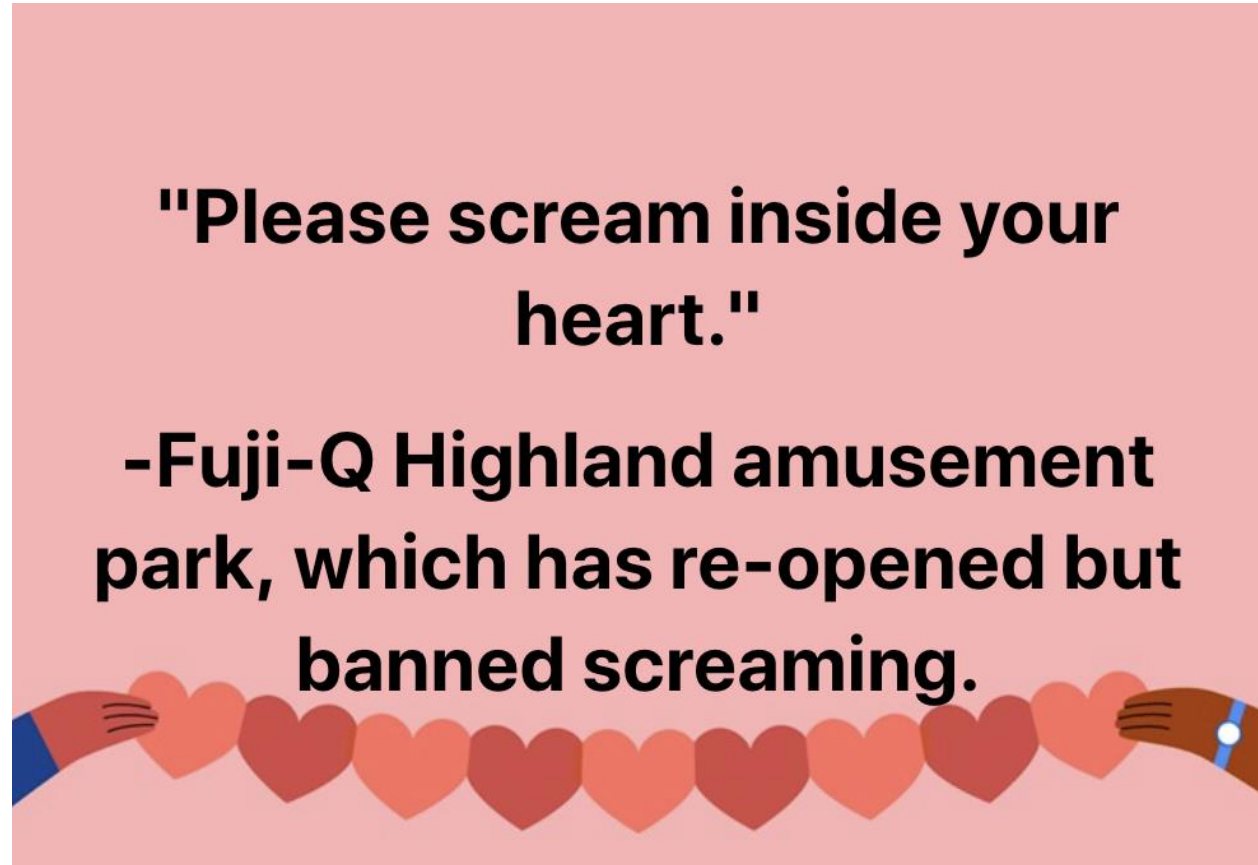


Neighbor **Megan** couldn't have a ceremony celebrating the love with her partner so instead they decided to buy a house. And, at least one of the houseplants shared a name with a member of the Democratic presidential ticket. Most other plants were gracious losers.

Daughter **Jess** "has been very busy with art and mommying" not unlike her Aunt Laurel and Aunt Amy.

Uncle **Mike**, having settled into Miami in 2019 where the sunshine can adequately supplement and the ocean counterbalance the varying tendencies of both working for a corporation and feeling like the Fullness of Time is lurking right in front of us, had a good year. They went to Brazil for Carnival and listened to samba music on repeat for the rest of the year. They

perhaps had one of the more stable experiences of 2020 and thus was able to write this Christmas letter as to not break the very serious vow that we wouldn't flake out on this when we signed up, which is notable because Mike was definitely the least sober at the time some of the Family agreed to this letter writing exchange this year.



We will not be explaining any further the relationality of all the Metaphoric Family Members in 2020's Christmas letter, and instead ask you to reflect upon what it means to be in different family roles, and how we may care and relate to various members of our family and communities in that way.

Peace, justice, adventure, and excitement for 2021,

Our Metaphoric Family