Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! “What an unimaginably eventful year!”… is to say the least. Last year at this time when I was preparing to go into 2020 by relooking at old ideas and setting new goals, I had no idea what was in store for me. It started off slow but then life was instantly interrupted and shifted lanes. And as I maneuvered my way through this past year things just got progressively different…. Who knew that 2020 would bless me with the most incredible year ever.

I lost my job back in March, which was perfect timing because I had once wished I could spend more time with the family. Just as I was filing out all my paperwork for unemployment, our local school district adopted an innovated new learning system via virtual reality. E=Learning is what they call it. Both Melody and Andy go to school, by not going to school. =) Well, they take their classes online… but what that means really is less travel time to school and work and MORE family time at home! I just CAN’T get enough!!

Melody is 15 and looking forward to drivers ed. She has been spending a lot of time this year dancing, which has boosted up her confidence. I always knew she would become the shining star she desired to be. She has published over 500, 37 second dance videos online. Her talents are influencing hundreds of people. She also got a part in a new musical, Ratatouille. We couldn’t be prouder of our little girl. She has decided that she’s not going to college though, as she wants to see where her dance takes her.

Andy is 12 and smarter than everyone in the whole town combined. He spends much of his time challenging his mind. He still reads a lot and loves his math. During the month of August, he spent two whole weeks throwing a deck of playing cards in the air and calculating the different variations the cards will land. I asked him why he isn’t reading more books, and he said that he finished the library back in July. All summer long he kept looking for fun new things to do to challenge him.. he was so silly about it too. “I’ll jump off a cliff if I don’t find something to do” he always said. These kids are SO funny.

Speaking of July, Dan and I celebrated 25 years together. Money has been tight, but Dan thought it would be awesome to surprise me with fireworks for our anniversary. Luckily, the government sent us surprise check about that time, and he couldn’t think of any better way to spend it that with a FANTASTIC display of fireworks. What a spectacular sight; he’s such a romantic. It felt like the end of the night at Disney all over again. Even our neighbors thought so.

As for me, I have been finding creative ways to save money and keep meals entertaining. I seem to be cooking a lot more these days. But every day I wake up happy to have my family with me 24 hours a day. I wish all of you a Happy, Healthy, and Safe Christmas, and may the blessings of 2020 continue on in 2021.

Love,

Mary Ann