

# 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?**

63 year old woman, chronically-ill, disabled, 6th generation CT resident, left HOMELESS after Ancestral Family Home was stolen through "Inheritance Hijacking." I have "lived" in my 34 year old Toyota truck for 6 1/2 years.

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

Trying to survive has become harder as there is no longer any place to shower (YMCA is closed/showers closed per Governor's Order.) There are no libraries open to go to escape the harsh elements, i.e, rain, snow, extreme heat, burning sun, brutal winds, etc.

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

Finding and affording my special medical diet foods has been very difficult - and I have had to sacrifice much in order to just survive.

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

Staying clean without running water or access to shower facilities; staying alive and not dying of heatstroke without any shelter whatsoever; buying food; getting medical attention (it took 2 months to get a dentist to fix my broken/infected back tooth.) I still cannot find a primary care doctor to conduct telemedicine appointments.

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

Trying to survive is three full-time jobs while HOMELESS.

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

The air got real clean for quite some time during lockdown. Being HOMELESS, I enjoyed the spring bloom (beautiful flowers, bushes, trees, etc.) - all by myself in complete quiet and peace.

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

Stop and Shop deli chair - Starbuck's indoor air conditioning and comfortable chair - shopping at Goodwill.

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

I have not had a single person to talk to. No social interaction at all. Being HOMELESS - everyone used to treat me like a ghost - but during the pandemic, I am treated like "Typhoid Mary."

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

There will be "no normal." This pandemic is not going away, and will only continue on forever - just like AIDS/HIV.

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

What are holidays??? What are family??? What is a celebration??

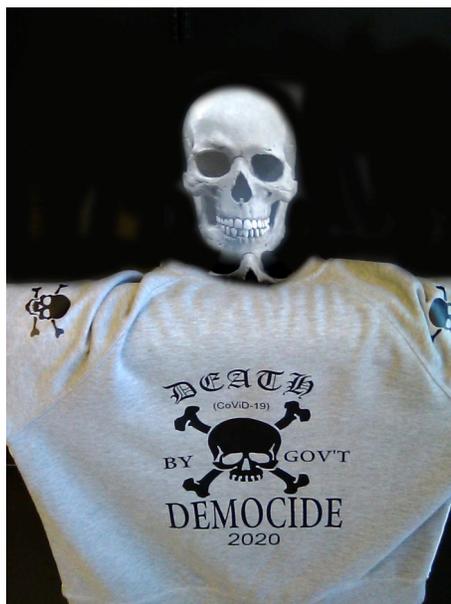
**How will you be celebrating Wallingford's 350<sup>th</sup> Jubilee? If you were here for the 325th Jubilee, do you have any memories you would like to share?**

Probably sleep in my truck in Walmart parking lot - as usual. (6 1/2+ years now.)

**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?**

Sit in my favorite chair (which does not hurt my broken back), open the window for fresh air, and jump online to read the news. Then, a visit to the Collaboratory to sew.....

**Photo:**



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