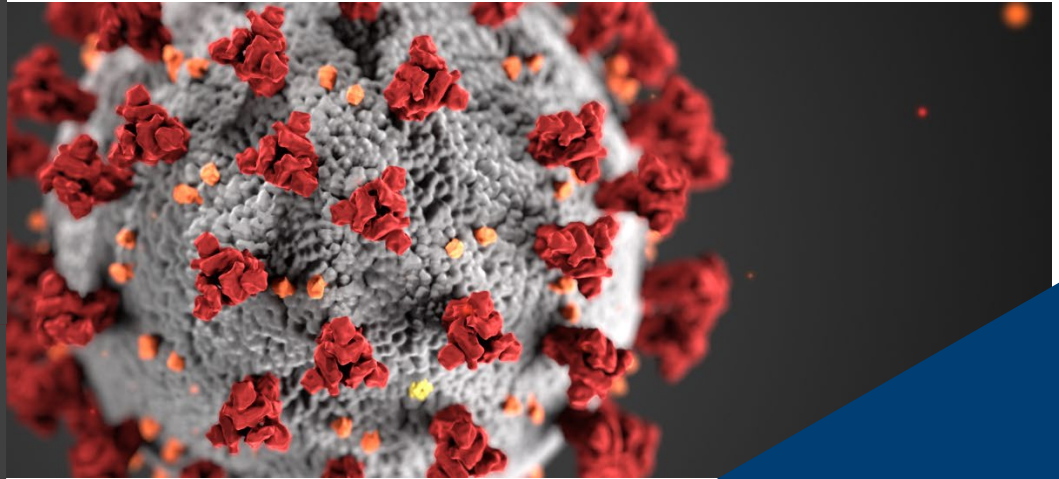


IN THE  
TIME  
OF  
COVID19



WELCOME

This is CHOIR's collective effort for expressing and documenting our extraordinary, lived experiences in the time of COVID-19.

#COVIDCREATIVITY  
@VA\_CHOIR on Twitter

Editorial Team: Gemmae Fix, Keith McInnes, Rani Elwy  
Designer: Elizabeth Maguire

PPE



COVID mask crafting.

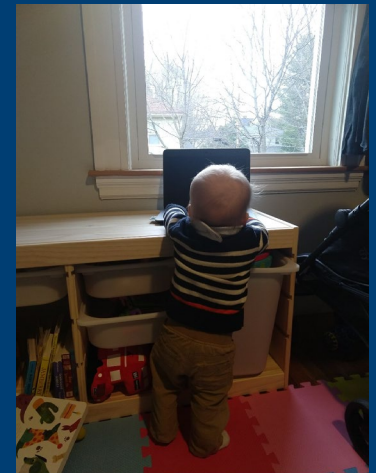
MEG MCCULLOUGH

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

My family is far-flung (MA and FL), so we had a great family game night last weekend playing Yahtzee across 3 households. We used FaceTime with the people in a group chat list. Although it took some time for FaceTime to connect, once we connected, we played for 2+ hours. Our family loves to play card, dice and board games when we are together, but Yahtzee works particularly well virtually. Each household needs Yahtzee scoring sheets for each person and 5 dice. I really appreciated this way to enjoy time with my brother's family, my parents, and my own family. We intend to keep doing this post-COVID to stay connected between visits. If anyone needs a score sheet, Google 'Yahtzee score sheet free printable'. You might be able to find dice in the games in your house.

KAREN QUIGLEY

ALL HANDS ON DECK



CAROLYN  
PURINGTON

TWO PLUS TWO

I read 2 articles in the paper about Covid19.

Panic.

Then I read 2 poems.

It helped, but it wasn't an equation where 2 plus minus-2 is zero.

It was just lower case panic.

KEITH MCINNES

## THE NEIGHBORHOOD

On a typical March day in my neighborhood couples and dogwalkers stroll down the street, the occasional runner jogs by and children play in their yards. Lately this has shifted. Dogs are still walked and runners still run; but now, every afternoon, groupings of people are out walking together. You look closer and realize it's families—parents, children (including teenagers), and sometimes pets walking, talking and, yes, even laughing. The groups say hello or smile knowingly at each other, all at a distance. I met a woman and her child who have lived down the street from me for years for the first time. We're all likely feeling worried, confused, and uncertain as we as we grapple with a constant influx of information about COVID-19 and an ever-shifting reality. These group walks have the practical purpose of getting parents and kids out of the house after hours of home-schooling. For me they exemplify how we still find ways to "be" in the world and connect with our fellow humans, even during a time where we must separate and keep our distance from each other. As I look out my window at the passers-by, it inspires the feeling, even if only temporarily, that we're in this together. This is particularly meaningful when stores are selling-out of staples like bread, eggs and paper products; and medical supplies are increasingly in short supply.

A few weeks ago, before this all started, I was chatting with my next-door neighbor about the current state of the world and what "might" be. He smiled and said, "You know, if it turns out we're all home, we should have a block party, with each couple or family staying in their own yard of course!" We both laughed, thinking this was a marvelous idea. I imagine it now—all of us dwellers out in our yards on a sunny day. Coolers are out, you can smell food cooking on the grill, and good-old classic rock music is floating through the air. We wave at each other from afar, celebrating being out and being together and knowing we're not alone.

**KELLY DVORIN**



**JENN CONTI**

## STRANGE ENCOUNTER

I don't know Beer  
I don't know Vodka  
I do know Corona is a beer  
Just met Virus, a Vodka

One said the two met in SOAP bar  
Another added they got in a fight  
The problem is they got stuck together  
And are still waiting to be broken off

Who is brave enough to take this on?  
I am not, I am not!

But I understand fighting is no good  
And social distancing a protective factor  
Against bar fights and Coronavirus

The police came, reaching their waist  
They fired Purell to break the fight  
We raised clean hands  
Shouting "Lockdown"

And the fight broke,  
And PEACE returned  
In SOAP bar  
It's all over...  
VERY SOON!

**YÊLÉ ADJOGNON**

**#COVIDCREATIVITY**

## I CAN SPARE A SQUARE!



ANNA MARIA VALENTINE

## MAIZEY SETTLING INTO THE WFH ROUTINE



JACKIE PENDERGAST

## CRANBERRY FRUIT ROLLUPS

I have many kitchen gadgets laying around my house, purchased with good intentions but often relegated to the back of the pantry to collect dust. As COVID descended upon us, I took to cleaning out my freezer to make some extra room and came across the homemade cranberry sauce that I froze after Thanksgiving. I decided this was a perfect time to pull out my dusty dehydrator and make fruit roll ups for the first time, rather than tossing this tasty concoction! It was amazingly easy, and now I have a fun zingy snack to give me a mid-afternoon pick-me up!

### Ingredients

Left over frozen fruit, sauce, or even fresh fruit you need to use up  
Water, as needed

Prepare your mixture:

- Frozen sauce: Thaw
- Frozen fruit: Thaw, then blend in a food processor, blender, or with an immersion blender. Add water as needed to get to an apple-sauce like consistency
- Fresh fruit: blend in a food processor, blender, or with an immersion blender. Add water as needed to get to an apple-sauce like consistency

Cut parchment paper to slightly larger than dehydrator trays; line trays and fold over excess paper underneath the tray. Or use fruit leather sheets if you have them

Spread your fruit mixture evenly over the trays. A cake spreader works best, but a spatula will also work. Too thick and it will take forever to dry, too thin and it will crack or stick.

Dehydrate at 130F for at 6-9 hours. It took mine about 16 hours due to the amount of sugar in my mixture. Check it every few hours. They are done when you can easily peel up an edge.

Cool. Use a knife to help peel fruit off the tray.

Lay your dried fruit on another piece of parchment. Roll up like a jelly roll, then cut into equal portions. Store in an air-tight container.

My cranberry sauce recipe is available upon request!

## RENDI BOLTON