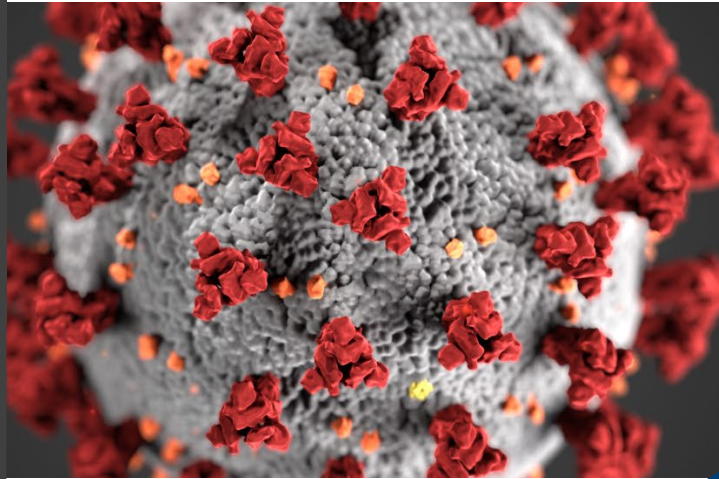


IN THE
TIME
OF
COVID-19



WELCOME

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

This is our last issue. Thank you to all the contributors for sending over 100 submissions, filling 23 issues! What we thought might be a brief experiment grew into a year-long adventure in which people kindly took time to share their lived experiences of the pandemic with all of us at CHOIR --- through wonderful photos, narratives, poems, drawings and more. As more and more of our co-workers, friends, and family members receive the vaccine and COVID-19 rates thankfully decline, we look forward to connecting in person and continuing to share our creativity in other ways.

Issues are archived:

https://www.choir.research.va.gov/research/Products_and_Publications/COVID.asp

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My home basement workout station!

SHAWN DUNLAP



Instead of hitting the ski resorts this year, my husband and I have been hiking up mountains and riding down instead. It makes for less runs, but a great workout!

LAURA KERNAN



Joni Mitchell sang
About seasons round and round
A year of COVID

The nightly news brings
COVID numbers and faces
The children should know

We stay home, we can
Others must leave their homes, it's
Not fair, risk is high

Our ecosystem
Rarely leaving the house, but
We adapted well

Three more sleep hours
Breakfast with the family
Lunch and dinner too

Remote learning and
Three children and two parents
Working together

Zoom: Five birthdays and
a basement Bar Mitzvah. We
Could see family

Headache, chills, fever
The second vaccine is done
Tunnel light of hope

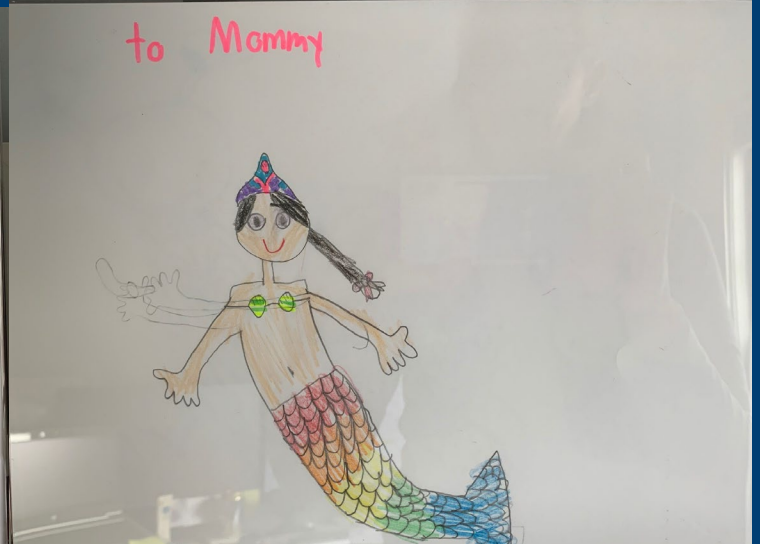
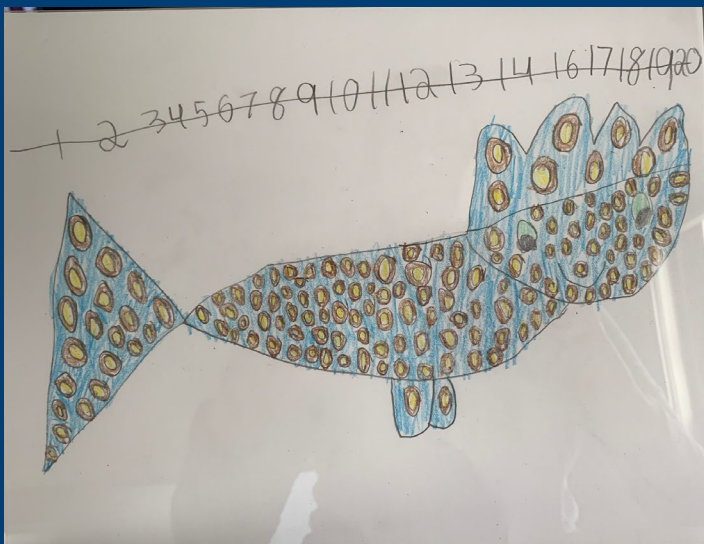
Baking banana
Bread. Eating together. Some
Habits we will keep

TERRI POGODA



By now, most of CHOIR is probably aware of my love of rodents and rodent-like pets (see, for example, past COVID Creativity newsletter entries with Hazelnut the Chinchilla, Lucy the bunny, and Matilda and Jean Luc the hedgehogs). A couple of weeks ago I added a trio of baby rats to the mix! Meet Theo, Lentil, and Mochi. These tiny creatures have given me SO much joy in such a short amount of time, and I can't imagine life without them. Fun fact: rats are incredibly loving and smart, and these little ones are generously putting up with me teaching them to do tricks.

JENN CONTI



My daughter will often draw me a picture that is not part of a school assignment. Sometimes she is inspired by a lesson at school but sometimes she will wake up in the morning and draw something she dreamed about. That is why she drew the blue dinosaur-ish looking fish. She had a dream and that creature was in it. The number line at the top is to show that it is 20 feet long. I usually have what she draws for me on display on the bookcase behind my desk and you can see her drawings when I am on Teams or Zoom! My daughter is 7 years old and in first grade. Her class has mostly been in person this year but there have also been a few weeks here and there of remote learning.

JILL RONCARATI