

THE CLARK CHRONICLE

“I think you’re on mute”



2020 was *something*, right?

So ... How Was *Your* 2020?

Dunno how *your* year has gone, but around here we’ve been hanging in there. We’ve missed connecting with friends and loved ones. We count ourselves lucky that this all happened after internet infrastructure has been built out, but videoconferencing can only go so far.

Today’s kids will be boring *their* grandkids with stories about COVID-19 fifty years from now. “We quarantined. We missed our friends. We missed proms and graduations and competitions and clubs. We gritted it out so quit your complaining kiddo.”

So ... How Will 2021 Be?

As soon as they allow working at the workplace again, we have to wonder how they’re going to handle those of us who’ve adapted our schedules to sitting in the backyard, catching up on binge watching, and curling up in the fetal position for a couple hours every day. This is going to be an adjustment.

Family Game Night Gets Out Of Hand

It started out innocently enough. “Let’s have a family game night,” we said. “It will be fun,” we said. And then the *Jumanji* magic kicked in. If only we had been playing a different game on game night we could have avoided all ... *this*. Sorry everyone.



In The Before Times



In February we spent a week in Hawaii. Had we known then what we know now — that normalcy was going to end in just a few weeks — we would have changed ... not a damn thing.



With our good friends the Eatons, we relaxed after a stressful (or so we thought, in our blissful naiveté) 2019 and rested up for an incomprehensibly bizarre 2020.



CDC Recommendations Et Cetera

We have been trying to be rigorous about following all the recommendations that CDC has provided to help with this pandemic. It's been tough keeping up with all the updated guidelines, but here's what we're working with now:

- sit your butt on the couch all day
- binge watch all of Netflix
- if you hate dealing with people you'll do all right
- stay away from positive people
- stock up on ammo
- keep your mouth full of vodka at all times
- no need to remember the *order* of the days of the week
- second breakfasts are now acceptable
- avoid using these emojis:



Sara & Gatsby

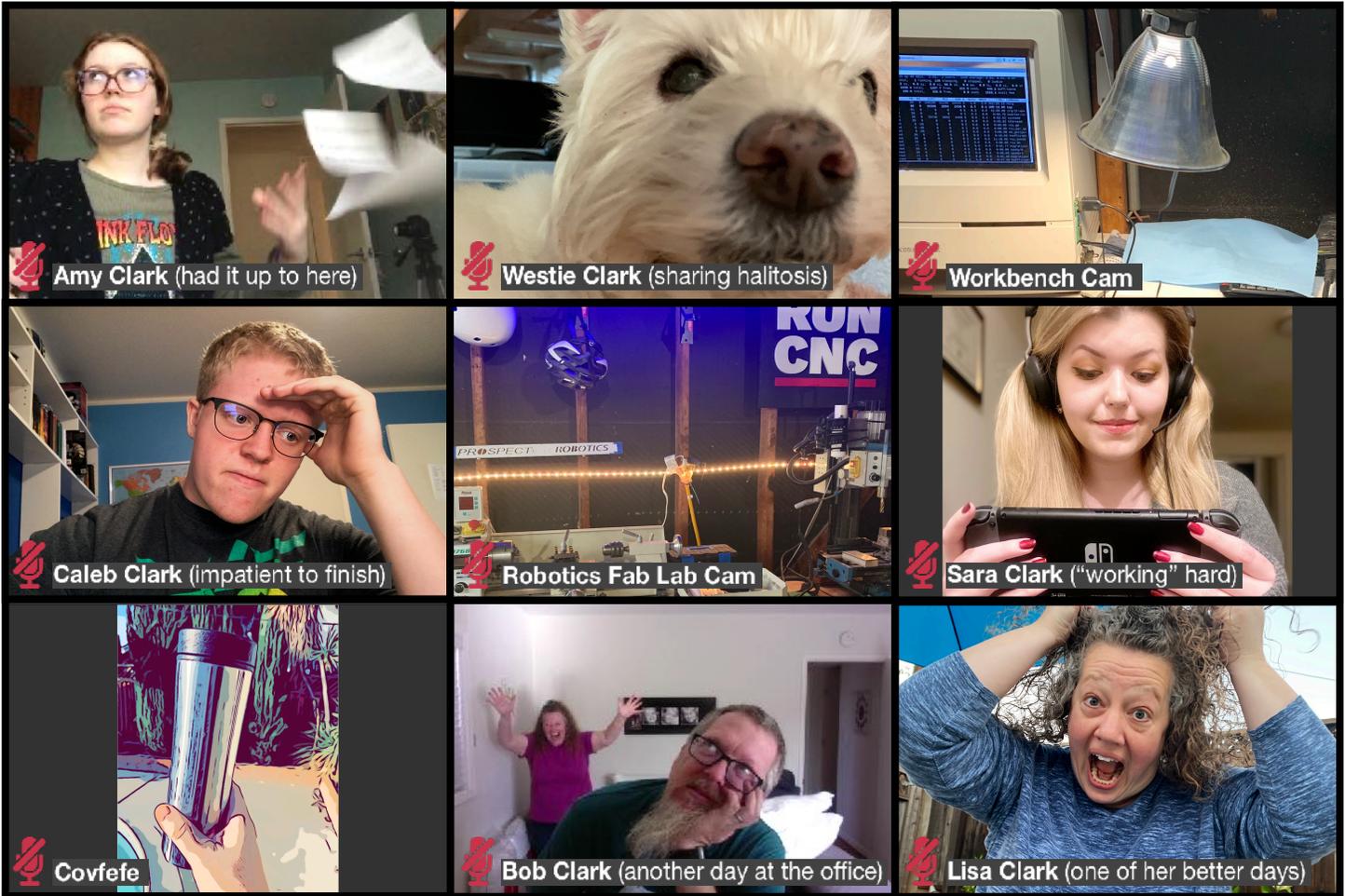


Sara's quarantine buddy Gatsby has kept a lookout during Sara's tenure working from home.

Queen Lisa & Lord Bob: Combining For 100

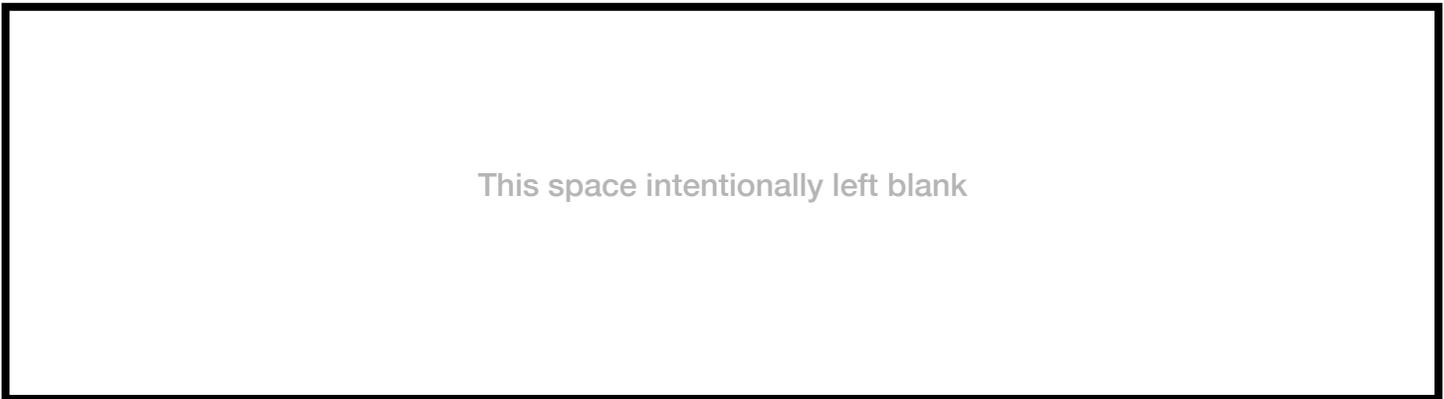


2020: the year we appreciated (and got oh so tired of) videoconferencing



School. Work. Family. Extracurriculars.
Zoom. Webex. Teams. Zoom. Meet. FaceTime. Zoom.
Mute. Unmute. You go. Sorry you go. No you. . . . Sorry, go ahead.
Eye-rubs, teeth-flosses, nose-picks, and naps. Flushes heard in the background. Cameras aimed up noses.

We're reserving the rest of page 3 to document all the *good* things that happened in 2020:



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2020 Vignettes

2020

introverts:
it's our time to shine

using a drone to
see how busy the
grocery store is

They're letting us work
from home today!

2020

it's 10:00 am; must
be time to put on my
daytime pajamas

commuting from home to
work (which is also home)

Learning Lessons

In 2020 some leaders said this virus looks bad, making this a time to care about others and work to mitigate this disease. Other leaders downplayed the severity and even the existence of a thing that's killed hundreds of thousands of our neighbors.

It'd be great if, when this is all said and done, we listen to the people who ended up being right and ignore the people who ended up being wrong.

Who am I kidding? That never happens.

What we have learned is that "belief in the germ theory of disease" turns out to be a political stance. So is understanding of basic topics like "what numbers are greater than other numbers" and more advanced topics like "exponential growth."

In 2021 we can do better. Let's.

2020

In 2021, each American
should get one "free pass"
to murder a TP or hand
sanitizer profiteer



2020's drink of the year:
the Quarantini

2020

we need more
slack emojis

2020

We are all in
this together.

2020

There's never been a better
time to show kindness.

2021 Wishes

Let's not sugarcoat it: this year's hurdles have been painful. But 2020 has been a lot easier for us than for many of those around us.

Our nuclear family hasn't lost jobs or health or life. We've been blessed. But too many of our loved ones haven't been granted these blessings.

But what 2020 has shown is that the vast majority of people around us are kind. *Showing kindness*. That's the residual truth of 2020 that will continue into 2021 and beyond.

Happy holidays. Be safe.
Show kindness.

2020