

# Javier y Renée 2020



January



January

February



February

March



April-May-June-July-August-September-October-November-December (the longest month of the year!)

## 2020 for Javier and Renée...An Unprecedented Year for All!

In **January** we **toasted the new year and decade** - hopeful and excited for things yet to come. Little did we know what was headed our way! We did a little **bike riding** during our vacation. Later we got in another visit with Mom/Abuela to **Lake Arrowhead**, where we also enjoyed time at the **Village** (and yes, for Jav, it's **never too cold for ice cream**). For the month's Family Connection with **Tashi** we **made Unicorn Chip Cookies** – and why not? At the end of the month **Renée celebrated her Birthday** – with sweet **recognition from friends and colleagues**. Marisol took us out for dinner at our **favorite vegan Vietnamese restaurant**.

After fighting off a cold early in the month of **February**, Renée recovered but had a pesky cough that lingered for weeks (sound familiar?). To be on the safe side, we decided to skip lunar New Year celebrations in China Town for my Year of the Rat (fitting, no?). Even though the virus had only officially arrived in the USA about a week prior, our public health sensibilities had us reconsider mixing with a few 100,000 people (some of whom might have possibly been traveling recently in China) was maybe a bad choice –**Renée attended her union's governing council** at the Sheraton Gateway near LAX, never anticipating she would actually miss this quarterly, (sometimes tedious) two-day in-person event! Mid-month, with our friend **Marisol** readying for a move to South Korea, we got in a last-minute run to the **Donut Man and Espresso Mi Cultura**. The next day Jav and I took **Tashi out for her 8<sup>th</sup> Bday** to eat at her favorite place (**Denny's**). Then we and caught a game of **miniature golf, played in the arcade**, and hung out at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. The next weekend with her family and friends we helped pull off a **surprise birthday party** (with a jumper and lots of guests) – it would turn out to be our last party for a long long time.

With our friend **Marisol recently arriving in South Korea**, Renée started monitoring and **relaying info/concerns as COVID-19 infections** grew there from single digits to hundreds in less than a week – including news of **that country's first reported COVID death**. Given her limited internet and experiencing some language barriers, we kept in touch as the situation became more dire, officials called for lock downs, and they began making public safety announcements from emergency vehicles driving around the neighborhoods. So, we ended up following outbreaks very closely as soon as infections outside of China were reported. We never expected we'd see worse tragedies here, even after a global pandemic was declared. At this time Renée fulfilled her jury duty obligation. (In retrospect hoping, for all those who she came in contact at the LA Co Superior Courthouse during the week, that her lingering dry cough was not "La Corona". However, in the summer Renée was selected for an antigen study looking at people who might have had undetected early infections - through the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases/e National Institutes of Health. Who knows?) On **Leap Day Javier voted for the first-time** using LA's new **early election Voting Centers** (the weekend before the Presidential Primary – at CSUN).

In early **March** we had our last days of "normal" with **Renée's joining a rally** supporting another union's on-campus contract negotiations with the CSU. Given the global patterns and anticipating shutdowns before they were implemented - we got in some emergency prep errands done in advance (including purchasing cookies – should have gotten extra TP!). Turns out **Pie Day** buy from Marie Calendars was one of our last hurrahs – for the next 10 months! The CSUN College of Health and Human Development, given its expertise in the area, **authorized Renée to work remotely** a week prior to the rest of campus - before City and eventual State shutdowns. With CSUN declaring an early Spring break, Javier has not returned since the second semester of his freshman year in Mechanical Engineering. Beginning in **mid-March he has attended all classes online** (including the remainder of **Spring 2020, two summer sessions, and Fall 2020**).

### Here's a Few Highlights of the Pandemic Months - Remote Learning/Working and Staying at Home (most of the time):

**April: Easter** at home - dying eggs and getting some candy. (Had hoped to visit Abuela/Mom in Lake Arrowhead or see Norah and the Posey's but decided instead to keep safer at home).

**May:** Mimi coordinating a Mother's Day video for Mom/Abuela. Jav and Renée singing her "What the World Needs Now Is Love Sweet Love" (playing piano and guitar); Receiving hand-made high-quality design **masks from Tia Michele in the mail**

**June: Black Lives Matter Protest at CSUN;** Javier making a high school **Graduation Cake** and celebration video for his girlfriend **Caitlin** (whose last musical at Reseda High School and graduation were cancelled); Visiting **Mom/Abuela in Lake Arrowhead for her birthday;** **Hair Cutting by Tia Lee Anne;** **Celebrating Isa's BDay with Tias Eliabeth & Lee Anne** at Kenneth Hahn Park; Increasing access for Renée to professional discourse at state and nationally levels; Renée helping develop CSUN's Anti-Racism Workshop

**July:** Neighborhood **4<sup>th</sup> of July rouge Fireworks;** Jav's 19<sup>th</sup> Birthday; Chasing **Neowise Comet** (Camarillo, Simi Valley, the **hills of Moorpark**)

**August:** Camping one night at **Pyramid Lake to view the Perseid Meteor Showers;** Going to **Malibu State Park with the Poseys**

**September:** **Javier finishing up working as an enumerator for the US Census Bureau**

**October:** **Lakers Winning NBA Championship;** **Pumpkin Carving Party at the Posey's;** **Halloween Star Wars Costume making** for Javier; **Presidential Election -Early Voting at CSUN Voting Center;** **Dodgers (finally) winning the World Series!! Celebrating in City of Champions, Dos Angeles!**

**November:** **Celebrating Bea's BDay;** Celebrating Election Results; Shopping at Tia Chucha's Bookstore and **To Go Lunching with Tashi;** **Zooming Thanksgiving with Family**

**December:** **Zooming Solstice Arts & Crafts with Tashi for;** **Zooming Christmas with Family**

### During Ten (endless) Months: Everyday, all day, non-stop (until we got bored and tried something new):

**Music, Cooking, Baking, Masks, Hand Washing, Puzzles/Games, New Views (deck, porch, neighborhood), COVID Tests, Home-Haircut, Masked-Outdoor-Spaced-Gatherings, Exercising at home, at Parks, Planting, Endless Office Supply/Tech Purchases, TV Watching, Internet Streaming, Social Media, Online Shopping, Zooming, more Zooming, and then some more.**

Despite the year's challenges (or perhaps because of them)...**We are profoundly grateful for all we have** – including (but not limited to): Good health, Loving Family and Friends, a Warm Home, Fulfilling Work, Engaging Education, and Incredible Abundance in our Lives! To our circle of family and friends:

***For 2021 – We Wish You a Joyous Year Filled with Good Health, Love, Hope & Peace! - R&J***