

2021 Rensselaerville Library Community Poem – “I Remember”

The Complete Verses (Unedited) – April 2021

I remember Air. Essential to Life
Respiration renews. Feeds our cells, carries life along.
Unseen, taken for granted, Air, the medium in which we live
Each hello, each laugh, each lament, each spoken story
passes each breath to the next, wide and far, around the World.
The common breath of Humanity, always shared, needs care.
Pandemic breath - most humbling.

~ Patricia Britton

I remember when Anita died and how I cried.

~ Dianne Sefcik

I remember fearing even the air, miasma, “mal aria”

~ Sue Oringel

I remember two days of Covid swallowing you whole – while I watched your limp body through a window for signs of movement.

~ Didi Corrado

Virus Didn't Get Me

I remember JOY
Wide view, nature we adore
Humble home paid for

Clouds in all shapes, forms
Sky bright then gray there's storm
I remember FEAR

Life formed inside me.
Hey Mom, someone would soon scream
I'll keep this sweet dream

I remember PAIN
I was told “there's no heartbeat”
I felt dying, indeed

Only sixteen weeks
My God, why make it so quick
I remember GRIEF

Virus didn't get me
I buried my own baby
I remember DEATH

~Clarice DeLaCruz-Ceruto

I remember when we couldn't hug and kiss.

~Kaida Dunn-Herrera

I remember I finally read Leaves of Grass.

~ Charlie Rossiter

I remember and cherish the daily Tuesday through Saturday joy and warmth
of the director and staff of the Library.

~ Dennis Winslow

I remember sewing machine wars with the machine maybe the victor in terms of blood in the quest to
mask as many as my not nimble fingers could muster.

~ A.C. Everson

I remember beaches we couldn't walk on
because getting there meant crossing state lines,
weeks of quarantines.

I remember sunsets we didn't see over the
Ocean, the lighthouse, the sea birds, the gulls.

I remember grandkids we didn't see because
there were no vaccines.

Because we had pre-existing conditions.

I remember the games we didn't
See, the movies, the plays.

I remember it all.

Like it was yesterday.

~ Alan Catlin

I remember when the skies were quiet, and birds began singing again:
and the roads were quiet, making room for the wandering deer.

~ *Mary Moriarity*

I remember we couldn't visit each other.

~ *Cali Spielman*

I remember the sameness of days broken by sweet woods walks with a friend,
startled once by the gold white black majesty of an eagle leaving its hemlock perch right above our
heads.

~ *Linda Miller*

I remember when a collection of things we took for granted
disappeared, ran off to hide in shadows until the cloud of uncertainty and panic passed over.

~ *Paul Amidon*

I remember rage like lava thundering through me,
whirlpool of grief spinning me through heart fractals,
anxiety shredding my days, astonished relief at Stay Home's
purging of things I never really loved.

~ *Claire North*

I Remember when...

... I was planning a winter vacation in a place with plenty of warmth and light.
Then along came Covid bringing a cancelled flight.

~ *Sharyn Shufelt Smith*

I remember discovering Zoom, becoming a zoomaholic, and finding it's a lot more fun than other holics.

~ *Howard Kogan*

I remember the unmasked crowds
enjoying their champagne
and sharing their defiance covidly.

~ *Edie Abrams*

I remember the cheerful company of birds on my new feeder the lonely weeks of winter.

~ Linda Miller

I remember stacks and stacks of books by bed and chair, the good companionship of fictional characters.

~ Linda Miller

I remember when my hair was short and neatly trimmed.

~ Anonymous

I remember her beautiful eyes, their fading light, our final tears... good-bye.

~ Heidi Carle

I remember the dangerous dance chilling cancer fearing Covid

~ Marge Merrill