

Good from the bad

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A friend recently started a thread on social media asking folks to name some good things that have come out of our Covid experience, one year in. And she got me to thinking.

Mind you, I'm not sure I can say anything good came out of a pandemic that killed my uncle and six members of a good friend's family, and adversely affected so many others all over the world. But I understand and appreciate what she meant.

Reframing the question opens up new possibilities. Whilst working in the garage my mind went to consideration of the aspects of my life that have been enhanced by the period of... What to call it? Seclusion, I suppose. Regardless of pandemic or politics. And I thought I'd share a few of those positives here.

Mary and I have found ourselves growing closer than ever.

As I move toward retirement, I've given more and more thought to how I'll spend my days without daily job requirements. And while I started out looking down a dark tunnel of time to be 'filled,' over time I've come to see my impending retirement as an opportunity to redefine myself in light of everything I've experienced and learned over almost seven decades on Earth. Trying new things and new ways of looking at things.

Bought an elliptical machine in lieu of gym membership and now I'm actually, you know, using it.

While we can't be together physically, friends and family seem ever more intent on keeping in touch through any means or medium we can.

Less store browsing has meant less money spent on impulse purchases. (Of course, there's that danged Internet...)

I'd say the biggest positive for me has been recognizing the value and promise and possibilities of 'now.' I don't have to know the plan for next year but I do need to make good use of this time we're living in.

Oh, and of course, mail order Girl Scout Cookies – who knew?