

## Highlights of 2020 as reflected by Catherine Zampier



- 1) A new granddaughter, Mar Angelyn, born March 11, 2020.  
Just as the big news of the Covid-19 pandemic was hitting all news outlets and there was wide-spread panic, an angel was born! Met her for first time July 2020 and also spent time with her older sister, two-year old Skai.
- 2) Slowing down in this fast-paced world.  
Sure, I miss the concerts, plays, visiting with friends and relatives, going out to dinner, and travel. There are so many options in our society which I'm grateful for but 2020 was a good chance to reflect while home and dwell on what's really important. And give our cars a rest too!!
- 3) Exercise Routine.  
Since forced to stay at home from school and other activities, I enjoyed the consistency of virtual workout classes from City Sweat (my niece Meghan's awesome company) as well as other online classes (yoga, Twitch, YMCA). Included were daily walks in the neighborhood with old friends and meeting new neighbors.
- 4) Reading.  
Never considering myself to be a fast reader, I got thru so many books from picture books, YAs, bios, and best sellers. Thank you to East Greenbush library for curb side pick-up and drop off during this time.
- 5) Movies. I love old-time movies. Yes, even the black & whites. I was able to record and check off several on my movie bucket list. Oh, what a joy when finding a great one or visiting a classic I haven't seen in awhile!
- 6) Technology & Social Media. Where would we be without the Internet. Yes, there is a negative side of too much screen time but look at all the opportunities and knowledge one can find online. Younger people, used in productive ways, will continue to soar in many, many ways. Thankful to so many people (incl. my kids) who taught me so much in this area and helped me not be intimidated by it all.
- 7) Still having a job(s). I realize employment can change at any time for me and my family, but currently, I'm working in a school district that appreciates its employees and is able to keep us on. So appreciative.
- 8) My husband. Both working from home gave me a greater appreciation for Greg, especially as the years creep up on us and our children are more or less on their own. So glad we not only love each other, but also LIKE each other as we share the home we've worked hard for.
- 9) Health care, grocery store, drivers, and other essential employees. During this crisis, it's a reminder how important these jobs are for our health, economy, and overall well-being. Thankful for all the 'experts' in these areas to help deal with and mitigate this virus which has challenged and strangulated our world.
- 10) Publishing a children's picture book! That goal has been a yearly goal of mine for many years. Even though the story was in many phases over ten years, it finally happened Fall 2020! Thankful to Bob, my illustrator, Vicki, publisher and cheerleader, and Olga, my dear mother, who inspired this story.