



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

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Class Year:

Connection to the College (student? faculty? alum? friend of the College?): Faculty/staff

Describe your day today -- did you go out? what did you do for fun? did you cook or eat anything special? did you do work or chores? who did you spend time with?

May 15, 2020

This morning around 7:00 I walked down to the barn and threw out some chicken feed to the free range chickens. I took the 2 feeders out of the rat proof tin trash cans, filled them with chick feed and hung them up in the coop for the 8 very young laying chickens and the 20 young meat chickens. I put 2 bowls of cat food on top the big round hay bale for the 2 barn cats. I gave the sheep and goats feed in various pans and opened the barn door for them to go out into their pasture. I let the Charlotte, the goat who is in milk, out of the pen and she jumped up onto the milking stand to eat her feed. I cut up an apple for her, put it in the feeding bucket and hitched the neck holder. I milked a little milk into two bowls and gave them to the cats, and then filled two quart jars. I gave Charlotte some alfalfa cubes as treats and let her back into the pen. I gave all the sheep and goats alfalfa treats and shut the barn gate so they would stay outside in the pasture. Up at the house I strained the milk into clean quart jars and put them in the back milk and beer fridge. I got the two quarts of yogurt from the cooler where they had been culturing and put them in the fridge. I ladled the cheese curds that were ripening on the stove overnight into cheesecloth and hung them up to drain for a few hours.

Next I went to the grocery store. I try to only go every 10 days or so, so I made sure I had my list. I wore a mask into the store, where about two-thirds of the people had one on. There was King Arthur's All Purpose flour – that's only the second time they've had it in the past 2 months. There were more types of dried beans than usual, but fewer types of pasta, and there was Kleenex. Still no yeast, though, and no King Arthur's Bread Flour. I tried to leave a wide margin between myself and others as I went through the store, and stayed 6 feet back in line at the checkout. I keep a box of disposable masks in the car and some hand sanitizer.

My husband helped me put the groceries away when I got home and then I made brownies to drop off at a friend's for a zoom party we were going to have later. I covered the rusting milk and beer fridge with contact paper. I attended a zoom meeting with my colleagues to discuss a free, quarter credit online class we planned to offer incoming freshmen in June. Then I talked on the phone with a friend in Iowa. I had planned to visit her next week, but clearly I am not going to be able to, so instead we planned a "speaker phone dinner" with a mutual friend. At 4:00 I zoomed a beach party a friend hosted for Kay Stokes, who had just this week helped the campus successfully navigate the HLC Accreditation meeting, all of which took place over zoom. When that was over, I made dinner for my husband and my son, who is finishing his sophomore year at St. John's College in Santa Fe, at home, online.

After dinner I looked over my vegetable garden and weeded the bed of tiny chard seedlings. I lamented not having had time to get in my eggplant and pepper starts that day, and I ridiculously examined the patches where I had planted tomato seeds just the day before. No sign of anything emerging. I broke the neck of a very young rabbit my dog had mauled horribly, but not killed. I watched a quite mediocre Icelandic murder mystery on Amazon Prime with my husband, and then went to bed about 10:00. A good day.

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What do you remember best about being on campus in May of other years?

I was teaching a class on Marx's philosophy, and I had a great group of students. On Marx's birthday, 2 students brought in a birthday cake, red velvet, of course, decorated with red icing and a big yellow hammer and sickle. We all had a piece and I gave everyone a 10 on their quiz as a birthday present.

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