



# "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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