

ZOOMIN', HUMMIN' AND HOPINN !!!

by Joan, Tenant at Oak Meadows

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This was a salutation on an email I received this week from a friend. I laughed Perhaps. I guess, his precocious humor caught me by surprise and broke through my fatigue. They came from a man in his eighties who has endured ,with the rest of us, three months of quarantine, a steady week of marches and riots, fueled by police brutality that caused the death of an innocent black man , and ,in case we missed it , the launch of two astronauts into space last Saturday. His lilt of words opened to me a startling glimpse of history so embroiled in trauma that our brains are in overdrive! Sometime within the last four months our future became stuck in “Fast Forward” and no one knows yet how to disengage it.

Yes! That’s it! This is why, for the past few days our conversations have centered around the subject of laughter! We aren’t trying to escape reality. We are beginning to realize we won’t survive reality without some form of release. And what is the word that seems to be leaping out of people’s mouths this week? “Zooming”! “I zoomed my family and it was so much fun!” “Have you zoomed yet?” I am asked. Well, it just so happens, I have. Initially eased into it by a friend, I needed less coaxing the second time. As we become more familiar with the process, zooming is becoming an outlet for our dire need to connect, not only with voices, but with visible eye and facial expressions of the people we love or who invite us into a “virtual community”. Zooming has become a substitute for physical presence, support and, as I have experienced, a foil for comedy release. Like tempting our imaginations to venture “I wonder what this person is wearing from the waist down? A recent video that went viral is a man advertising “matching shirts with our masks”. His sudden departure moves him away from the screen to reveals his “cute buns” exposed in the rear flap of his shirt. We seem to be learning that “good shock” balances the “bad shocks” of the past four months.

Websters Dictionary: ZOOM: To move with a loud humming or buzzing; to fly suddenly upward; to focus with a zoom lens: to rise suddenly and sharply. All or any of the above sounds good to me if it restores my hope and gets me hummin’ again. Have a ZOOMIN’ GOOD WEEK!