

Christmas Traditions

By Kenita Gibbins

Merry Christmas,

The tree will go up the day after Thanksgiving. I won't be tired from cooking since we ordered our Thanksgiving dinners. Traditions from the day of my birth started being important. I still love to buy and wrap presents. Generations on both sides of my family felt the stories of the birth of Jesus had to be told. I'm sure we won't get to go to the sanctuary of our church Christmas Eve. George and I will read the scriptures. We will sing 'Silent Night.' I don't know who will be able to join us Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. We will probably have homemade spaghetti sauce for the 24th. Yes the Eve supper is also a tradition.

Mark and Jennifer are coming from South Carolina. We will share time with Marisa and Rich when possible. They live in Aurora. I must act like an adult. We have always opened Christmas presents on Christmas morning. Breakfast will be an egg/ham casserole that I can make before I go to bed. I will follow the traditions and just see who can join us.

We will continue to follow the rules by wearing masks and washing our hands. These tasks are so simple when you think it will help us jump over the Corona virus and stay alive.

My Windsor Gardens Writers Group keeps on with our assignments. We like being together but sending each other our essays also gives pleasure. We stay positive with our words.

I feel very fortunate I have George to talk with even if it is the wisdom of the cartoon strip 'Pickles.' We play dominos sometimes. He beats me and, darn it, won't even try to play chess. One day I talked him into dancing with me. My bridge foursome plays bridge twice a week online. Ways to stay connected become easy if you have a computer and a telephone.

Today Mary, our friend from down the hall, and I walked our two miles on the High Line Canal path. We decided tomorrow we will need to bundle up more than we did today. A daily walk helps being sequestered.

This month of November marks a reminder I haven't been out of the country since I went to St. Lucia a year ago. Last June I had to cancel a trip to southern Italy. Another trip is booked for our daughter-in-law Trina and our youngest grandson Landon. I've not been to the Amalfi Coast. It is always fun to explore new territory. Landon chose the area. Having something to look forward to always keeps me sane. I think each night before I fall asleep of something I really want to do the next day. I'm glad last night I decided to write this letter. Sending a Christmas letter is my favorite tradition. Friends need to touch each other.

Know George and I are thinking of you with love,

Kenita