> From: Terry Morrow <tabitha099@yahoo.com>

> Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2021 1:26 PM

> To: Melissa Marici <mmarici@candlewoodvalley.com>

> Subject: My entry for writing competition

>

> My eyes popped open and I turned to the window to the sunny blue sky outside. It’s here! I thought to myself and jumped out of bed, ran downstairs to open the front door. I noticed a plane flying above in the beautiful crystal clear sky. Immediately, my mind was brought back to Friday March 13, 2020 , the dreaded Friday the 13th , which always brought me good luck . I had the most beautiful vacation in Sedona, Arizona, land of the majestic red rocks. I had never heard about them until a friend showed me his pictures and I had to experience Sedona for myself . I had to hike them , put my bare feet on the red clay and experience those beautiful huge red rocks. My friend Nilda and I decided on a whim that we were going to just fly out to Arizona,get an Airbnb and experience all the beauty. We had a beautiful week of hiking, enjoying the delicious food, and taking in all of the sites. I had always wanted an authentic pair of western boots and now I finally had them and all the beautiful memories to go with it. I felt different. I felt as though my soul and my spirit had been transformed into a more open, peaceful and quiet space. Nilda and I were leaving Sedona, the most magical place on Earth , and driving to Phoenix for a flight to New York. We were about to enter into one of the craziest times in history with the name of pandemic. The day before, Broadway had closed and we had no idea what we were heading into when we arrived at Newark airport.

>

> Our plane was delayed for three hours.

> When we finally were able to board we sat in our seats for two hours because there was a very bad storm and our plane was number 30 to take off. Finally !! We were in the air with thunderstorms all around us. I have flown a lot in my life but when that plane started shaking, shimmying and moving up and down ,I was really wondering if this was going to be the flight that I didn’t make. I have never felt that way before. But wings of angels had led us in to a safe landing and I was very happy to see my neighbors as they were arriving to bring us home.

>

> I slept for almost 15 hours and woke up feeling so wonderful. Ready to get back to my life, my job, my family and friends. Three days later I got a text from my boss that the hotel I work at, Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz, was closing for two weeks as the COVID-19 virus was spreading quickly and they wanted to take all the precautions that New York State was advising them to. My Manager had told me that we would be paid for those two weeks which was great for me. After 14 years working face to face with guests , it was almost a relief not to have to worry about this deadly virus. It was time I could spring clean, get into the New York groove again , continue writing my children’s book and just have fun. A week later we were notified that we were closing until June as well as most of the restaurants, hotels, hair salons, clubs, stores, and almost everything else in the country except grocery stores and hospitals. This was all so upsetting and shocking! I was feeling very sad for the people who were being stricken from this virus. It was deadly. We were placed on unemployment and were given an extra $600 a week which really helped me and I was able to save most of it. I started taking ukulele and belly dance lessons on YouTube. I played my drum and went to some drum circles and did a lot of hiking. Because the virus was spreading so rapidly we were not allowed to see friends, family, except the immediate people in our home, which was hard for me because I lived in an apartment with four other families. I was divorced a few years ago and lived by myself. Thankfully we had a beautiful yard and we spent time outside every day sitting 6 feet apart!

>

> If you had given me 1000 guesses, the next thing that happened would have never crossed my mind. I got a call from Mohonk that they were laying off 300 people and I was one of them. They were discontinuing my position as Assistant Manager in the Gift Shop. I was numb for about two weeks trying to figure out what to do next. What will I do for a job? This Question was unthinkable! I decided that it was time to make a change, move out of Marlboro and over to Connecticut where my family lived . I loved living in this quiet little Hudson River town though . The thought of moving away from all my friends that I had made in the past 14 years was really breaking my heart but it was only way to go. But you cannot buy a house if you do not have a job. I was lucky enough that my mother offered to help me and I started looking for houses in New Milford. The real estate business was crazy. People were moving out of New York City because they would be stuck into their houses for months and they wanted to have fresh air for their children. I could not even bid on a house without someone bidding $25,000 over asking. At that point I decided to go to with a condo. Even though it was not what I wanted,it would be the best choice. The first one I looked at was lovely . It had two floors and was so much more spacious than my apartment. There was a pool, playground,basketball courts,was close all the shopping and two miles from my son. We made the offer, they took it and we closed on the condo two weeks later. I moved the day after the closing. My mind was reeling! Arrivaderci to “stuff” that I was schlepping around and it felt fantastic! Another step in my evolution process. It was very emotional to say goodbye to my friends that helped me move but I knew I would see them again soon.

>

> So here I am!!! Exploring , learning to play ukulele , finding new drum circles , meeting new friends, belly dancing lessons again soon ,working on 2 books and just leaning back and letting the Universe show it’s wonder. New adventures are on the horizon.

>

> I open the door and my new Lanikai ukulele has been delivered !!!! It’s going to be a beautiful day !

>

> A new state and a new state of mind !

>

> •••••

>

> I hope you enjoyed reading this little snapshot of my life. Thank you for your consideration.

>

> Terry Kendrick

> (914) 216-6234

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone