

## Appreciating 20/Happy in 2020

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Email from Eva Liang to Center for Sight staff on April 17, 2020.

Back in October, 2019, I had multiple conversations with people who were very excited about 2020 being the perfect year. Anticipating the best, we observed that everything was aligned to meet our highest expectation: Christmas and New Year's Day would fall on Fridays, setting up perfect three-day weekends. Cinco de Mayo would be on a Tuesday, perfect for Taco Tuesday. The 4th of July was to be on a Saturday, again setting up a lovely long weekend. Halloween also was calendared on a Saturday; perfect for partying ghouls!

As eye care professionals, we had been living our whole careers for "2020". It's what we strove for professionally, and now we had a whole year to work on corny 2020 marketing campaigns. One of the first things we did for 2020 in our practice was to send out New Year's cards, instead of Christmas cards, to emphasize our optimism for this very exciting year. I approved the cards with electronic proofs, but the printers ran them off incorrectly, with the inside being upside down, and those very wrong cards actually got sent out to all our referring physicians. Our first launch into this banner year is a bust rather than a blast.

The greeting card fiasco was probably the first sign that 2020 may not be all that we hyped it to be. In the first weeks of the year, we had lots of death and tragedy around us, personally. Then, on January 26th, Kobe Bryant dies in a tragic helicopter crash which really affected the whole country. Around the same time, we start hearing about the new novel coronavirus that has shut down Wuhan and much of China, where they had canceled Chinese New Year celebrations. I said, "WHAT?" The Chinese have done what? This is absurd! Must be some serious S\$@&!

Fast forward to March, and now April, and every day, another shoe drops. Everything we knew as America is being ravaged. Growing up in Las Vegas, I have never seen the strip closed like it is today. Year 2020 has turned out to be anything but perfect. In fact, at no other time in my life have I had less clarity on where things are going then right now—in "2020"!

Our practice motto at Center for Sight is "Making your world 20/happy," and most ophthalmologists know the 20/happy phrase well, even if our patients don't always seem to comprehend what we think it is supposed to mean to them. We eye care professionals are all too familiar with patients who end up with 20/20 vision but are miserable with it. On the flip side, we have other patients who have complicated disease or poor vision all their lives and may end up with 20/80 vision, or worse, after cataract surgery but are ecstatic because they have never seen so well in their lives. In medical practice and in life, there is the perfect lens of misery and then there is the imperfect lens of thanksgiving.

The year, 2020, has given me a new appreciation for our practice tagline. I am grateful for all the other years that were not 2020, when we enjoyed all that we might have taken for granted, including our civil liberties and life adventures, great and small. As we seek to recapture some of our lapsed blessings, I, for one, am looking more closely at the ones I still have, and with new appreciation. Here's to sharing the gratitude in your life with others in 2020, and beyond. Yes, things in life can always get worse; yet, I have to believe they will soon be better.

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