



Telling Our Stories: Western's Response to COVID-19

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Story contribution

I offer two songs written in the COVID time as personal reflections - one lighthearted and one more serious

No Yeast

<https://youtu.be/eEndFeL87-0>

This Great Pause

<https://youtu.be/NJPFgCPh440>

Additionally, Devyani Chandran, Director of the Palliative Care Institute, and I have been hosting an on-line support group for those caring for elders and seriously ill people in Whatcom County - in nursing homes, assisted living facilities or providing in-home care. Dr. Chandran will be publishing some of the insights gained in these gatherings.

The Palliative Care Institute also collaborated on two webinars intended to provide community education about the impacts of COVID.

One, offered on May 15, 2020, gathered together WWU alums and faculty with expertise in health care to reflect on HOW TO BRING THE NATION BACK TO HEALTH? (Link to video of the webinar will soon be available on PCI's CEDAR site.)

One, offered on May 20, 2020, focused on PROACTIVE PLANNING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19, and included presentations by advance care planning experts. (Link to video of the webinar will soon be available on PCI's CEDAR site.)

Finally, COVID has dramatically changed how PCI interacts with the community. Historically we have hosted annual conference, seminars, concerts and other public gatherings intended to foster conversation and dialogue about serious illness and end of life planning. We had to postpone two major events this spring (our annual conference and a planned improv theater event) and have moved most of our interactions to Zoom. We are planning to host the conference, Palliative Care Across Cultures, via a Zoom webinar this fall, with an additional focus on the impacts of COVID and the recent national protests against police violence on health and healthcare for marginalized communities.