

***Pandemic Perspectives: Jeffersonville Residents Recount Their Lives During the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic. Interview with Carl Kramer and Mary Kagan Kramer***

Jen Weidner 0:06: Today is May the 18th, 2021, I'm Jen Weidner with the Jeffersonville Township Public Library conducting interviews for *Pandemic Perspectives: Jeffersonville Residents Recount Their Lives During the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic*. This project was made possible with a grant from the Indiana Genealogical Society. I'm here today with Dr. Carl Kramer and his wife, Mary Kagan Kramer. Can you tell me a little bit about what your profession was or is?

Carl Kramer 0:36: Oh, okay. I'm a professional historian educated as such, I have a doctorate in American history with a, with a specialization in urban history. So, I'm, I established what's now Kramer Associates Inc. 40 years ago, when I finished a doctorate, and there was a market that was upside down and I had to figure out how I was going to make it in a weird situation. So I wanted to be a college history professor. So, over these 40 years, I've done a combination of teaching at the University of Louisville and then Indiana University Southeast for 35 years, and also doing the consulting work through Kentuckiana Historical Services and then Kramer Associates Inc. beginning in 1997 when we have reorganized and incorporated.

Mary Kagan Kramer 1:43: I had a 24-year career with the Louisville Chapter of the American Red Cross, and in '97 I left there and that's when we changed the name to Kramer Associates Inc. and incorporated. And so that's—

Carl Kramer 2:02: Mary became the president of the firm and I became vice president, and she handles the business side of it and for the most part I handled the content side.

Jen Weidner 2:13: So, you guys are both lifelong residents of Jeffersonville?

Carl Kramer 2:17: I am a lifelong resident of Clark County.

Jen Weidner 2:20: Okay.

Carl Kramer 2:20: I am.

Mary Kagan Kramer 2:22: And I'm, I'm not. I lived in Louisville for 15 years, and then moved over here in 1987. I grew up in Northern and Western Kentucky, in Kansas City and went to College up in Minnesota.

Jen Weidner 2:41: Okay. Do you all remember when you first heard about COVID-19 the Coronavirus?

Carl Kramer 2:49: Well I remember starting to hear about it, say, in the late fall, early winter of 2019, that it was happening over in China and Asia. But not a specific date or specific incident.

Mary Kagan Kramer 3:13: Yeah, I'm not remembering exactly when, either, but just as we were hearing more and more as time went on, I remember commenting sometime along. Maybe the end of the year or something. Well, time will tell whether this is for real, or it's not for real. And neither one of us was making a prediction at that time.

Carl Kramer 3:34: And, in fact, we were making plans to go to, to attend the Rotary International Convention in Honolulu, and also to do a Hawaiian cruise after the convention to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary, which was June 16. So, we actually went ahead and made reservations for that in December, with our travel agent.

Jen Weidner 4:05: That was December 2019?

Carl Kramer 4:07: December 2019. So, we were starting to make those plans, realizing that this was happening, but not having having any sense whatsoever of how serious it would be, how long it would be, and figuring if things don't work out, we can cancel.

Mary Kagan Kramer 4:26: Well, if she was, if anything dissuading us from going ahead and booking right then, but she assured us that there would be 10 so that if the fact that bad enough to ships cancel the cruise lines, and that we'd get a full refund. And, of course, that's what ended up happening,

Jen Weidner 4:46: That's good you got your money back, at least.

Carl Kramer 4:48: We got a full refund from the road Rotary convention and everything.

Jen Weidner 4:53: So, did you all think it would become a problem for the United States and Indiana, or did you just think it was going to be something in other countries?

Mary Kagan Kramer 5:00: Like we said we, we weren't making a prediction. And I think the cruise booking shows that we were.

Jen Weidner 5:08: You didn't think it, yeah, you're just, whatever happens happens.

Mary Kagan Kramer 5:10: It wasn't that we didn't think it was going to happen, but that we knew we could get a refund. And then if it didn't happen, you know we got—

Jen Weidner 5:20: You got to go to Hawaii!

Carl Kramer 5:22: I would say historically in the back of my mind, I know enough about major pandemics, and the movement of epidemics internationally, that something big could occur, but nothing in the magnitude of what happened. I was aware of the Spanish flu, and the cholera epidemics of the, of the 19th century. So, but what's happening is the idea of something that's happened of this magnitude was beyond my conception.

Mary Kagan Kramer 6:03: And I had been in Israel back in 1970, back when there was some cholera, and had been in Brazil in 2001, summer of 2001, and had had to take the malaria precautions. So, I had a little experience with major diseases, obviously never got either one, thankfully, but we also were very much inclined to listen. Well, I mean, we've had the news on the past year, a lot, and very much inclined to listen to the medical professionals.

Jen Weidner 6:39: Good! So, how would your life change once the virus did reach Clark County, Indiana?

Mary Kagan Kramer 6:47: Carl's barber was the first to die from it. And that was back in March.

Carl Kramer 6:53: Yeah, about March. Roger Eckart, a Big Four Barbers up the street.

Mary Kagan Kramer 6:58: And when the, when the word came out that the governor was going to close down the state, so to speak, Carl and I both decided he needed to get himself to the barber shop and get a haircut.

Jen Weidner 7:08: Yeah, because we didn't know how long it was gonna—

Mary Kagan Kramer 7:14: That was a day or two before the shutdown.

Carl Kramer 7:18: And we have a big event that started, demarcates the beginning of things for us. We're both active among amongst our other civic involvement, in Boy Scouts of America, and the Lincoln Heritage Council, based in Louisville, has a big luncheon fundraiser every year, and it's the big event over the Galt House, and we've been table hosts for that event or some variant for 20 years or more. So, that was on the 10th of March. And we had a full house, we had a full table, about 500 people there, there were already comments, people were doing fist bumps or elbows by then rather than shaking hands. So, there was a sense of apprehension, but not certainly, not panic at that, at that point. But I, as I recall, on the way home, we were hearing reports about cases starting to pop up on the coasts and discussion of whether the World Health Organization going to declare a pandemic or those kinds of things. So, that's sort of the event. That was our last—

Jen Weidner 8:59: The last major event in the area.

Carl Kramer 9:01: That, that we attended. And from then on, we pretty much stayed close to home for months. Periodically, on Sunday afternoon we would get out and take a ride. Visit state parks, the forestry, drive all around the Clark County, some into Floyd County, one time or two we got over into Harrison, just to get out but in a way that was—

Jen Weidner 9:36: A safe way.

Mary Kagan Kramer 9:37: And try not to get out of the car.

Jen Weidner 9:40: Just take your Sunday drive.

Mary Kagan Kramer 9:43: And traffic was very, very light, at first.

Jen Weidner 9:47: Everybody was staying at home. So, my next question was what did you all do during the stay at home order, but you kind of answered it, that you drove around; did you guys do anything else to pass the time?

Mary Kagan Kramer 9:58: Early on, when it looked like this was really going to set in, I ordered online, and I'm not big on ordering online. I ordered a ping pong set, a badminton set, and a pickleball set.

Jen Weidner 10:16: So y'all we're gonna play games, no matter what was happening?

Mary Kagan Kramer 10:18: We were determined to keep moving around.

Jen Weidner 10:21: Yes!

Mary Kagan Kramer 10:21: Determined to. So, we had, have an old dining room table in the garage, which is sort of a three season room. And we rigged up a net and had the paddles and balls and ping pong, rigged up the badminton net outside, and it turned out the same net can suffice for pickleball. I printed up the rules for all three. And let's say that we stretched over a little create.

Jen Weidner 10:53: Your house, your rule!

Mary Kagan Kramer 10:55: Exactly, but it did provide some exercising and getting out and moving around.

Carl Kramer 11:01: When the weather was good, we took a lot of walks during the spring for a period. We got out our bicycles and road a few times, but we're also, we also had to deal with the fact that long about, well, sometime in March. I'm a cardiac patient, I have a pacemaker, and my pacemaker found an anomaly that turned out to be a form of cardiomyopathy, and you know, I had procedures periodically through the year and ended up in October, October 19 and 20th, getting a new pacemaker that continues to protect me with bradycardia, slow heartbeat, but also against ventricular fibrillation fibrillation, so we had to be. I had a lot of adjustments in my medication and was dealing with bouts of dizziness and lightheadedness, now and then, until my medication was balanced, to take care of all of those things, and I had what's called a low ejection fraction where about a quarter of the amount of blood was being pumped out this show should be so, or I guess half is what should be that. So, I was dealing through much of the late spring and into the fall with little low, low energy

Jen Weidner 11:16: When trying to navigate the healthcare system during a pandemic had to have been overwhelming.

Mary Kagan Kramer 13:04: Early on, early on we were saying one of our prime objectives was to stay healthy and stay out of doctors offices.

Jen Weidner 13:12: That was one of my mom's too!

Mary Kagan Kramer 13:14: Then Carl started having these daily. At least once a day, two or three times a day dizzy spells or lightheaded spells.

Carl Kramer 13:23: Blood pressure issues—

Mary Kagan Kramer 13:25: Blood pressure, he never actually fainted, fortunately, because we've been super careful. But we did not succeed in staying out of doctors offices.

Jen Weidner 13:37: So you were actually seen in person, not virtually like many people were being seen?

Carl Kramer 13:41: Had a couple telamed appointments, and during that period, also, both of us went in for treatment for sleep apnea. We had a couple of telamed appointments for that. So, but our telamed wasn't like I'm sure a lot of people, of course I had had always had a home, home monitoring for my pacemaker.

Jen Weidner 14:10: Yeah.

Carl Kramer 14:11: So, the last several months this year have largely been able to stay out of the doctor's offices, but so far so good on that.

Jen Weidner 14:23: That's good.

Mary Kagan Kramer 14:23: And we rigged up on my laptop, he has a desktop in his office in the basement. I have a regular laptop that I keep in my office on the main floor, and then I have a little tablet that has never been real good. So, early on I put the full size laptop in the living room, we got an extension for our USB cord, and we have done a lot of zoom and Facebook, where we hook the laptop up to the big TV, which is stretching our computer knowledge, and for the better part of a year we didn't go to any church, whereas normally we would have gone every Sunday. And we learned how to get onto Facebook, put it on the screen, where we had better sound, laptop, and—

Jen Weidner 15:25: Many people's homes became their churches, their medical people I mean, our homes just became everything to us during this.

Mary Kagan Kramer 15:32: The other thing we did with Carl's heart issue, we were trying to be super careful. So, he enjoys grocery shopping, and normally did the vast majority of grocery shopping. For a year, just about a year, I did 99% of the grocery shopping, once a week. We keep our running list, and I go up to the store, and I didn't stockpile things that I increased our pantry a lot. If there was plenty on the shelf.

Jen Weidner 15:37: Right.

Mary Kagan Kramer 15:37: I tried not to give extra if the shelf was running low. But if there was an ample supply, and we put what I call it an auxiliary pantry on a cabinet in the garage.

Jen Weidner 16:27: I think a lot of us did that, because we didn't know what was going to happen from week to week.

Mary Kagan Kramer 16:31: When there was, if there was enough of a certain type of meat, I'd get a little extra, freeze it. And normally we keep a pretty lean pantry and freezer. We did, you know, had plenty on hand in case we needed it, like I said, without stockpiling.

Jen Weidner 16:50: Because we didn't know if groceries were going to shut down – if they were to be able to get stuff trucked in or–

Mary Kagan Kramer 16:55: But I tried not to get anything that was reading low.

Jen Weidner 16:59: Good.

Carl Kramer 17:01: Picking up on what Mary said about going, going to church. I particularly, particularly enjoy singing hymns, and for months there were virtually no, no hymns, or if they are when they resumed, it was the music director singing without singing by the congregation because there was no–

Jen Weidner 17:34: There was no congregation there!

Carl Kramer 17:36: No congregation, and trying to sing a hymn, when you're sitting by yourself, by yourself or your family, it's not the same, but I really enjoy singing, singing all four verses are all five verses whatever and maybe one or two verses is what they saying, so that was sort of frustrating, but on the other hand, there were some times like Easter a year ago, we had attended what, at least three, Easter services, and one here at St. Mark's UCC, one from the Presbyterian headquarters, across, across the river. And that was interesting to see how they space themselves, but officials from the Presbyterian Church and then one from the big Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis where Mary has family.

Jen Weidner 18:35: So, you got to see a variety of different congregations and churches and stuff, so you got to broaden your horizons.

Mary Kagan Kramer 18:43: And we had been, the previous Easter, to the Big House of Hope up in St. Paul Minnesota, House of Hope Presbyterian, and, you know, they pull out all the stops, and this time it was so different to see, but also for Easter and Christmas, particularly, and some in between. We have a little pump organ, and so I'll, you know, play some hymns and he'll say, so that makes it nice.

Carl Kramer 19:09: But it was a big deal for us this year, when we returned to in-person service. For the first time on Palm Sunday.

Jen Weidner 19:21: And where do you all go to church?

Carl Kramer 19:22: Well, we've gone to two churches: First Presbyterian Church here in Jeff, and St Mark's United Church Christ in New Albany, and that's a reflection about both of our personal histories with those denominations. Mary's father was a Presbyterian minister, and I was deeply involved in the United Church of Christ. So, neither of us wanted to give up—

Jen Weidner 19:48: Right, yeah.

Carl Kramer 19:49: —those connections so we've long ago made that arrangement of attending back and forth.

Jen Weidner 19:56: Makes sense to me.

Carl Kramer 19:58: It really has worked out well for us. We've got two church families.

Jen Weidner 20:02: And I'm sure that was nice, knowing you had those families during this pandemic, too, if you needed something.

Mary Kagan Kramer 20:09: That is each church, they had a setup of checking on members. So in St Mark's, which was far and away the bigger church, we were one of maybe ten People who called, being checked on six or seven, who had—

Jen Weidner 20:24: A fantastic idea!

Mary Kagan Kramer 20:25: We call every couple of weeks or so, and all of our people we checked on, at least, said they've been doing okay.

Jen Weidner 20:31: To see if they needed anything or how they were feeling.

Mary Kagan Kramer 20:34: At First Pres. a lady who's pushing 90, if she hasn't hit 90, calls us every Tuesday. Every Tuesday, and has for months.

Jen Weidner 20:49: If It gives her something to do, and you all know that she's doing okay.

Mary Kagan Kramer 20:54: So, she called around noon today, gave us an update on her health. You know, we'll find out next week, but the results are.

Jen Weidner 21:03: It's that community that I think a lot of people were missing, having their church community or just the community as a whole, having people check on you or you check on people.

Carl Kramer 21:17: What one of the things, you know, we have the issue on, is people who are upset because they can't go and go risk their own health and other people by gathering, and, you know, our experience put us of the opinion, biblically and theologically, that the church community isn't the building, it's the, it's the people themselves, and any church can do what ours did. Is it the same? No, but the, well, I went to the hospital. The new pastor at First Pres. checked on me two or three times, by, by phone, along with the calls that I got from our pastor in New Albany. And that's—

Mary Kagan Kramer 22:14: And that was when he went in, he went in, it's an outpatient to happen to have an enhanced pacemaker and defibrillator implanted. He got there, there was a mixup with the COVID testing.

Jen Weidner 22:27: Oh yes.

Mary Kagan Kramer 22:29: And it turned out that since he hadn't had the test at the Louisville hospital, it was going to take longer for the results to get in. We got a call the night before saying the results hadn't come in, and we wanted to reschedule. We know how you get psyched for something.

Jen Weidner 22:48: Oh yeah, especially during a pandemic, you're already, yeah, have a lot going on.

Mary Kagan Kramer 22:52: I said, "Well, there's a 50/50 chance the results will come in," we said, "We'll take that chance." So, we got to the hospital results having come in and they finally came in, I don't know, nine o'clock or so in the morning, but by then he missed the early morning rotation, right, had to be late afternoon. So they kept him. I had taken my cell phone, hadn't thought to take the charger because—

Jen Weidner 23:18: You weren't going to be there all day.

Mary Kagan Kramer 23:19: Hadn't thought to take his tooth brush, he stayed that night. The next morning, the doctor came in and said that they had to go back in and reposition the lead into the ventricles, so that was the second night.

Carl Kramer 23:36: And that was the afternoon before they could get to me.



Mary Kagan Kramer 23:40: All of this during a pandemic, supposedly there could be one visitor.

Jen Weidner 23:46: I was gonna ask, like, how did that work? Because I know a lot of hospitals were closed down.

Mary Kagan Kramer 23:50: One visitor, and this was in mid-October last year.

Jen Weidner 23:53: Last year, okay, so yeah, things were a squosh better in October.

Mary Kagan Kramer 23:54: One visitor, so I had to announce, sign that I would be that person, which meant his sister, who normally would have come in from Anderson, couldn't come down, neither the ministers could come in, no other family member.

Jen Weidner 24:14: Crazy, crazy times!

Mary Kagan Kramer 24:16: And then, when, when he had one of the procedures, it might have been the echocardiogram, or the one of the procedures. They had a sign up that I had to wait out in the car. Well that didn't appeal to me, so I just said, "Is there, do I have to go out to the car to wait?" And they said, "Let us check," and they let me wait in the conference room, a small room about like this.

Jen Weidner 24:43: That's better than sitting in your car.

Mary Kagan Kramer 24:45: Yeah, but they let me wait in there.

Carl Kramer 24:48: And I'm having dizzy spells and so forth. The, is that this one of the right after the event or neither in either case, I was not supposed to drive. Yeah, she was the designated driver at the

Mary Kagan Kramer 25:06: The waiting room was closed to visitors. But you know, just a little accommodation like that.

Jen Weidner 25:13: It means a lot. It means a lot. Yeah.

Carl Kramer 25:17: Yeah.

Jen Weidner 25:18: So, as a historian, what are some of the things that you can take away from this pandemic, things that we're, that we want to remember for the future generations to remember about what has happened?

Carl Kramer 25:29: Well, first, let me respond to that in a way that started transitional, what are the significant things we did when we recognized that this was going to be a major event. We got a message from the Filson Historical Society, saying this is going to be a memorable event. We would love, like to have people's memories of the, the pandemic. I think that message came out in April.

Mary Kagan Kramer 26:07: I think it was in the paper, I think I saw it in the paper. And I told Carl and that's—

Carl Kramer 26:12: And I had seen it, he told me, but I had seen that as well. So, we decided to start keeping a journal. So, taking this far beyond what the Filson had in mind. So, we started with back consulting our memories and our calendars to the beginning of the year, wrote an introduction and then a day-by-day accounting, and by the time we caught up with a calendar, we were writing what initially our entries were something like that, three or four or five lines. By the time we got to, into April, things are happening fast and furious. We had entries that would go a long paragraph, and then a page. And, of course, we're dealing not just with the pandemic itself, but life in the pandemic. So, this is where the political situation is heating up with, with the election coming. We wrote about what was happening on the local scene, what we were doing personally. And then the, the national scene. It was interesting how it worked out, because when we first started, we would get, gather at my computer, and sort of talk about things, and some, some things Mary would write, some things I would write. And finally, we've had that work best if Mary kept notes during the day. And then I would take her notes, and I would enter them, but, and often elaborate on.

Jen Weidner 27:58: Oh, yeah.

Carl Kramer 27:59: Yeah, flush, to flush them out. So, we didn't have to do sort of the back and forth that goes with us, with it, and periodically she will check. But, and if there was commentary, most of that was my commentary, but it was the kind of commentary that I knew from day-to-day that we can agree on. Yeah. So, our, if there was something that was specific to one of us, I would say, "Carl said" or "Mary said," so that you and I got on to that idea, because during the 1937 flood, the, the girls that Shawnee High School in Louisville, back when it was a girls school, wrote essays on their experiences in the, in the flood. And as a local historian, I quickly discovered that that was an important primary source

Jen Weidner 29:06: If you wait too long, people don't remember exact detail. That's why this was so important, is do this now while we're still in the pandemic. So people could remember exact details about their lives and what was happening.

Carl Kramer 29:20

So, as, as a historian, what do I take? It's a reminder that politics involves everything, you know, we would like to think that in the past, that we got along with dealing with major public health issues without political interference. That's nonsense! That the terrible toll of the 1917/18

Spanish flu, so called, resulted in part from the fact that the Wilson administration knew that this was getting severe, but they went on and held a big bond sale in Philadelphia. And that was a super supe- spreader.

Jen Weidner 30:15 There were parades.

Carl Kramer 30:17 There were parades and all those kinds of things that spread the epidemic, literally across the country.

Jen Weidner 30:25 And there were anti-maskers then!

Carl Kramer 30:27 Yeah.

Jen Weidner 30:28 So, a lot of this is “we should have learned from history,” but...

Carl Kramer 30:34 There is a lot of what I call “one-way liberty.” And I see, speaking as a historian, and so it stories we can speak with authority. There is no such thing as one-way liberty. Nobody has the right to deprive someone else of their life or liberty for the exclusive right of their own. So, you know, those are sort of lessons, but if this happens again 20, 30, or 40 years from now, will people learn from what I just said? No!

Jen Weidner 31:08 We would like to hope that they would, but as we've seen, like with the Spanish Flu—

Carl Kramer 31:13 Human beings.

Jen Weidner 31:14 Yep. Yes, I, have anything else you'd like to tell me about your experience?

Mary Kagan Kramer 31:20 Well, we've been meeting on Zoom Rotary Club, and normally we would have maybe 27 at a meeting, we've had in the vicinity of 15-18 on Zoom. Some of the older regular members who normally would be every week just aren't comfortable on Zoom.

Jen Weidner 31:40 That's understandable, it's new technology to me, even, when all of this started, so, I'm, I can't imagine people of older generations, I mean there's, there's no way, and that's fine. I mean, you know we all have our limits.

Carl Kramer 31:53 We had 18 members, or 18 people today, including one Louisville Rotary Club member, who attends almost our meeting, almost every week. Whether in-person or via Zoom. He's the husband of Tory Merton Mccluer, Matt Mccluer zooms in at our meetings as regularly as he attended our meetings, because he just likes to attend. Yeah, with us, but we had 18 today including Matt and Reverend Eric Wright, the new pastor of First Presbyterian.

Jen Weidner 32:37 You all are still doing Zoom?

Carl Kramer 32:38 Yeah, we're still doing Zoom.

Mary Kagan Kramer 32:40 We are doing Zoom, because the Radisson where we meet can't hire enough servers to serve lunch. And I keep thinking there is some major disconnect here. When people are out of work. And yet these restaurants, can't—

Jen Weidner 32:58 Can't get enough workers.

Mary Kagan Kramer 33:00 Because they can't get workers I realize it's not the best pay, but—

Jen Weidner 33:05 A job's a job until you can get back to whatever the new normal is.

Carl Kramer 33:11 So, those kinds of things. I'm trying to—

Mary Kagan Kramer 33:22 You were thinking what we did at the beginning, when it looked like this was really happening. I tried to make a conscious effort to call friends and family members who I felt might be a little disconnected, like, I have a cousin in South Carolina, my contemporary, who doesn't have a computer, doesn't have internet or email or anything, and very small family.

Jen Weidner 33:51 Yeah, I mean that, that phone call means a lot.

Mary Kagan Kramer 33:54 Just to check on them.

Carl Kramer 33:56 We also have held a derby party of some kind since we've known each other, virtually almost 40 years. And last year, of course, the derby was postponed. And it was still in the midst of the pandemic, so we didn't, we didn't have a derby party last year, and we had people who we would invited who expressed disappointment, but this year with the vaccine, the vaccine being available, and since that virtue, almost all the people who come are our age, are older, they have been...

Jen Weidner 34:44 They've been vaccinated and probably weren't out at gatherings.

Carl Kramer 34:46 We decided that go ahead with a party, and we started calling people, and people were just accepting left and right very eagerly, you know, glad you called. We'd love to be there, no hesitation, and the, the parallel of that as well, was the response of those who couldn't come. It was, "Oh shucks, I really wish we could go and we, we have another commitment." One of my oldest and longest and dearest friends and his wife, going back from when we were kids in Sellersburg Speed. They live in Lexington, Kentucky now, they said, "Wish we could go, but we have granddaughter, granddaughter with a five in take Rhode Island, with a fifth birthday, we've got to go."

Jen Weidner 35:44 Yeah, people are starting to get out more and travel a little bit more and—

Mary Kagan Kramer 35:49 It's best sometimes for a party like that will be going. I hope I can come, but I've got this and this, and this time it was from the ones who could come and enthusiastic immediate "Yes. So glad you are having this."

Jen Weidner 36:04 We're looking to get back to something that's normal.

Mary Kagan Kramer 36:07 Some of them said it was the first time they've been out.

Jen Weidner 36:11 So glad y'all were able to do that and that meant a lot to those people.

Carl Kramer 36:16 And we have an unusual number of the who stayed and help take down.

Jen Weidner 36:23 They didn't want to go home, they were happy to be out.

Mary Kagan Kramer 36:25 Really, and there was some beautiful day.

Jen Weidner 36:28 Yes, Derby Day was gorgeous!

Carl Kramer 36:29 So many of those who left early probably shouldn't have stayed around to help because of their, their age and health, but under normal circumstances that, that the friends in Lexington, would have been the last, last to leave our house for, for helping us, and we were sorry, okay what are we going to do with Mike and Margo not here as far as taking down, but we didn't have to worry about.

Jen Weidner 36:30 Everybody pitched in

Carl Kramer 37:01 Everybody pitched in and were able to get everything into the garage, there was a little enough leftover that it took us a little while on Sunday to make the final changes

Jen Weidner 37:13 Nothing major.

Carl Kramer 37:15 Nothing major.

Mary Kagan Kramer 37:17 But I've been saying it's so nice to see people other than just two inches high on the screen.

Jen Weidner 37:22 Great to see people in person. It was nice to shake your hands today. I haven't done that in over a year. I mean, yeah.

Mary Kagan Kramer 37:28 I'm wondering how many customs might fall away. Will shaking hands become a little less common? Will more people be on, what do they calling it, hybrid?

Jen Weidner 37:33 We're still doing all of our staff meetings via Zoom, even though we are all in the building. We're still sitting here at our computers.

Mary Kagan Kramer 37:50 Oh really? We have enough nieces and nephews who are teachers that we're hearing from them what their challenges have been.

Jen Weidner 38:01 I'm hoping to get a couple of teachers to interview. I have a cousin who is an elementary school teacher in Clarksville, because that's, that's been a huge challenge, I mean from kindergarten through high, or not, through colleges, changing things around.

Carl Kramer 38:19 Our nieces and nephews and their families have been hit fairly hard, especially on my, my side. My, my nephew's son was quarantined in the basement of their house, he's 17. Because what the, the girls had minor cases, but never, nevertheless. And my, my sister's sons and their wives and their children, almost all of them had COVID, again light cases, and their stepmother, the boy, the boy's stepmother came down from the Pendleton area for one of the girls, or one of the kids, I don't remember what was his grandsons or grand grandson or granddaughter. But anyway, she came down for the kid's soccer game to North Vernon, and we had been exposed but was asymptomatic, and she passed it on to two or three of the grandkids.

Jen Weidner 39:41 That is the tough thing, because you gotta have it and feel fine and pass it on to everybody. I mean, yeah, I know my family, we all had a plan, like if I got, or my mom got it, like, what we're gonna do. I was quarantined from here once, because there was an employee in my department that had asymptomatic.

Carl Kramer 39:58 But on the other hand, we have a niece. She's our nephew's ex wife, but they're still very much an item. She's the medical director at Madison State Hospital. The last we knew, she had had one case, one staff member who had come down with it and apparently was exposed outside, but the restrictions that she implemented there kept the staff and all the residents otherwise.

Mary Kagan Kramer 40:41: So, we haven't seen her or our nephew in a year, and we did not go to a family Christmas.

Jen Weider 40:51: I mean, many of us had to change how we did everything.

Carl Kramer 40:59 We went to a couple of other things at my brother and sister-in-laws here in Jeff where they could maintain—

Jen Weidner 41:03: Distancing.

Carl Kramer 41:06: Distancing outside, but Christmas we couldn't do outside.

Jen Weidner 41:16 Any final thoughts on the pandemic you'd like to tell me?

Mary Kagan Kramer 41:23: I wish this would be an eye opener for politicians because I really think the medical professionals are on top of it.

Carl Kramer 41:37: Certainly they are here. So, say how can you believe that, you are always going to find the naysayers.

Jen Weidner 41:57 In every bunch, no matter what it is, you are always going to have those few people. Thank you guys for coming in today and letting me interview you about this.

Carl Kramer 42:02 You are welcome.