



Can you believe we've been dealing with this pandemic for over a year?

By Jill Ishimitsu

Can you believe we've been dealing with this pandemic for over a year? It has brought us lots of stress figuring out how to keep our kids, parents, and grandparents active, healthy, and safe while still taking care of our clients and getting our work done. For many of us, this includes taking care of our kids, parents, and grandparents whom all have their own idea of what is best for them. Distance learning, stocking up on food and supplies, checking on the mental health of our loved ones, finding medical supplies, family meetings to ensure everyone is okay, explaining to your kids why they can't visit grandma and grandpa.

Add to that the stress from work. Learning to work remotely, ensuring staff have the resources they need to work remotely, managing and training staff, staying up to date with the COVID-19 relief programs, advising clients and assisting with their PPP loans, ensuring the office is safe for staff to return, tax planning. And just think of the additional stress and worry if you or someone you are close with got sick.

This pandemic has caused us so much grief and stress. Yet, it has also

provided us the opportunity to pause and rethink how we do things, pivot, as we have all become accustomed to hearing. It gave us time to reflect and focus on what is important to us. For some, this pandemic brought us closer as a family; allowed (or forced) us to do more things together. It gave us time to learn a hobby. It forced us to do things differently and learn new skills. I was interested in learning what positive impact the pandemic had on us. Here are some of the responses I received from fellow accountants:

- Darryl – Learned to reconnect with my youth and take up fishing since at one point in time during the pandemic it was one of the only outdoor activities allowed. In order to effectively work from home, you can't have an office set up in a room with a TV!
- Yumi – No new skills – just a lot more stress.
- Todd – Zooming.
- Ann – I learned to be more creative with my time, for example, finding new ways to work out since I couldn't go to my Muay Thai gym.

- Darryl – I learned to cut my own hair and groom my dog.
- Cindy – I learned how to make masks.
- Matt – Plumbing, changing a car battery, cooking, gardening, and video conferencing.
- Iris – I learned a lot about myself and how much we, as working mothers, can be stretched. I also learned how resilient our children are.
- Selena – Cooking, but I had no one to cook for so I stopped.
- Me - I observed inventory remotely and learned to cut hair. My drawing skills have improved thanks to my daughter's Kindergarten class and YouTube. Now when I draw an elephant, it actually looks like an elephant and not a blob with a tail on its head.

We have a lot of creative and resourceful accountants! We are learning new skills and adapting to the situation we are in. The future of our industry is in great hands. If not, at least we'll have good hair cuts!