

Making history

We can all agree that 2020 has been quite a traumatic year for a lot of people. January was a quiet month, however, once March approached the world went into a mass panic after world leaders declared a global pandemic. That was only the beginning. Soon after, violent protests against police brutality erupted which resulted in more violence and riots. Former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Joan Ruth Bader Ginsburg, also passed away near the end of the year and lastly, the US had their presidential elections. The year 2020 is one that will be remembered and written in the history books, and it all started with the Coronavirus Disease.

The Coronavirus Disease 19 (COVID-19) started from a bat in Wuhan, China. The Middle east Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is also a viral disease that started from bats. COVID-19 started affecting people at Wuhan's open-air wet markets because they started buying fresh meat and animals were being killed on spot. Some people have gone into debate because Wuhan didn't sell bats at the time of the outbreak which challenges the argument that the virus started at that particular wet market. COVID-19 started spreading faster to people that had not had direct contact with animals. The first human coronavirus case was identified in 1965. It usually caused a common cold. Director-General Dr. Tedros says, "We have a long way to go. This virus will be with us for a long time. The world cannot go back to the way it was. There must be a new normal. - a world that is healthier, safer, and better prepared." This virus started December 2019. Most of the people that had the virus at the time were either stall owners, market employees, or regular visitors to the market. The market was closed January 1st 2020. January 11-12 is when the virus started spreading worldwide. During the months of January-March nobody really thought anything of the virus so nobody wore their masks. When people started to notice how dangerous the virus actually was, they started wearing masks. There are some people in the world that still wouldn't wear their masks which lead to travel restrictions such as people not being able to fly across the country. There are also some people that don't believe in the virus. They think it's a myth that the president came up with for money. There are others who do believe that the virus is real and they're doing everything in their ability to save us and keep us safe. Schools and stores have opened back up and we have an enforced rule to wear a mask. In our local Walmart they have people standing at the entrance handing out masks to people that don't have any but some people walk right past them and shop without a mask. Which in their eyes might not be a big deal but there are others dying from the virus.

There is no way we can make this virus disappear for good but there are many ways we can slow down the spread of this virus. For example, if people wore their mask when they were in huge gatherings. More ways we can stop the

spread of the virus is social distancing, , avoiding large gatherings, washing hands frequently and putting on hand sanitizer after touching public objects/surfaces that someone else could/might have touched before you. Stopping the spread of this virus would be so much faster if people would follow these safety precautions. Wearing a mask is not fun but it is keeping us safe from catching a very harmful virus. Some effects of the virus are severe damage to the lungs. kidney damage, and heart damage. How might you know if you have COVID-19? Common symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or having trouble breathing.
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

However, did you know some people can catch the virus and have no symptoms at all? This is known as being asymptomatic. By that, you can tell that the virus can affect people differently. There may be someone with every single symptom and have the virus or there may be an asymptomatic person with no symptoms at all. Catching the virus can be very frightening to some people, some people have weaker immune systems then others.

Now let's move onto the vaccine. Any uneducated person that you meet will tell you that the virus is fake and that the government is doing all this to get a vaccine and inject you with something so that the government can get full control of us, that is the craziest thing anybody could even come close to believing. People are dying every single day form this virus, California's hospitals have run out of room because of how crazy our world is now. Anyone who thinks the virus isn't real is beyond crazy because there is proof that it exists. Scientific proof. There are also a bunch more people who think that on January 1st, 2021 this virus will magically disappear. What a dream... COVID-19 is going to be with us for an absurdly long time. Let's go back and take a look at the flu. That was a huge deal back then but as the years keep coming it becomes less of a problem. We see the flu as a tiny thing. This tiny thing used to be just like

the virus we have encountered this year. Scientists think the virus will be with us for a decade or more, people are refusing to wear their masks appropriately.

Most countries in the world went into lockdown considering the pandemic that's going on. Enough of that, let's talk about the protests and riots that occurred in 2020. It all began with 46-year-old black male George Floyd in Minneapolis. George had gone into a store to buy a pack of cigarettes but used a fake 20-dollar bill, the store employees ended up calling the police.

Several minutes went by and the first group of officers arrived at the scene, Floyd was on the ground and unconscious with four police officers on top of him, one on his neck leaving him unable to breathe. Many people that had witnessed this tragic scene combined their videos along with the security cameras outside of the store where this all took place. Mr. Floyd did end up passing away, one day after Floyd's death the Police Department fired all four police officers involved in this episode. Four days later the Hennepin County attorney, Mike Freeman declared third-degree murder along with second degree manslaughter. These charges went against officer Derek Chauvin this officer was the most clearly seen officer in the witness video. George had a friend in the passenger side of his car named Maurice Lester Hall. She says "He was, from the beginning, trying in his humblest form to show he was not resisting in no form or way," later on Monday she was tracked down in Houston and arrested on various amounts of warrants, she was also interviewed by the Minnesota State Investigators. Maurice says, "I'm going to always remember seeing the fear in Floyd's face because he's such a king. That's what sticks with me, seeing a grown man cry, before seeing a grown man die." Derek Chauvin was the officer who knelt on Floyd's neck for nearly 9 minutes and continued to stay on his neck after he became unresponsive.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/04/us/politics/george-floyd-witness-maurice-lester-hall.html>

Above is a link to the video of this scene. Many people refused to let this go so they began with their protests. Later on, these turned into riots. Buildings were being set on fire; police cars were also being set on fire.

There was also another scene with 26-year-old Breonna Taylor, a black female medical worker. She was shot and killed inside her own home. It was said to be a botched-raid on her apartment. The police officers had been investigating two men who they were said to be selling drugs in a house that was far from Breonna's but a judge had signed a warrant giving the officers permission to search Breonna's apartment because the police believed one of the men had used her apartment to receive the packages. Breonna Taylor and her boyfriend Kenneth Walker were in bed but got up immediately when they heard loud banging at their door. They both called out to the door to see who was there, later on Kenneth told the police they feared it was Breonna's ex-boyfriend trying to break in. The police officers

were able to take the door off of its hinges, Kenneth shot his gun once hitting Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly on one of his thighs. The police responded by firing their guns hitting Breonna 5 times. Hankinson shot 10 rounds blindly into Breonna's apartment. Kenneth had told the officers that Breonna coughed and was really struggling to breathe for at least 5 minutes after she was shot. An ambulance was outside of the apartments but were told to leave about an hour before the raid. The officers continued to call an ambulance back to the scene. It wasn't until 12:47 a.m., nearly five minutes after the shooting that the health workers realized that she was seriously wounded. "I don't know what's happening," says Kenneth on a record call to 911. "Someone kicked in the door and shot my girlfriend." Breonna did not receive any medicine for far more than 20 minutes after she has shot. The Jefferson County Coroner said that Breonna was most likely dead less than a minute after she was shot and had no way of being saved. This has been one of the most over policing and racial injustices that occurred in the United States. There was a grand jury in September who indicted former Louisville detective involved in the raid named Brett Hankison for wanton endangerment of neighbors whose apartments were hit when fired without a clear line of sight into the sliding glass patio door and window of Breonna's apartment. He was declared not guilty and no charges were made against the two officers who had fired shots. Breonna did not end up getting justice for her death, no one was charged for causing her death. None of the officers involved in the scene wore body cams preventing people from seeing footage of the actual scene. Myles Cosgrove, one of the officers who shot Breonna and Joshua Jaynes, who had prepared the search warrant for the raid later received letter of termination in late December. Also, in December, the police in Oakland California were out investigating the apparent act of vandalism directed straight at Breonna. The sculptor of the statue Leo Carson said the statue had been smashed into several pieces. Leo says "I built it to support the Black Lives Matter movement" followed by, "but that also makes it a target for racist aggression."

Clearly, this year has been frustrating for all of us. It has made many people lose their jobs, lose their homes, lose family members from the virus. 2021 is going to be a much better year. We have all learned from our mistakes and will all try our hardest to make changes, therefore we will not make those mistakes again.