

## Chicago

2021-2. We timed my knee replacement to leave sufficient time for me to complete the post-op physical therapy and to be walking well by February, when we are scheduled to travel to Chile, Argentina and Easter Island. This will be our first long trip since moving to Chicago. The three trips we had planned for last year were canceled because of COVID-19. Fortunately, Argentina and Chile recently reopened their borders to vaccinated Americans.

2020. Late February to late March 2020 was tough; within four weeks, we lost four family members. Then came the night of June 6, the closest I've ever been to a dangerous riot. Although my husband managed to sleep through it, the sounds of wailing sirens, circling helicopters, exploding fireworks and breaking glass and the strange sight and acrid smell of smoke from nearby burning cars and buildings awakened me every two hours or so. The Staples, Subway, Macy's and Walgreen's within a half a block of the entrance to our Chicago apartment building had their windows smashed, and hangers from clothing looted from Macy's lay strewn along the road directly behind our building.

The following day, plywood boarding appeared on every store front within a two block radius of us. Things were quieter the following nights, thanks to then 9 pm to 6 am curfew, the freezing of access to the bridges leading in and out of the downtown area, and the nightly shutdown of all public transportation. During those early days of the protests, the Chicago police showed unusual restraint, even when standing up to the looters and others participating in the demonstrations for reasons other than peaceful protest, but the restraint dissipated in the following weeks, partly in response to actions taken by those intent upon disrupting peaceful protests or engaging in organized looting. ... All this in the midst of a pandemic that would have been more easily foreseen and controlled if we had had honest and thoughtful leadership at the federal level.

Speaking of the pandemic, it has been frustrating not to have seen and have held our youngest grandchildren, a 5 ½ year old boy and his 16 month old sister, since late February even though we now live in the same city. We were scheduled to visit them a few weekends ago, but travel restrictions imposed in connection with planned demonstrations for that weekend made it impossible to do so.

*-- Recycled from Patricia's Class Notes*