Dear Friends, December 2020

Between the recent tremendous surge in COVID-19 cases, Quarantining, and the Presidential Election, I am exhausted. I suspect that many, who are reading this, may feel the same way.

### I AM A HUGGER

I miss hugging my children, grandchildren, and friends. I despise the loss of my activity, being self-jailed in my own home. I am passionate about Gershow Recycling, the company I founded, and long to be in the office. I miss Sam's Star Island Yacht Club and socializing with its customers and friends. I hunger for the frivolous, spontaneous, casual conversation with those I meet for the first time. I yearn and crave for a good meal at a restaurant. I miss not having friends over for dinner and drinks. My home is literally empty. It is just Marlena, myself and our dogs — Candy, Lola & Maggie. The only thing missing from my home confinement is an ankle bracelet!

### WHERE ARE OUR LEADERS?

In a time of crisis, our nation has felt increasingly divided. Our partisanship and lack of confidence in our leaders and institutions has only added to the collective anxiety this year has subjected us to. Politicians seem to become more and more hypocritical, and we find ourselves in a self-exacerbating cycle of distrust and disappointment on <u>all</u> sides of the political spectrum. Your she/her/hers or he/him/his is just as guilty as mine. Sometimes, it feels as if the world is falling apart.

### **AMERICAN PRIDE**

But I believe there is hope. This past Election Day, we experienced the greatest voter turnout in our history. Whether your candidate won or lost, you should be proud. We should all be proud, as Americans, that so many of us turned out to vote. The greatness of America is not in its leader(s), but, rather, in its ability to continually and peacefully choose and change its leaders at will by casting a ballot. The public is aware, mobilized and empowered to participate in democracy. I am proud to be an American!

I have a message to the privileged in elected office (on both sides of the aisle) who have been blessed with decades of incumbency due to lack of voter turnout: You should up your game! With one vote, the power remains not with you or your office, but with the people you represent. If you keep up the hypocrisy, the voters will let you know.

# BORED, BUT IT COULD BE WORSE

While quarantining is excruciatingly boring, it brings us the recognition of how quickly time passes. Make the best of the situation. Take time to learn and use technology which will allow you to enjoy the blessings of your Children and Friends. Facetime and Zoom are great ways to see your loved ones.

## PEACE BE WITH YOU

I urge you to do your part to slow the spread of COVID-19. We will get past this. Although we must remain six feet apart, we are in it together. "Thank You" for your continued patronage and business. We wish you, your family and friends a New Year filled with Peace, Health, Goodwill, Happiness, Prosperity *and a Vaccine*.

God Bless America and those who continue to defend it.

Happy Holidays!

GERSHOW RECYCLING CORPORATION

Sam Gershowitz

Sam Dubrietz