

MARNI

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shipped over, unrolled some of his wares and talked about the ancient art of Turkish rug making, a tradition that dates back many centuries and many generations in his own family. He taught us about the fineness of the weave, the intricacies of and legends behind the patterns, the origin of the dyes and the trained hands that tie every miniscule knot.

Hungry for connection, we all listened closely.

Privately, I smiled at how far I had come.

When Hakan and I met six years ago, I didn't like him at all. I was an arms-crossed skeptic. I had stereotypically put him (Turkish rug trader) in the same camp as snake-oil salesman and



Art crossing — For one household, a hand-woven entryway rug marks the threshold and commemorates the end of an era. The art piece symbolizes the moment where they opened their front door again to the world.

bridge seller. Through painstaking patience, Hakan won me over and chiseled through my ignorance until I came to appreciate both him and this art form.

As the evening wound up, a small rug somehow found a permanent home appropriately by

our front door, where it marks for me a symbol for the post-pandemic moment in time when we opened our front door again to the world.

The moment the pandemic moves from present to past differs for everyone. For some, it

may be the first day back to school or to a workplace. For some, the pandemic may seem present still, but that was my moment. Once you feel comfortable and safe doing so, and are — not that I would ever tell you what to do — vaccinated, here are several ways to joyfully put the pandemic in your past and celebrate like its 1656:

1. Have the dinner party.

Have lots of dinner parties. You don't have to have a reason beyond "because we can."

2. Hug your neighbors.

Open your arms and your doors.

3. Get a piece of art to commemorate this time, and to remind you of the fact that making and sharing art has held societies together since the beginning of civilization.

4. Practice gratitude.

Appreciate the many small moments we have long taken for granted, being about to walk into a store without a mask, hold a baby, take a trip, have lunch with a friend.

5. Get off Zoom.

Go out and see people in person.

6. Get back to life.

If you can, go hear and feel live music. Visit a museum. See live theater. Experience life apart from a two-dimensional screen. Embrace art and life in all its dimensions.

Marni Jameson is the author of six home and lifestyle books, including "Downsizing the Family Home – What to Save, What to Let Go," and "Downsizing the Blended Home – When Two Households Become One." She can be contacted at www.marnijameson.com.

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