

May 5, 2020 THE GREAT DIVIDE-

by Nancy Cramer

Some people in the government and in business declare we are nearing the end of the virus. But to those in the medical and scientific fields, if this is an end, it is an end only to Phase 1. Most people I talk to, not many, I admit, say less than 100, disagree. They believe there is more to come and it may even be worse. For people in comfortable quarters with their job assured, or who are retired, this whole scenario is just an inconvenience, but not one to complain about. For when we turn on the TV and see victims and health professionals, the people who are directly involved, we realize how fortunate we are and how little this pandemic has actually encroached upon our comfortable lives.

But because we accept that there is a pandemic, we wear masks, we limit our driving, and keep the required six foot distance. Although slightly discomforted because we have to forego our nights out with friends and substitute television sitcoms or game shows. Some of my friends cancelled their vacation plans, rescheduling optimistically for the fall. A bitter blow however is dealt when parades, awards nights, even graduation, and other ceremonies are off the calendar. For graduating seniors and their parents, these are large scale disappointments. And the same frustration multiplied tenfold occurs when funerals and memorials are reduced to lines of cars driving by the saddened family. At least it is something, they will say.

While millions of people are devastated by the pandemic, hundreds more millions are only slightly inconvenienced. The Great Divide again. The divide between rich and poor; privileged and disadvantaged; the powerful and the powerless. One ethnicity dominant above others. It makes me ask myself, "Are we learning anything? Is what are we learning important and, if so, will it be a permanent part of our national character? Only time can tell.