

# St. Some *Covid* Times

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## **STILL IN COVID-CATION & LOCKED IN SAUDI**

Absolutely nothing has happened. It is a true struggle to squeeze anything newsworthy out of this month.



From the Life and Times of Greg Lemoine, International Educator Since 2001.

# HalloCovidWeen? Going Back to “old school” activities!

Once again, I found myself a part of the Haigler family traditions. This time it was Halloween. I love Halloween. This evening of “old school” Halloween festivities more than made up for the fact that neither my apartment nor my classroom had any scary adornments.

I have an abundance of Halloween stories, my favorite being 1999 when I took my Catholic girlfriend to an authentic witches coven! Truly, THAT was an amazing Halloween. This covid-ween turned out to be a throw-back event.

When was the first time you carved a pumpkin? Oh, like I could answer that without mom or dad helping me out. I was what, like three or four?

I sat back and watched the Haigler twins, Tiana and Jan Lund, and Rachel (Haigler’s nanny and live-in maid) carve their first Jack-O-Lanterns - ever. The twins had just never been allowed to or hadn’t been interested yet. Tiana and Jan are Olive and Hanks’ kids. They are South African and don’t really celebrate Halloween unless they are hanging out with a bunch of North Americans like the Haiglers. So far, they hadn’t carved. As for \_\_\_\_\_, she is Nigerian and the idea just never came up.

This was the year. Dave had bought five or six large pumpkins and lined them up outside. I sat there and took photos and witnessed the joy and

wonderment on all their faces as pumpkins were transformed into Jacks, each with it’s own face born from techniques taught and learned on the spot. There is something special about watching someone else experience a tradition (one that you might even take for granted) for the first time.

After the pumpkins came bobbing for apples, decorating your own Halloween cookies, and toilet paper mummies. When is the last time you did any of these? The evening finished off with S’mores over the fire pit.

I’d have to say, the Haiglers have built up their Halloween decoration stash over the years. My favorite is the sandy witch on this issue’s cover. Creepy! I felt right at home. I even introduced the Haigler clan to mom and dad via FaceTime. (*Note to self - always let the other FaceTimer that they are on “speakerphone” right away.*)

*A big thank you goes out to the Haigler and Lund families for including me in their Halloween festivities.*

*There just isn’t much to report outside of Halloween. I could explain the fact we are still land locked, closed down from travel, social distancing, and all that covid-19 crap here on the island. But I won’t. Covid October has drawn to an end without major sharable news.*

*The world may be going to hell in a hand basket, but all seems well enough here. We carved pumpkins! greg out!*



A man with a grey beard, wearing a red t-shirt, a black cap, and glasses, is focused on carving a large, round, orange pumpkin. He is using a carving tool. The scene is outdoors on a patio with a concrete pillar and a wooden chair in the background. A young boy in a black t-shirt with a white skeleton design is partially visible on the right side of the frame. The overall atmosphere is casual and festive.

***IT'S DAD N' SONS TIME.***

***IT'S MOM N' DAUGHTER TIME.***

There are many techniques, many ways to carve a great pumpkin. But what if you have NEVER done one before? It's time to watch a master. Mind the sharp knife blade. Don't dig too deep. Maybe draw your face first. And yet, when it comes down to it,

**DO IT YOUR WAY.**

**MAKE IT YOUR OWN.**