

MPI Michigan Blog – March 2021

It's March. This means, we've officially been in some kind of lockdown for a full year. Congrats – you made it! In this last year, you've probably added a few words or phrases to your vocabulary like “New Normal,” “Social Distancing” and “Zoom Meeting” and done things you never thought you would do, like have virtual parties or site visits.

I know we're all craving the thrill of in-person meetings, but we have to hold on a little while longer while vaccine distribution ramps up. This means we're going to have more virtual calls. Thanks to the BBC, here are a few helpful tips to make Zoom calls exciting.

DIY Cocktail Parties

As a meeting planner, this one has been really popular for holiday or retirement parties. You can always call your local bar to see if you can hire one of their bartenders to run the class or you can find bartenders online. Try Virtual Cocktail Class, Williams Sonoma or Tammy's Tastings. The Whiskey Factory Detroit even offers up virtual classes too. These classes can either send you the ingredients ahead of time or you'll get a list of items to buy. Grab your friends and have a great night in. You won't even have to worry about taking an Uber home!

Multi-player 'Video' Games

We all need some escapism at the moment, even if we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. But escape rooms have had to adapt after closing their doors. Via Zoom (or other virtual event platforms), these companies are able to create immersive experiences for people online. The Escape Game, one of the original escape room creators can take you and your friends through one of their escape games via live feed. You'll work together to solve clues and puzzles in 60 minutes. Even local libraries are getting in on the virtual escape room trend. The Monroe County Library System offers several virtual options including pirate and mythology-themed rooms.

Communal Cooking Clubs

Maybe you've done a virtual cooking class as an event through work or maybe you just love cooking shows. Grab some of your friends and cook together via Zoom! Several Michigan-based businesses have virtual cooking classes. Get your bake on with Zingerman's Bakehouse in Ann Arbor; cook with flavors of China, Greece or Spain at the Mirepoix Cooking School in Royal Oak; or learn to eat healthier with MHealthy Cooking Classes through the University of Michigan. If you don't want to hire a chef, you could try a weekly pizza night or take turns cooking your favorite dish with your friends.

On-screen Book Clubs

After a year in lockdown, you've probably exhausted your Netflix queue. Why not dust off those books on your shelf that you've been “meaning to read” forever? Ask your friends to join your virtual book club and let each person choose next month's book. And as for in-person book clubs, who says you actually have to read it? It could just be a good excuse to drink wine and catch up with your friends!

