

As we meet together this the very first week of a hopeful new year there are some painful realities that we all must face.

We approach the sad and horrible statistic that soon a half million of our fellow Americans will have been felled by this deadly virus. Over and above the human toll of lives and long-haul chronic health effects, the virologists tell us that we will need at least 70% of Americans immunized before the terrible effect this has had on our economy and infrastructure even begin to fade. Last week's very disappointing news as to the slow pace of the American vaccine deployment made the decision for us unfortunately.

Hundreds of hours was already invested in the 37<sup>th</sup> edition James Joyce Ramble up to March of 2020, but stopped in our tracks with the realization that the world is in uncharted waters. We are fully realizing that our country may not ever look or feel the same. Some small businesses will never recover and workers may never return to their jobs

As many of you know, with great success the James Joyce Ramble has been the proud host of the USATF National Masters 10 km Championship and it involves many older adults traveling from across the country to compete in April of each year in Dedham, Massachusetts.

We've conferred with medical authorities along with state government resources and monitored news from the National Institute of Health and noted medical institutions such as Johns Hopkins. In early December, with ever increasing dread and realization, it was made clear we cannot possibly stage our event in just four months as continued fear will be very much with us as perhaps the beginning of a slow and painful financial recovery for many.

We choose not to impede in any way the world's unified public health response to Covid-19 by putting anyone; runners, volunteers, vendors or spectators at risk. It is the antithesis of the expressed values and mission of a fitness event of this scope, size and ambition.

Regretfully, we must inform you that the 37th James Joyce Ramble 10 km is canceled for 2021, but will make a grand return on April 24, 2022. All entry credits will be automatically extended, safe from any and all fee increases. We do pray you understand.

We some time ago established a Facebook group for folks who may wish to exchange information as well as assist others during these uncertain times,

called, Our Better Angels. The name comes from Abraham's Lincoln's inaugural address. He said "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory will swell when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature".

Please stay safe. We'll get through this together. I know this.

Martin Hanley

Founding Director

James Joyce Ramble