

Chris and Lou's 2022

So, the year has rushed by in a flash, and it is the time of year to keep in touch with friends. The past year has been limited in contact due to COVID and related issues. We have been slowly trying to re-establish some normalcy to activities, but the world has still changed. There was a back-to-the-office movement at Northrop Grumman where Chris works, but working from home had become established and in many respects was more efficient, so Chris goes into the office two days a week and still has every other Friday off. She has been quite busy and finds that she is on the computer from home partially on most evenings and weekends.

Lou decided to rejoin the contract bridge card world and plays in-person one or two days a week at the local senior centers. Our previous board gaming friend groups have mostly faded away. We have avoided most events at indoor theater locations. We attended occasional Conejo Ski and Sports Club events and the Traveler's Century Club lunch meetings.

Over the summer we spent two weeks with Marilyn and JoAnna at Marilyn's Island on Lake of the Woods. We visited with Lou's cousins in Winnipeg and took the Ontario Northland bus to Sioux Narrows where Marilyn's neighbor Kristin picked us up and took us to the Island. The lake was unusually high this year and the boat house deck was one foot under the water level. Marilyn welcomed us, and we had the best 12 days of meals ever. There was some excitement when a local mini-tornado took down a 60-foot (20-meter) tree which cracked and fell across the septic field outside the kitchen.

We had never visited the British Isles, so we took a Princess 12-day cruise from Southampton in August - September. We visited Guernsey, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Wales, and Scotland. We left the cruise on the last evening in Le Havre, France, rented a car, and drove to Brugge, Belgium. We found a room directly on a canal and watched the swans paddle by below our window in the mornings. Our holiday card this year has a photo of us in a horse-drawn carriage touring the old town, which is largely unchanged from medieval times. The trip continued on to Floriade in Netherlands, then to Brussels, where we took a flight to Iceland. After three days visiting the spectacular sights of Iceland, we flew to Chicago. We were going to attend Chris' 55th high school reunion in West Allis but had had gotten COVID along the way and still tested positive, so we cancelled that plan and engaged in outdoor activities around Chicago.

In October Chris attended the annual Society of Women Engineers (SWE) conference, which this year was in Houston, Texas. This event at the convention center was right next to the Minute Maid baseball stadium where the Houston Astros were playing in the AL playoff championship games. We visited with her cousin Nancy on a trip out to the huge NASA Houston facility and then to Galveston for a seafood dinner.

Katy and Kaiden came down for Thanksgiving turkey and all the usual trimmings. Seanna stayed at the University of Idaho. Kaiden did a lot of work helping Lou make a new pathway up the side of the house next to the kitchen. The large mulberry tree there had mostly died and had to be removed, but the roots remained which were blocking making a clear flat pathway. He did a great job chainsawing the root away and installing paver tiles along the path. Katy has a new job, which she really enjoys, managing the giftshop and campground store at the Big Sur Julia Pfeiffer Sate Park.

Andy and Suzuna bought a house in the Yokohama area and are renovating the kitchen before moving in. Melina (7) and Tyler (1½) will finally get to have some pets.

Emily and Victor are still in Portland, OR with their cats, chickens, and lovely big garden.

We wish you all happy holidays as 2022 comes to an end and a new year full of joy and prosperity.