

***Happy Holiday's to our friends and family!***

Greeting one and all,

**Hope** — it's the key word for everything, and always has been! We hope this letter finds you in good spirit and health again. No matter what comes at us, we hope that you remain happy, vibrant, helpful, strong, loving, and caring. Together, we can take the sting out of a pandemic and any other obstacles that come our way!

What a year! January 2020 started off like most years, as Greg and Shannon headed out on a ski trip to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. We jumped over to Big Sky, Montana where we were joined by good friends, Judy, Chris, and Tahlia. Continuing with the ski fun in February, Greg's 2nd Western ski trip led him to Colorado's Winter Park and Copper Mountain with more great friends. The trip ended in Steamboat Springs where Shannon was able to join the larger ski crew for 1 week.



Shannon skiing in Steamboat Springs, CO



Riding the heated chairlifts in Big Sky, Montana

The month of March brought excitement as Karen and Shannon both started new jobs. Karen jumped over to Polaris as Senior Retirement Plan Specialist, and Shannon headed to a local advertising agency, Morsekode, as an Art Director/Graphic Designer. Unfortunately, COVID-19 struck only a week later and Karen and Shannon suddenly had to adapt to their new jobs while working from home.

Fast forward a few more weeks, Shannon was furloughed. That gave her the summer to spend biking, hiking, swimming, playing tennis, and of course, job searching. Eventually she accepted a similar position later in the year with Yamamoto. Shannon is still living in Minneapolis and although her dog-sitting side hustle was slow this year, the influx of pet adoptions/sales is promising for the future.

Amanda spent January through April finishing her clinical rotations at Northwestern University in Chicago. She graduated in May as a Physician Assistant, and had a surprisingly nice virtual graduation ceremony in our home living room. We organized a surprise drive-by graduation event: her friends and family drove by our house to make her feel special! In June, she passed her Board Examination and became a Certified Physician Assistant. Since May, she's been employed doing what she loves passionately: taking care of horses at the U of M! Now, she accepted a Physician Assistant position in Gastroenterology & Hepatology at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato starting March 1<sup>st</sup>! Kevin and Amanda are excited about the move to Mankato. We are lucky to have had her living with us now (probably for the last time)!



Drive-by PA graduation celebration



Family hiking around Elm Creek



Greg and Karen at Rutgers

Greg worked harder than ever this year, helped people overcome many obstacles and sold more homes in these challenging times! He played more golf, tennis, and pickleball than ever before and is feeling fit, though he thinks he has the COVID-10-pound-gain settling in for Christmas! He's been able to interact with new and old friends in the most positive way he can think of: playing some sport in the great outdoors or even just walking or biking in nature.

Karen also is working harder than ever, proving working from home is not all it's cracked up to be. She's enjoyed her socially-distance outings with friends and is longing for a return to "normal".

Vacations looked different this year with safety precautions in place but there was plenty of time for fun. Karen and the girls took a trip up north to visit Karen's sister Robbie and her family on the 9R Ranch where they played with all the farm animals, crafted, and enjoyed the great company. Amanda and Kevin had a few camping and cabin trips with friends, as well as a trip to Iowa to see Kevin's sister and her family. A mini Greg Yurick sibling family reunion was held at a cabin on North Long Lake near Brainerd MN where plenty of fishing, water-skiing, volleyball, swimming and biking took place.



Family fun at the 9R Ranch



Amanda and Kevin camping in Wisconsin



Walking around downtown Anoka

We focused on taking small steps and finding peace in our life during a crazy 2020. Not travelling has given us more time to work and play. But we have also put more effort into making our home relationships blossom. We've all gotten more time together: more walks, talks, meals and zoom calls, virtual and in person game nights, and numerous bike rides and hikes.

To those of you have experienced loss or pain this year, we offer our deepest sympathies and best wishes. May you have a healthy and happy 2021! Bring it on!

**Greg, Karen, Amanda, and Shannon Yurick**

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