

**Happy Holiday's to our friends and family! From the Greg and Karen Yurick family!**

What a year! January 2021 started off with Covid-19 canceling almost all our travel plans! From ski trips to an Irish wedding, almost all our travel was curtailed. We're looking forward to traveling to Ireland and more in 2022!

By February, Karen and Shannon were able to move their already remote offices to Phoenix, AZ. They worked there for a month & got to enjoy the warmth/sunshine! Greg held down the MN fort, kept busy by a hot real estate market.

Shannon was promoted to Senior Art Director at Yamamoto. She works hard and enjoys a great PTO policy that allows her to go off and have some fun in life to balance all her work. She still does some pet sitting when she can!

In March, Amanda & Kevin moved to Mankato. Amanda started her first PA job with Mayo Clinic Health System. She sees patients in both the clinic and hospital in Gastroenterology and Hepatology. Kevin is now working for River Bend Nature Center as a Naturalist. Amanda and Kevin began attending many of their friends' weddings near and far.

In April, Karen got a new job at Ameriprise and loves it! The outdoor season began for Greg's tennis and pickleball. Things started to get back to normal with the arrival of vaccinations. We were able to gather in small and safe ways with some picnics plus trips to see friends in WI and Duluth. Covid-19 be gone please!!

In early May, Amanda and Kevin adopted a 3.5 month old black lab-mix puppy from Warrior Dogs Rescue. She was one of seven puppies brought up from Alabama. They named her Tilly. She is well behaved, an absolute joy, and the easiest puppy! In mid-May, Amanda, Kevin, Shannon, and friends went backpacking along the Superior Hiking Trail. After 9 years together, Kevin proposed to Amanda at Gooseberry Falls! Everyone who knew was able to keep the plan a secret. It took Amanda by surprise, and she said yes! They are now busy planning their October 2022 wedding! Congrats to them!



Family time with Barb at Rice Lake



Kevin pops THE question at Gooseberry



Surprise 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday party for Karen

In June, Karen turned 60! She returned to AZ to see what real heat was like there and close down our property near Phoenix. Our little casita is her "happy place" and will be used by us more often as we age. Meanwhile, the MN weather was very nice, but dry. While we'd like to see the end of the drought, we did enjoy sunny & near perfect weather all Summer and Fall. Plenty of outdoor fun! We like to golf, bike, swim, play tennis & pickleball, sail, & just be outdoors for walks too!

In August, Greg, Amanda, and Shannon began our long-awaited journey to Alaska. I had always wanted to show the kids where my sister Maggie lived until 1990 before her death. She is the Aunt they never got to meet and was very special.

Amanda was able to get 10 days away from her job. Shannon and Greg got away for 16 days and we all made the most of our time. We rented an RV in Anchorage for the first week but spent little time in it as we camped for 4 nights in Denali National Park. We went to the furthest point into the Park - camping at Wonder Lake. The weather was wet, but we enjoyed seeing lots of grizzly bears and other wildlife. We had a variety of hikes including some with glaciers, and some bushwhacking since there are few marked trails to follow.

From Denali, we drove to Kenai, AK and Captain Cook State Park. We hiked on the designated Maggie Yurick Trail inside the Park. It's a 1 mile hike, beginning in the campground and venturing to the ocean tides of Captain Cook Inlet. I've uploaded a Trail Guide if you ever get a chance to go there. It was a good way to connect the kids to their Aunt, and for me to renew my spirit with Maggie. What fun we could have had with her in our lives all these years.

We then drove to Seward for a 6 hour scenic boat tour of a portion of the Kenai Fjords National Park. We saw whales, otters, puffins, and more. The next day, we hiked to the Harding Ice Field of Seward Glacier. Awesome scenery and really great to show the kids more of nature's beauty. Even though the weather wasn't perfect we enjoyed ourselves.



Moose, Dall sheep, & Caribou horns in Denali



Kenai Fjords scenic and sunny boat tour



All smiles hiking up to the Harding Ice Field

After parting ways with Amanda and the RV in Anchorage, Shannon & I continued a car camping adventure the next 7 days. We traveled back to the Kenai to camp, hike, kayak, & sight see. We sea kayaked in very calm waters after taking a ferry from Homer AK. We hiked along the salmon runs on the Russian River and other spots too. Then we spent a day hiking the Portage Glacier and visited Whittier and the Prince William Sound. Our last days were spent north of Palmer, where we camped and hiked in a non-touristy area we had been told of. The Hatcher Pass and Independence Gold Mine areas offered beautiful hikes and fun! It was a great trip that we were lucky to go on. We will cherish it forever!



Seeing the salmon run in the Russian River



Sea kayaking near Kachemak Bay State Park, AK



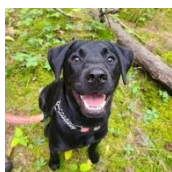
Ice chunks floating at Portage Pass Trail

The next few months were very routine with lots of togetherness. Amanda found a wedding dress, visited her aunt's farm, traveled to Madeline Island for a reunion with PA classmates, and was able to meet some of Tilly's siblings at a nearby park. She also went to the state fair three times this year - mini state fair in May, regular fair in August, and holiday lights in December! We all got to hang out with friends and play mostly outdoors.

By October, Greg was experiencing pain that curtailed my physical activities. I became a couch potato in October, awaiting triple hernia repair surgery, completed November 9<sup>th</sup>. Recovery is going well and I've begun physical therapy for my back too. My energy for work & play will be back! I look forward to a strong 2022, with your help! Please call on me if you know anyone with moving plans in the near future! And keep us in mind for some fun too!!

**Wishing you a healthy and happy 2022!**

**The Yurick's: Greg, Karen, Amanda & Shannon, Kevin & Tilly**



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