

Highlights of 2020

Welcome to 2021
from the Burns Family!!

What a year. For almost everyone, 2020 will be remembered for the COVID-19 pandemic. We were fortunate to stay healthy and retain jobs (with COVID-appropriate adjustments). Our love and hugs go out to all, for whatever life is throwing at you.

(Contact info
has been removed for the web)



Carol, Ray, Bethany, Joshua and Art
with Ray's newest land-cleanup 'toy'—a forklift!



Antonio, Julia, & Alex
touching stingrays



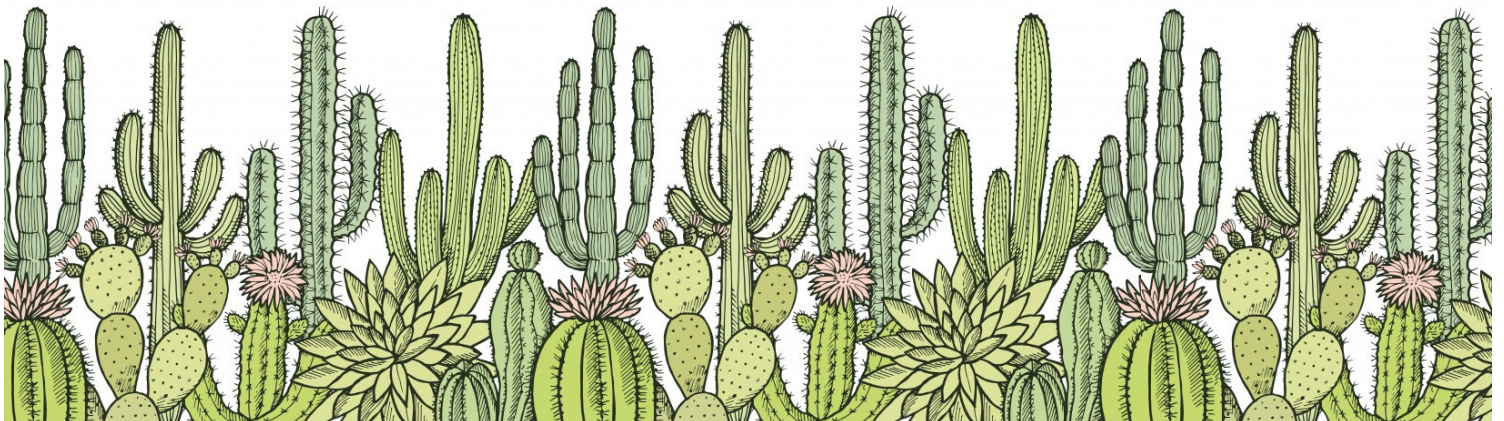
Marybelle
(in Massachusetts)



March 2020
Alex absolutely
adores her books!



May 2020
Riding in the mining cart
(Alex is signing 'more!')





Ray

Ray reached ‘challenge’ level square dancing in just 6 months. Pre-COVID, he did lots of square and ballroom dance activities, and also went to the MAGIC fashion show in Las Vegas with the Pima College Fashion Club. Much of 2020 was land/shop cleanup, organizing or getting rid of 60+ truckloads of stuff—acre by acre, we’re getting there. Ray continues to enjoy his job as a contractor for the Air National Guard, doing software development. In late summer, he had a lot of fun as an enumerator for the US Census Bureau (see left), knocking on doors and interviewing people!

In November, Ray drove to Salt Lake City for 16 intense days of remodeling help for a friend (see right). He put in tub/shower, toilets, light switches, light fixtures, laminate flooring, tile, door trim, baseboards, lots of drywall patching/mudding, fixed electrical issues, much more. Unfortunately (and despite safety measures) he was exposed to COVID while there, and had to quarantine for 2 weeks upon returning home. Toward the end of 2020, Ray and Carol joined in round dance classes to be dancing again, learning cues in waltz, two-step, cha-cha, rumba and foxtrot. The classes are safe, with temperatures taken upon arrival, masks, and dancers moving around the room in sync so no couples come close to each other.



Carol

Carol and Bethany share M–F Alex care, with most of Carol’s days at [Pebble](#) (our tiny home). Best exercise regime *ever*, since Alex is a mini-tornado! Alex got her [memory quilt](#) (see left) at 2 years old, and Carol keeps track of ‘all fun Alex things’ on her [kid activities page](#). Carol is adding [audio read-thrus](#) (with highlighted text) to her math lessons, and now has a secure website (today’s world expects ‘https’, with scary warnings if that ‘s’ is missing). She’s experimenting with a new web monetization model (Coil/Uphold/Interledger). Rainwater harvesting improvements (including 3 new trees planted) and a crocheted ‘flower garden’ rounded off the year.

Joshua

Joshua continues to live in the Timrod house and work at Arby’s. His favorite 2020 show was ‘My Hero Academia’, inspiring his catchphrases ‘Go Beyond! Plus Ultra!’ Minecraft Steve joining Smash Bros has excited him for future characters. He reads Brandon Sanderson books for the win, and enjoys spending lots of time with Bethany (who now lives with him, to be closer to Julia/Tony for Alex care).

Marybelle

This was Marybelle’s 4th year as a live-in caregiver in Lenox, Massachusetts. She became an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) in 2020, and will graduate with her RN (registered nurse) in May 2021. She enjoys gardening, foraging for mushrooms and ramps (wild onions), hiking, swimming, and has started a regular yoga practice.

Bethany

Bethany prefers to be called Eris these days. She keeps busy with online school, taking care of Alex, and watching lots of anime on down time. Five new adorable rats entered her life in early fall. She will graduate from high school (one year early) in May.

This letter is online with active links at:

<https://www.onemathematicalcat.org/ChristmasLetters/AnnualLetter2020WithLinks.pdf>

Feel free to share!