

A New Year

2021

Greeting From Marilyn & Guy

December 2020

<http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/gcberry/family.html>

*Happy Holidays
and a Great New Year
from both of us!*

The sixth year in our apartment has brought the unexpected sequestration to life in the apartment since March, with minimal visits with family members or others, and those that could be arranged involving "social distancing" and facial masks. Although GCB retains his office in the Mellon Institute (MI) of CMU, but as he has no teaching or other responsibilities in CMU, GCB is permitted only limited, prearranged visits to that office. His work as an Editor-in-Chief of a scientific journal is conducted via computer and Zoom sessions in our apartment, and that will terminate at the end of 2020 with retirement from that responsibility. A special volume of the journal dedicated to GCB's 20 years as an Editor will appear in January. The volume will comprise invited contributions in polymer physics by a number of experts well known to GCB. During the summer and a fall seasons GCB was able to get in 2.5 to 3.5 mi daily walks in the neighborhood around the apartment (weather permitting) about the same as the walks in MI until COVID limited daily visits to MI to "essential personnel". Except for dog walks, GCB's walking will likely diminish or terminate during the winter months. MJB's affliction with sciatica has limited her outdoor walking activities to daily walks of about 1/4 to 1/3 mi, but that too is stopping as the winter weather develops. She began yoga exercises in our apartment in November under the direction of a resident, and that seems to help her flexibility and mobility.

Marilyn broke the tedium of sequestration in the apartment by decorating in the Christmas spirit, albeit that the decorations are those stored away after Christmas 2019. She also started work on another Christmas stocking for the birth of a girl to Jessica and Charles, finishing it in time as a present to Maya for Christmas.



Some of the apartment decorations

Susan, Carmon & Family

• **Susan & Carmon** continue their respective life styles. This was a big year for Susan in her work with the "Story Stitchers" group she founded to work with economically disadvantaged young people in St. Louis; a principal goal is to help suppress gun violence. Along with about 200 groups in the US she developed and submitted a proposal for a grant comprising \$100,000/yr for 5 years to support and expand the mission of *Story Stitchers*.

See: storystitchers.org
Carmon continues his career as a Dean of the Sam Fox School and practicing artist with the creation of new art. Of course, he has had to work around the limitations to teaching imposed by Covid-19, involving remote teaching, and the need for some in class activity to create art.



Maya with Nana Susan & Grandpa Carmon

• **Jessica and Charles** introduced their daughter, **Maya Sage**, to the world on 22 October 2020—healthy and good looking. Maya is our first great granddaughter, and fourth great grandchild (my, we are getting old!).



Jessica with newborn Maya

Marilyn has enjoyed talking to Maya via Facetime since she was two weeks old, finding that Maya has been very responsive to her voice and image—at this rate she will be ready for school next month.



Maya & Stocking made by her Nana Marilyn

Maya is a visual duplicate of Jessica at the same age, and is blessed with a usually calm demeanor.



Maya with parents in rare Arkansas snow

Both Jessica and Charles were able to teach classes in architecture at the University of Arkansas while awaiting Maya, by remote learning after the Covid pandemic hit. They are planning to teach in the Spring 2021 term if it can be arranged.

- **Ashley and Adrian** are expecting the birth of a daughter in early January 2020, already named Remi—Marilyn & Susan both wish for a healthy birth for mother and child, but hoping for 9 and 13 January respectively. Since her job involved contact with the public, Ashley resigned from her job as Covid developed in the interest of safety for both herself and the unborn. Adrian is working to complete his MFA in the Sam Fox School of Wash U., while working as an assistant for a well-known artist in St. Louis.



Ashley & Adrian waiting for Remi

- **Chelsea** continues her love of riding her horse Rowan, training her dog to earn a certificate as a Therapy Dog, and pursuing her career in occupational therapy in a position in Atlanta GA. She made the long trip to visit Maya and her parents over the Christmas Holidays. During her visit, she helped Maya develop her

smile to mimic what she saw on Chelsea's face.



Maya sitting with Chelsea

Sandra & Family

- Sandra has cut back on trips to parks this year owing to Covid-19, restricting her visits to sites in PA and WV. To compensate, she has introduced back-packing for overnight trips. She had been hiking with Colleen's dog Holly, so when Colleen decided to take Holly with her when she moved to her new job, Sandra added a new dog, Willow?? this year, similar in size and shape to train for a hiking companion. Covid-19 has also reduced the number of visits to see her grandsons (and their parents) to only a few visits to see Kim, Jon and her three grandsons.

- **Colleen** has had a 2020 influenced by Covid-19 in many ways—some to her benefit, and some otherwise. Of the latter, the lack of a commencement ceremony to mark her graduation Summa Cum Laude with her B.S. in Finance from Saint Vincent College in May of 2020. Despite Covid, she was able to continue her involvement as instructional and event organizer for Rolling Rock Hunt Pony Club (a local equine youth organization) throughout the summer. After being recruited to work with Axon Enterprise, Inc. as a part of their two year Finance Leadership Development Program, she expected to start work in their headquarters in Scottsdale, Arizona, in September. By September Covid-19 forced the company to transition to remote work for most of their office personnel, and Colleen worked at home in Pittsburgh until moving to North Carolina to permit her to continue training with her horse, Vespa, taking her dog, Holly,

with her. She expects to move to Scottsdale in 2021 with both Vespa and Holly.



Colleen with Vespa and Holly

- **Casey** is in her Junior year at UGA, having been accepted to enter the elementary teaching curriculum, working for a dual BA and MA in Spring 2023. Covid-19 has forced UGA to move to remote teaching, including the practice teaching for Casey this year. She has continued her interest in equestrian vaulting, and is teaching the sport to a group in Athens using her horse



Casey and Michael in Pittsburgh

- **Kevin** has an apartment in Greensburg, a few miles from Sandra's home. He has enjoyed some kayaking with his mother this year, as a break from his job with Walmart, that keeps him on his feet, to the extent of approximately 11 mi/day. Covid-19 has kept his visits with us to a very few this year.



Casey and Kevin in Pittsburgh pre-Covid

- **Jon and Kim** celebrated their 10 year wedding anniversary this year with a ski trip to Breckenridge CO prior to the Covid pandemic. Kim started at Duke University for a PhD in Nursing AND survived the first semester. She was published in the Journal of Hospice and Palliative

Nursing in August. She continues to ride her horse Channing and found time to earn scores towards her silver medal. Jon was promoted to Director of IT at Duke Health. Since he works online due to Covid, he has extra time to spend in the kitchen cooking many new and tasty dishes.



L to R: Sawyer, Jacob, Lawson

Jacob (8) has taken after his mom and is taking riding lessons. He enjoyed many summer days at the pool, often doing front flips off the diving board. He also enjoys soccer, Nintendo and Pokemon cards, and (no connection to soccer) lost his two front teeth in time for Christmas.



Jacob in a riding lesson

Sawyer (5) still loves trains and his favorite saying is “according to my research” a phrase from Mom?). He learned to swim this summer, ride a bike and is proving to be a whiz in kindergarten, often telling us that “he already knows everything”. **Lawson (3)** especially appreciates his father's cooking—that may not mean too much since he has not yet found a food he will not eat. He went camping with Nana for the first time, and moved out of his crib. His biggest accomplishment this year was potty training, made easy with the promise of a donut. (his favorite) He also already weighs as much as his older brother and loves to ride his balance bike.

Kim has been admitted to a PhD program at Duke (just to keep herself occupied!) focusing on pediatric and hospice care. Both she and Jon work online from home owing to Covid.

• **Kaitlyn and Edward** are living in Birmingham AL to complete Edward's medical residency in research and clinical medicine at the Univ Alabama at Birmingham. They live with their 4 dogs, including a 3 yr old great dane and 8 yr old chihuahua, a cat and a turtle in a spacious rented house. Kaitlyn has filled their home with flowering plants, while developing an interest in ballet & yoga. Edward hopes to emphasize neuro pathology during his final semester, and is now with a group using MRI methods to follow the neurological effects of some medications.

Scott & Cheryl Family



L to R: Cheryl, Chloe, Scott, Hanna

• **Scott** works in the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America and Cheryl is a Sr Project Administrator for a local engineering firm. Due to Covid-19 she works remotely, and reports that she prefers that to being in the office.

• **Hanna** continues to work on the front line as a Respiratory Therapist at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Presbyterian Hospital. She continues to study for her Masters in Health Services Administration and will graduate in August of 2021. This could result in a change in the nature of her work.



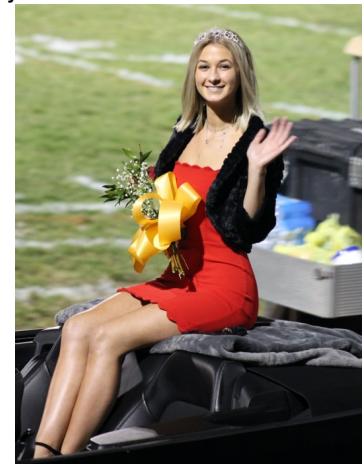
Hanna at work in COVID-19 Ward

• **Chloe** continues her scholastic excellence as a senior at Serra Catholic High School.



Chloe returning the volleyball

During her varsity volleyball season in the fall, Chloe was awarded WPIAL All Star and got a ride in the Homecoming parade. She will attend Duquesne University with a major in Health Sciences.



Chloe in Homecoming parade

A few additional images and a list of the families by generation follows in the **Supplement**

Supplement



Maya & Nana's Stocking



Maya and first doll from Nana



Susan with newborn Maya



L to R: Hanna, Chloe (acceptance letter)



L to R: Sandra & Susan in early 60s

The list below presents the given names for the generations of the families mentioned in this letter, starting with Marilyn and Guy. I hope the structure of the list will be apparent to you:

1—Marilyn & Guy; 2---our children; 3-- our grandchildren (and their parents); 4-- our great grandchildren (and their parents)!

- 1-- Marilyn & Guy
- 2-- Susan, Sandra, Scott
- 3-- (Susan & Carmon): Jessica, Ashley, Chelsea
- 3-- (Sandra & Harold): Kimberlee
- 3-- (Sandra & Neil): Kaitlyn, Kevin, Rebecca, Colleen, Casandra
- 3-- (Scott & Cheryl): Hanna, Chloe
- 4-- (Kimberlee & Jon): Jacob, Sawyer, Lawson
- 4-- (Jessica & Charles): Maya
- 4-- (Ashley & Adrian): Remi