

January 29, 2022, this is when we finally sorted through all the pictures

### Larsen family 2021 family newsletter

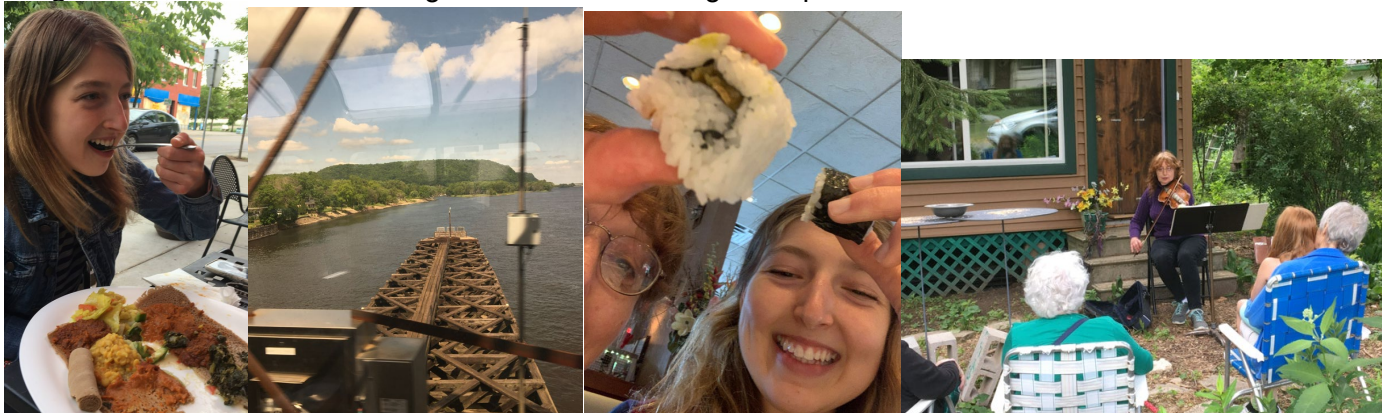
During this second year of the pandemic there was not much activity over the winter months, except staying home. We were shocked at the Jan 6<sup>th</sup> insurrection were relieved that there was a smooth transition of power.. In April, the contractor finally started on our siding and windows project, transforming our old house. We unsettled many wasps who will hopefully not come back. Kari and her boyfriend, Matthew took a trip to Colorado during Spring Break.



Right after our house was redone, our old cat Buddy, was rushed to the emergency room with a diagnosis of heart failure. We did not think he would make it but he is still with us, but needs several medications to stay alive. He still loves food, so we know he wants to live. We also celebrated Jeff's dad's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, as finally everyone was vaccinated.



In May, Inna took the train to visit Kari in the Twin Cities. The train was a nice way to travel, 5 hours, masks enforced and you could relax and read and not worry about driving. We tried Ethiopian and sushi! In June, we participated in Make Music Madison from our front yard. Due to the pandemic there are no gigs. Jeff went to the Twin Cities to see Kari and to participate in a disc golf tournament. They also went to a Twins game and imagine that, no one was wearing masks. We all thought the pandemic was over.



In July we celebrated Jeff's 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday. We also caught up with the Colorado Larsens and baby Evan visiting Menasha!



August was a busy month. Kari moved into a house and adopted a kitten named Sushi. Vinny enjoyed our compass prairie plant that got to more than 8 ft tall. We planted a garden and had a few tiny veggies. At the end of August, Kari and Inna flew to New York City for 5 days and visited a lot of landmarks. Kari loves the city, Inna was more overwhelmed. In all it was an interesting trip and we took a lot of pictures. Here are a few, on the Brooklyn Bridge, top of the Rockefeller Center, sailing by the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island where we could read some of the papers in Russian and Norwegian, Times Square. We also visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the somber 9/11 memorial, the Ripley's Believe or Not Museum, but we will not show the shrunken heads. We visited a giant Starbucks that roasted vats of coffee and Kari became an expert on the subway schedules. Of course what trip to NYC would be without trying pizza and bagels. We did visit Brighton Beach, the Russian neighborhood, but mask compliance was non-existent so we did not stay long.





In October Kari finished her first Twin Cities Marathon with an excellent time of 3:57. Inna visited Kari this time via bus and they took a trip to Interstate Park on the MN/WI border. She also saw Sushi her new kitten. Jeff went to Manitowoc and played in a disc golf tournament. Inna has also taken up disc golf and has improved her scores in the past year. She also found mushrooms on an undisclosed hole at Elver Park.



Inna trapped 2 cats by our house – Gigi, the tabby finally after 2 years. A few months after Gigi left, a new black cat, Onyx, came thru. Gigi was tamed up by an awesome cat whisperer, Angie and has been adopted. Onyx is now with the same foster and is very sweet. She continues to help people find lost cats and trap feral cats and kittens, but would like it much more if people actually were more proactive about spay neuter and were careful about opening doors and securing carriers. There was even an orange kitten right on the UW-Madison Campus who went home with one of the security officers!



Jeff made another dinner/coffee table and put another non working trainset in it. Our new house and cat businesses make cameo appearances.



We celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas in Menasha and Madison! Buddy as you can see is always eating.





Inna still works at UW Madison and Jeff is teaching guitar, actually having more students. People are tired of virtual and tired of the pandemic. We have no gigs and orchestra rehearsals have resumed and have been cancelled due to the surge in virus. So we stay safe but are looking forward to resume normal life. Kari is finishing up her 3<sup>rd</sup> year at the University of Minnesota and looking forward to graduate school in nutrition and public health. We wish you a belated Merry Christmas and all the best for the new year.

Jeff, Inna, Kari and cats.