

Happy New Year Y'all!

Getting a bit of a late start on this year's newsletter, and due to the circumstances of this year, you probably also know why we don't have a lot of photos in this year's edition. 2020 was unlike no other year in our lives!

Rachel is doing fine. She always just seems to. Where she lives at Albero House, they have done an incredible job of avoiding any COVID cases. For the first half of the year, all outside visits were cancelled. It was a sacrifice we made and understood out of love and concern for all of the residents there. Once visitation was allowed, it came with many restrictions and precautions. A few cases of COVID cases started to pop up for the staff in the late fall which resulted in us having to cancel 3 of our visits, but again, all for the safety of everyone involved. So far luckily no residents there have been infected and have remained safe.



Rachel at Albero House

David and Brie are still in California, David still working for Google (from home). He's been working on a cross-stich project for over a year that will take him another 10+ years to complete. Can you imagine the patience and determination that must take? They are considering leaving NoCal, but COVID definitely took the wind out of their sails. Like many of us, they are waiting-out their situation to make any moves.



Andrew and Oksana

Andrew and Oksana ("Ox") both lost their jobs in April due to COVID. Ox was rehired pretty quickly, but Andrew was let go later and did not find anything for months. He's now driving an Amazon Prime delivery van for one of their largest driving contractors. It's not his dream job, but it pays the bills, he's getting into shape, and he doesn't hate it. There is actually career potential there.

Eileen started working from home in March and is no longer traveling with AFPM... for now. We set her up with a home office and she's been enjoying not having to spend 2-3 hours per day dealing with mass transit. She has done an amazing job of adapting to and adopting new technologies to transition to her 100% virtual model of running and facilitating meetings nationwide. Not bad for a boomer!

Eileen started off her summer trying to stay active by riding her bike on our local trails and early in the summer had an accident resulting in a broken wrist and was off the trails for the remainder of the summer. And just last week

sustained a fractured shoulder due to tripping and falling. We need to provide bubble wrap!

Bruce, on the other hand, did have some work he could do from home but due to the nature of his work has continued to go to the Dulles campus for work. Several cases of COVID-19 have cropped up there, but none in his building. Generally speaking, he doesn't have to be in close contact with people at work, just access the computers there. So it hasn't been an issue. Northrop Grumman has been extremely diligent with its response to the pandemic.



Eileen's Fractured Wrist

Eileen became involved in a nationwide "movement" called "Lasagna Love" in September. Within 3 days of signing up, she became a regional leader, introducing it to and building it up in NoVA. She now manages over 200 volunteers, doing outreach, matching families with volunteers, supporting her group and cooking for those in need. I won't get into it in detail here, but you are encouraged to check it out at <https://lasagnalove.org>. As a result of the work she has been doing, she was also featured in several newspaper, radio and television interviews.



LASAGNA!

Bruce overheard a conversation between Eileen and Rhiannon Menn, the founder of Lasagna Love, one evening and found out they were in desperate need of a better system for managing the network of volunteers, which back then was just surpassing 4,000. Today it is more than 15,000 volunteers cooking and delivering meals to people with food insecurity in their own communities.

Bruce, having worked on several Joomla-based websites in the past, knew he could help and offered to develop a CRM (contact relations management) site pro bono. He's been working on it since Halloween and it's now live (thus, the late newsletter).

During the summer, we spent most weekends hosting dinners with a few of our good friends on our screened porch. This allowed Eileen to try her hand at several



Eileen Learns Charcuterie

kitchen endeavors such as pickling, brandied cherries and Limoncello. The Lasagna Love "team crunch" brought those to a dead stop.

Anyway, that about sums it up. Sorry you had to wait so long to hear from us, but we are doing fine. We hope 2021 puts us on the mend and we can find normalcy again.

As you can see, we made the best of being confined. Well, maybe not completely confined or the "best".



DC Cherry Blossoms in March – Oh, the Traffic!



Greenhill Winery in Middleburg VA for Bruce's Birthday



3 Doz Live Crabs from Our Neighbor



Brandied Cherries



Lemoncello



6 Hours of THIS!



To Get This!

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Be sure to visit our family website at <https://scherzinger.org> where you can read all our past newsletters and see a lot more photos.

**LASAGNA LOVE**



**Happy New Year!**

**The Scherzingers**

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*Bruce, Eileen, David, Andrew, & Rachel*



How to Use Brandied Cherries



Eileen Broke Another Toe



And Her Shoulder