

## Happy New Year!

2021 was certainly a memorable year...in many ways.

The year started out on a sad note when Bruce's father, Earl, passed away in early February. He was 91. Bruce being the named executor of his estate necessitated multiple trips to Troy, OH, to take care of all of the details.



Rest in peace, Dad

It seems a shame that such things are what it takes to bring family members together, but that's life and it brought all four of his children (from 2 marriages) together for the very first time. Despite the circumstances, we had an enjoyable day.



Linda, Dave Vogel, Bruce, & Keith

Three months after Bruce's dad passed, our family also suffered the tragic loss of Eileen's young niece, Ilyssa, who was involved in a fatal car accident. Again, family came together for a sad occasion, but were there to support each other.



Rachel ready to party!

Rachel turned 30 this year! Can you believe it? Her health is exceptional, she looks great, and really seems happy. It's a testament to both her sheer will and to the incredible care she has gotten in her years at St. Mary's Home and Albergo House. She also joined the ranks of Lasagna Love as a chef! Of course, Rachel can't deliver a meal on her own. It's the dedication of her caregivers to her overall wellbeing and enjoyment of good food that enables her to participate in and enjoy activities like this. They are undeniably **ROCK STARS!**

David and Brie are enjoying being homeowners in Northern California and are riding out the COVID epidemic with David still working for Google, but entirely from home. We really miss seeing them and hope to visit sometime in 2022 with a dual purpose to visit Sonoma!



Newt and Andrew

Andrew and his partner Newt, both changed jobs again this year and still live in Northern VA with their two adorable cats, Sam and Buck. It's great having one of the kids nearby so Eileen can cook and have them over for dinner and other special occasions.

Eileen continued working from home for AFPM but this summer, began to go into her DC office a few days a week. This has presented challenges since she commutes using the Metro train. That's an issue not only because of COVID, but also because of system failures. We've seen derailments due to wheels falling off the newest train cars, fires, maintenance issues, and service changes due to safety inspections. It's a minimum 90-minute trip each way in elbow-to-elbow crowding. Just not worth the time and risk.



Lasagna Love Retirement Community Outreach

Eileen continues to volunteer for Lasagna Love as a Regional Leader for a large part of Northern VA, with almost 200 volunteers. Part of her "job" is outreach, so she organized several community events at underserved senior communities, police and fire stations, and for Afghan refugee children/families. Her work has been featured in many media outlets on TV, radio and newspapers. She even made it on Good Morning America!

Bruce continues to go into his office as he has through most of the pandemic. He even traveled to Albuquerque, NM, in July for a rehearsal of a launch that will happen in January. Although he bicycled for exercise on weekends the first half of the year, he discovered he had torn a hamstring while in Ohio clearing out his dad's house and the cycling was irritating it. Since the hamstring continues to be a problem, he hopes to resume riding to work in the spring.

After waiting for 2 years, in December, Bruce and Eileen finally went on their cruise of the Rhone River in the south of France, again with AMA Waterways. This was clearly the pinnacle of 2021 and a much-needed break from being stuck at home. Tensions were high preparing for the trip as travel restrictions for several European countries changed daily, as they also did for returning to the U.S. But they kept abreast of it all, doing everything in their power to ensure they'd be in full compliance at every step. As a result, the trip was a complete success and quite enjoyable despite the cold and wet weather that prevailed for most of it. And we made it back safe and healthy as Omicron was peaking!

Anyway, that about sums it up. We wish you all a better year in 2022.

Here are some other pictures we thought you'd enjoy. And there are many others on our family website.



Bruce and Eileen in their suite cabin aboard AMAKRISTINA



Carrières de Lumières Art Show



Eileen enjoying oysters in Lyon



Bruce having brunch in Lyon



Notre-Dame de la Garde  
Marseilles, France



Train de l'Ardèche, Tournon, France



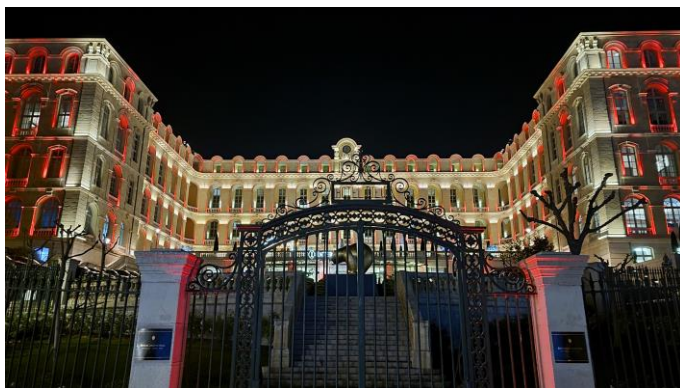
The AMAKRISTINA



Bruce sampling wine in Beaujolais



Eileen heading to dinner on AMAKRISTINA



Our hotel (Intercontinental) in Marseilles

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.



**Happy New Year!**

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