

Millers 2021



Cameron, Sue, Emily, Andrew, Niles and Stuart Miller

Sue & Stuart

Well, we managed to survive 2020 and 2021 with some close COVID brushes in the family but fortunately nothing serious and now have been successfully fully vaccinated. No small feat these days, to which we are very thankful.

2021 also had its share of new adventures and new activities too.

A typical day: Pickleball – Work – Pickleball – A 3/8 retired person- Stuart

Pickleball – Tennis – Golf – Walk – a fully retired person- Sue

Stuart is “addicted” to pickleball, for now, and has joined an indoor tennis and pickleball facility. He even plays pickleball when we travel to other places, if he can’t fish. Lynne made a pickleball court in her driveway where she encourages friends and neighbors to come learn how to play. Sue has also joined the facility to continue playing tennis indoors. We have met many new friends and play outside most of the year. The courts are conveniently located in the park across the street from our house. Sue’s group will clear the courts of snow and bring their own nets (the town removes the nets for the winter) to continue playing outside as long as the weather cooperates.

Everyone was home for Christmas 2020 except Cameron who was still living in Japan. We were happy to have additional visitors, Andrew’s girlfriend, Kara, and her mother, Lori and Emily’s boyfriend, Shoji. Shoji even tried snowboarding for the first time during the visit.

Our ski season looked a little different as several of our club trips were cancelled due to COVID. Fingers crossed we will be able to travel and ski this year. We signed up for season passes to a local ski mountain, McCauley in Old Forge, which ensured we could ski any time. We also took advantage of two-

week-long trips with our GE ski club to ski Whiteface in Lake Placid and Gore in the Adirondacks, opting to ski New York last winter. Our trip to Taos, New Mexico is now rescheduled for this coming February and we aren't sure about the trip to Mont-Tremblant, Canada yet.

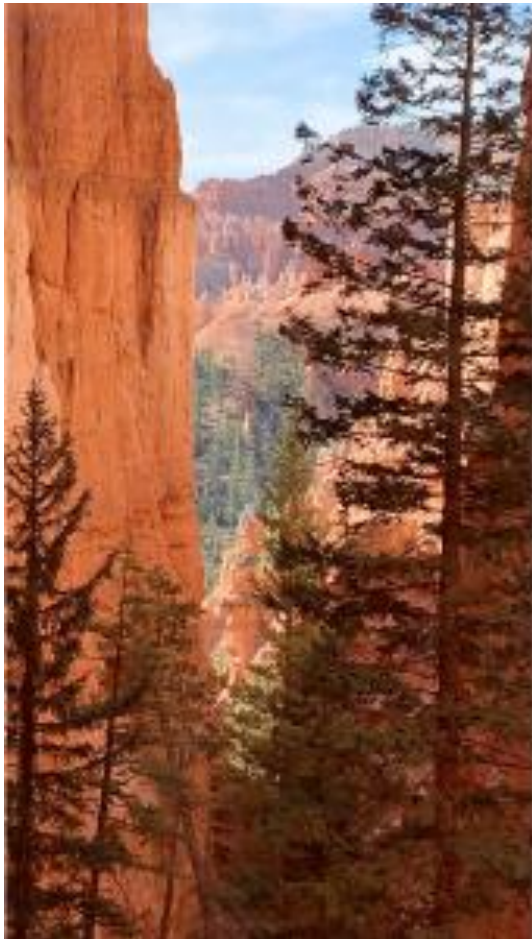
A pandemic project was started in March of 2021. We decided to remove the popcorn ceilings in 12 of our rooms. YouTube can teach you anything. Even though it was a messy and long project it kept us busy in the winter months. Of course, after removing the popcorn, we had to prime and then paint each ceiling. Then we decided to paint eight of the rooms. Our project came to a halt when the weather turned nice, and we were out playing pickleball and tennis, Ha Ha! Even though it was a huge undertaking, it was great to see the finished product.

In March we received a call from our friend, a boat captain, who has a cabin cruiser and needed 'crew' to help him continue "the loop", the Great American Loop (AGLCS). Stuart and I became the crew and took a one-way flight to Fort Myers, Florida to continue the adventure with him. We travelled from marina to marina staying on the boat for ten days. Our travels took us past Marco Island to Naples where we stayed overnight. Then on to Everglades City where we stayed three nights eating delicious crab claws and relaxing in "old" Florida. Many sights along the way included sea turtles, a variety of birds, and dolphins swimming alongside the boat. Our next port of call was Marathon Key in the Florida Keys and then onto Key West where we enjoyed soaking up the sights and sunsets and partaking in some of the 600 bars! An adventure for sure and we enjoyed meeting other 'loopers'. When we returned home and told several of our couple friends about the experience, they also joined John for a two-week looper adventure. He will be making his way up the east coast in Spring 2022.





In May another adventure presented itself. Our friend who lives in California asked us to drive her car across the country returning it to the Syracuse area. We flew to Salt Lake City where we met Anne and traded keys, she took my keys and flew to Syracuse to use my car and we started on our cross-country adventure in her Prius. Our goal was to visit the national parks along the way and make short highlight stops to get a feel for the atmosphere and country. Highlights of the trip included short hikes in Zion, Bryce, and Arches, plus stopovers in Mesa Verde, Durango, Great Sand Dune, Memphis, Nashville, Marietta, and Pittsburgh.



The summer months found us splitting our time at our camp on Oneida lake sailing and relaxing and entertaining and Rensselaerville where we hosted many guests and enjoyed some of the summer festivities, including MillerFest and a concert at Woodstock. It was nice to be able to be back in church in

person. The church only has services during the summer months, but a luncheon often follows the church service. Fortunately, we could be outside for these. Sue has finished her service on the session of the Presbyterian Church where she has served for three years. She will continue as the clerk until another person volunteers. Stuart is also back on the session.

The family attended a few fall weddings in September and October. In September, we traveled to NH and Maine to visit with some of Stuart's family and enjoyed the in-person conversations, lobster, views, and short hikes. Sue and Stuart spent ten days in North Carolina in October attending a wedding in Raleigh of close family friends and then attended a combination Halloween/birthday party in Emily's backyard for Blair and Shoji's birthdays. We went to a nice outdoor concert, Lake Street Dive, in Cary with the kids, and Stuart's sister Susan's piano recital in Durham.

Sue stayed south for another week playing in the annual Craven Cancer Classic golf tournament to raise money for cancer in memory of Scott Davenport and two other local men from New Bern. Her team won their flight this year — it helps to have a high handicap! Sue has been playing golf weekly since her retirement, which was helpful also.

Fall found us looking forward to the arrival of Cameron from Japan. He has been living abroad for three years and the last time we saw him was two years ago in Barcelona and Budapest. We picked him up at JFK, checked out Andrew and Kara's new apartment in Brooklyn, and also a short visit with a "cousin" and her fiancée, Catherine and Tommy, before heading south for Thanksgiving. Niles began working with Stuart again this fall and is learning the ins and outs of the specialty metal business.

Wishing all a healthy and happy 2022!















Niles



Last year feels like a lifetime ago. And we're already pickleballing in New Bern again...and writing the *Haseley Herald* as the turkey cools on the stove. So I'll keep it short and sweet.

New Years in a mansion in Maryland.

My big retreat to Peru to take ayahuasca and sanango.

Parties at Emily's new house and helping put in her back patio.

Meeting my girlfriend Michaela in the spring and then moving to Raleigh in the fall.

Jammin' bass with Andrew, Shoji, and friends.

Lake Tahoe with Drew and Kara and friends for some epic skiing until I tore my MCL a bit.

Barn weekends and Millerfest.

Summer in Utica playing box lacrosse for the Utica Yetis.

Lake Placid lacrosse tournament returns and reffing.

Bonnaroo getting canceled and pivoting to Elements Festival for the earth, fire, air, and water stages.

Miami music festival iii Points and Hullaween in North Florida for Halloween with Michaela.

Weddings dances and a best man speech.

Looking forward to spending time with Cam since he made his US return. And finally... I just started working with Stuart and Direct Alloys again. Better get to the table before my plate gets cold! Until next year!

Hope everyone is well and lots of love from Niles!

Cameron





With the pandemic continuing to affect various aspects of social life, I didn't really do a lot. Most of my time was spent teaching, exploring Tokyo by bicycle, and finding ways to cure my boredom at home. A lot of the time was spent learning Japanese to help me communicate with the locals the few times that I did go out and socialize. Learning the language also helped significantly with explaining various English and programming concepts that I had to teach. Although my level is far from perfect, it was enough, at times, to be able to simply say that one thing means another, or to construct easy sentences with meanings that students could quickly grasp. Between both jobs, my students ranged in age from 5-80 (the programming job being 5-18 and the English teaching around 7-80). I was teaching a 5-year-old how to program in Python! This wasn't particularly challenging in and of itself but with her being chatty and imaginative, the difficulty was more about steering our focus and conversation to be related to the lesson's task. At my English teaching job, the hard part was very much similar, at least with one student,

an 80-year-old peace activist who would talk endlessly for 2 hours about topics spanning from family life to divine intuition to helping refugees to hair appointments. Ultimately, the students were quite diverse and I often found myself enjoying conversation and lessons with each one.

To go to work, I would commute by bicycle for about 40-50 minutes maybe 2-3 times a week. Riding a bike through Tokyo is one of the best ways to see the city. If you go off the main road for a bit, you can be met with some spectacular views and interesting neighborhoods. I especially liked riding through what is known as a *shotengai* (show-ten-guy). The meaning is something like “shop street”, but it is more than just shopping. Each one is decorated or located in a unique location that makes it stand apart from the rest. I highly recommend looking them up and taking a walk through these streets if you’re a person who likes exploring when you travel somewhere new.

I returned to the states in mid-November of this year and I plan to find a job as a software developer living most likely around New York.