



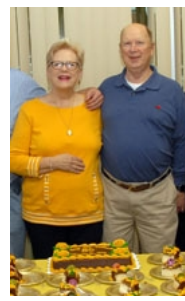
A Photo Review of Our 2020



We started the year with a dinner party at Linda & Gary's with Joan & Eric. We also got to meet Gary's sister and her cats. John G came over on Jan 3 to add a perch to the owl house he'd made and positioned for us in our pine tree. We went to see the Dolittle movie with Linda on Jan 19.



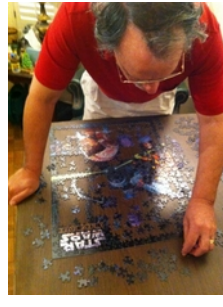
On Jan 20 we went to lunch with Bonnie & Ed and got to see his amazing flight simulator system. Ed let Smoot play with it and that enticed him into getting a VR version. Lee hosted a party for Bob's 75th birthday on Jan 22. I gave my talk on UUCP's history to the New Members class on Jan 24.



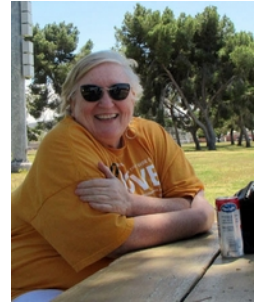
I had a display of my histories at UUCP on Jan 26. We helped celebrate Catherine & Gayle's 50th anniversary over the weekend of Jan 30 in SC with dinners and a party. The three sisters were together.



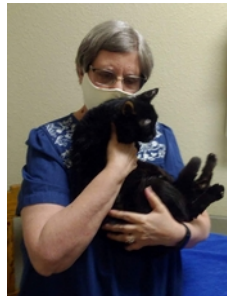
Valentine's Day. My Share the Plate Sunday, Mar 8. Breakfast with Brad & Carolyn on Mar 11. Then Covid-19 changed everything. Socially distanced lunch with Julie & Marshal, Mar 31.



On Apr 2 we found a bee hive in our composter! We had a socially distanced lunch with Bill & Joan at the RR Park on Apr 4. Smoot and a SW puzzle. Let It Bee AZ came to safely remove our hive Apr 6.



Our Bougainvillea was esp pretty in Apr. Watching UUCP's Easter service online with hat on Apr 12. My geese were also dressed for Easter with colored eggs. A safe, outdoor visit with Heidi on Apr 18.



Lunch with Julie & Marshal at Chaparral Park on Apr 23. Tyrone brought me Paw Placement foster Peaches on Apr 29. Our cat Bagheera crossed the Rainbow Bridge on May 8. J&M lunch on May 17.



A Star Trek puzzle. Lunch with Bonnie & Ed on May 23. The plants Lee & Bob gave us flourished by our front door. We had a socially-distanced pool-side dinner with Nancy and Dave on Jun 8.

Smoot celebrated his 70th birthday on Jun 20. His sister, Suzanne made him a special gift, a painting from a 1976 photo of The Three Forrests. Smoot is on the left, his great uncle Forrest Smoot Glazier,



for whom he's named, is in the middle and his father, Forrest Richard Mitchell is on the right. Because there were already two Forrests in the family, Smoot was called by his middle name, which is a family last name. Many folks in Utah, esp if they attended BYU will recognize the name.



We'd planned a big party but the pandemic nixed that. So instead we had a card party. Smoot received over 70 cards, ecards and phone calls. Bill & Joan even delivered their card in person. He had phone and Zoom calls with family and friends, gifts including a drone copter and cake here and at Julie & Marshal's on the 21st.



We had our traditional July 4th milkshakes at J&M's. Pools cooled us off during a visit with Joan & Bill on July 5.



A bee hunt on Jul 25. Our 47th anniversary on Aug 4. That same day Shadow figured out the wall mounted kitty tree and shutter ledge obstacle course. For our anniversary we Cruised the Zoo on Aug 7.

For my 70th birthday I'd planned to go to Star Wars Galaxy's Edge at Disneyland but again the pandemic nixed that. But I did get to start my safe celebrating by our driving to Tucson to see the Saguaro National Park and then going on the night drive-thru tour of Biosphere 2 on Aug 23.



I wasn't able to get all my usual bday freebies but I did get a free Red Robin burger, a Baby Yoda cake, a 70 inch necklace, two bouquets of flowers and a card delivered in person by Bill & Joan on Aug 26. I also got a t-shirt that said 'I turned Seventy in Quarantine'!



The wooden door to my collection studio had rotted so on Aug 27 we had a new metal one installed. On Sep 7 & 8 we had the house re-painted. Last painted by Richard J in Feb 2007. M&J on Sep 18.



Tommie Volkmann, the Cat Director/ Foster Coordinator for Paw Placement, my animal rescue, died on Oct 5. The rescue community was stunned and devastated. She was our rock. I made a collage of photos to honor her. On Oct 8, we drove by Bill's to wish him happy birthday with a big balloon. On Oct 13 we paid to watch Trek the Vote with Star Trek stars supporting Biden/ Harris. Hosts were Stacey Abrams, Pete Buttigieg and Andrew Yang. It was a fun evening. Stacey won the ST trivia contest but Pete showed his Borg action figure to establish his ST cred! Cousin Pat celebrated his 80th birthday on a Zoom call on Oct 19.



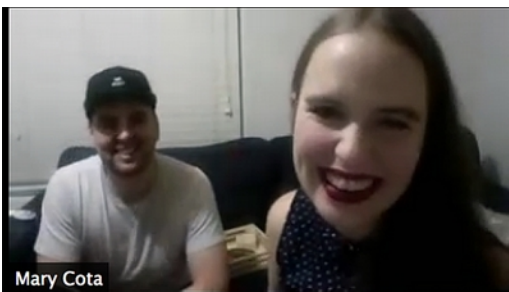
Our completed cat obstacle course was finished and being used by Oct 20. We braved the unexpected cold to have lunch with J&M at Chaparral again on Oct 27. My geese were ready for Halloween.



It warmed up enough for us to have a socially distanced, short sleeve lunch with Bonnie & Ed on Nov 17. I joined the Zoom call for Larry P's birthday on Nov 20. Lucienne's painting was the perfect background for the Thanksgiving display on our buffet.



Our surveillance camera caught us having a safe visit with Toni & Simon in our entryway on Nov 24. We celebrated a socially distanced tasty Thanksgiving at J&M's with Shirley K on Nov 26.



We hosted the UUCP Choir Zoom baby shower for our pianist Mary and her husband Frank on Nov 28. We safely got our holiday gift bag from UUCP on Dec 6 and said hi to Rev. Christine and Karen. The bag had ways to celebrate Advent, Christmas, Hanukkah, Solstice, and Kwanzaa!



For the first time in years we put up our pre-lit tree. New lights and geese outfits. And Agnes.



On Dec 11 Julie & Marshal joined us for a socially-distanced lunch in our front entryway with heater. They took our photo for UUCP's Christmas eve video. Us in front of our lights for Benjie.



I added some more lights but our display still wasn't near to the Rea's level. On Dec 22 we saw the Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Venus through Smoot's telescope. Neighbors the Balazs came by on their lighted bikes and joined our viewing. Smoot added tube lights to finish our red, white and blue light display.



Ginny came by on Dec 23 to drop off some gifts. We got together with Lee and Bob at their place that evening for snacks and a chat. Gracie honored me with her attention. Carolyn came by on Dec 24 also to drop off gifts.



Smoot and I had recorded three songs to be used in UUCP's Christmas eve service on Dec 24. This is a screen shot of Angels We Have Heard On High. It's nice that we had so many instrumentalists and that Lois did signing for us. All the candle photos and the choir's audio were put into and over a circle for our traditional closing song Silent Night.



As is my tradition, I put holiday collars on all our cats and took pictures of them on Christmas day. The three boys didn't like it but Shadow seemed quite happy to wear the bling!

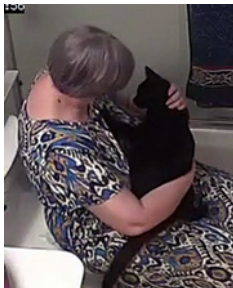
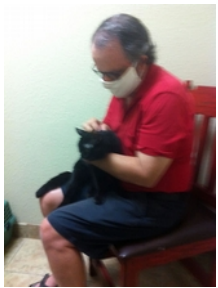


We had a quiet Christmas day. Catherine and Gayle had given us each an Ugly Christmas Sweater according to their tags. I thought they were cute. She also gave us a framed photo from their 50th party in Jan which found a place on our family photo table. I gave Smoot WWII books as usual and he gave me several VR programs including on ancient Rome and Vader Immortal. And our new TV.



That evening we drove around and looked at some amazing light displays. On Tues Dec 29 we joined a surprise Zoom call with Brad for his 70th birthday.

Our Pets and Fosters



A photo of me holding sweet Bagheera, aka Gheer Apr 5. Sadly, he crashed from FIP and we had to let him go on May 8. The vet allowed us to be with him at the end. On May 29 I got Paw Placement foster Pounce. She was a sweet, polydactyl black cat. We decided to adopt her in honor of Gheer. She officially joined our family on Jun 20, Smoot's birthday. We changed her name to Shadow. She soon fit in with our other cats.



Bobbie 'helped' me clean out our linen closet. Jack became a Jack-in-the-box. Rocky likes the beehive bed on the obstacle course, snoozing with just his foot sticking out. Shadow is extra polydactyl. She has 7 claws on each front foot not 6 like a regular poly and 5 claws on her back feet instead of 4.



Over the two days the house was painted I had to move my Red-eared Slider turtles from their outdoor pond back into our bathtub. I realized I only had 6 instead of 7. One of the females had wandered off. I hope she found a good home. I still have a tank of Ruby Red minnows, feeder fish for the turtles. The tank is decorated for the holidays!



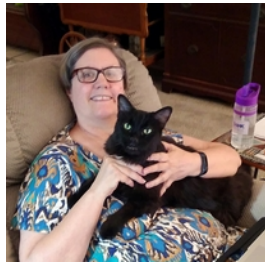
When 2020 began I still had foster Holli. She had been living in a field next to a Wal-Mart with lots of coyotes. Paw Placement saved her life and found her a loving forever home just as they do all their rescues. I also had black and white Moonpie. She had been living in an abandoned truck. Then came Milkshake, aka MK. He was found in a McDonalds drive through, dirty from life on the streets, but he never gave up. I only had the next fosters, cute gray kittens Chekov and Kotik from Page, AZ for a short time. They were adopted quickly.



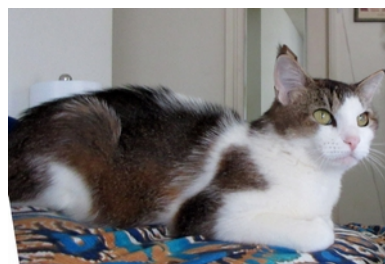
In Feb I got Hailee. She was given up because of allergies and a dog in the household. I had fostered tuxedo kitty Chipmunk in Dec 2019. He was adopted, given back, adopted again but his new family left for 2 weeks in Mar so I got him back until they returned. Fluffy orange Paprika loved to sit on me. He and 9 other cats had been abandoned when the rescuer's neighbor moved. In late March I got gray kitten Pajamas. He had been found wandering the streets.



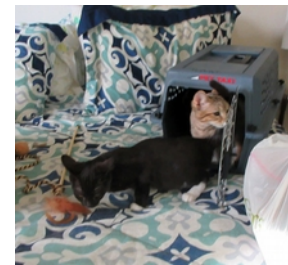
Tyrone brought me orange and white Peaches on Apr 29. She was found at a school pregnant. She had 6 kittens still born. I got fierce looking Lily in May. She had been adopted twice and returned. Third time was the charm. Next I got Pounce. She had been dumped on the street by her 2017 PP adopters. She was rescued by another group who found her connection to PP. I got her on May 29. Even after all she'd been through, she was friendly and having lost our black Bagheera, we decided to adopt her.



I got beautiful white Duchess and fluffy black Gazelle when their owner was moving and planning on dumping them on the street to fend for themselves. PP asked me to take a grey cat that had been on the street. I got him on Aug 13. I named him Earl Grey after Captain Picard's favorite tea! Megan brought me magical orange Merlin on Sept 9. He had not done well at the center and wasn't happy being in Megan's bathroom with no window. He liked my guest room.



I got recent mama Lovie after her 8 kittens were weaned. Another foster took the kittens. Polydactyl Mittens liked to sit on me. A beautiful silver tabby was being given away on Craig's List. PP stepped in to save him. Since he was the last cat Tommie had approved I suggested he be named Thomas.



Black and white Holly was abandoned when her family moved. She was a cuddle bug. Neo was dumped in the desert in Cave Creek. The rescuer saw a coyote with a cat in its mouth and didn't want that to happen to him. He had striking different colored eyes. On Dec 15 I got returned PP cat Artemis, right, and her buddy Luna. On Dec 31, I got 2 month old kittens Esme, Jasper and Rosalie bringing my total for fosters this year to 26, less than my usual yearly average of 26 but close.

Animals were such a comfort during the isolation of the pandemic. Another fun distraction is doing puzzles. Here are the ones Smoot did this year:



When the pandemic took hold puzzles were hard to find. The Star Trek and Star Wars ones came from my sci-fi collections.

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy new year!

Charlotte and Smoot Carl-Mitchell