



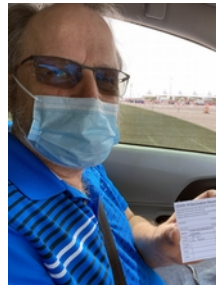
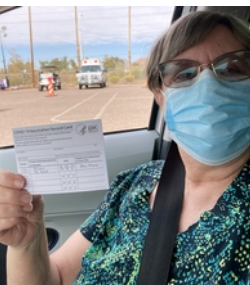
## A Photo Review of Our 2021



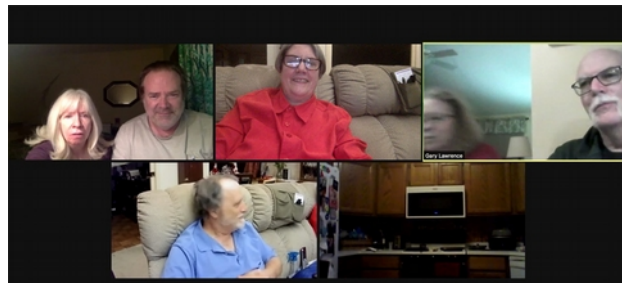
When the year started we were still under Covid quarantine. We went masked to the fun and colorful drive-thru Phoenix Zoo Lights on Jan 4. It was too risky to entertain indoors so we had Joan and Bill over for lunch and chatting in our covered front porch on Jan 7. I had a heater available to keep them warm. Then we went to their place on Jan 12 and were warmed by their new fire pit. We had our monthly lunch with Julie and Marshal on Jan 14 at the Stillman RR Park.



It hailed on Jan 24 making our front walk look speckled. Bonnie & Ed has us over for lunch on Feb 6. Benjie's Phoenix UU Video Choir sang Comfort Me on Feb 7. The choir included folks from UUCP and other UU congregations. Our Canadian neighbors, Bob and Lee, had us over for drinks and dinner on Feb 8. We met Julie and Marshal in Horizon Park for our monthly lunch on Feb 9.



We were back at Bill and Joan's for self-brought dinner and S'mores on Feb 12. We got our 1<sup>st</sup> Covid shots on Feb 13. Candy and flowers and geese in their finery for Valentine's Day.



Snuggling with 3 of our cats on Feb 19. We had a fun Zoom call with Joan & Eric and Linda & Gary on Feb 23. Joan came to visit her rescue kitty Blaise who I was fostering for Paw Placement on Mar 5.

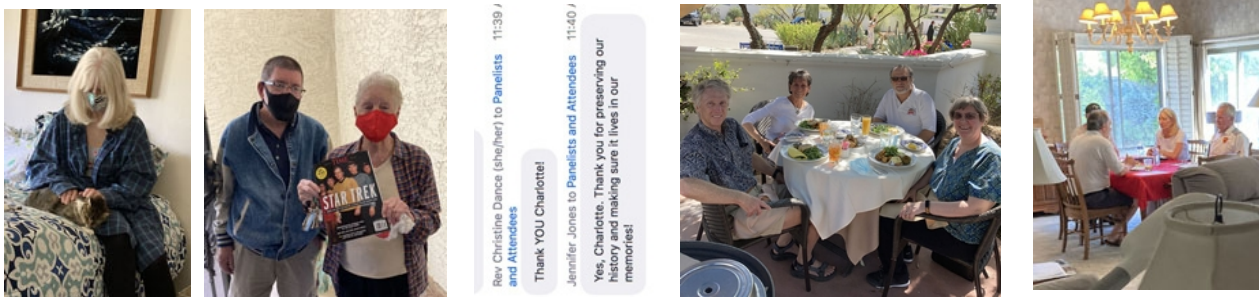




We got our second Covid shots on Mar 6. We were bundled up for our Mar 11 lunch with Julie & Marshal. On Mar 21, UUCP hosted a drive-by Flower Communion. The Lifshitz family handed out gift bags using a pool pole.



Vince shared a hand-out with stewardship info. Our theme was UU Anywhere, recognizing that the pandemic had closed the building but not the congregation. Bunny and Karen handed out flowers. The photo of me holding our bag and flower shows how long it had been since our getting haircuts. Bob & Lee treated us to lunch on Mar 22.



Joan came over again on Mar 24 to visit kitty Blaise, and Ginny & Gerald dropped by to give me a Star Trek magazine they'd purchased, a very early b'day present! The Mar 28 UUCP service was on its history and I was thanked for my work. We were honored to join Julie for the celebration of Marshal's birthday on Mar 28 at El Chorro. After almost 19 years of serving as HoA treasurer & president, Smoot stepped back but the new board members he met with on Mar 31 have not lived up to their tasks.



Bob and Lee had us over for an outdoor dinner on Apr 3 before they went back to Canada on Apr 10. Marshal liked the ice cream after our lunch on Apr 22. We went to dinner in a screened patio with UUCP members John and Mary W on Apr 26. John is Smoot's duplicate bridge partner. At Benjie's request on May 11 we recorded Jerry's clarinet solo for use in an upcoming UUCP service.





Linda and Gary came down from IL for a visit and on May 16 got The Gang back together at their Mesa clubhouse. Julie displayed her broken and bandaged wrist at our lunch on May 19. We were saddened when our sweet kitty Jack, who had been declining, died over the night of May 23/24. Pic on May 22.



Smoot wore his patriotic attire to play golf on Memorial Day on May 31. Our cat Bobbie was more interested in eating. We celebrated Smoot's 71<sup>st</sup> birthday on Jun 20 with lunch with Marshal and Julie at the Silverado golf clubhouse. Then free RR burger, numbered cupcakes and gifts at home that evening.



On Jun 29, for the first time ever, we took all our cats, the three remaining, to the vet for their annual check-up. They weren't happy about it. On July 3, Tyrone brought over a pregnant cat for me to foster. I named her Dreamsicle and she would go on to have 8 kittens. We had a big group for July 4<sup>th</sup> milkshakes with flags and decorations. Clockwise from 12 - Ed, Bonnie, Dale, me, Joan, Julie, Bill, Marshal and Smoot. Smoot on July 5, this time with Shadow and Rocky in the background.



A large group of UUCP folks attended the memorial service for Judith Breuer on July 20 - Front row: Jenny, Joan, Larry, Rosemary, Sandy, me. Back row: Vicki, Jim, Anne, Susan, Duke, Bunny, Ellie. The UUCP parking lot torn up. On July 21, Mary came to see Dreamsicle's kittens born on July 16.





Once again a huge Eucalyptus limb fell from our tree and did damage, not to my studio but to our block wall and the fence on Via Linda. Photos taken July 23. On July 30, Megan came by to see Dreamsicle and her kittens. Our pine tree died and had to be taken down on July 31.



I had gotten foster kittens I named Koko and YumYum, after the famous Cat Who mystery series cats, on June 10 and after sharing their story on Facebook, on Aug 1 I took them to Petsmart to their adopter. On Aug 2 we had dinner and got to see the amazing renovations Bill & Joan had done to their house. We celebrated our 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Aug 4 with a selfie and 48 roses from Smoot!



After several delays Smoot finally retired from Cort Furniture Rental on Aug 8 shown here in his home 'office.' He had a list of projects including putting in an irrigation flowmeter on Aug 8 to discover how much water we use. On Aug 18 Mary came by to give the kittens shots and got to see my collections and wield a lightsaber. We had another Eucalyptus limb come down on my collection building. That's three big limbs crashing down since 2018, two of which caused damage. Three strikes and they're out. We've decided to take down the two trees but it will take a cherry picker to do it they're so tall.



Vicki & Ted came to visit the kittens on Aug 21. Ginny & Ger dropped by with gifts on Aug 24. I celebrated my 71<sup>st</sup> b'day on Aug 26 with a driving tour of Scottsdale public art, 71 roses and cake.





Also on Aug 26 we went by my comic store, Fantastic Comics and took a picture of owner Bill and clerk Istvan to send to Kai. The kittens were a big hit. Dave & Nancy came over on Aug 28, Dale & Bunny on Aug 29 and Bill & Joan on Aug 30. Some also viewed my collections and played our VR.



On Sept 6 we took the driving tour of South Scottsdale. On Sept 16 I took mama Dreamsicle to Petsmart to await adoption. Jenny and her grandkids came to visit the kittens on the 18<sup>th</sup>. We went to Grenada Park on the 19<sup>th</sup> to prepare for Water Communion. Lunch with the Smarts on Oct 2.



On Oct 7 we took the kittens to Petsmart to await adoption and got our Covid booster shots at Fry's. On Oct 17 Smoot started running sound for UUCP's online service in preparation for eventually going to hybrid online/in-person services. On Oct 29 John & Julia treated us to a belated anniversary dinner at Silverado. On Oct 30 Dr. Crever treated his patients to tacos from a truck in his parking lot.



Our black cat Shadow blended in well with our Halloween decorations. On Nov 2 I did as I always do, I took my early ballot to the polling station along with a bowl of candy for the hard working poll workers. Joan & Bill had us, Karin & Brian over for supper and S'mores on Nov 6. Jency arrived on Nov 13. We went to see Dune on Nov 15 and the immersive Van Gogh exhibit on Nov 16.





Jency joined us for our lunch with the Smarts on Nov 18. She treated us to Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament on Nov 20. Carolyn took a picture of Smoot setting up sound for the service on Nov 21. We treated Bob, Lee and Jency to lunch at Manuel's on Nov 23.



On Nov 24 we went to Scottsdale's Museum of the West and saw the amazing Edward Curtis exhibit there. On Nov 25 Smoot played in the T'day golf tournament with Jay (no pic) and Jency helped us make & eat Thanksgiving dinner. On the 26<sup>th</sup> we went through the drive-thru lights at Salt River Fields.



Then we looked at the lights at the RR park. On Nov 27, Jency's last day with us, we had her take our picture in holiday attire for the ornament for UUCP's tree. We wore our Ugly Christmas Sweaters (TM) Catherine gave us last year. Because our neighbor put up his lights early, we put ours up on Nov 29. We don't have as many but one of our deer is animated!



Before our lunch with Rev. Christine on Dec 2 she got to see my collections. Carolyn took a picture of the UUCP tree on Dec 5. Our photo ornament is the square on the left. Because Smoot did the sound, I was allowed to tag along for Bunny and Dale's wedding on Dec 11 and took this photo from the sound loft.





Our brightly blooming bougainvillea added to our holiday decorations including Agnes the flying cat gargyle and my geese in their festive attire. We had a minimalist tree.



Ginny brought by a gift on Dec 15, the same day workers started taking down one of our huge (and dangerous) eucalyptus trees. The tiny dot on the top of the branch is a workman. On Dec 16 we had lunch at the Phoenician with Julie & Marshal and got photo-bombed! We gave M a gingerbread kit so he could compete with Smoot in the creation of a masterpiece. On Dec 17 Dave & Barbara and their son, Gary came by to get Eucalyptus wood for Dave to work and to see my collections.



The tree workers came on Dec 18 to remove the remaining wood. I made the cookie bags for the UUCP gathering at Granada Park on the 19<sup>th</sup>. That morning was our Christmas pageant service. The choir made a video of The 1<sup>st</sup> Noel for it. I was part of a duet and Smoot and I part of a quartet. And Benjie displayed a lot of my caroling photos during the instrumental part of the video.



Our neighbors Lee & Bob had us over for some Xmas cheer on Dec 20. We had lunch with Gary and Linda on Dec 21. We took a selfie of us to be part of UUCP's Silent Night video on Christmas eve. We're in black because if we'd been in person singing in the choir, we would have been in that color.





Smoot was again the sound tech for UUCP's Christmas eve service working with Zoom operator Bonnie and camera operator Danny. The service included music from our UUCP orchestra and a rented harpsichord. I had planned to accompany Smoot that night but decided to stay home with my sick foster kitten. On Christmas day we went to Julie & Marshal's. Julie showed off the beautiful gingerbread house she'd created from the kit we gave Marshal.



Sue Baird joined us for the lunch. We had brought gifts, Santas for Julie and Sue and a gingerbread plush tube man for Marshal. On Dec 26, Boxing Day, we had a potluck lunch at Linda & Gary's with Joan & Eric.



We got to meet Linda and Gary's new puppy, Rusty. We had given him a stocking of doggie toys from Santa and he enjoyed showing them off. Smoot got to experience Gary's back stretcher! On Dec 28 we went to see Spider-man: No Way Home in an actual theater. I was double masked because of the Covid Omicron threat.



## Our Pets, Wildlife and Fosters



This was another year of sadness for our furry family. Last year we lost Bagheera. This year our big, sweet kitty Jack started losing weight and by May the end was near. The photo on the left is from Jan 2, the one with Smoot was taken on May 22. Jack died over the night of May 23/24. We buried him next to Cash in our back yard. We had adopted him in 2014 when he was 3 years old. He only lived to 10 years but was a favorite of us and others. Our former stray Maine Coon Bobbie started losing weight too but luckily has stabilized and is still an impressive boy.



Bobbie's new obsession is opening cabinet doors and trying to sneak inside as well as his continuing obsession with going in the garage or outdoors. Rocky was a tiny kitten when we fostered him and his siblings in 2011. He became a foster fail when we adopted him because of his relationship with Bagheera and his adventurous spirit and wall climbing ability. He's now too big to climb the wall. The photo on the right was taken on Jan 2. He loved playing in the Xmas tissue paper in the box.



We fostered Shadow, originally Pounce with Paw Placement, in 2020 and decided to adopt her in memory of Bagheera, another black cat. This year she's decided she likes to be in our linen closet, or what we call the High Castle on the cat walk or 'helping' Papa read. She's a multi-polydactyl with 26 toes, 8 on each front paw and 5 on each back. Most polydactyls have 6/4. Regular cats 5/4.



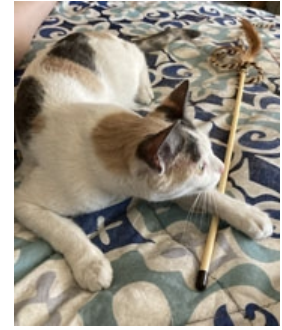


This is a rare photo taken on May 24 of all three of our cats calmly lying in one place. Sadly, they don't get along usually. None is a buddy to another. I regret that. Gheer and Rocky were buddies, Rocky and Jack were buddies. No buddies now. Two of my six Red-eared Slider turtles disappeared this summer. I learned that turtles can estivate, hibernate in hot weather. Luckily the two females reappeared after it got cooler, one ended up in our pool but now all six are back together in their pond. My fish tank is decorated for the holidays and has Ruby Red minnows that are feeder fish for the turtles.



We've had some interesting wildlife in our yard this year. On Mar 7 a flock of Turkey Vultures rested in our Eucalyptus tree on their migration north from Mexico. We have many families of quail. On Jun 29 a hawk sailed over our garage. We have assorted other birds that eat at our feeders and three squirrels.

### Our Fosters for Paw Placement Animal Rescue in 2021



On Jan 1, 2021 we still had Eden formerly Esme, Jasper and Rosalie, tuxedo female and male and a brown tabby. Jacey and Eric from H.A.R.T had brought them to me on Dec 31, 2020. We took them to Petsmart on Jan 9. I got Freckles on Jan 30. She had been dumped at the East Maricopa County Animal Care and Control, even though it was temporarily closed. Our UUCP friend Joan had been feeding a stray she named Blaise and wanted her to find a forever home. PP agreed to take her and I fostered her. She settled in well. On Apr 30 I got Sugar. She had been rescued by a very nice engineering student



and his wife. She could sail over the baby gate and leap from the floor to the top of the chest of drawers in one bound and loved watching the birds outside the window.



On Jun 10 Megan asked if I could take two kittens. Since they were both part Siamese and a male and female and I was re-reading The Cat Who mystery series, I named them Koko and YumYum after its famous cats. Koko was adventurous but so was YumYum as well as being sweet. I had them until July 25. They were adopted together, something I was hoping would happen.



On July 1 Mary sent an email asking for a foster for a very pregnant kitty who had been living outside in triple digit heat with bad food. I delayed responding since I still had Koko and YumYum. But I did have a bathroom available so I volunteered. On July 16 mama kitty had 8 kittens, an amazing number for such a small cat. We were worried that they wouldn't all survive, esp the runt, but they did. Since it was the middle of a scorching summer when ice cream treats are popular, I decided to name her and her kittens after them so Mama became Dreamsicle and her kittens were Dilly, Gelato, Icee, Popsicle, Sherbet, Snow Cone, Sorbet and Sundae. They grew fast and eventually they were ready to be adopted. They were big hits on Facebook. We took Dreamsicle to Petsmart on Sept 16 and the kittens on Oct 7. Mama and the kittens were all adopted.



On Dec 5 Amy emailed me and said, "We have two 1 1/2 year old cats that were adopted as kittens, but they are both being returned because they just hide." On Dec 6 I got Russian Blue male Grizzly Bear and gray and white female Panda Bear. They were both really scared and are taking time to come out but they're making progress. Our camera shows they're very playful at night. Panda still likes to hide in the box springs of the bed but Grizzly has let us pet him on his high perch on the china cabinet. And Panda has come out during the day and let me photograph her, pick her up and pet her. They make 302 cats I've fostered for Paw Placement since 2010. I thought they would probably be the last ones I have this year but things changed. On Dec 23, Amy emailed a plea for a foster for the sick kitten living outside that needed help. I waited to respond since I still had two fosters.





But I had a bathroom available so after some back-and-forth on Dec 24, I got the kitten. Had he been a female I could have named her Eve since I got her on Christmas eve. But being a boy, he could be Evan. Bob had another idea, to name him Nick for St. Nicholas. That stuck. He looked scruffy and came with three medications but he ate well and was soon looking better and gaining weight.

**Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy 2022!  
Charlotte and Smoot Carl-Mitchell**