



Looking back at 2021's photos, the word "extreme" comes to mind.

Remember last winter when the snow was hip deep? And then summer

temperatures broke records. Our past year was full of extremes like that, happy and sad, big and small, old and new.

Don started the year as a co-organizer and presenter at the virtual DNN Summit. Social-distancing was the norm still, but as more folks were protected and the weather improved, we were able to visit with friends and family more often.

Summer Place Theatre performed again — on an outdoor stage for audiences in lawn chairs. Emma created and directed a musical revue of themed Broadway songs called "Summer Lovin'" and even silkscreened the cast's T-shirts in our basement with Don's assistance.

In the second show, Don got to play a dream role — Ebenezer Scrooge — for a Christmas-in-July version of the Dickens' classic, set in a 1940s news office.

During this time, we put our home of 30+ years up for sale. We have been selling, donating, and dumping for several years now, but it's been hard! So many memories! After multiple showings, we accepted an offer.

Packing took much longer than expected and we had less time than planned in which to do it. Plus, it was during a string of 90 degree days. Let's just say it was an unforgettable experience that we're too old for!

Things moved so fast that we weren't able to secure a new place in time. Fortunately, Kate's folks had a spare room, so we put everything in storage and moved in with them for a month.

On October 1, we took possession of a cute little house in a leafy neighborhood near the Fox River. It has a great front porch, a tiny bit of garden, and a garage full of stuff that won't fit inside. And we thought we had downsized so well! Our new address is:

1150 Lakeview Road
Elgin, IL 60123



With less house to care for, we hope to pursue more travel plans. Our first trip was just a couple of weeks after we moved — to California to bring James all the stuff he left behind. We put a hitch on our little Honda Fit and rented a small trailer. Now we can't be blamed for tossing any childhood toys that might be worth big bucks!



It was wonderful to spend fun time with James and Nina, including a D&D game. We did see them briefly earlier in the year, but it was for that other extreme as they flew in for the funerals of Nina's grandmother and a dear friend.

James is still busy with woodworking projects for individual clients as well as some stagecraft with a local college. Indie Brewing continues to weather the pandemic, which means Nina has stayed employed, but she is also taking business classes to prepare for her next phase. James is back in school, too, planning ahead as the travel and long hours of producing television is wearing on him.



Come spring, Emma will have completed her Masters degree in Collaborative Piano. She continues to teach music theory at Spirito! as well as serving as music director for a number of high school plays. Josh works almost exclusively from home for Rocketmiles and has a new hobby — 3D printing!



They enjoy being homeowners and built both a patio and vegetable garden this year. In another example of extremes, however, they were unable to share their new house with Josh's mom. She became ill during the spring and passed away in May.



Sprocket Websites moved to Elgin with us and we'll continue the business wherever we go next. Kate really thought she'd finish that book this year, but other things (like moving!) took precedence. In 2022 for sure!



While we're still unpacking boxes, we are also making travel plans. Hopefully, covid will cooperate. This year of extremes has taught us that you never know what's ahead, so make the most of now.

We hope you and yours are well and we wish you much happiness in the coming year.