

# THE BRYANT REPORT

2020

The Year of Opportunity



*A Quarantine Family Photo,  
after painting and roofing the garage*

## Heidi

2020 was a lot of things, but I've opted to put a positive spin on it and think of it as the year of opportunity. Because I work almost exclusively with the arts community, we all had to make a lot of adjustments to how we do what we do.

We were able to hold a Sonnet Contest opening on Leap Day—one of the last public events before things shut down. The closing event in August ended up being very special because, by hosting it online, many of the winners were able to participate by reading their own sonnets. Poets from around the world enter this contest and this was the first time we have been able to “meet” them!

Family Art Day was replaced with bags of real art supplies being distributed to families in Winona. The Winona Art Walk moved online ([winonaartwalk.org](http://winonaartwalk.org)), to much success. We are planning to hold the River Arts Alliance Member Exhibit online in February. RAA also received a Minnesota State Arts Board grant which will support major changes to the website enabling us to better serve the community as we continue to adapt to the new normal. I will be busy in 2021!

Meetings and music moved to patios and garages. I joined a new wind quintet aptly named “Frankly, My Dears.” The Frank (of Frankly) and I continue to play clarinet and flute duets each week and performed outdoors at a few nursing homes. The Winona Municipal Band held two concerts with a smaller group spaced apart, spilling out of the bandshell. Flutistry was featured at one of those concerts.



*Sonnet Contest Leap Day Event*



*Frankly, My Dears World Premiere*



*Family Art Day - the 2020 Way!*



*I almost forgot! I designed a book of winning Sonnet Contest entries.*



## NED BRYANT

What with working from home since mid-March and Jack moving back for the months of May and June, 2020 has been a lot of things, but for me it was The Year of the Project, starting with: fencing the east side of the yard (Jack assist), painting the garage (Jack assist), reroofing the garage (Major Jack assist), replacing the back-porch tongue and groove flooring, building a new deck, and setting up the new hot tub, plus lots of more minor projects. At one point a neighbor down the street actually asked me if we were moving . . . because that's usually when you knock out the to-do list so well.



*Porch repair in progress.*

I was able to hike this year, with two planned hikes in March and April postponed until September. One of them, the 150-Kanab loop, ranks as the most difficult hike to date with lots of rope descents, pool swimming, and walking right along the edges of cliffs. So in short, a really great loop. Maddy and James continue along as solid hiking partners.

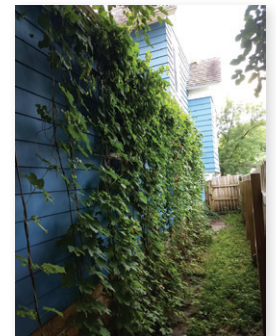
Work is going well, with RTP, as a critical industry, still open, working, and I'm proud to say, taking Covid-19 very seriously.



*Working hard to earn that new hot tub.*

In some very good news . . . This spring the weather behaved normally, and the result was a normal Maple Syrup season. We really needed this since crop failure last year meant that we were out of syrup!

Three years ago I planted 25 rhizomes of Chinook hops. They are now fully established, providing great shade on the western side of the house, and I now have an opportunity next summer to give them to the Island City Brewing Company, 8 blocks away.



*The hops seem to like the western sun.*



## September in the Grand Canyon

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## Madeleine

Madeleine and her partner, James, continue to shelter in place with their dog Carlos and kitty Maggie. In June, we added a new beer-colored puppy to our family, aptly named Dunkel. Dunk is adjusting well to his new home and will happily high-five anyone who asks. He is growing to be a very large, happy, dumb dog. Maggie continues to enjoy being an outdoor cat even though she has been chased 30' up several Ponderosa Pines. Carlos beats Dunkel to the ball every time, proving that he has fully adapted to the limitations of his injury.

Despite the socially distanced year, we have still been able to get outside and go on several trips. In April we white-water canoed the San Juan, and in November we paddled small pack rafts from Soap Creek, Grand Canyon, to Rider Canyon.

A fun quarantine project was building a kegerator! Thanks, Dad for all your help sourcing parts and for the installation advice!



*Maddy and James at Bright Angel Creek*

*2020 was a banner year for Horny Toad sightings. The Navajo call these creatures Cheii, the grandpas of the Earth, and they are a sign of good luck. We have run into lots of these grumpy-faced critters, and we feel very special to have interacted with so many of this threatened species.*



*Baby Dunkel*



*Not Baby Dunkel*



## Jack

With Virginia Tech closed for the end of Spring semester, Jack spent two months in Winona. He was bored enough to help his dad with lots of projects. It also gave him the opportunity to organize his “stuff” which made it possible for his mother to have a better office space upstairs by swapping rooms.



*Jack and Ned hanging out in Heidi's new office (aka Jack's room).*

## Visits

**New York** Jack and Heidi got to spend some time with Aunt Joyce in New York early this year. We celebrated Jack's 24th birthday in the city and took advantage of his youth and muscles to clean out Joyce's storage unit. And he took Heidi to Katz's Deli.



*Locked out, but Island City Brewing's patio was open.*



*A couple of cars stopped to see if these guys were available to hire.*

While home, Jack also rediscovered his French horn and played a lot. He added a few instruments to his collection this year: a Rhodes piano, a drum set, and an Alexander Eb horn—all economically sourced online.



*Joyce and Jack in Washington Square Park*

**Bruce** In September, Ned's high school buddy, and fellow Grand Canyon hiker, Bruce Armstrong stopped in Winona with his brother Mark, while moving from Oregon back to New Jersey. (I know - who would do such a thing?) Unfortunately, Ed's (no name bar) was closed . . .

## Before

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We managed to go on one big trip this year, to Athens, Greece, in the middle of February. The city is just incredible, chocked full of ancient ruins, museums, delicious food, and nice people. Excluding of course the pick pockets on the subway who very nearly got Ned's wallet. One highlight of the trip was that, with China already in shutdown, the place wasn't crowded at all and we had the run of the city.



*At the Acropolis*



## Big Man on Campus

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Sunny is the only critter in the house these days. He's very helpful, as you can see. Our neighbors miss him since Ned has been working from home most of the year, with Sunny always nearby. You can friend the King of King Street on Facebook (Sunny Bryant) or follow on Instagram @sunnyboy55987.

# THE BRYANT REPORT

*is published fairly regularly by*

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