

# THE BRYANT REPORT

2021

Keepin' On Keepin' On



*James and Madeleine on the Colorado River*

## Heidi

Everyday we are reminded that we are living in very strange times. The best way I can think of to describe how we're coping is "keepin' on keepin' on."

As the pandemic poured over into 2021, I continued to find new ways to do old things. How do you move a member exhibit online? You design a book and give every artist their own spread. And you extend the exhibit to showcase non-visual artists by adding links to videos. The result: [riverartsalliance.org/member-exhibit](https://riverartsalliance.org/member-exhibit). The success of this concept inspired the Winona Arts Center (WAC) to present their *Art In the Time of Covid* exhibit the same way: [winonaarts.org/exhibit-book](https://winonaarts.org/exhibit-book). The River Arts Alliance (RAA) exhibit became part of a complete redesign of the website, including new logo design, which was funded by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. I also built a new website for the WAC and a local author, while continuing to run the Maria W. Faust Sonnet Contest and do other graphic design projects.



Member Exhibit Book Cover



New RAA Logo

Things will change in 2022 as I pull back from my responsibilities at RAA to put more focus on the Sonnet Contest and my musical pursuits. This was a very good year for music! There were half a dozen performances this fall with *Flutistry*, *Frankly My Dears*, and *Winds of Winona* (a clarinet quartet plus me). My clarinet buddy Frank Bures and I performed duets at some of the events. A big concert was held at the WAC featuring *Flutistry* and *Frankly My Dears*. We packed the house! I met the challenge of playing in both groups and even premiered my new piccolo on a few pieces. Oh, and I dusted off my guitar and did a little bit of jazz-jamming with friends. I continue to tackle difficult solo pieces with my teacher (and music therapist) Rachel Haug Root and look forward to more musical adventures!



Concert Poster



## NED BRYANT

The year started off with more of the same, working from home and avoiding people. Fortunately, all of that changed in mid-April and I am now back at the office full time. But RTP wasn't immune from the great resignation—too much work and not enough people. So, this summer Engineering had to step up and work production for 6 weeks to help catch up on all the orders we had. While maybe not ideal, I did learn quite a bit about how manufacturing operates, and the alternative—not enough orders—would've been much less desirable.

For the Grand Canyon, I realized that a 57 year old couldn't be as casual about things, so I invested in lots of new equipment and a diet to make me worthy of such good equipment. The result was that in late March, a 30 lb. lighter version of me hit the trail! This made for much stronger, lighter, and more enjoyable hiking. Maddy and I did one hike in the spring and two in the fall, and now we are only three hikes away from being able to draw a complete through line of the entire 277 mile long park! The next two hikes are planned for April, with the final hike in June. This line will be just over 30 years in the making.

Both maple syrup and hops came in strong this year, and it was fun to discover how nice fresh hops floating in your beer are on a late summer afternoon.

Finally, at the end of this year the four of us are looking forward to being together for the first time in over two years.

## Grand Canyon Painting

Surprise! We pulled off a great feat for Ned's birthday. For several years, he had wanted to commission a Grand Canyon painting by our good friend and fellow GC enthusiast Julia Crozier. Somehow, we managed to keep it a surprise until the very end. Maddy provided the photo and Julia worked her magic. She also documented the process and I turned it into a video. You can see it on YouTube – just search **Heidi Bryant**.



More Fun on the Trail



A Happy Surprise!



## Odds & Ends





## Jack

This December, Jack passed his preliminary exam for his doctoral program in Macromolecular Science and Engineering at Virginia Tech. The exam included a week of answering written questions for his committee followed by a presentation of his work so far. Passing this exam officially makes him a PhD candidate in his program which is a big step in this journey.

In his free time, Jack has developed an obsession with watching the Minnesota Timberwolves consistently under perform this season.



*Hanging Out in Virginia*

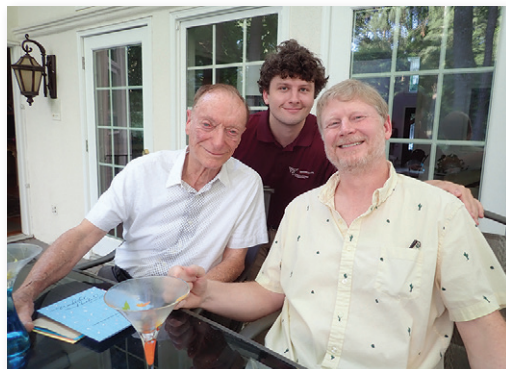
## Road Trip!



*Ned is taller than Captain Kirk*

In May, we met Jack in Virginia and spent a couple of days visiting his lab and exploring Virginia Tech and Blacksburg. Then he went with us to Georgia to visit Ned's folks and Kinsey, Aunt Ruth and Uncle Kelly, and Rick and Annemarie. Howard and Jane were downsizing so they sent the family grandfather's clock back home with us.

We spent three days driving back, stopping to visit the National Quilt Museum, the St. Louis Arch, and—a highlight of the trip—the “Future Birthplace of James T. Kirk,” Riverside, Iowa.



*Celebrating Howard's 93rd Birthday!*

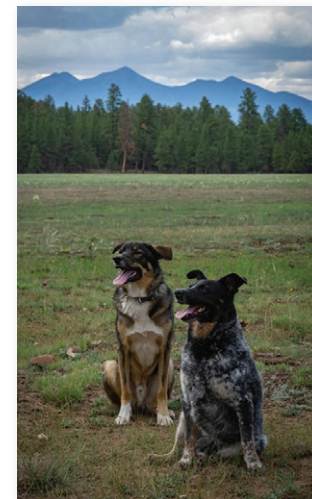


*A Family Heirloom finds a New Home*

## Madeleine

Another adventurous year in the books for Maddy and James. Since it was clear that social-distancing wasn't going anywhere, we stacked our year with outdoor activities. In March, we pack-raided the upper San Juan; in April, my dad and I hiked for 9 days in Grand Canyon; and in May, James and I rafted the Colorado River through the GC on a last-minute permit that I won! We had a seamless river trip with old friends and new ones. This trip, followed by several more backpacking trips in the fall, rounded me out as spending about 50 days in Grand Canyon this year. For my 30th birthday, James and I drove to Paonia, CO and toured their breweries, wineries, and cideries. Unfortunately, I pulled my back getting out of bed the morning of my birthday. I guess you can't win 'em all.

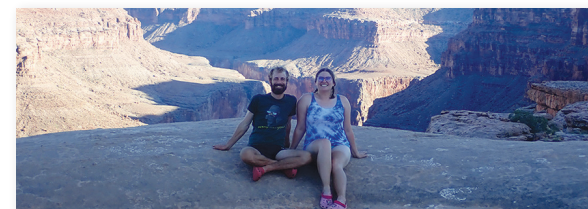
Also this year, I started a new job at Cornerstone Environmental, where I do administrative work as well as GIS work supporting their archaeological surveys. This was a welcome transition, and I am so excited to be using my master's degree while staying in Flagstaff! Maggie, Carlos, and Dunkel are all doing well. They had a “no news is good news” kind of year, and they are greatly enjoying our upgrade to a king size bed that we got, apparently, just for them.



*Dunkel and Carlos*



*Happy Campers*



## Kitchen

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After several years of debating what to do about our kitchen, we finally settled on a moderate remodel. The options were pretty limited in a 115 year old house (with 6 doors in the room). So we replaced the countertops and some appliances and gave it a fresh paint job. We found extra storage space by opening up a bulkhead and building a cabinet box in the space. Ned also ripped out the ceiling and added new lighting. The layout is the same, but it's a much more pleasing place to work!



## Happy Napper

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At 6 years old, the King of King Street spends most of his time curled up at home. You can friend him on Facebook (Sunny Bryant) or follow on Instagram @sunnyboy55987.



# THE BRYANT REPORT

*is published fairly regularly by*

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