

Happy 2020 from our new Blue Boat Home!

We didn't travel nearly as much in 2019 as in past years, but we still packed a lot in! When the year began, we were living in an apartment in Omaha's Dundee neighborhood, but in May we bought a house two miles north, in the Benson neighborhood. In May, we celebrated Jessie's doctorate degree in Milwaukee. We had visits from Ben's sister 'Becca and her family, friends Matt, Gypsy, and Klyde, along with both sets of parents. We welcomed Didi the cat into our home and walked the dogs about a thousand times.

Ben:

I started off the year with a week in Austin, TX, visiting friends Marisa, Gloria, Rich, and Gypsy, then ventured to Chicago and Kansas City, MO to attend work-related conferences. I continued to work for the Unitarian Universalist Association and also on Web projects for Concept 2 rowing machines and the Democracy Collaborative. In the spring I co-taught a permaculture design certification class near Great Bend, KS and again in the fall near Lawrence, KS, and I'm looking forward to the same teaching schedule in 2020! Closer to home, I volunteered with Omaha Permaculture and the youth group at our local Unitarian church, and I had fun building a modular raised garden bed / chicken run for Jessie's mom and a rain garden in our new backyard. In August, I got cast as the lead in the church musical, my first time acting since 1986! I also continued my language studies just for fun, completing Duolingo's courses in Hindi and Arabic and continuing in Russian.

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Jessie:

I guess you could say 2019 was a quieter one. I continued working in Child Adolescent Partial Hospitalization. Largely thanks to terribly snowy weather and many snow days from work, I finished my dissertation and graduated from Mount Mary University in May with a Doctorate in Art Therapy. I enjoyed showing my family around Milwaukee and celebrating with them, classmates and faculty. I adjuncted for Emporia State and began seeing clients in private practice in Omaha. I helped introduce a licensing bill for art therapy in Nebraska. I continued to serve on the Kansas Art Therapy Association Board as the Webmaster and on the Local Arrangements Committee for the national conference held in Kansas City in the fall. I gave three presentations at the conference and enjoyed time with my ESU and Mt. Mary folks there. I also served as one of the inaugural presenters for AATA's first virtual conference. Additionally, I spent time with family and friends, and enjoyed a slower pace (although this doesn't make it sound slower!).

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