

**This past year seems to have dragged on, but it also streamed by...
New media services are appearing faster than COVID variants.
What to watch when you plop down on the couch in front of the TV
after a long day of sitting in front of a different screen? Here's the answer!**

Can't keep track of Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Paramount+, Disney+, Apple TV+, HBO Max (which would have been HBO+ but they ran out of plus signs), and the other 439+ services and channels? Too many choices, right? It was sooo much better when we just had 3 VHF channels and media was dominated by straight white Christian men. No worries though, there's an AI that already knows what you want to see next, and it's queued up the perfect show to play starting in just 10 seconds. Or you can switch to cable news if you want to feel afraid and angry (it isn't news if your amygdala isn't activated).

Still looking for something to distract you for a few minutes? Our algorithms recommend you follow our new family podcast that just dropped called "You are seriously mistaken if you think any of us have time to make a podcast." If you like this letter, you would probably also like our older, but still binge-worthy [holiday letters](#). That's right, nowadays, if you do something for a couple decades, you automatically become a genre! And so, based on your unique demographic profile, and your click-history, you have been uniquely selected to read the

2021 Lefton-Steinbart Holiday Letter

Hannah finished her first semester of law school at the University of Michigan, after spending a full year studying social work there. She's still on track to complete the joint JD/MSW degree program in 2024. She's actively involved in social justice activities including organizing protests and building a [website](#) that promotes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) by providing resources and a toolkit for inclusive event planning. This year, Hannah was **Loki** to be invited to and to attend a **Succession** of 4 weddings in 3 states. She moved to a new apartment, and spends most of her time studying. In her **Atypical** free time (which sometimes adds up to a full hour/week!) she enjoys going on walks, playing board games, and thrifting for stylish clothes to keep warm in the Michigan winter (not unlike a **Falcon and Winter Soldier**).

Natalie continued her catalysis research which is leading to her Chemical Engineering PhD from UC Berkeley. She visited a national lab to use more advanced equipment and also went to a conference to present preliminary results. She was a TA and was also involved in the successful organization of Student Researchers United, a union representing tens of thousands of student researchers in the UC system. This year, Natalie adopted Theodore (Theo), a cat who continues the Lefton/Steinbart pet tradition of being adorable and hopefully not an **Anamaniac** or **Lucifer**. Natalie also got her first car (a used Prius) and has enjoyed camping and hiking up and down the **Expanses** and **the Wilds** of the west coast. She spent time with Lew's sister Irene, went to a wedding in Mexico (without **Narcos**), visited Portland, and camped in Yosemite when Monica came to visit her. She is in a **Good Place** when she's spending time with Theo and friends, camping, baking, and doing jigsaw puzzles.

Monica moved back to Lew and Enid's house in the second half of the year, getting res**Ted. Lasso**-ing a new job was her goal, and she **Nailed It!** In November, she left the Atlanta office of FleishmanHillard to join the Society for Women's Health Research, a DC-based mission-driven non-profit that promotes research on biological sex differences to improve women's health. Enid helped her move to the DC area and, after a brief landing with Enid's sister and brother-in-law, Sylvia and Dick Rortvedt (who are **Titans** of hospitality), she moved in with some roommates in the **LuLaRich** neighborhood of Mt. Pleasant, Washington DC in late November. Monica also got some travel in with a **DopeSick** visit to Puerto Rico, connecting with friends in Seattle, NY, and a week in the Bay area (including a Yosemite camping trip and a meal from Chez Pani with Natalie, which wasn't a **Money Heist**). She still enjoys vegetarian cooking, houseplant gardening, and reading.

The girls (not **The Boys**, since we don't have any boys) saw the same Chelsea Cutler and Quinn XCII concert tour this year, albeit in three different cities. **Stranger Things** have happened. The whole family enjoyed a small reunion in Indianapolis in July (remember that hopeful pre-Delta period?) for a lovely celebration of the wedding of Enid's niece Anna Steinbart and Ben Johnston. Like you, we all enjoyed a variety of family Zoom calls where we **Lupin** everyone

to find out how they're doing. On a sad note, we lost our cat Bo this year to an unexplained neck injury. We know that there's a special place in cat heaven for him, and he doesn't need any **Reservation. Dogs** and cats in the neighborhood may not miss him as much as we do. [ARE YOU STILL READING?]..... Press OK to continue.

This year included some great family moments, a highlight being when Enid and Lew bought a fully furnished mountain house in North Carolina! No current plans to move there permanently, but it's the **Foundation** of a retirement plan. Closest town is Barnardsville, about 30 minutes northeast of Asheville. The house is a 4-hour drive from Atlanta, around 3000' in elevation, minutes from the Blue Ridge Parkway, and near the top of a wooded mountain. We all spent Christmas there, and the dark night sky provides opportunity for **Star Trek: Discovery**. We've already hosted many visitors, so let us know if you'd like to check it out! One important consideration, we also had to buy an AWD SUV just to reliably get up our steep, dirt driveway.

Looking back on **What We Do, in the Shadows** of a looming 2022, we feel grateful. We enjoyed the opportunity to see the Atlanta Braves win the World Series and reclaim **The Crown** of MLB after so many years. The **Yellowjackets** didn't do quite as well... In December, Enid's book club organized a significant community effort to host six Afghan refugee women who escaped Kabul and will be enrolled at Georgia State University in the spring. These students are inspiring and strong, and we are really enjoying getting to know them.

We continue to take the pandemic seriously, and we're all fully vaxxed and boosted. It's hard for everyone right now, and it feels like we're constantly on **Doom Patrol**. It will be great to **Get Back** to doing some of the things we love, but for now we continue to follow the science, wear masks, and test regularly.

Enid is still teaching and advising math majors, and because of her experience, she also serves on multiple campus committees, including the search for a new **Chair** for the School of Math. She stays physically active with bootcamp, running, and many walks. Her aerobic activity is dominated by banging on the keyboard when the technology fails. She and Lew visited Natalie this fall, and had a great time enjoying Big Sur, Monterey, and other Apple Operating Systems. She missed her summer trip to Hilton Head, but still gets together with friends, both in person and online. She recounted the **Wonder Years** and celebrated her 60th birthday in the spring with an outdoor party, which was the first time many of us had a slightly larger social interaction. In the fall, because of an unexpected resignation, Enid ended up teaching a second large section of multivariable calculus. The doubling of her students created a large sand **Dune** of extra work, but fortunately, she will have a teaching load reduction in Spring 2022 to compensate. Some of her students were great, but others were challenging, and there were days she considered adding **Squid Game** assignments to reduce enrollment.

Lew continues to serve Georgia Tech in his role as Associate VP of Research Computing and Assistant Dean. If that sounds like two jobs, it's probably because it's two jobs. He has been engaged in many strategic data-focused efforts, and in the fall he started co-teaching a project-based class called Getting to Know U., where undergraduate students learn and apply data science techniques using internal and external data about the University itself, to better understand and inform strategic decisions. It's not unlike the **Great British Baking Show** but instead of making scones, everyone has to make a compelling and useful visualization of a research enterprise data set. He also continues to teach the Humor Genome Project class and do a bit of stand-up and improv, both online and in-person. Lew spent a fair amount of time and effort working with a local nonprofit Black Alliance to help to facilitate an anti-racist public art project called Art for the People, which began when a Confederate monument was removed from the Decatur Square in 2020. It culminated in a powerful Afro-futurism style sculpture placed next to the police station. He also continues to serve on non-profit boards including Science for Georgia and Decatur Makers, the nonprofit **Community** makerspace he helped found. This holiday season, he had a **WandaVision** to convert 36 road posts on the block (placed by the city to slow traffic and protect pedestrians) into solar-powered, LED-wrapped candy-canes which look cool **In the Dark**. Next year, maybe they'll be **Mandalorians**.

The **Manifest** of people who have visited us (in either GA or NC now) is too short. We look forward to seeing all of you and hope that it can happen soon and safely, but we'll cross that **Bridgerton** when we come to it. Until then, please don't hesitate to reach out online, and you can let us know some streaming recommendations of your own! And, since you finished this holiday letter, **You** now qualify for a 3 month trial subscription to the new Lefton-Steinbart Holiday Letter+ and a special director's cut of **Death to 2021!**

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May you and your loved ones have a new year full of happiness, health and peace.
Happy Belated Hanukkah. Merry Belated Christmas Happy Belated New Year