

This is a year our grandchildren will be telling their grandchildren about. We and the rest of the world are in the middle of a pandemic. Fortunately, science has reacted very positively, and vaccines are on the way. The presidential election is over. We are very concerned that it will take years before we heal the anger and begin working on the common good.

Covid seclusion for us has not been a hardship. First of all we have each other to talk to every day and we still find each other interesting. Living on several acres in Sonoma County where the weather is usually pleasant, we work outside often. The biggest worry is the fires. With climate change, catastrophic fires are coming yearly, and the fire season is longer. We have lived in California for 54 years and it has only been the last three years that we have experienced such fires. This year there was a freak lightning storm which was thrilling until we realized it started fires all around us. Though we weren't evacuated this time, we breathed unhealthy air for weeks. Our Covid masks don't help much against the dirty air. Being trapped inside because of smoke is harder to deal with than precautions of wearing a mask and staying 6 ft. apart for Covid. At least with Covid you can go for a walk. When there isn't a fire we think we live in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. It is easy for us to walk in our neighborhood; drive a couple blocks and walk along a river or on a country road; and in 45 minutes we can enjoy the Pacific Ocean. At Thanksgiving we witnessed an awesome event. Literally thousands of sea lions were swimming like dolphins along Bodega Head toward a small rock island. Elsewhere many people live in apartments and have limited options. In other words, we live in a bubble and are not aware of the suffering of many people. We worry about the rapid spread of Covid and regret all the sickness and loss of life from the pandemic. We also feel for all the people who have lost their homes or died from the western fires. Whole towns have been wiped out. We can no longer pretend that Covid and fires do not exist. Maybe because of the dreariness of the pandemic and fires, one of our daughters got an inspiration that we needed lights. Suddenly we have outdoor Christmas lights all over. It is very festive.

Judy has several friends that she walks with on different days of the week and is happy to have such good friends. She is the treasurer of the local professional photographers' organization (Joe helps with the bookkeeping and reporting). They Zoom almost weekly and thoroughly enjoy communicating. She also belongs to a monthly Zoom book club. Her eyes weren't what they used to be many long years ago (we both turned 80 this year). She got a new Sony mirrorless camera that auto focuses on the eyes of subjects and she is back in business shooting our family photos. She just finished photoshopping 3 family pictures today.

Joe did a bit better on the irrigation systems this year and we had lots of fruit and vegetables. We had 3 plantings of excellent corn, lots of tomatoes and the best strawberries ever. Judy makes the most excellent Petite Sirah jam (that is from Joe's wine grape). It is a very deep purple with lots of flavor. This has been a challenging year for grapes. We had 3 periods of over 105 degrees heat. The huge Walbridge fire was about 10 miles from our place. Fortunately, the prevailing winds kept most of the worst smoke away from the grapes. Some of the vines are dying because of a virus in the root stock and he has replanted some and is deciding about another block. For a while there were more grapes than buyers. In the end there were lots of buyers and it all worked out. He bottled about 30 cases of mostly Petite Sirah wine and has about 20 cases aging for next year. Despite the fires, the wine tastes good. In most of Napa and some of Sonoma the grapes were spoiled by smoke. Joe loves his citrus. He has 3 Owari Satsuma tangerines, a Valencia orange, an improved Meyer lemon (it has lemons all year) and his favorite a Washington Navel orange (it has delicious fruit for almost 8 months).

Joe had been visiting people at 5 care places every week for many years and he brought the Eucharist to them. Sadly, he had to stop in March because of the pandemic. He tries to keep in touch with an email every couple of weeks. 2 have died, and one is losing her memory. Even the families can't visit their relatives. It is incredibly sad. He has been volunteering at our local Catholic Charities on a liaison team linking community organizations with Catholic Charities. Unfortunately, the pandemic has made personal communication exceedingly difficult. They are building affordable housing and a homeless care center and Joe is an active supporter. This year he plans to make major progress on his memoir. He has read some suggestions and has a start.

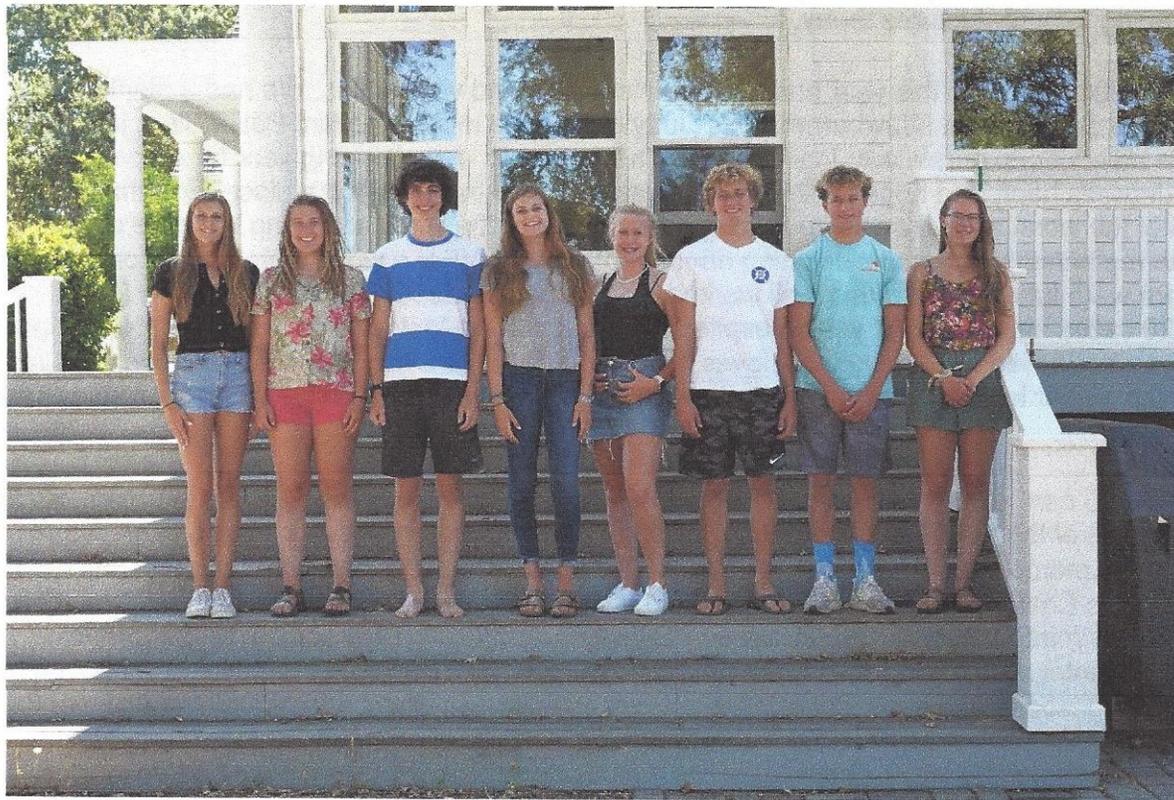
We are in a parish discussion group led by an 87-year-old former Jesuit priest. This year we finished a book called "From Aging to Saging". We were challenged to share wisdom that we may have gained from our long life. Joe is basically an optimist. The pandemic will end and hopefully as a planet we will be better prepared medically and organizationally for the next one. There are organizational and technical processes that can save our planet from a climate change catastrophe if we all act together. Joe was totally scared by watching a YouTube documentary called "Social Dilemma". His son Joey had shown it to his family and recommended it. The documentary describes how the giant tech companies are using intelligent design with computers and the lack of control (Section 230 of the

Communication Decency Act of 1996 absolves companies from lawsuits for lying) to convince people to believe almost anything. It is causing rising suicide rates among teens and is the basis of many conspiracy theories and fake news on the internet. If you or your children/grandchildren are relying on social media for information, Joe strongly suggests you watch: "Social Dilemma". Go to YouTube and select: "Social Dilemma Full Movie 2020".

Our children and grandchildren are doing well (the grandchildren are quickly growing up with 3 in college and 5 in high school and the adults are maturing. Becky Lorenz lives in Veneta, Oregon. She is a district master sub for grades 1 to senior and has mastered Zoom and other online systems. Her husband Dave is dreaming of retiring from the Oregon forest service (he is in charge of 1/3 of Oregon state's forests and the fire seasons are awful). Josiah is studying computers at the U of Arizona and loves his school. Mary Roller lives in Cupertino, hates Zoom teaching, and wants to get back in the classroom. Frank works at Lockheed and keeps very busy. Nate & Tyler both go to Bellarmine, a Jesuit High School, are surviving Zoom and go surfing whenever they can. Their school swimming and water polo keep getting cancelled because of either smokey air or Covid. Amy Edmondson lives in Boise, Idaho, took an excellent retirement from HP and has been keeping busy with her family. She plans to start looking for work after the holidays. Mike has been promoted to a cabinet level job working for the governor of Idaho (he also rides his bike to work every day and looks great). Rachel is studying at the U of Montana. Unfortunately, she has Celiac disease and even worse some kind of rheumatism. While the doctors are trying different options, it is hard to have your body not cooperate for a kid who is used to skiing black diamonds and camping out under the stars. Emily is very organized, is a good student, plans to be in medicine and is taking a nurse's aide class at the local college. Jennay is total enjoyment and is profound (she and Grandpa Joe play the card game "Speed" and he finally beat her once). She is taking advanced math classes at the senior high school. Joey lives in Windsor about 15 minutes from our place. He is halfway through remodeling a multimillion-dollar project. Belinda is Zoom teaching with its many challenges. Katie is a junior at San Luis Obispo and taking her finals at home while this letter is being written (again Zoom classes). Anna is a senior and plans to go into nursing or some medical field. She is applying mainly to schools near the southern California beaches.

Joe and Judy Tembrock  
707-568-6061  
241 Royal Court, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

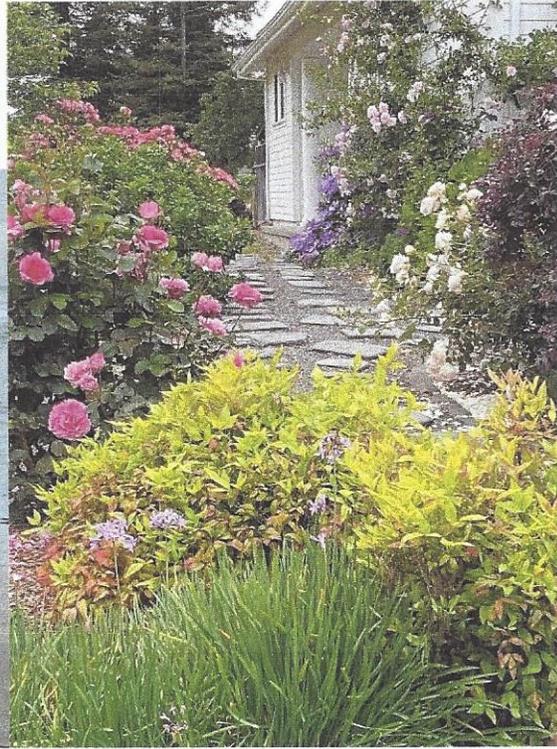
Let us seek joy and trust in the coming years.



Katie, Rachel, Josiah, Anna, Emily, Nate, Tyler, Jennay (Our Joy)



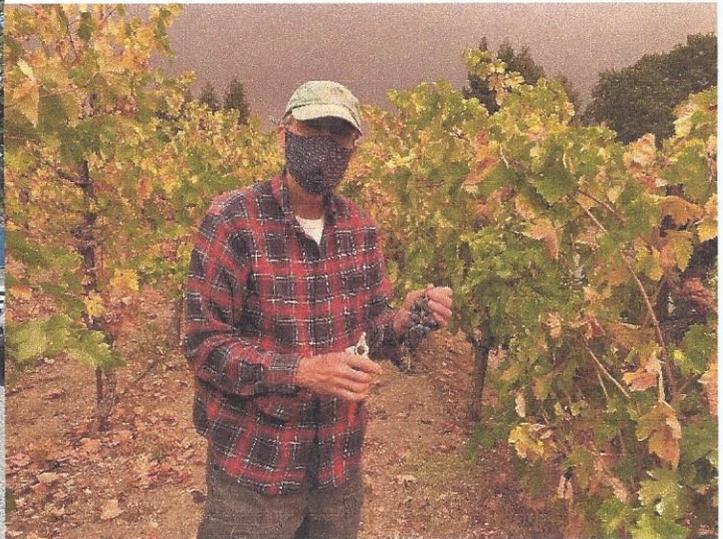
Judy at Shell Beach (Pacific Ocean)



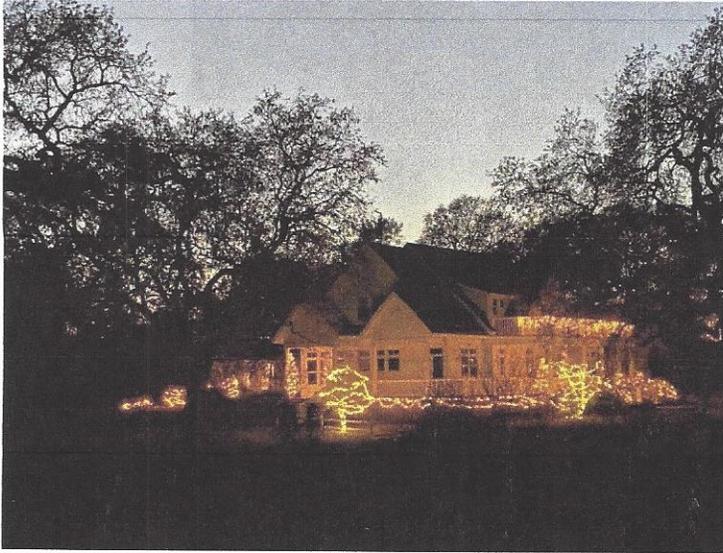
Our Roses in the Spring



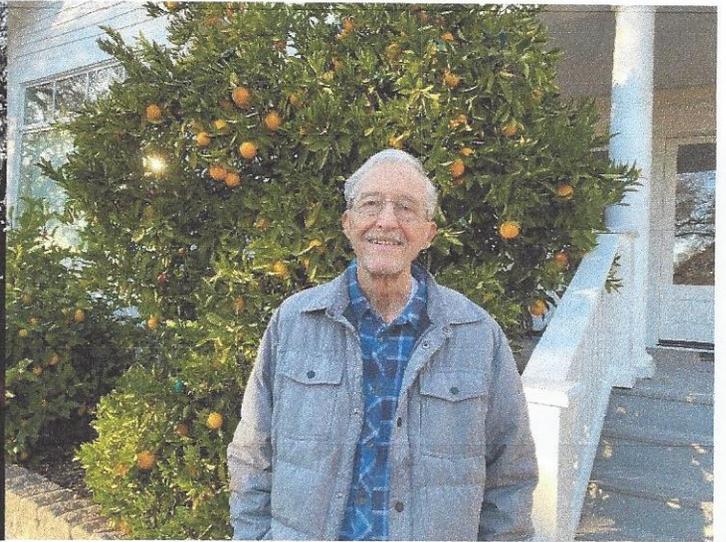
Annual Shad trip (Katie, Joey, Joe – Anna not pictured)



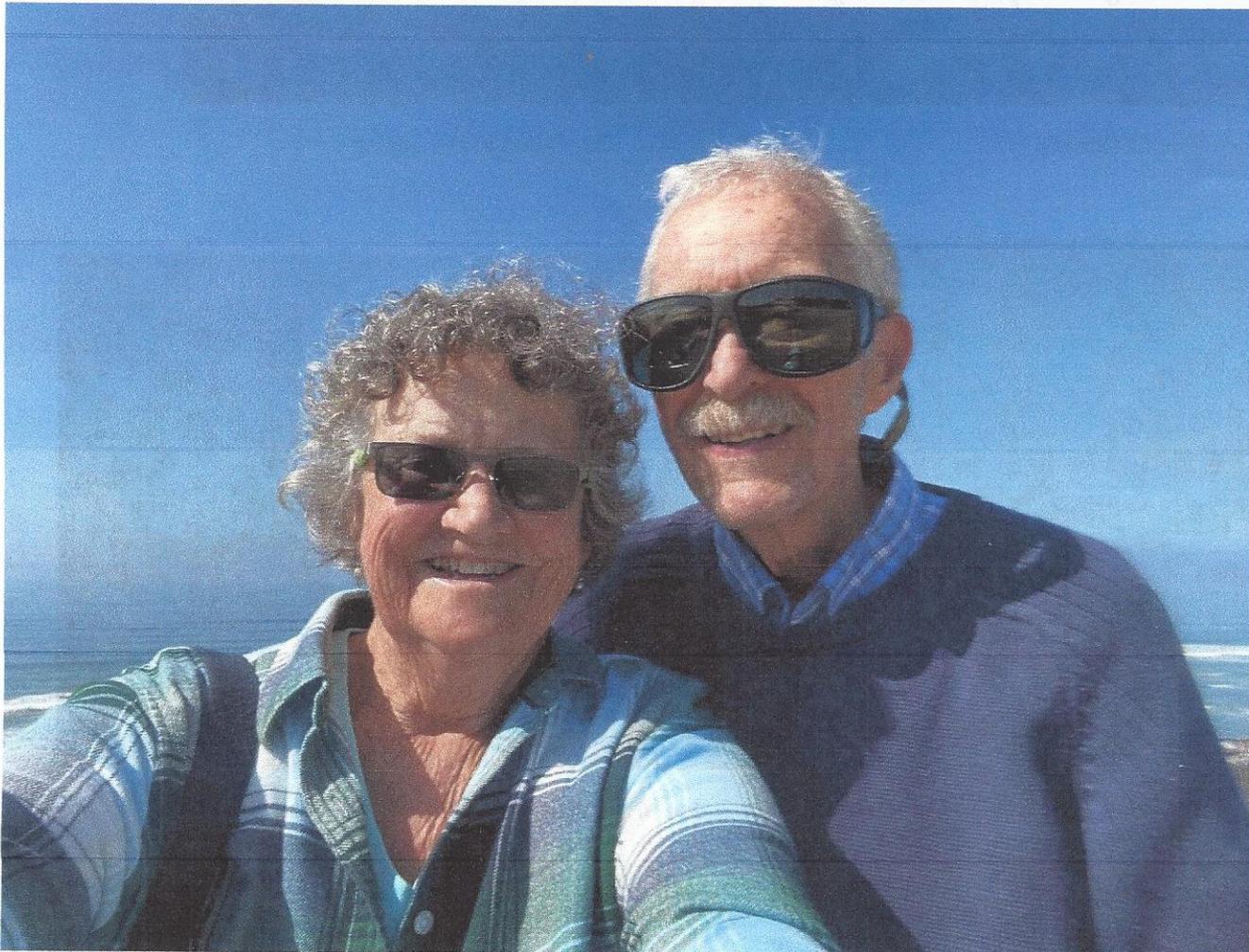
Joe in the vineyard after harvest with heavy smoke



Our house with lights (cheer during the pandemic)



Joe with his favorite tree (Orange)



Judy and Joe at the beach (Judy selfie)