

This was a wonderful year for us.

June was the start of our 50th anniversary celebrations when we traveled to Maui, Hawaii with our daughter, Becky, husband Dave and son Josiah. It was delightful. We snorkeled 6 times at 4 beaches (Joe got surprised by a big sea turtle coming up right by him). Joe and Judy took the "Road to Hana" and drove all around the island (lots of one lane bridges and roads).

As somewhat part of our 50th wedding anniversary, Joe and Judy organized a Brandl family reunion with a lot of help from everyone especially Shelly Brandl, and Don and Pat Brandl who have cabins on Lac Courte Oreilles and Sue Tefft who did the invitations. In addition to their two cabins we rented 2 more cabins and all our family attended, our children & spouses (except Dave & Frank who had to work) and 8 grandchildren. We hired a DJ and everyone loved dancing (the dance was in Judy's brother Don's spiffed up garage and the mosquitoes behaved).

Immediately following the Brandl family reunion was a Tembrock family reunion and Joe's Waubun Class of 1958 high school reunion in Ogema, Minnesota (population 158 on the White Earth Indian Reservation). We rented 2 cabins on the lake and the grandchildren learned to water ski. We had a few croquet games at the Tembrock family cabin (Joe's sister Marilyn owns the cabin). We hired a Polka band and danced late into the night in the Ogema Hall. Mary's husband Frank was able to get off work and he enjoyed talking to the locals at the dance. All eight of our grandchildren sang a song they had composed to the tune of "It's All About the Base". The fishing was awesome as Joe, his brother Paul and son Nick got over 40 game fish one evening by the island. We also walked around Ogema and Joe and his brothers told stories of growing up in a very small town on the reservation.

Somewhat as part of our anniversary, Joe had a mission of capturing memories of the past before they are lost. He coordinated his uncle Russ Hennessey's movies of the Tembrock's in the 1940's; his uncle Fred Wright's movies of Joe's mom's family in the 1940's; and Bernie Wood's movies of our family in the early days of Cupertino on DVDs for posterity.

Our son, Joey and Belinda bought a new house a couple miles from their old house (they now live in Windsor, CA and just 15 minutes from us). This gave us an opportunity to keep our moving skills active as well as landscaping work at both houses and painting at the new house. The new house is wonderful, with a beautiful park across the street and the kids can walk to high school.

We won!!! After 300 signatures, countless meetings, lots of our neighbor's money for a lawyer & consultants, 150 people at the hearing and 30 presentations to the zoning board, Guy Fieri was stopped by a vote of 5 to 0!!! He wanted to put a loud event center in the middle of our quiet, rural residential neighborhood. This has changed the application process somewhat for Sonoma County though Noise Assessments still are crooked. They say they are following the General Plan but they are not. Judy and her good friend Joan led the cause and Joe and many others helped. There is still more work to be done to get the process honest.

In March we journeyed to Anaheim, CA (Disneyland) with Joe's brothers to the annual RECongress where around 35,000 people of faith learn together. We are inspired and challenged by Pope Francis.

Our guest family after 14 months saved up enough money to rent an apartment and moved out in September. They are a good hard working family. We loved Marcela's cooking and the excitement of having young boys in the house. We are now enjoying a quieter life.

Our biggest house project of the year was getting our hardwood floors refinished. Our entire first floor is red oak and now it is beautiful again. We had to move out and not live in our house for several weeks. This provided an opportunity to clean and organize.

Joe's vineyard yield was less this year (partly because of the draught and partly because Joe didn't water while in Hawaii – operator error). We bottled Petite Sirah and Chardonnay from 2013 and have Petite Sirah and Zinfandel aging. Judy's cousin, Terra Travers designed a beautiful label that has a picture of an oak tree with the name of the vineyard and winery called "23 Oaks" on the label. We both enjoy a glass of wine and Joe served 4 cases at the Minnesota reunion.

Judy is active in a professional photographer's organization. She is the treasurer (Joe gets to help with reporting). We had the annual Christmas party at our house. Judy's flower garden was beautiful this year until Joe futzed with the water system and it didn't get water for a while. Next year she'll try to plant more draught tolerant plants. Fortunately, the native Valley Oak trees survive without rain for 6 months. Judy enjoys volunteering in the local 1st grade class listening to children read. This year's first graders are exceptionally good readers. It is a beautiful class with a wide variety of ethnicities and backgrounds and they are reading like you wouldn't believe. They are the hope of this world. We are fortunate to live in a neighborhood of different economic levels.

Joe is very active in our Catholic parish as he is a member of the finance council, pastoral council and many ministries. He is attempting to develop a ministry called "Shared Housing" with Catholic Charities. We have over 3,000 homeless in our county and some homeowners have extra room and could use extra funds or aging people could use help to live in their homes and forestall assisted living (Joe's Mom lived in her home until she was 94 but had lots of help her last years). He is part of a small group called "Committed Laity" that is trying to get rid of our bishop. He is a pre Vatican II person who operates autocratically without council, doesn't allow women on the cathedral altar, and arbitrarily tries to rule (he apparently doesn't listen to our new pope).

Our daughter Becky, husband Dave and Josiah Lorenz live in Oregon. Josiah was the leader of a team from their small town of Veneta that placed first in the Oregon "Battle of the Books". Thousands of schools competed and we were at the state championship. (It was awesome how calm and collected their team was). Dave is a forest manager and Becky substitute teaches & volunteers for everything.

Mary, Frank, Nate & Tyler Roller live in Cupertino, CA. Their family is into competitive swimming, Frank takes videos to help them improve, Mary drives them almost every day to practice and the boys have collected lots of medals. Frank keeps launching satellites and Mary teaches 3rd grade. We had a big scare last week when Tyler fell ill and had to have an operation. They were able to save his kidney with a stent and he is recovering. This all was a shock because he is a strong athletic boy.

Amy, Mike, Rachel, Emily and Jennay Edmondson live in Boise, ID. Amy works at HP, now called HP, Inc (printers and personal computers). Mike works for the state in charge of fish. Mike and a few friends are planning to open a brew-pub in April, Mike being the brewmeister. Rachel, Emily and Jennay are all into school, music and sports. We plan to go cross country skiing with them during the Martin Luther King vacation.

Joey, Belinda, Katie and Anna Tembrock live in Windsor, CA. Joey's contractor's business is doing well and Belinda teaches 3rd grade. Katie sings and plays guitar in church, was on the JV volleyball team and runs the high hurdles. Anna plays soccer on the team Joey coached, is learning the guitar and loves math.

We wish you all a year of peace, which is a pretty big order.

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Snorkeling in Maui



Joe and Judy celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary



Josiah Lorenz in Maui



Dancing in Don & Pat Brandl's garage in Wisconsin



The Tembrock clan in Wisconsin



Judy's family in Wisconsin



Tembrock family in the Ogema Church



Our eight grandchildren in the Ogema Hall (see Nate with Joe's suspenders)



Our grandchildren at the headwaters of the Mississippi



Fishing at White Earth Lake (note Jennay at the left)



Joe pruning Zinfandel



23 Oaks Zinfandel



Mary, Amy, Joey and Becky (our four children)

