

Dear Family and Friends,

Christmas 2011

This has been a year of growth and loss. Joe calls himself a winegrower as he grows grapes and makes wine. This was a very good year (compared to the previous years) as Joe sold 2,500 pounds of wine grapes and Joe and Judy made 50 gallons of wine (chardonnay, petite sirah and zinfandel). He has become anal and is attempting to document the steps of grape growing and wine making. There was only marginal common sense growth on a Sierra Nevada backpacking trip in September with Joe's brothers Jim and Bill, son Joey, cousin Bud and several others. Joe and Bud forgot the tent poles and it rained, hailed, sleeted and was very cold (10,000 feet). Fortunately the fishing was good and we had a bit of wine. We are gradually proving what Luther Burbank said of Santa Rosa: "There is no better place on the Earth to grow...". The irrigation systems are finally working, and we have stopped developing new planting areas (hopefully). Our corn and winter squash were excellent; "Yves Piaget" is our favorite rose from our 70 roses; our Kiwi and citrus are growing. Joe is thinking of replanting the blueberry bed that hasn't grown enough blueberries to feed the birds. Joe's greatest excitement and challenge is our parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe. He is constantly trying to create community. He wrote a letter to the pope mainly because of his deep concern for the lack of meaningful roles for women in the Church. He got a kindly reply from our local bishop and a rather negative reply from the papal nuncio. After 8 years of trying, Joe caught a 12 pound native steelhead in the Russian River. We installed a solar system this fall and Joe loves to watch the electric meter go backwards. His vision is to eventually get a plug in hybrid car as we both make trips to town almost daily.

From August to October we lost 4 close friends. Joe's sister in law, Donna Tembrock (Jim's wife) died in her mid 50's; two of Joe's HP work friends died suddenly; and Judy's very good walking friend MaryAnne Maino died after a 10 year battle with cancer. Joe spoke to the spouse of one whose wife died suddenly that he believes there is random good and random crap in life; that there is life after death; that we keep striving to do the best we can now; and prayer can help. Judy's brother John Brandl, died 3 years ago and his last months inspired Joe to realize that every moment is precious and there are opportunities everywhere. Both Judy and Joe enjoy good health.

Judy loves being "Grammy" and spending time with our grandchildren. She is very excited our entire family is coming to stay at our house for Christmas and many family and friends will be visiting. Judy's camera has been clicking a lot lately. She doesn't advertise, but former customers keep calling. She has learned to make photo Christmas cards and is busy designing cards for our children and customers. Judy loves her very own flower garden with zinnias, hydrangeas, foxgloves, and dahlias being the show flowers. She tried making jam with a petite sirah grape and it is very tasty. Her big event this year was a trip to Canada with her sister in-laws and her sister Sue. They started in Victoria Island with a visit to Bouchart Gardens and then took a train and bus to Banff and Lake Louise. She then flew to Minnesota to meet Joe and vacation at family cabins.

In May we went to Kauai, Hawaii with Becky, Dave and Josiah. In July we rented a cabin by Lake Tahoe. We had 7 of the grandchildren there with lots of swimming in one of America's clearest lakes.

The continuing recession has been challenging for our children. It appears they are all either working harder or making less money or both. Dave, Becky and Josiah live in Eugene, Oregon. Josiah (9) did very well in a book reading contest in school. Frank, Mary's husband barely survived major job cuts at Lockheed and his 10 year satellite project is in orbit and functioning perfectly. Ryan moved to Georgia and has a job. Will is a sophomore in college. Nate (7) and Tyler (5) are into soccer this year and continue major rough housing. Amy in Boise also narrowly survived a layoff from HP. Rachel (10) reads most of the time and made a great soccer goal, Emily (7) is fit and athletic and makes us smile, and Jennay broke her arm twice this year and is on the mend. Joey and Belinda live here in Santa Rosa. Belinda lost her teaching job at the beginning of the year and fortunately got a job this fall at a Christian school near home. Katie (11) and Anna (8) attend school with their mom. Joey, who has been in construction for 14 years, started a construction company "Bayside Builders" in February with another contractor. They are fortunately getting jobs in this very challenging economy.

Christmas Joy and Peace in the New Year,

Joe and Judy Tembrock
707-568-6061 jtembrock@sbcglobal.net

The Older Kids at Tahoe



Jennay 5, at home
with her chicken and
a healing arm.

Top: Rachel 10, Katie 10, Josiah 9, Anna 8.
Bottom: Nate 7, Emily 7, Tyler 5.

Peace
on earth



With Love,
Joe and Judy Tembrock





A man out standing in his field



The sister-in-laws in Canada



Joe and his new grape crusher



12 lb steelhead caught in the Russian River