

Dear Family and Friends,

Christmas 2012

This was the year (2012) of grapes and winemaking for Joe. The weather was perfect: warm days, cool night (we are in the Russian River Appellation where evening fog is typical in the summer), no spring frost, no diseases (Joe has learned to carefully spray) and no summer rains. Joe sold over 6,000 pounds of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Petite Sirah and Zinfandel grapes to about a dozen home wine makers and made almost 60 gallons of wine (all except Pinot Noir). With the help of his brothers and others he bottled the 2011 including some very good Chardonnay and Zinfandel. The wine is very drinkable and Joe asked his cousin Terra Travers to design a wine label (see below).

Judy had a big shock this year. We were in Cupertino getting ready to leave for Kauai, Hawaii to spend 2 weeks with our daughter Mary, Frank, Nate & Tyler Roller. She said "I can't see out of one eye". She saw doctors in Kauai and Honolulu and doctors back home in California. She had an aneurism in her left eye and had laser surgery. Best case the blood would dissipate in 3 months and she would have normal vision. Six months have passed and her vision is better but not perfect. However her eyes have adjusted and she can now take photos and use the computer. She has discovered the large print section in the library and has her Kindle set to large type. Judy was already planning to retire from her photography business and this has cemented that decision. She has just started volunteering at our local grade school (only a block away). She currently is helping a third grade boy who just arrived from Peru and speaks no English and cried the first day. Judy brought a tiny frog to school to help him learn some English words and have a little fun and the frog escaped inside the classroom - never to be found.

Joe continues to be very active in our parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe. We have a new pastor and the transition is going well (he is very capable and has lots of energy). Our parish is working on a strategic plan. There is hope for people to form small, loving communities in our church. Joe is a member of a diocese planning team and the environment is very different. It appears that our bishop wants to lead us to before Vatican II.

We both graduated from college in 1962. Judy traveled back to Minnesota to St. Benedict's college in June and Joe to St. John's in September to celebrate our 50 year college reunion!!!! We still both cross country ski, Judy swims almost every day and Joe prunes his grapes, but we are probably leaving middle age and starting to become elderly. We are so blessed to be the product of caring, committed parents and stable communities that really strived for and funded the common good.

You may not want to read the following thoughts from Joe. He has been observing for several years (before the current elections) that many people are biased in their information collection and decision process (Joe also admits to this but consciously tries to overcome this). His premise is that people only collect information that supports their view. Joe knows people that only listen to Fox News, Rush Limbaugh, Rachael Maddow or Jon Steward. The sad thing is, none of these types of sources are factual news. They are opinions. Similarly, the internet can easily support any view, especially when funded by special interest groups. Joe's visionary concerns for our children and grandchildren are: the rapidly growing income inequality and distribution of wealth in the United States; global climate change and lack of trust and investment in the common good in the United States (we are not investing in education, roads, computer networks, etc to be competitive in the global economy).

We had a very exciting and challenging six weeks at our house. On November 4th, Joe was at a church meeting and Father indicated he needed help as a 23 year old, homeless girl needed a place to spend the night and he didn't want to send her alone to a motel. Joe called Judy and asked if Brittany could spend the night. Joe spent a lot of time with Brittany trying to help her learn to organize her time, prepare for school, control her drinking, and spiritual readings. Unfortunately, it didn't work out and Brittany will have to seek help for her alcohol problem. Joe hopes to stay in touch as she has potential.

We were blessed that our entire family spent Thanksgiving with us (Mary's husband Frank was with his family as his mother, Doris died the week before Thanksgiving). Our Christmas picture shows our grandchildren and they are growing up (left to right: Emily 9, Tyler 6, Josiah 10, Kate Lynn 12, Jennay 6, Rachel 11, Anna 9, and Nate 8). Dave Lorez has been promoted to Division Forest Manager in Oregon. Becky volunteers and subs and Josiah led a book reading team to the state finals. Frank Roller got another satellite in orbit (he works for Lockheed). Mary teaches and tries to make some order with two very active boys, Nate and Tyler. Will is a junior at Harvard and Ryan is engaged to be married in August. Amy and Mike Edmondson finished their garage waterproofing and built a beautiful family area above the garage. Rachel sings, plays sports and loves to read. Emily loves math and kicks goals in soccer. Jennay is in the first grade and draws beautifully. Joey and Belinda Tembrock live near us (that's why we live here to be near grandkids). Joey's construction company could use a bit more business (so let him know). Belinda teaches at a Christian school that the girls attend. Katie plays volleyball and Anna loves math.

Christmas joy and peace in the New Year,

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23 Oaks
VINEYARD & WINERY

ZINFANDEL
Sonoma County — Russian River

*Estate Grown, Vinted and Bottled in Santa Rosa, CA
Joe Tembrock | Owner and Winegrower | 707-568-6061*

BRIX 25 EST ALC 15% PH 3.2 TA .75

2011