

Dear Family and Friends,

December 2018

2018 seemed like a very busy year, even for us. We traveled a lot, maintained an enjoyable complex vegetable garden, flower garden, fruit orchard and a vineyard (28 irrigation zones as everything except native plants need water all summer). Lots of family and friends get together here. Joe usually has his wine grapes up for sale in March and didn't get them on Craigslist until June. Fortunately, a San Jose buyer bought about a third of the crop.

We are starting to ponder a life transition when we won't have apparent infinite time, energy, health and resources. This started when we visited some members from our "Group" (the name of about a dozen families from our Cupertino Parish). They are about 10 years older than us and only 1 or 2 can easily get around and no couples can go on trips together anymore. Joe will be having cataract eye surgery soon; needs hearing aids; is hobbling around with Plantar Fasciitis & had a bum knee that required blood removal. Judy fell a couple times and temporarily hurt her ribs & leg. We will be 79 next year and Joe's grandfather as he got older would announce his age as in the next birthday. So for us, we will be in our 80th year next year (we thought people were really, really old when they were 80). We would like to go on a trip to St Petersburg and Moscow this spring.....

In April we traveled to Greece and Egypt for over 3 weeks. We spent a couple days in Athens before our Trafalgar Tour and visited a major museum next to our hotel. It was a small tour of about 15 people with an excellent travel guide. About half way through the tour we spent a couple days on the beautiful, historical island of Corfu. Wonderful place except Judy strained her leg shopping on the cobblestones and had to use canes after that. We saw the ancient hill top monasteries of Meteora, the ruins of the temple of Zeus; the Oracle of Delphi and the Athen's Acropolis. The people are wonderful; and food is excellent (we both love Greek salad). We then went on a side trip to the island of Santorini. We explored the volcanic covered ruins of a city that was destroyed about 1350 BC. Next, we traveled to Egypt and stayed in a hotel where we could see the pyramids of Giza from our hotel room. Joe climbed inside the Great Pyramid which was built in 22 years and the measurements of each side are within inches on the base. We actually rode on a camel. We also saw the Sphinx up close. The mask of King Tut weighed 22 pounds of pure gold and was displayed in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo (the smoggiest city we have ever seen). We saw a very interesting display how papyrus is made.

We traveled to Kauai (Judy's favorite spot) with Amy and family and found a new snorkeling spot. The beauty of Kauai is one can snorkel without having to take a boat to the best spots.

We went to Minnesota several times this summer. Joe helped organize his Waubun Class of 1958 reunion event near White Earth Lake. We stayed in the family cabin and the fishing was excellent (4 fish in 4 casts). In August we traveled to Judy's high school in St. Cloud to celebrate the Cathedral High School 60th reunion. In October Judy returned again to celebrate her brother Don's 80th birthday. He looks great, which is encouraging to us.

Judy's great love is our grandchildren. They all have cell phones and Judy loves to keep in contact by texting. Starting college and choosing a college keeps her texting with our older grandchildren. She still loves photography and took the senior pictures of Katie and Rachel. Judy's flower garden was the best ever with 30+ dahlias which we got from a winemaking friend and they were spectacular. Judy volunteers twice a week at our local grade school (she walks to the school). She likes helping the beginning readers in the first grade. Judy joined a book club and finds herself branching out with books she would never have thought of to read.

Joe spent a lot of enjoyable, meaningful time helping organize movies his uncle Russ Hennessey took of the extended Tembrock family in the 1940s. He loved to see his dad holding a blond curly headed 4-year-old boy

(Joe) and his dad having a full head of hair. He is wrapping up his high school reunion by completing the stories and pictures of his classmates. 19 of the remaining 28 students attended. This was a challenging year for grape growing as the season was over a month later than normal. He does have about 30 gallons of blended Petite Sirah and Zinfandel that already tastes pretty good. He has termed off his time on our parish finance council and parish council. He is anxious to volunteer to the largest and very successful nonprofit north of San Francisco called Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa. He has worked with their executive director in the past. He is involved in several study groups and continues to explore his beliefs. As he just wrote his high school classmates in stating the most important life lesson he has learned: "I believe in life there are random blessings (good luck) and random crap (bad luck); I am continually challenged to do the best I can with my many blessings; every day is a new day to help make a difference and to find joy. My biggest blessings are the caring family and community I grew up in" (Ogema, population 200 on the Indian Reservation in northern Minnesota). He is discouraged but isn't giving up on a Church that focuses on rules and structures and not on making personal commitments and actions to loving our neighbor and changing the world. Heaven or eternity is how we live now and not some future score card.

We are very blessed with our children and grandchildren. Dave & Becky Lorenz & Josiah live in Veneta near Eugene Oregon. Dave is a forest manager and had a horrible summer fighting fires. Becky is the school/town volunteer (she helped start a school robotics club a couple weeks before the first trials). Josiah helped lead his high school Battle of the Books team to the state championship. Mary & Frank Roller & Nate & Tyler live in Cupertino, California (our former town). Frank just launched a military communication satellite for Lockheed Martin. Mary teaches 3rd grade and spends most of her life driving Nate, who just started Bellarmine High School and Tyler who is an awesome champion swimmer. Both boys love water polo. Amy & Mike Edmondson & Rachel, Emily & Jennay live in Boise, Idaho. They traveled with us to Kauai, Hawaii in June. Mike works for the state of Idaho as a conservation manager specializing on fish and co-owns a brewery, and Amy works for HP & coaches soccer. Rachel is a senior & is choosing her college; Emily loves cheerleading, sports & organization; Jennay might be the tallest of her sisters, loves reading and doing art projects. Joey & Belinda Tembrock & Katie & Anna live near us. Joey co owns a construction company and is finishing a beautiful house overlooking Tiberon. Belinda teaches 3rd grade; Katie is a freshman at Cal Poly (our 3 girls went to Cal Poly) and Anna is a high school sophomore and loves having an extra room when Katie is away at school.

We wish you peace & joy,

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Joe & Judy off the island of Corfu in Greece

Monastery at Meteora (mosaic)



Joe at the Acropolis in Greece



Judy on a camel in Egypt



Joe and Judy by the Giza Pyramids ins Egypt



Joe at the Sphinx

Josiah, Anna, Tyler, Katie and Nate at Bodega Head



Jennay, Mike, Amy Rachel & Emily Edmondson at Kauai, Hawaii