

2017, Another Wonderful, Amazing Year.

Greetings loved ones!

We are home alone this holiday, which is not entirely a bad thing. We can do cards and notes in a timely manner for a change. And we did get to spend the early days of the month with our kids and their families, always a joyful adventure. In San Diego with Stacy and Sal we watched movies, something we rarely do, transplanted plants, laid patio tiles, and planned Craftsman style bookcases to be built around a fireplace next month for Stacy and Sal's 1927-era house. We even got a mantle purchased. We had birthday and Christmas celebrations with Jeff, Victoria and their three sons (the twins are a year old; the parents are draggin' but still alive!) Now we are taking time to do cards, decorations, baking, and things seasonally celebratory. After 52 plus years, it all seems easier to manage. And family and friends seem dearer and so appreciated—to be celebrated.

Dave is behaving as if he is almost retired. He is painting the exterior of the house in between hot pursuits of wily gophers and squirrels, dabbling in research, and reviewing research papers. Judy passed the 5-year mark on cancer survival, still does a critical incident response each week, and sees a client or two occasionally. She also responded to two hurricanes with federal medical teams. She plans to resign from the federal team (the on-call schedule ruined many vacations, and the required combat boots are a bit much), but she joined a state medical team (also requiring those boots). We'll see how long that lasts.

Great news! The plans for the cottage to be built in our backyard were finally completed and submitted to the city for a permit. After 2.5 years! Permitting has become more complicated: it's now a two-stage process. It's also time to find a contractor who is really good at math and geometry—the ceiling/roof angles are...interesting. It really is a lovely design, like a pool house in some ways, though we lack a pool. Minor detail. We are hoping to be moved in within a year; Jeff and family will move into our house.

In a month Judy returns to a ballet rehearsal schedule, a demanding, time-consuming endeavor. This all came about when she started lessons with a new instructor who, three months into lessons, announced a recital. Judy said, "I don't think so—74 year olds don't do that", but agreed when he let her be a pink flamingo. Then he had her doing a complex Balanchine number as well. She survived the whole experience, to her amazement and in spite of a flagging memory that impedes learning dance steps. At 75, she is ready for another go at it. We suppose her body will tell her when to stop, but so far there is little hint of a deterrent.

We both continue to do Jazzercise 4 or 5 times a week, and enjoy being a part of that community. We did not do a backpack trip this year; knee problems are challenging. We continue to cook together and can't resist buying new cookbooks (the cottage will need lots of bookshelves). We are also looking forward to sharing our cooking with our son's family of 5. The quilt Judy has been working on for many years is close to completion, close enough to use anyway.

We cherish you all; make certain you have a celebratory year. Love from Judy and Dave



Judy on pointe in her flamingo dance, with dance partner Michelle



Judy on deployment after a hurricane



In Puerto Rico on deployment after a hurricane, multitasking (theraband exercise, reading, resting)



Dave doing docent duty, Monte Bello Preserve, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District