

2021 Season's Greetings

In the spirit of staying in touch and keeping friendships alive, Chris and Lou would like to share the highs and lows of this past year with you. Early this year, we pretty effectively self-isolated from the COVID world and joined the vaccine appointment-searching frenzy. We finally scored our two jobs in the end of January and February. Chris is still working remotely for Northrop Grumman, which is actually quite beneficial for her and NGC, since hosting meetings is what occupies most of her days. Chris still has been going ocean fishing with her Northrop Grumman group, filling the freezer with bluefin tuna, yellowtail, sheepshead, ling cod, whitefish, and many varieties of rockfish. Lou has become a gourmet seafood chef and makes a good fish stew. He keeps the house in running order and the gardens in year-round bloom. We had a bumper crop of snap peas and beets this year. Lou manages our orange grove in Fillmore, which had a terrible crop this year. Thank goodness for crop insurance. Lou also has a weekly ZOOM meeting with Caltech friends, mostly from Page House, where they share stories and advice and discuss topics of the day.

March brought us one of the highs this year with Andy and Suzuna announcing of the birth of their son, Tyler. Our granddaughter, Melina, age 6, now has a little brother to help take care of. She likes being a big sister. This year's holiday card highlights a recent photo of their family. Even with the COVID situation in Japan, Andy and Suzuna have had a number of family outings, and they have posted some interesting photos on Andy's blog and Suzuna's Facebook.

In August we took a trip to the Sacramento area to visit Bob Sugar and his daughter Audrey. We attended Audrey's birthday concert in the Auburn bandshell hosted by her partner Steav. We then traveled to the Santa Cruz Boardwalk where we played games with Katy and family. The next day we visited their place in Carmel. Katy and Elliott are making some improvements to the 'house on the mountain', and Katy is taking courses for her certificate in Accounting. Seanna started her freshman year at the University of Idaho. Kaiden is in 10th grade in high school, and likes being on the wrestling team. Katy, Elliott, and Kaiden came to visit us to share a nice Thanksgiving weekend. We all went to the 99 Ranch Market and along Venice Beach.

Emily and Victor, in Portland, have been getting out to the mountains occasionally. Their cats keep them company, and Emily raised several new pet chickens from chicks this year. Victor also works mostly remotely, which seems like the norm these days in the COVID environment we all can't seem to escape.

The low point in the year struck when Chris' dear brother, Gary, passed away in September. She and her two sisters really miss him. His wife, Sherrie, and daughters had a memorial service and celebration of life for him in October, for which we traveled to their home town of Heyworth, IL. Gary was a kind and generous person who loved taking local children on hayrides to the pumpkin patch on his 'Rolling G' estate. A career lawyer for State Farm, he had a sharp mind and was a master of the pun.

As sometimes turns out, our 50th Northwestern University reunion happened to be the weekend before Gary's memorial, so that trip started with a flight to O'Hare and a rental car to Evanston. Happily, we connected with Chris' college friend, Marj. Since her Class of 1970 canceled its reunion last year due to COVID, we attended our joint Class of 1970/1971 party at Ravinia together. We then went to the football game on Saturday, where Northwestern beat Rutgers. Marj was a wonderful hostess, as she lives near NU. We then spent a week in Mukwonago, WI visiting with Chris' sister Marilyn before driving to Heyworth.

We are looking forward to Andy, Suzuna, and the grandkids visiting during the Christmas week. We hope you have all had as happy and productive a year as COVID would allow. You are welcome to take a look at Lou's blog, geosling.com/louis. He added some photos and musings on this year's activities.

We wish you pleasant holidays and a happy new year...