

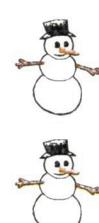
Merry Christmas



Top Row: Brian, Mary Lou, Sarah, Ana, Cori, Chris, Amanda, Gwen, Eve (Josie in belly), Jesse, and Shannon holding Lexi.
 Bottom Row: Kent, Badegech, Avery, Zacharie, Kainoa, La'akea, Claire, Jasmine, Julia, Todd, Hanne, and Mabel.



The national weather map, this past week, showed the country with unusually cold temperatures. The polar express was in full force, except for this small area down in the lower-left corner. San Diego was having clear skies and highs in the mid 70's. I felt guilty for a second, then grateful that I've been able to experience this fine place. However, I feel our time here is limited, and we have been spending our time this last year tying up loose ends and making preparations to move from the area.



I finished up my "Stringed Instrument Technology" certificate classes this past spring. It was great to learn a craft as well as being able to call myself a woodworker. I now have several projects that are 50-90% complete. Or to put it another way, 10-50% incomplete! I also now have a wood collection and an appetite for woodworking tools!



Mary Lou visited her mother near Seaside, Oregon, several times this year. She feels so lucky to still be able to do this! She stays in shape by starting most days running a mountain trail that is nearby. Her shoulder surgery was so successful on her right shoulder, that she had her left shoulder done this past year. She now can do normal things without pain. Life is much better.



I had lower back surgery in June. I had the same neuro-surgeon who operated on my neck two other times. He performed another miracle, and I no longer take pain medication, and I'm walking four miles most mornings. My goal is to be able to go backpacking this summer.



We lost both of our pets just recently. Dojah, our sixteen-year-old dog, finally wore her body out. Our fifteen-year-old cat, Fletcher, was very close to Dojah. I think he thought Dojah was his mother. Anyway, he got sick and died six weeks after Dojah left us. We feel they are together again. It is very weird and empty not having them around.



Happy New Year



We have made several trips to Northern California to visit family. Our family grew by one this last year, making us 24 in number. Josephine Pearl (Josie) was born into Jesse, Eve and Mabel's family on January 19. They are living in Novato and teaching in Marin County.



Todd and Ana both have new jobs and have moved to Roseville. Todd is working as an engineer for a company that builds and installs conveyor systems. Ana just got a job with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. She works downtown Sacramento and commutes via a commuter bus. Their oldest son, La'akea, joined the Marines and is currently stationed in Monterey. He is enrolled in language school, learning Chinese. Their other son, Kainoa, started junior high in Roseville and is doing well. He has been refereeing soccer games and building up an impressive bank account.



Zacharie, Cori and Chris' oldest son, moved to San Diego this fall. He is going to school at a local college and is working at the YMCA. It's nice having him nearby. When he's here, we always have some project that requires a strong young body to help. His sister, Jasmine, is going to Butte College and living in the same dorm that Shannon and Sarah lived. Hanne is a sophomore in high school and is currently on the JV basketball team, after playing volleyball this fall. Badegech is in 7th grade and is very involved in dance and cheer. Chris stays busy managing his properties and Cori is a school counselor for a local school. They continue to stay uber busy.



Shannon, Amanda and their three daughters, Claire, Julia, and Gwen, have been doing fine. Shannon works as a conductor and Amanda teaches at the school down the block. However, their focus just took a major turn as they have recently discovered Amanda has breast cancer. She caught it early and is going through chemo. They have a strong network of helpers from their school, community, and family. The support has been amazing. Amanda is strong and just has to endure the treatment. Send them your love and prayers.



Sarah and Kent continue to live in Paradise, literally and figuratively. Their cute little daughter, Avery, is the focus of their lives. We love to visit each of our families for an overnight or two, which gives us a glimpse into their lives. We hope that after we sell our house in San Diego, and then in Shasta, that we'll have enough for a down payment on a home where our kids can bring their families. Wish us good luck in this endeavor.



We hope you have had a good year and are looking forward to the future, whatever that may hold!?! Merry Christmas and have a happy New Year.

