

Merry Christmas

2017



Back Row: Kainoa, La'akea, Chris, Jesse, Todd, Sarah, Eve w/Josie, Hanne.

Middle Row: Ana, Mabel, Avery, Cori.

Front Row: Shannon, Clair, Amanda, Julia, Gwen, Mary Lou, Brian, Badegech w/Lexi, Jasmine, Kent.

As we sit on the deck of our new house, looking out to the tall oaks and conifers and listening to the sounds of our new neighborhood, it is hard not to reflect on all that has happened in the past year that made it possible for this moment. It was about this time last year when we made the decision that it was time to leave San Diego and move to an area that was closer to the rest of our family. Time waits for no one (as the song goes) and the grandkids were growing up too fast for us to be so far away.

We started plugging away, trying to make some progress each day. Soon, any extra time we had, after taking care of living, was devoted to getting the house ready for sale. By early spring we chose a realtor and the process really accelerated. Anyway, by September, we had sold our homes in San Diego and Shasta and bought a wonderful home in Grass Valley. We are now at least an hour and no more than two and a half hours from each of our kids and their families. We have always wanted to have a house that can house our whole family during family events, and now we have it!



Happy New Year



Zach and Bodhi, our oldest and youngest grandchildren (not in family photo on front)



Our house in the trees.
14296 Tahoe View Dr
Grass Valley, CA 95945



We had thirty-nine family members attend Thanksgiving dinner at our house, fulfilling a dream of ours. We loved having so many family members gathered together in our home. All of the young cousins running around and playing together, the older cousins hanging out together playing games and making lots of noise, and our “adult” kids telling family stories and ribbing each other. I thought all the way back to the Thanksgivings at my grandparents dairy farm, and the large family gatherings we had throughout the years. The same things were going on at those events; we just kept changing roles throughout the years. It feels weird and wonderful at the same time, now that we are the elders. It is a wonderful time in our lives.



Our family continues to grow. Sarah and Kent welcomed our 25th member of the immediate family, Bodhi Dean Garcia. He was born October 23 and is doing well. Amanda is now a cancer survivor and their family is getting back to “normal.” Jesse and Eve moved from Novato to San Rafael and are now enjoying the extra hour or so each day they have gained by reducing their commute. Zach’s still in San Diego and Jasmine in Chico, while Hanne and Badegech stay busy with school activities and dance. Kainoa is in high school and his brother La’akea finished his language school and now is learning about radios in Texas. We hope he can fly home for Christmas.



We hope you are having a wonderful holiday season. We’d love to have you visit us. We’re in the Gold Country near Tahoe and the Sierras. We have plenty of room.