

John and Marianne's 2024 Christmas Newsletter

Another year and we are still writing from our comfortable, old, home in Fresno. Researching for this newsletter, we combed the forty-four 2024 diaries from trotter.ws for excitement, but the year was more comfortable than dramatic. That's good too.



Family news is generally positive. Our kids and spouses are all working, to the degree they want or need. Grandson Rich is in college, Ryan will get there next year, Ava is already prepping for applications, and Sam and Sean are keeping their options open for a few years yet. Marianne's brother Tom retired this year and is working to convince wife Kate to join the unemployed ranks next year. Chris and Leisa, as the youngest of our generation, both work to advance the education of Monterey school kids. Marianne's "other mom", Klarika and partner Jack are both working through their ninth decade difficulties. Adequately, but as my contemporaries say: "Aging is not for the faint hearted".

Travel continues to be important to us, but 2024 was not a record year. Early in the year we visited Yosemite and late in the year Death Valley, both repeats from past years and each relaxing in its own way.

Mid-year, we flew to visit Colorado and Maryland family and added in a bit of tourism there and in Washington DC. We don't get to visit these families often at all, so it was special, especially getting reacquainted with Ryan and Sean in Maryland after many years. Visits to Virginia friends John and Mary, Sandra and Bob, and Roger and Jo Ann all contributed to a successful trip.

Otherwise, our travel was all local driving. In August, we visited friends Ted and Nancy in Sonora and Claudia and Ward in Carson City. We added a visit to Bodie, California's premier ghost town and threw in two Emergency Room stops for Marianne, one for a complicated case of Shingles and the other for a broken elbow. In October, we joined my cousin Tom for a visit to his son Vince's farm up in Sonoma. We added in a stop at Jack London Park, another off-the-beaten-path stop we would recommend.

Finally, health. Marianne's cancer required minor surgery early in the year, but since then, she has had two clean CAT scans, so that elephant is well behind the curtain. She also has recovered from back pain, possibly complications of that cancer surgery, and from a case of that modern scourge: Covid. It's interesting, other than unavoidable ageing aches and pains, we consider ourselves healthy and are thankful for that.

We look forward to an active 2025 and hope to see as many of you as possible in the new year. We always have the light on for visitors.