



Christmas 2020

DueIm Family Newsletter

Merry Christmas!

Let's get this out of the way first - 2020 has been strange. Any year that includes using your T-shirts as toilet paper is just plain weird. That said, we hope this festive season finds you healthy, happy, and looking forward to the year ahead. We also hope you enjoy our family tradition of pictures and stories from the past twelve months. Please wash your hands after reading.

The Big 6 Oh No No

Julie's 60th birthday bash in February was a highlight. She was blessed to have so many family and friends join. The night before the party we arrived at a local restaurant for a surprise meet-up with Julie's sister and niece from Indiana. As they stood directly in front of us, Julie kept looking past them for an open table. Michele finally took Julie's face in her hands and screamed, "Aunt Julie, It's Me!" Priceless. That same shock happened over and over again.



Girl Crazy

With no travel or obligations to divert our attention, we spent lots of time with our granddaughter, and Tony & Katie. There are so many fun stories, but the one we like most happened at Halloween. After walking half-way down a driveway holding a bag of

candy, Nora stopped abruptly with a look on her face that said "That was way too easy." She spun around, ran back, and grabbed another bag. We apologized profusely to the homeowner as we chased Nora toward the next house.



Treats AND Tricks



Santa's Little Helper



Yes Nora, you CAN have your cake and eat it too!

She's also acquired an attitude. Walking back from the park Nora stopped to play in a mud puddle. After a few minutes, we said "Nora, it's time for us to go home." She looked up, waved, and said "Bye bye." That's gonna be a problem.

Katie continues as Managing Editor of Texas A&M University Press and Tony as Assistant Controller at ST Genetics in College Station, Texas.

Togetherness at 102°

We enjoy doing things together, so it was fitting that we endured an episode of COVID together in mid-September. This illness has affected so many people, and we were lucky to not have pulmonary issues. Rather, it was a week of fever followed by a week of fatigue. Julie set records for both 103.8° and sleeping 22 hours straight, while Brian fell asleep during at least one Zoom call at work. There may have been many more, but of course he doesn't remember. Does snoring count as agreement?

You Did What?!

With our newly acquired COVID antibodies, we broke quarantine and hopped a flight to Baltimore to spend a long weekend with Brock and Gina. The travel felt liberating after being couped up for 8 months, and there's nothing like holding your children. We had a great time together, with adventures to Philadelphia, Gettysburg, plus enjoying the best crab cakes in all of Maryland.

Gina continues as Communications Specialist for Johns Hopkins University, and Brock for S. J. Martenet Surveying in Baltimore.

C is Taboo

We experienced a couple health setbacks when Brian was diagnosed with skin cancer and had surgery in October. Then Julie was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent surgery in early December. The upside is that Julie placed a special order with her plastic surgeon for "Wonder Woman boobs please." And, Brian sported a great Frankenstein forehead for Halloween and claimed "What grandpa goes to such lengths to look the part?!" *Disclaimer: You probably sense that humor is our method of coping, and pray that you'll excuse our approach to a disease that is so devastating.*



Nora's first trip to the Houston Zoo - No animals were harmed, only threatened.



Gina and Brock at Gettysburg

The Rest of the Story

Brian continues to work for McKesson, facilitating leadership development programs for medical practices in The US Oncology Network. Julie continues to divert our unused vacation fund toward home improvements. It's funny how being stuck in your home makes you realize your home is stuck in 1989.

Contact Us At...

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Obligatory Rocky pose at the Philadelphia Museum of Art