



Christmas 2021

Duelm Family Newsletter

Merry Christmas!

Welcome back to normal, or at least the new normal. 2021 has been a year of renewal and reconnection, and 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 note that federal mandate requires you to be fully vaccinated in order to read this newsletter.

The Difference a Year Makes

After her cancer scare last year, Julie was ready for fun. In fact, it started at reconstructive surgery in April. You know how hospitals need to verify the right physician and body parts? Well, her surgeon walked into pre-op and the nurse asked *"Do you recognize your doctor?"* Julie's response was *"Never seen him before in my life."* After a moment of stunned silence, he pulled down his mask and said *"You know me!"* Julie winked, and the room erupted in laughter.

Making Up for Lost Time

We didn't hesitate to get back on the road once family was vaccinated. We spent time in Puerto Rico with Julie's brother, Yellowstone and Great Smoky Mountains with her sisters, Illinois celebrating Brian's parents 60th anniversary then his 40th class reunion, an adventure in Boston with Brock and Gina, and Thanksgiving in Florida with the Bernhardt siblings. No amount of Zoom can replace being there in person.



Thanksgiving together after six years



Old North Bridge in Concord with Brock and Gina



Celebrating Mom & Dad Duelm's 60th anniversary



Fishing in Montana, and yes, Julie kissed her prize winner

One-Upped by a Two Year Old

We were blessed to spend many weekends with our granddaughter, whose joy and boundless energy keep us laughing and extremely tired. She has matured in surprising ways. During a recent trip to Target, Julie was determined to get Nora a doll. This was the conversation:

Nora: "I want a bubble machine."

Julie: "I want to get you a doll."

Nora: "Cute Juju, real cute."

Does a two-year old really understand sarcasm? Needless to say, the picture shows the purchase.



No laundry detergent was required after this soaking



4th of July Parade with Katie and Tony

The Great Freeze

Liberals who believe Texas is hell got their wish when the state froze over in February. We were out of town when a neighbor called to say "Hey! There's water running out of your house." That's not normal. Brian called our plumber...six week wait. He called every home improvement store in Houston. No parts in stock, not even duct tape or bubble gum. So, his dad in Illinois shipped a "plumbing care kit" to Texas.



Global warming? Texas opted out.

The Rest of the Story

Brian continues to work for McKesson, facilitating leadership development programs for medical practices in The US Oncology Network. Julie manages the social calendar, volunteers, and ensures that Starbucks remains profitable. Tony made a job change this year, leaving ST Genetics in College Station to join the accounting team for the nearby City of Bryan. It was a great shift that allows him more time with Katie and Nora. Katie continues as Managing Editor of Texas A&M University Press, Brock is with S. J. Martenet Surveying in Baltimore, and Gina is Communications Specialist for Johns Hopkins University. Nora will soon enter her third year at Kiddie Academy studying to be a quantum physicist.

Contact Us At...

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