



Christmas 2022

DueIm Family Newsletter

Merry Christmas!

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 you are no longer required to wear a mask in order to read this newsletter, but it is strongly recommended.

Aging Like Fine Wine (Boone's Farm)

This year marked our 35th anniversary. It sounds cliché, but time really does fly when you're having fun. Of course, with bodies that age inversely to our minds, and a few health scares in recent years, our new motto is "do as much as you can, while you can." We made it a priority to spend time with our kids, each sibling, and Brian's parents. A bonus is that they all live in exciting places like Puerto Rico, Daytona Beach, Baltimore, Phoenix, and rural Illinois.

To Germany with Love

A highlight this summer was traveling to Prague and Germany with Brian's brother Brent and wife Laura. We spent time in Munich and attended the Passion Play in Oberammergau. Then, in Bad Pyrmont we met our cousin Friedrich-Wilhelm (Fritz) Dülm and visited the Dülm homestead, built in 1666. It was a surreal experience to connect with our ancestry but spending the week with Fritz and his partner Erwin felt exactly like it should...family reunited, even when driving at a white-knuckle speed of 130mph down the AutoBahn.



Meeting Fritz (in plaid) 15 years after we first connected.

Fritz and Erwin introduced us to the spa history of Bad Pyrmont, showed us around their home city of Hamburg, and then guided us through Berlin. We hope to host them in Texas soon!



The Dülm home, Hagen (Bad Pyrmont, Germany), 1666.

Immaculate Bunny

We joined Easter festivities with Tony, Katie, and Nora, including a church which sponsored an egg drop for the children before Sunday school. What a great opportunity to bring kids together to learn more about Jesus. Later, when asked to describe the day, Nora exclaimed "*The Easter bunny pooped eggs out of a helicopter!*" Ah yes, we pray God has a sense of humor.



Days with Nora: PawPaw's stupidity (top-left, don't ask), JuJu's "mini-me," and joy at the park.

Adventures with Brock and Gina

We were blessed this year to spend extra time with Brock and Gina in both Baltimore and Texas. They are our adventure buddies, and we try to explore new places every trip here and in the Northeast.



Brock and Gina share our warped sense of humor.

The Aggie Expressway with Tony and Katie

Texas just opened a new high-speed tollway that connects Northwest Houston and College Station. We think the Aggie Expressway was constructed for us! We are fortunate to spend many weekends together.



Celebrating Mother's Day.



Beer tasting at the Guinness experimental brewery where one flavor/odor profile was described as "cat urine."?!?!

Climate Chang(es) Its Mind

Last year Houston experienced a deep freeze, and we lost our landscaping. So, we replanted. This year Houston suffered a string of 100° days and extreme drought, and we lost our landscaping again. We give up! Next year we plant rock. Exacerbating our horticultural nightmare was learning that inserting a mosquito incense stick too low into a potted plant may cause an underground fire. We believe Julie's exact words were "What the hell happened to all the dirt and my plant!" Well, that's now charcoal honey. Oops.



The remnants of an uncontrolled burn.

The Rest of the Story

Brian continues to facilitate leadership development programs for The US Oncology Network, while Julie manages the social calendar and volunteers. Brock is nearing five years with S. J. Martenet Surveying in Baltimore and Gina oversees communications for the Institute for NanoBioTechnology at Johns Hopkins University. Tony is enjoying his job change to the City of Bryan's accounting team, and Katie continues as Managing Editor of Texas A&M University Press.

Contact Us At...

We're still at 227 South Crimson Clover Circle in The Woodlands, Texas 77381. Our email address is jbduehm@gmail.com, and home phone number is 281-292-0791. Julie's cell phone number is 713-306-2145. Brian's cell number is 713-417-2852. Our doors are always open for visitors. We'll leave the light on!