



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Javor Family! Rachel is 7, has lost 4 teeth, has learned to read, has become a fabulous swimmer, and is in 2nd grade at MGA. Nathan is 4, has all his teeth intact (thank you very much), likes to listen to Rachel read, and has the vocabulary of a 2nd grader (but he's still in preschool). Ed and Gina continue saving lives and stomping out disease with Southern California Kaiser. Leonard still loves working at LLBN in his retirement.*

*Winter 2016:*

*There is a reason for snow and ice in the winter, when it mirrors events in our own lives. This season was one of the hardest we've had to face as a family, when we lay to rest our beautiful auntie, sister, and daughter, Marlene Jeanine. Our New Year celebration turned to mourning with a loss that we could not foresee. I went back to visit my mom over Easter and was reminded that the winter of our lives does not last forever.... We look forward to resurrection morning, but in the meantime part of my heart is frozen between the "now and the not yet" Amy Grant sang about years ago. Sleep in peace Beanie, 1975-2016.*

*Spring 2016:*

*Over spring break we trekked and tromped all over Sedona, Arizona with our family friends, the Suphols. We had a surprise visit from Tio Roberto and his daughter Beatrice in early May. My brother Leo and Edith and their three kiddos came to stay for a week later that month and it culminated in a fun trip to Legoland! In June, Ed and I took a long weekend away in Santa Barbara to celebrate our 17th anniversary, and I came back looking about 17 years younger. We liked it so much we are planning to be much more adventurous with our 2017 anniversary.*

*Summer 2016:*

*We started off our summer with a bang with Hollywood Bowl concerts and our annual Fourth of July potluck, then started getting ready for a long vacation. First was a week in Pasco, WA visiting Nana Betty (kids had a blast playing in the tree house, rocking in one of the many swings and hammocks, soaking in the hot tub, visiting Mami and Papi and Cousin Isaiah, and chasing Princess the dog). This was followed by a week at Camp Mivoden near beautiful Couer d'Alene, ID and then... an amazing week in Banff, Alberta. So gorgeous, we considered buying property up there --- but we didn't do it. We dragged Nana back to California to spend a couple more weeks with us, and bookended our summer with one last Hollywood Bowl concert (John Williams, as per our tradition) and a beach day sponsored by Rachel's school.*

*Autumn 2016:*

*Everything became right with the world when Grandpa George and Grandma Shirley officially moved back to California. October ushered in birthdays for Grandpa Leonard AND both kids, which we celebrated with a huuuuuge Star Wars themed party, complete with Death Star Piñata. Each year I swear I'll never be so ambitious again, but somehow I always get pulled back in.... In November Leo and Edith came back for two more weeks of fun with Andrew, Ethan, and Matthew (4, 2, and 2), and we had a ginormous Thanksgiving with Ed's parents and Ron, Susan, and Paige. Then all thirteen of us Cummings' zoomed over to Sonora for a quick visit with Grandpa Ken and Grandma Doris. We topped off our year with a week in the Hawaiian island of Kauai (sooo relaxing to be away from customary Christmas hustle and bustle).*

*And so, 2017 is upon us! We fear next year's Christmas letter will more closely resemble a travel guide, as we have all renewed our passports.... Write and tell us about your year!*