



Christmas 2022

Dear Friends and Loved Ones,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! What did we do this year? What DIDN'T we do this year? We'll share if you will too – send us your holiday letters, cards, emails, and Facebook greetings as we treasure them all.



Winter:

We celebrated New Years at Disneyland and thought we were off to a pretty good year. COVID apparently also visited Disneyland and found its way home with at least one of us. Since we'd all been vaccinated, no one got it badly. Then in February, Grandpa Ken fell and broke his hip. Gina and her dad Leonard met Grandma at the ER and Gina was able to talk to her dear grandpa before he was admitted for surgery. We were initially encouraged that he came through, but sadly all the trauma was too much for his 95-year-old heart. We know he is resting now after a long life of service and waiting for the soon coming of our Lord. He is deeply missed. Leonard moved in with Grandma Doris and they are adjusting to the new normal every day. At the end of February, Ed and Gina escaped to the Maldives for a week with a bonus day trip to Sri Lanka on our way back. During spring break in March, we brought the kids to the east coast for a fun and educational visit to New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington DC. We had been planning this trip for three years (thanks again, COVID), and except for the White House tour, we were able to do everything we originally booked, and then some.



Spring:

As the end of the school year approached, we knew two things were happening in rapid succession: lots of music, and lots of travel. In April, Ed and Gina returned to New York City for a couple days to catch a John Williams concert at Carnegie Hall featuring Anne-Sophie Mutter performing his new violin concerto. As soon as she returned home, Gina had to immediately turn around and pack for the week-long school-sponsored trip with Rachel to Zion National Park. As chaperone, she was responsible for looking after 8 junior high girls and making sure they didn't fall off any cliffs or climb any hoodoos, but earning most of her attention was keeping the kids hydrated. Who knew? May held great things in store for the family – see below for details. Our kids are learning the value of hard work, and they honor us with their accomplishments. June was packed with travel – first, the Javors had a two-week trip to Bahamas, Florida, and Las Vegas. Then, we had visitors in our home – Gina's brother Leo with wife Edith and all the cousins came to visit and then took Rachel and Nathan up to Washington state to spend a few weeks with Nana Betty. Leaving Ed and Gina alone for the first part of...



Summer:

Our summertime was pretty standard. Ed and Gina celebrated the Fourth of July with friends and family and attended Hollywood Bowl concerts blissfully on their own. Gina snuck up to Washington one weekend in July to help Mama Grace Olivia celebrate her 98th





birthday and had a marvelous time with all the family that came. We were saddened to hear of the passing of Ed's Great Aunt Marj in late July. She was 98 years young and the last of her generation. She enjoyed hosting holiday celebrations with the family, and we will miss her. We regrouped with the kids to visit Camp MiVoden for a week in early August and returned home to prepare for another school year, but not before a final hurrah with the kids including watching a filming of America's Got Talent and a Rachmaninov concert at the Hollywood Bowl the day before school started. We celebrated Grandma Doris' 97th birthday and then she informed us she doesn't plan on celebrating any more birthdays until she turns 100. Seems like a worthy goal.

Autumn:

Rachel and Nathan were off to a great start in 8th grade (wahhoooo!) and 4th grade at Loma Linda Academy. Rachel continues with her flute lessons and plays in Concert Winds. Nathan takes piano and cello lessons and sings in the junior choir at Loma Linda University Church. The day after Thanksgiving, Ed and Gina boarded a plane and flew to Bergen, Norway to begin an 11-day cruise along Norway's fjord-filled coastline, in search of the Northern Lights. We are thankful for Nana Betty and Grandpa Leonard who looked after Rachel and Nathan while we are gone.

Feats we accomplished in 2022:

- Nathan: Awarded the ABRSM Grade 3 Piano Performance with distinction (highest level)
- Rachel: Received the Junior High Presidential Award for Academics
- Ed and Gina: Crossed the equator and the arctic circle, with certificates to prove it
- Some or all of us: Explored all 4 named world oceans – Arctic, Indian, Atlantic, and Pacific
- Everyone: Visited five theme parks (three of them were Disney-related, ahem)

What will next year hold? We don't know, but we hope to travel some more, learn some more, serve some more, and enjoy the life that God has given us to the full.

*Love and blessings during this season of good tidings,
The Javor Family*

