Holidays 2025

As this year has passed, we have been learning how to start living our lives again, as so much of the year before was spent on hold with our son Matthew's treatments, surgeries, and hospice. Before last year ended, we all flew to Florida to visit with Joel's family, and Jeff and Lauren's cousins, who all have kids around the same age. Seeing family helped to end the year on a positive note. Upon return, Joel and I immediately flew to New Zealand, and took a land and sea tour which was fabulous. It is a beautiful country with friendly people and amazing natural sights. This cruise was a first for us, but it was so nice to just unpack and let the ship do all of the traveling, while we just ate, drank, and made new friends. The only natural wildlife there is birds. We saw baby penguins and albatross, but we never did see a Kiwi. They are nocturnal. However, we were introduced to eating Kiwi fruit, which we now enjoy all of the time.

Lauren is hard at work as a full time vet, but has changed clinics, still practicing in SF. Simon continues his work as an environmental engineer in SF, starting to work more in office than before. They both still love playing Frisbee and travel far and wide to attend tournaments. They are very busy parents raising our two darling granddaughters Addison (6) and Emma (5). They are still doing swimming and gymnastics, and they even played AYSO soccer this fall, with Lauren coaching both teams. I offered to be the team referee, but Lauren warned me that it would be too comical to do, so we just watched. Addie and Emma are the joy of our lives.

Jeff is still Jeff, doing what Jeff likes to do; working on his house (which will never be done.) If you have seen the movie the "Money Pit," you know what I mean. He is still running his own company, and playing Frisbee.

Joel is still working full-time at Lite-on, and I am still substitute teaching, but am only going where I want to go, doing what I want to do. It turns out I can still run and blow a whistle, and my referee buddies would not let me retire from that either. I worked about a dozen games this year, not nearly as much as I used to, and was honored to referee the Championship Jr. High School girls' game this month.

In June we all went to Disneyland on the anniversary of Matthew's passing. It was good not to be here for that day. On the way home we stopped at Camp Arev and visited where we buried his ashes. This was very hard, especially for me, but we spent more than an hour there, sharing memories, and listening to his favorite songs. I know he is always smiling down on us from heaven. He is happy, out of pain, and at peace. We often hear from the people whose lives he impacted, and know that his legacy lives on. The school in Haiti now has up to 2nd grade, and a mango tree was planted in his memory. May the children there eat from that tree, and all of the people he inspired go on to do wonderful things to help other less fortunate.
May you all find peace in the coming year.

Anna & Joel Silverman, and Cooper too.

Florida

New Zealand

Disneyland

Girls Championship Game