



THE HODGE-PODGE GAZETTE



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Hodges Family Moves Mostly Forward

"Moving Forward" isn't just the reelection campaign slogan for President Obama, it also captures the progressive momentum for most of the Hodges Family in 2012.

For Jack, moving forward requires his trekking poles for balance, but he is determined to keep upright, although he admits to enjoying his daily afternoon nap. Jack delights in planning travel tours. His work as Treasurer and chair of the Budget Committee of the Villa del Prado HOA keeps him on his toes. The weekly Bible study group at the Lazy Dog Saloon keeps his mind expanding; singing bass in the church choir keeps him humming.

Jean stays in motion tending to national and regional PFLAG business. She was thrilled to be guest of honor at a PFLAG dinner when J & J were in Kauai, Hawaii. In October she led a workshop and gave a keynote at the Pacific Northwest Regional Conference. History is moving forward for gay rights. In Dec. she was cast in "8", a staged reading of the federal court's arguments to rescind Proposition 8 in CA. Jean asks for lots of prayers for the Supreme Court's process as they consider marriage equality laws.

A tough year economically gave Beth more time to volunteer in her church and community, but Beth was relieved to end her 18

months of unemployment by finding temporary work this fall. This ended abruptly in early December, so Beth is regrouping ~ again! Grateful for all she's learned and knowing that there are many in her situation or worse, makes giving back and volunteering even more important. Thankful for the support of family, friends, and the social programs that have helped make ends meet, Beth looks forward to 2013 with hope.

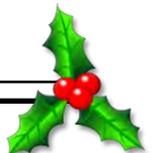
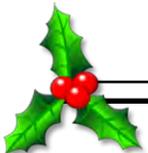
This year, John, when he wasn't attending to plumbing jobs in the mountains, was the volunteer coordinator to find donations of

time and materials from local businesses to renovate a house in Nederland to be used as a day-care and pre-school for low-income families. His wife, Denise, is working in Blackhawk and going to school to work on a degree in psychology.

Ben has moved into a new position with the IRS as a Management and Program Analyst, which makes him part of a select team in the country that builds and maintains the IRS website. He recently was named the lead instructor for IRS.gov content providers, which means frequent trips to Washington while his partner, Wayne, keeps the home fires burning and their dear dog Baxter well fed and happy. Wayne's marketing job took them to Paris for a trade show this fall with side trips for fun in northern Spain and Belgium.



Jean and Jack overlook the Danube River and the wine-rich Wachau Valley



The Teen Years—A Time for Growing and Changing

As Kris moves forward toward graduation, he is gaining independence. In addition to school work and singing in two choirs (and making it into the 2013 St. Vrain Honor Choir), Kris has worked at Blackjack Pizza for the past year to earn money to buy his first car and new skis. His senior year is flying by and he is enjoying every minute, especially with girlfriend Corrie. Kris took a week off work in late July to visit historic Savannah and Tybee Island, GA with Kate and Grandpa and Grandma Hodges before the fun of the reunion with cousins.

Rae loves her second and final year at New Vista, a non-traditional school where experiential learning is the norm. Rae is preparing her culminating Senior Project which will be designing and making hand-dyed outfits for her own runway show. Heading the Restorative Justice team has provided Rae with some maturing experiences in handling student discipline issues. She and her boyfriend, Tavius, with their school Robotics team engineered a winning robotic which took them from state competition to Arkansas regional.



A holiday tradition—making candy and decorating cookies with Grandma

Kate decided to change middle schools from Gilpin County to Sunset Middle School in Longmont when her mother and step-dad moved this summer. At a larger school she has found more opportunities, playing volleyball and violin, making new friends and riding her bike to and from school. She took her first trip apart from her parents when she enjoyed her Georgia travel adventure. She came home proud to show a self-portrait done by a street artist in Savannah. She loved seeing her cousin Fletcher again and playing badminton in 90 degree heat! Step-sister Rhiannon, also in eighth grade, is a cheerleader and plays flute in the Gilpin County School band.

The Elders Travel with/to Friends and Family

With an invitation from dear friends, Wally and Mary Finley, the Hodges spent two weeks in February in Hawaii, mostly on the island of Kauai. A summer trip to Georgia to show Kate and Kris the ocean culminated in the whole family gathering in Atlanta at the lovely home of Sheryl Nelson for a fun-filled Hodges-Nelson Family Reunion. Responding to a half-price deal, Jack signed up for the European River Cruise with his good friends from college days, Lou and Alan **Williams. Alan was best man at Jack and Jean's 1955 wedding. November took J & J to Sedona and Prescott, AZ, to enjoy the Red Rocks country and a visit with our long-time friends, Jo and Charley Krauskopf.** A flight to Southern California allowed Jean to visit her brother, Don, his wife Carol and Linda, one of their four adult kids. Jean learned in October that Don suffered **several strokes a year ago and hadn't yet progressed in rehabilitation.** Their reunion was tender and filled with love, which bridged several years of separation.

