



THE HODGE-PODGE GAZETTE



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HODGES FAMILY SEEKS BALANCE

How to balance the federal deficit with tax relief, military budgets, and social services is a major concern of our legislators. Just maintaining his own balance has been the big issue for Jack Hodges in 2010. "At 82," as he often says, "the parts wear out." Lots of health issues demand his attention, but none more so than walking upright without falling. Using trekking poles helps Jack to feel stable as he continues his still active-as-possible lifestyle.

Seeking balance between family needs and PFLAG volunteering led Jean to find new leadership for the local chapter which she and Jack

helped to found in 1993. Much as her heart still lies with grassroots efforts for social change, Jean left local, state and regional leadership when she was elected to be chair of the Regional Directors' Council and Vice-President of National PFLAG in November. Always up for a new adventure, Jean says, "The challenge of working closer with skilled National PFLAG staff that I love will carry its own rewards."

Turning fifty in 2010 has brought Beth to new realizations about finding herself. With her son Kris in high school and now living more with his dad, Beth's new balancing act is figuring out how to focus on taking care of herself instead of taking care of others. Kris discov-

ered football this year which gave his summer significant structure that was rewarded with making the junior varsity team as a sophomore and even getting some varsity playing time. His academic success and a steady girlfriend are making high school a good time for maturing in every way.



Jack and Jean Up Close to the Moreno Glacier in Argentina

John's struggle through a divorce and regaining financial stability over the past year has been balanced by finding a new lease on life when he met Denise Miller. She and her 11 year-old daughter Rhiannon moved to what John calls "the Positive-Think Inn" in the summer to create a blended family with 15 year-old Jonna Rae (now called Rae) and 11 year-old Katie and John. John says he

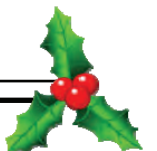
has never been happier, while Rae cheerfully claims two sisters and Katie has discovered a new friend her own age. Laid off from her job in the spring, Denise bravely set a new goal of completing her GED and is now in nursing school.

Ben and his partner Wayne, together for 14+ years, have found a good balance between work and play. In November for work, Wayne visited a trade show in Paris which allowed Ben and him to include short trips to Zurich, Prague and Budapest. Ben came home to a promotion to a new Taxpayer Advocate position within the IRS. He will be a senior analyst working on website content for internal and external customers along with developing other media and technology resources for employees.



Visit the Hodges Family website for additional 2010 news and photos:

www.HodgePodgeGazette.com



Professor Establishes Scholarship

Undergraduates in the Math Department at the University of Colorado will have an opportunity for financial aid because of the John H. (Jack) Hodges Scholarship. The retired professor's frugality helped him sink a tidy sum into an Individual Retirement Account, part of which he has dedicated to a new scholarship fund. The John H. "Jack" Hodges Scholarship was awarded for the first time this year. The \$1,000 annual award will go to undergraduates in math who have financial need and are good students. "I'd like to meet the student recipients while I'm still around to enjoy the satisfaction," said Dr. Jack who received many teaching honors before he retired in 1995. For a more detailed article go to the Hodges family website at HodgePodgeGazette.com.

New Film Educates about Transgender

Jean Hodges gladly signed on to be the Executive Producer of a ground-breaking PFLAG Boulder project because of the two people who agreed to co-direct the 23 minute film, *Faces and Facets of Transgender Experience*. Her job, Jean learned, was to raise the money to complete this film and have a final say on the project. "The expertise of Gus Spheeris, film writer, and Carol Christenson, videographer, over the past year" she said at the recent premiere, "made a 3 year dream come true."

The goal of the film was to dispel myths and stereotypes about what it means to be transgender with special focus on gender variant children and their supportive families. Nineteen diverse persons shared their stories about the challenges and the joys of claiming their authenticity. Jean developed a discussion guide to expand the educational purpose of the film. The DVD with guide may be ordered on line at pflagboulder.org for a cost of \$15 which covers shipping and handling.

Travel Highlights of 2010

Ben and his mom, Jean, took their first trip together to Japan in April. Jack was happy to avoid the arduous 8 days of travel on sleek bullet trains to Tokyo, Kyoto and Hiroshima which meant he missed staying in a traditional Ryokan Inn sleeping on futons on the floor and sitting cross-legged to eat artistically presented but unidentified food off a lap tray. Jean was delighted to take the opportunity to visit Boulder friends in Tokyo and the son of her dear deceased friend Sarah Obermeier in Kyoto. Cherry blossoms, at their peak in both cities, filled them with pink wonder.

In July Jean and Jack invited Beth to accompany them on a road trip to visit a new PFLAG chapter in Taos, NM. They extended the trip to spend some time in Santa Fe visiting art galleries and museums, and enjoying the evening music on the central plaza in Old Town. On the border between New Mexico and Colorado, they took a day trip on the historic steam-powered, narrow-gauge Cumbres-Toltec Railroad from Antonito, CO. into the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

In September, fifteen year-old Rae Hodges joined her grandparents for her first trip to the East Coast. They stayed in a time-share condo on Cape Cod which allowed for beach time for Rae to stroll the shore looking for shells. Her first boat ride was the ferry to Nantucket where she enjoyed her first raw oysters. American history was the focus of most of the week: a day trip to Plymouth Plantation with its costumed Puritans and a tour of the Mayflower II; a visit to Salem's Witch Museum, and three days in the Boston area to visit historic sites in Concord and Lexington and walk the Freedom Trail.

From the glaciers and dramatic mountain peaks of Patagonia to nature walks in a tropical rainforest and a day in Brazil to view the magnificent Iguazu Falls, Jean and Jack enjoyed 22 days in October on a Trip-of-a-Lifetime with Overseas Adventure Travel to Argentina and Chile. For those who would enjoy learning more about the whole South American trip, go to the website HodgePodgeGazette.com.



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