



THE HODGE-PODGE GAZETTE



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Hodges Family Finds Strength Together for New Challenges

Surely the 2016 presidential campaign has been like no other in memory. Gone were traditional conventions of polite debates by taking turns to argue rationally. Crude language and character attacks replaced civility. Truthfulness and lofty aspirations were blurred by unsubstantiated threats and promises. Emotionally charged rallies verged on violent mob mentality. We have never seen the like before and the Hodges Family seeks to move from disbelief and despair to hope and positive action. This issue of our family chronicle will also be different as we dig deeper to meet new challenges.



Pictured left to right: John, Denise, Destiny, Jean, Kris, Ben, Beth, and Wayne

"One isn't necessarily born with courage, but one is born with potential. Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest." - Maya Angelou

Together for Restorative Holiday

Springtime 2016 was a treasured time for eight of us to be in Princeville, Kaua'i, Hawaii. We enjoyed gentle rain and waterfalls showering on to verdant taro fields, tried some snorkeling and sunbathing on sandy shores, viewed the deep undulating rock layers of Waimea Canyon and climaxed the week with a sunset sail to view the rugged beauty of the Na'Pali Coast.

Generations Move On to New Life Chapters

2016 is a senior year moving toward Commencement for three of five grandchildren. Kate, who now prefers to be called Kyoya and Rhiannon (John's girls) will both graduate from New Vista High School while Kris (Beth's son) will graduate from the University of Colorado. Rae Hodges is working at a café in Nederland and writing a novel.



Visit the Hodges Family website for additional 2016 news and photos:
www.HodgePodgeGazette.com



President Hodges Accepts Second (and final) Term



Two years as board chair of PFLAG National brought new challenges to Jean that have led to satisfying personal growth and friendships with many amazing people. She agreed to two more years and then Orlando happened; candlelight vigils brought LGBTQ folks and their allies together to renew hope in the midst of tragedy. Then a populist tsunami of resistance against too-rapid change revealed the inevitable push-back to rescind progressive human rights legislation which now threatens the lives and security of many marginalized groups. Below is Jean's response:

"As election results became clear, there has been an increase in violence, harassment and hate crimes. I now know that my lifetime journey for civil rights equality is a road longer than I will be able to travel in my lifetime. So my commitment to action is to continue to change minds and hearts to effect social change as long as I have a voice and strength to use it.

I search for rays of hope because I can't live in fear and despair. My faith is in the long arc of history bending toward justice. My faith is in the young people gathered on the Pearl Street Mall, carrying signs that

read, "LOVE trumps hate"; "Build bridges not walls." I trust the passion of my grandchildren who are energized to speak out for justice, not bigotry. They will continue the journey for change that will return our country to our basic American values that one day we will be "one nation indivisible with liberty and justice for all." I also believe in a God that yearns for us to choose what is right and just for all people and whose presence is a constant in unsettled times.

My new awareness is that all of us who want inclusion and equality to be a birthright of all Americans must now broaden our commitment to all those who deserve to be treated with compassion and fairness. As I reach out to support Latino Dreamers, and my upstairs neighbor who is Muslim that I will have his back, I renew my commitment to the LGBTQ community to work to support, educate and advocate for their safety and acceptance. Today I reach out to you to ask you to do the same.

As president of PFLAG National, I ask you to help me to sustain our 400+ chapter network by donating to PFLAG National. Go to www.pflag.org/RapidResponseFund/JeanHodges and give one time or monthly to help me raise \$10,000 for the continuing work of PFLAG to reach out to our 400+ chapter network with education that is clearly needed in so many communities in all 50 states where PFLAG is the lone voice for equality and inclusion. Thank you for joining me."

My hope also lies with Reinhold Niebuhr's meditation from *The Irony of American History*:

"Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history, therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone, therefore we must be saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint, therefore we must be saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness."

