



THE HODGE-PODGE GAZETTE



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Hodges Find Light in the Darkness

Under the dark cloud that settled over our country in 2017, the Hodges family joined the throngs decrying the loss of civility and respect for our democratic process. Certain words have taken on new meaning. "Complicit" and "unprecedented" top the list while "fake news" and "alternative facts" vie for legitimacy in social media. Back lash over rapid social change reveals that racism and discrimination are still a clear and present danger.

Stunned disbelief and resulting depression paralyzed actions temporarily, but that kind of darkness is not where the Hodges Family chooses to stay. Jean in her final year as PFLAG National president spent much of 2017 channeling positive energy to lead an amazing national board. Change in executive leadership was a major focus and reviewing our strategic plans to be relevant for a new political reality was a priority.



Hope emerges through action to make a difference. Please join her in donating to PFLAG National at www.pflag.org to magnify that difference. Jean seeks balance and self-care through a yoga class, three book groups, singing in the church choir and enjoying three theatre subscriptions. In April she and Barb Olson found relaxation wandering around Bruges, Belgium and delighting in the spring beauty of the Keukenhof Gardens outside of Amsterdam.

In October daughter Beth accompanied her mom to the PFLAG National Convention in Portland, OR, where they extended their stay to enjoy several leisurely days along the Oregon coast. Beth's job in customer care at Only Natural Pet (natural pet supplies) brings the benefit of a weekly yoga class, paid vacation, and allows her time to join the Boulder County AIDS Project board and continue singing with the Boulder Resonance Women's Chorus. Son Kris expects to graduate from C.U in May.

John's Mountain Country plumbing company now includes a promising apprentice, Drew Seebohm, allowing John and Denise to camp, exploring the Oregon and California coasts in September. Daughters Rhiannon, Kate and Rae are all out of the house and working before moving forward with their education beyond high school. Destiny continues to have severe health issues.

Ben and Wayne traveled in Portugal and Italy to extend Wayne's trade show business trip to Milan. Ben celebrated his promotion with the IRS as Chief of Multimedia & Technology for the Taxpayer Advocate Service. Despite his 60 hour a week work schedule, he and Wayne took time out to enjoy a cruise to Alaska in August and often visit their Palm Springs condo (when not rented).



"Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up." ~ Anne Lamott



*Christmas is as silent as
hope in the midst of despair,
Christmas is as silent as
joy in the midst of sadness,
Christmas is as silent as
love in the midst of anger,
Christmas is as silent as
acceptance in the midst of discrimination,
Christmas is as silent as
peace in the midst of violence and fear,
Christmas is as silent as
light in the midst of darkness.*



Let us "Resist" and "Persist" in 2018! We will find hope together.

