



THE HODGE-PODGE GAZETTE



The Family Newspaper

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Hodges Family Finds Meaning in Everyday Events*

Rising above despair over the dismantling of human rights progress, ever encroaching environmental crisis, loss of status and respect as a world power, increasing violence and senseless deaths on our streets, in our schools and places of worship, and, misguided leadership that desperately seeks power at any cost, is a constant challenge. We turn for signs of hope reflected in our relationships with friends and family.



July: Jean's Happy 85th Birthday!

Jean turned 85 in July and was delighted by her children with a surprise party where some 60 people of every friendship circle packed into the back room of the Gondolier Restaurant to celebrate with her. 130 birthday cards showered her with love.

To celebrate 25 years of PFLAG Boulder's founding in February, Jean and gay rights historian, Glenda Russell, created a script to tell the story of our local PFLAG and LGBTQ history with the help of some 25 activists and musicians.

After four years of PFLAG National leadership, Jean was pleased to create a red felt stole with activist badges from 1984 to literally pass the mantle of leadership to Kathy Godwin. Jean will continue on the national board for one more year.

Beth continues her work at Only Natural Pet. Singing with Resonance provides a creative outlet, and serving on the BCAP board makes a difference to those affected by and living with HIV. Denise hopes for release from chronic back pain after recent spinal fusion surgery. Her daughter Destiny also hopes for medical progress on her auto-immune disease condition. John invited his mom to go camping with him in July. He works hard at both plumbing and caretaking. Mother-son time in Colorado's mountain beauty was a precious time. Ben and Wayne were sad to learn that their eight year-old dog, Baxter, had cancer and tearfully relieved him from his suffering in November, grateful for the boundless energy and love he brought into their lives.

Grandson Kris graduated in May with an Arts and Sciences degree in Communication from the University of Colorado. He is now pursuing his beer-brewing passion at Mountain Sun Brewery. Rae, Kate and Rhiannon are all working hard to live independently and take next steps in fulfilling their lives. Jack's sister Jo Nelson died in the spring. Even so, their love abided. A Hodges-Nelson Family Reunion brought 22 people together for three fun days together at Snow Mountain Ranch.

Anne Lamott's new book, **Almost Everything: Notes on Hope, is her practical, often humorous, observations about life, family relationships and what matters. Her writing is the inspiration for this issue: "Hope springs from that which is right in front of us, which surprises us and seems to work."*





Ben and Wayne heading to Muir Woods



Aunt Jo's final trip to Mazatlan



Fishing Time!

“Love has bridged the high-rises of despair we were about to fall between. Love has been a penlight in the blackest, bleakest nights. Love has been a wild animal, a poultice, a dinghy, a coat. Love is why we have hope.”

Anne Lamott, *Almost Everything* -
Notes on Hope (2018)



August: Hodges—Nelson Reunion



May: Kris graduating from CU Boulder



September: PFLAG leadership transition



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