



THE HODGE-PODGE GAZETTE



The Family Newspaper

Final Edition

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Hodges Family Pivots to Find Hope Beyond Pandemic Doldrums

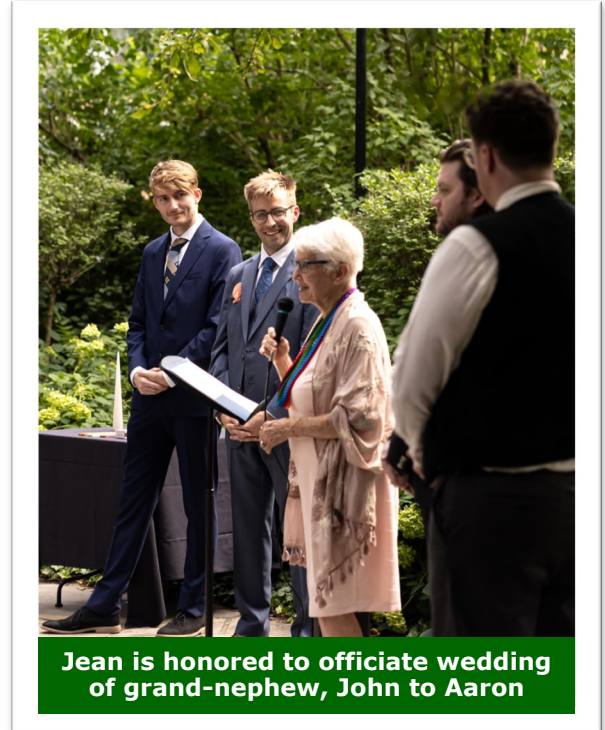
2021 was a year of Pandemic Fatigue. Daily newscasts overwhelmed us with Covid19 surges, our sense of crisis multiplied with environmental disasters--raging fires in Boulder County, political division, mounting foreign and domestic hostilities. Gunshots echoed in city streets, schools, churches, and our local King's Soopers. Our out-of-control world became the New Normal. We are tired of enduring unending crises.

Letting Go Is Not Quitting. The tradition since 1960 of publishing the annual Hodge-Podge Gazette may be drawing to a close---too many losses of dear friends, too much worry about staying safe, too many cancelled plans. Managing Editor, Jean Hodges, reflected this way: "My Christmas spirit felt wilted until the December mail brought greetings from long-time friends. As water revives a thirsty plant, my spirit was fed as I was reminded of life-long friendships. Reaching out with phone calls or personal notes may take the place of the annual Hodge-Podge Gazette. I'm not quitting; I'm letting go of projects and productions."

Pivoting, not shutting down, drives the Hodges Family. Ben has found that working from home is a good outcome of the pandemic. As chief of multimedia & technology for the Taxpayer Advocate Service digital assets (websites and social media), he can work as easily on his computer in Palm Springs as in Denver. He and Wayne have enjoyed more frequent sun time in the high desert in preparation for Ben's retirement in 2022 after 32 years with the IRS. John and Denise, seeking a change from winter snow and high altitude, have bought a space in an RV community at sea level in Texas with hopes of moving there sometime soon. Celebrating five years at Only Natural Pet, Beth is content to stay in Boulder. She's been pivoting into a new decade of self-acceptance and wellness. She and Jean enjoy fun times and a weekly meal together.

The four grandchildren in their 20's, absorbed with their own lives are making forward progress in building their futures. Kris is rising in knowledge and experience on the brew crew for Mountain Sun Pub & Brewery. Rhiannon is now state certified as a hair stylist and works in a Boulder salon. Kate and Rae are both living in Ft. Collins with their boyfriends and are enrolled at Front Range Community College. Rae completed EMT training. She and Kate plan to complete their associate degrees and move on to the University for higher education degrees. Their mom, Liz, and husband, Chris, have moved to Alaska which has been a big pivot for Rae and Kate as well as the Cooleys.

Pivoting Wisdom. Although we may come away from 2021 feeling raw in the awareness of pain and helplessness, we have also discovered within ourselves courage, strength, resilience, and kindness, which is God-in-us. We are not isolated where Love abounds.



Jean is honored to officiate wedding of grand-nephew, John to Aaron



Occasional articles by Jean will continue to appear on the HPG website.
To read "**Reflections and Realizations at 88**", go to www.HodgePodgeGazette.com





**Thanksgiving Day Family Gathering
Morgan, Beth, Kris, Jean, Ben, and Wayne**



**John Brings "White Christmas" Snowballs to December 25 Family Gathering
Kodi, Kate, Jean, John, Rae, and Drew**



**San Diego Reunion With Carol Whiteside & Family
Jean, Linda, Ben, Steve, Carol, and Barb**

