



We eagerly anticipate your seasonal tidings, especially for this past challenging year. We are most grateful that we are healthy, as is our immediate family.

We delight in witnessing first-hand the incredible development of our 4 ½ year old grandson, Grey Golden, now in his second year of preschool with 6 fellow students. SLO Village has transformed its operation since March doing deliveries and continuing our social events and volunteer training over Zoom. See our webpage: www.slovillage.org

We celebrated Grey's 4th birthday in May with a socially distanced family gathering on our back deck and did the same for Dave's birthday later in May and mine in September.



Having remained isolated from Grey and family since March, while they did drive-by's, we began playdates in July every Tues/Thurs, hosting Grey for 3 nights in July and again in October while his parents met friends in Palm Springs. We marvel at Grey's passionate interests in tidepools, insects, plants, and outdoor adventures around our house. His vocabulary, curiosity, knowledge, and memory continue to amaze us.

Travel was greatly curtailed this year, but before the Stay-at-Home orders, we enjoyed the Holiday Twilight Tour of Hearst Castle and spent the night at a nearby coastal resort, stayed several days with Dave's Mom in Fresno, stopped 2 nights in Berkeley while Dave attended his first Village Movement California Board meeting, and met family for lunch in Santa Barbara.

As with most of you, so many of our routine activities were abruptly halted, while some continued via Zoom and Facebook. We miss the personal contact including hugs. We especially missed what would have been our 25th Monterey Jazz Festival. When our favorite local restaurants closed, we adjusted to take-out, then managed a few outdoor dining experiences when COVID-19 restrictions allowed. Adapting to the restrictions on indoor dining, SLO provided parklets on the streets allowing for colorful and attractive outdoor venues.



My in-person weekly class from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) was stopped in March after 5 weeks, then restarted in September via Zoom for 12 weeks. It has helped me better understand Brian's struggle and provided another support group. The other COVID-delayed event for me was surgery on my nose for basal cell carcinoma in May.



COVID has greatly impacted income for Chris & Danielle; however, because the Alcohol & Beverage regulators loosened restrictions, Danielle's creative cocktails (she was once again voted "Best Beverage Slinger" for SLO County) became popular take-out orders. It is still a challenge, as she took over kitchen responsibilities for Sidecar which had just opened its new location prior to COVID. Meanwhile, Chris was employed by the Census Bureau and had some challenging encounters helping to complete the 2020 Census. He is still the primary childcare provider, especially during the preschool shutdown March until September.

Brian has been the most impacted by the COVID closures and lack of in-person services for his treatment and support.

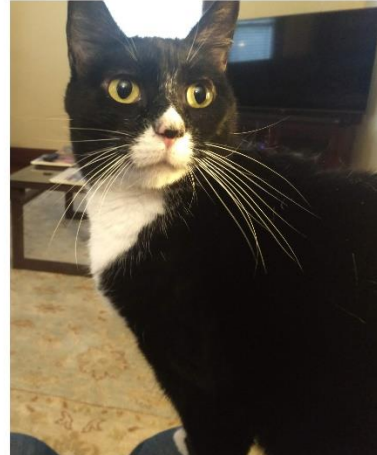
Housing has been his most critical need, especially as the pandemic spread. He was able to take over the lease for an apartment off campus in April when a Cal Poly student returned home after the college closure but lost that opportunity in October. Despite obtaining a low-income subsidized housing voucher, he has been unable to find availability in this high-priced rental market. We are hopeful he will find housing before the worst of the cold and wet weather sets in.



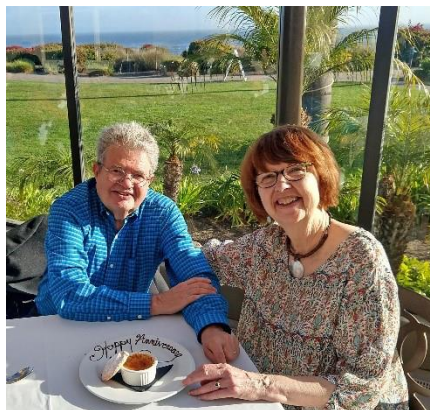
SLO Village Volunteer Appreciation 2/12/20

Dave continues as Vice President of the SLO Village Board and has already been making significant contributions as a member of the new Village Movement California Board. He enjoys his opportunity to be Grey's playmate, playing hide n seek, digging up buried treasure, building forts, while also acting as Grey's assistant with yard work.

Milou, our 9-year-old poodle mix, provides another source of play and entertainment, while our 4-year-old tuxedo cat Dinah has expanded her horizons and now tolerates attention from Milou and Grey.



As we anticipate our holiday celebrations this year, we await reconnecting with all of you beyond SLO, if only through your holiday greetings. Wishing you a joyous Christmas, with comfort, peace, good health, and blessings in the New Year as we overcome this pandemic.



Love, Meg & Dave

P.S. Check out more photo highlights from 2020 at

www.velcrosworld.com