



# Watson News & Views

December 2020—Seventeenth Year

## All Grown Up

By Marston Watson

### Michael Amador (26)

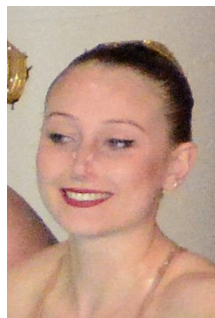
**Michael**, son of Albert and Karen (Watson) Amador Jr., is a paramedic at South Lake Tahoe, California. He has experienced many COVID-19 emergency calls as first responder, in addition to other medical situations. He was promoted this year to senior paramedic. Michael returns to his family home in Lafayette, California on his days off for a much-needed respite from the stress of his job. He spends much of his time with the love of his life, Dani.



### Sophia Amador (23)

**Sophia**, daughter of Albert and Karen (Watson) Amador Jr., is employed at the Renown South Meadows Medical Center in Reno with the hospital administration. She has had to work long and stressful hours during the COVID-19 crises at her facility. Sophia finds much-needed relief and rest at her home in Reno that she shares

with the love of her life Cole. As grandparents we are delighted to see them when they are able to spend precious time at Sophia's family home in Lafayette, California during her occasional time off.



### Haley Watson (20)

**Haley**, daughter of Erik and Jill Watson, earned academic honors from her sophomore year at Ohio

State University, despite having to continue her education through online classes. Haley was disappointed that her synchronized swim team's national collegiate championship event, that was to take place in Phoenix in late March, was cancelled because of COVID-19. Haley returned to Ohio as a junior, only to continue her online classes in her restricted home environment with three other team members. We are delighted that Haley will be spending her holidays at home in Walnut Creek, California.



### Xander Maniaci (20)

**Xander**, son of Dionne and Rob Maniaci finished his freshman year of studies at Santa Rosa Junior College with honors. His studies include computer-related classes which in this fall semester have been online classes. Much of his spare time is spent adding his skills to the new Maniaci home. For his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday

we shared pizza and part of his birthday cake. We were able to do that despite the "restrictions" now back in place effective December 12.

### Lexie Watson (18)

**Lexie**, daughter of Erik and Jill Watson, spent the first semester of her freshman year at the California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California with online classes at her dormitory. Lexie was accepted to a sorority but has not been able to see her sorority sisters in person. She returned home in Walnut Creek, California when the campus was closed to the students, where she continues her online studies. We look forward to spending the holidays with Lexie and her family.



## Only Two Trips in 2020

By Kathy Watson

Before COVID restrictions began, the Watsons took two trips: Las Vegas and then DC/Boston/Louisville (Marston). The Las Vegas trip was to attend the Executive Committee (ExCom) for the Grand Priory (Knights Templar).

One day after return from Las Vegas saw us on a plane to the east coast. We spent 17 days traveling; first stop was Washington DC for the Lincoln birthday celebration with the Military Order of the Loyal Legion (MOLLUS). The Anderson House is our “home away from home” in DC. We enjoyed the time in our favorite room: Maryland (1000 sq. ft!).

Boston area included stays in Watertown (courtesy of **Peter Nee**) where I celebrated my 74<sup>th</sup> birthday, Swampscott (**John and Eileen Sherman**) and our Boston home, the Union Club. Good times were had with dear friends and MOLLUS/Society of Cincinnati associates.

A special event we shared with family was the Ohio State Synchronized Collegiate swim meet with east coast universities. One team event featured **Haley Watson** “walking on water”. A Buckeye win made the day! Dinner with Maloof and Watson cousins following the meet topped it off.

Marston departed for Louisville and I left for home on 27 February. Little did we know that this trip would be our last trip in 2020. My journal reflects news that “the Corona Virus” is now in California!!!”.



## “Grand” Templar Role

By Kathy Watson

Without the fanfare of attending a Grand Convent & Investiture, I turned over my 10+year role as Grand Webmaster to become Grand Inspector for the Grand Priory of the United States. The Grand Inspector is responsible for regularly reviewing the activities of the Grand Priory and subordinate Pories to ensure they are in conformance with the Certificate of Incorporation and the Grand Statutes. The Grand Inspector conducts an annual review of the activities of each of the subordinate Pories through the Priory Annual Report. Following that review an annual consolidated report is submitted to the Grand Prior and OSMTH summarizing the financial, charitable, and other activities of the Grand Priory.

Using virtual technology which is now a familiar term, “Zoom” training sessions were planned and executed with 30 Priory Inspectors. Soon I will receive the reports and consolidate the facts for reporting to OSMTH.

## Life at Home, Courtesy COVID

By Marston Watson

The year 2020 was full of hope and anticipated celebrations until COVID-19 changed all that and turned our lives upside down. The daily government edicts that affect our daily lives remind us of a well-known childhood game with a dandelion (i.e. “*he/she loves me; loves me not*”). We live daily under the government orders of “*yes you can; no, you can't*” way of life.

Fortunately for us, much of our daily routines are somewhat the same. Kathy is busier than ever with volunteer commitments and greeting card creations. Her international, national and local meetings are conducted on ZOOM instead of in person. It can be challenging at times with some of the participants who are not computer savvy.

The ZOOM calls have turned out to be a real blessing. More people are now participating when otherwise they could not or did not attend meetings in person.

Marston is fortunate to be able to continue his genealogical research on behalf of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, with their Silver Book Project. He is contracted to add one or more generations of descendants of a particular Mayflower passenger. His nine-generation book on the descendants of Mayflower passenger **Governor Edward Winslow** (*his 7th great-grandfather*) was published in November 2019 by the Society.

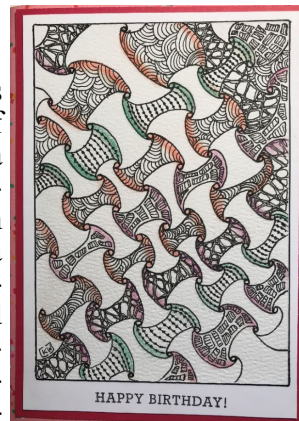
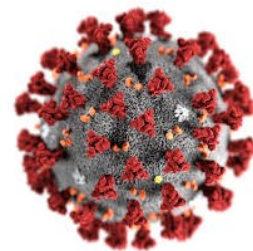
Marston participates in several of ZOOM calls, from California to the East Coast. One such call to the **Men's Thursday Morning Breakfast** group requires his commitment to be available at 4:45 a.m. (PST). As many as seventy-five or more men are on the call.

We continue to have family-only gatherings on special occasions. Every visit is a true blessing.

## Kathy's Card Creations

By Kathy Watson

For over ten years, friends & family have received one of my card creations—one of a kind made special for the occasion. I have many tools in my creative “kit”. This year, a new and fun “tool” called tangling has been incorporated with water color and doodling! As much time as possible is spent in the ever-expanding craft room on Kathy's Card Creations.



*Happy New Year*