



## Watson News & Views

December 2021—Eighteenth Year



### Lessons from a Christmas tree

- \* Twinkle.
- \* Bring joy to others.
- \* Be a light in the darkness.
- \* We all fall over sometimes.
- \* When things get tough, add glitter.
- \* Share your gifts.
- \* You were born to sparkle even if your garland's a little droopy.
- \* And its OK to be a little tilted.

~Jane Lee Logan

### Up, up and away!

By Marston Watson

**M**y first trip since COVID was in April to Florida. I visited my cousin **Dan Maloof** at Punta Gorda and with a close friend **Tony Pasqua** at Bonita Springs (*who hosted me at his condo*).

My second visit was two weeks in New England in October with family and friends. I spent several days with my cousin **Mark Maloof** and his friend **Karen Gagne** at their home in Stockbridge, Massachusetts (*home of Norman Rockwell Museum*). They took me to Kennebunkport, Maine where we stayed at the home of Karen's daughter **Jessica** and saw a play about Young Frankenstein.

Our dear Vermont friends **David** and **Stephanie Hockensmith** invited me for three nights to their time-share condominium at Newport, Rhode Island. We had a great time and ate well. I spent a few days at the Union Club of Boston as well, where four good Templar friends helped me celebrate my 86th birthday.

I am working on my sixth family history book on *Henry Lee of Manchester, Massachusetts and His Descendants Through Six Generations* (ancestors through my third great-grandmother **Lucy Lee**). This keeps me busy seven days a week, in addition to my volunteer chores with the Mayflower Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Jamestowne Society, Masonic Order and the Society of the Cincinnati.

### Panama Journey

By Kathy Watson

**M**id-October found me on the phone with son-in-law **Rob Maniaci** with a request to accompany him on a trip to Panama. Such an opportunity for me to help AND to visit a country for the first time!

The first hurdle was to understand the travel requirements vis-a-vis COVID. The Stem Cell Institute made it a small hurdle, and so did Rob as he was footing the bill! You see, he was going for medical reasons and I was going as his companion, a requirement of the Institute.

A last hurdle was presented three days before departure and it was called the OMICRON variant. In order to return to the United States, we would be required to have a negative COVID test. Again the Institute helped big time to manage that hurdle when the time came.



On the last day of the trip we were guided by **Roberto** to the Miraflores locks which is one of the three locks of the Panama Canal and the name of the small lake that separates these locks from the Pedro Miguel Locks upstream. In the Miraflores locks, vessels are lifted (or lowered) 54 feet (16.5 m) in two stages, allowing them to transit to or from the Pacific Ocean port of Balboa in Panama City. Ships cross below the Bridge of the Americas, which connects North and South America. From the visitors center we saw ships travel from the Atlantic ocean to the Pacific.

Thank you Rob for the opportunity of a lifetime to see one of the seven wonders of the world!



## Grandparents Corner

By Kathy & Marston Watson

**I**t is difficult not to take pride in the achievements of our grandchildren this past year 2021. All of them are adults now and have stories of their own. We hope that our brief comments about each grandchild will give our family and friends some insight into our blessed family life.

### Michael Amador (27)



**Michael**, the son of **Albert** and **Karen** (Watson) Amador is one of thousands of first responders we honor in this country. He is a paramedic in South Tahoe, which is about a three-hour commute from the apartment that he shares in Berkeley with his lovely lady Dani. She is a golf professional

at the Presidio Golf Club in San Francisco.

### Sophia Amador (24)

**Sophia** is Michael's sister who works at the Renown Hospital in Reno, not far from her brother at South Tahoe. She is very excited about the *Sophia Klaus* toys project she organized in 2020 with only one location and 2021 with thirteen locations throughout Reno and nearby Sparks, Nevada. "Sophia Klaus" shared her exciting news on the Reno television program Mornings on Fox 11. Her poise and enthusiasm for this project during the television interview left us all with a big "wow" and congratulations.



### Haley Watson (21)



**Haley**, the daughter of **Erik** and **Jill** Watson, celebrated her twenty-first birthday with family and friends in Walnut Creek while on spring break. We did not ask her about the libation of her choice for her celebration. **Erik** and **Karen**, their spouses and of course her grandparents **Marston** and **Kathy**, plan to be in Columbus, Ohio in March to see the national championship competition. Haley's graduation from The Ohio State University takes place on May 8 which her parents plan to attend.

### Alexia "Lexie" Watson (19)

**Lexie**, who is Haley's sister, is a sophomore at the California Polytechnic State University in San Luis

Obispo, California, where she continues to excel in her courses. Kathy and I visited her at the condominium she shares with four other female classmates. We had lunch at Lexie's favorite *Giuseppe's Cucina Rustica* restaurant located downtown. Time did not permit a tour of her campus, which we plan to do in the Spring.



### Alexander "Xander" Maniaci (21)



**Xander**, son of **Rob** and **Dionne Maniaci** (Kathy's daughter) celebrated his twenty-first birthday with his parents and two friends at his family home in Sebastopol, California. We are sworn to secrecy on his choice of libation on that occasion. He is completing his last year at Santa Rosa Junior College, Santa Rosa, California with academic honors and will graduate

there with an Associate of Science degree in May. Xander plans to continue his computer science education at Sonoma State University, Santa Rosa.

## And the Beat Goes On...

By Kathy Watson

**O**ur volunteer and leadership skills continued throughout 2021 without skipping a beat. The "A" team plays many roles: **Marston** holds leadership positions in his SAR chapter, Mayflower State Society and Jamestowne Society. **Kathy** holds leadership positions and contributes technical expertise. This year we recognized a local need with the Priory of St. Francis (SMOTJ) and Kathy became a member of the NSCDA. We certainly keep busy every day!

Colonial Dames of the XVII Century	Sovereign Military Order Temple of
National Society Colonial Dames of	Jerusalem (SMOTJ) & OSMTH)
America (NSCDA)	Priory of St. David of Wales (Boston)
Daughters of the American Revolution	Priory of St. Francis (San Francisco)
Daughters of the American Colonists	Daughters of Union Veterans
Jamestowne Society	SF Sons of the American Revolution
Mayflower Society	California Bowling Writers
	Ladies Auxiliary: SAR



*Happy New Year*