

Potpourri

By Kathy Watson

Marston's knee replacement surgery, which happened on February 10, has been a god-send with pain relief. At his tenth month evaluation, he motivates around the house without a cane which includes sixteen stairs to the second floor. The cane is used only when he leaves the house for an appointment. BART is no problem and he has been able to attend several SIR (Sons In Retirement) events.

Following the surgery, he did spend seventeen days in a rehab facility only 1.5 miles away from the house. I made daily trips to visit, either walking or riding a loaned electric bicycle. Kaiser home rehab visits helped him gain enough strength to manage the stairs!

In August, we were able to travel to Seattle and then to Whidbey Island for the wedding of grandson **Michael** and **Dani**. Our house was right on the water and close to everything. It was the first time to drive again since October, so I had fun taking us to see some sites.

There were many family gatherings to attend before and after



the wedding. The day of the wedding was a photographer's dream: overcast, dry, and calm.

Michael and Dani waited until November for their two week honeymoon to Japan. We were connected virtually to see their travels through their fun postings on Facebook and Instagram.

Two big events took us to the east coast in late August. First was the SMOTJ (Sovereign Military Order Temple of Jerusalem) Grand Convent in Orlando. Hurricane Idalia made landfall as a category-3 hurricane on August 30 near Keaton Beach. Our flight was on August 31! The storm moved quickly and we were in the air as scheduled! I attended in my official capacity of Prior; Marston as Deputy Grand Prior Emeritus. We enjoyed the festivities and watched as Chev. **Robert Sundin**, a member of our Priory, was recognized posthumously with the Cross of Valor.

We left Florida and headed to Plymouth, Massachusetts to attend the 43rd Triennial of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. As California State Governor (since June), I was excited to attend the event as a voting member. We had scheduled time with good friends **Jack** and **Sheila Manning**, but a mishap laid Jack up with a broken hip! Suffice it to say that we saw a bit more of Plymouth than planned!

Thirtieth Anniversary!

By Kathy Watson

November 27, 2023 marked our 30th wedding anniversary. Marston and I have grown closer over the years; so close that our cards each had similar messages! I include here a picture of my artwork: an original "Kathy Card".

There was a family lunch for Thanksgiving kicked off with Mimosa's to celebrate our thirty years.



Xander Graduates JC

By Kathy Watson

Grandson **Xander Maniaci** graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College on May 27. We watched the ceremony virtually, keeping an eye out for Xander. He was spotted in the processional and accepting his degree. As reported in the 2022 *Watson News & Views* he enrolled at Sonoma State University in January, just a hop, skip, and a jump from Sebastopol. He's looking to graduate in June 2025.



Governor in the House!

By Kathy Watson

On Saturday June 18, family members attended the California State Society Mayflower member luncheon. At that meeting, I became the Governor for California. An awesome honor for my Mayflower ancestors Mary Chilton and Stephen Hopkins. I joined in 2012 after discovering (finally) that I qualified. Thank you to all the State Society members who placed their trust in me for the next two years!



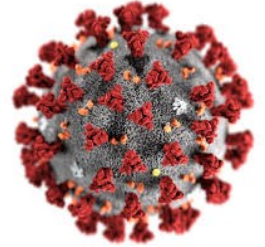
In Other News

By Kathy Watson

Marston turned eighty-eight in November. Because we don't have a car, the birthday was combined with a family lunch to celebrate Al's birthday and Thanksgiving. We are blessed to have a great restaurant less than a mile as the crow flies: Lara's Fine Dining. The luncheon was in the same room as our rehearsal dinner thirty years ago.

Not having a car is a blessing in disguise! Richmond and Contra Costa County have excellent ride services for seniors. We get to meet drivers and other seniors as we travel with East Bay Paratransit. Another benefit is substituting Lyft for short trips close to home, like Kaiser, Costco, and Trader Joe's. It's free for Marston and only \$3 for me per trip. Lyft has some friendly (and safe) drivers.

Covid came calling at 48 Southwind Circle on our return from the east coast in mid-September. First symptoms were with me and despite masking and hand-washing, Marston got it about six days later. I weathered the virus using only off the shelf products (there's a long story why!). We received the bill for Marston's stay in the hospital: \$26,750.00! The bill from Kaiser was only \$97.50. Our medical plan rocks!



Sophia Amador started a new job this year which she really loves. She's in administration in a women's care facility. Her duties allow for Sophia to perform some medical procedures keeping her close to patient care.

Haley Watson has come back to the Aquanuts as a coach. She missed involvement in the synchronized swimming sport so much that she quit her 9-5 insurance job to coach. Her duties include event planning for the annual fundraiser.

Lexie Watson is finishing her Senior year at Cal Poly with hopes of an immersive trip to Spain.

Hope for 2024

By Marston Watson

Kathy and I know that next year will be an important one for our nation. We hope for the best outcome, to stay healthy and enjoy our beloved family and friends.

We are planning a trip to Massachusetts and Connecticut in late Spring (May/June). However, most of our travel will be in California and possibly Whidbey Island, Washington.

Happy New Year

