

Twenty Second Year

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1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set alarms to wake up. That is hope.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." That is attitude.

and yachts. The Fall weather was magnificent, and the room was beautifully decorated for a king. Erik presented a framed AI-generated photo of his dad with a royal robe and crown on his head. His tribute was beautifully written.

The birthday event began with loving comments from Marston's wife Kathy, Karen and Erik, as well as four (of five) grandchildren (*Sophia, Haley, Lexie & Xander*). Grandson Michael was unable to participate in the celebration. Marston received over one hundred congratulatory wishes from relatives and friends, including acquaintances in Europe.

The year 2025 remained busy for Marston with his genealogical pursuits and book writing. Clients from New York and Florida engaged his services as a family history researcher. Marston managed to keep up his voluntary involvement with several organizations. Another highlight of the year was the 32nd anniversary of Marston and Kathy's wedding on Thanksgiving Day. Coincidentally, the rehearsal dinner before the ceremony took place in the same private room (i.e. known as *Salute e Vita Ristorante*) as the birthday celebration.

Ninety Years, Countless Blessings

By Marston Watson

Marston began the year with the attitude that of celebrating his 90th birthday with the family. He was not disappointed. His children **Karen** and **Erik** put on a memorable celebration for his birthday (November 14) in a private room at *Lara's Fine Dining*, overlooking Richmond Marina Harbor with sailboats



L to r. Sophia Amador, Lexie Watson, Erik Watson, Rob Maniaci, Xander Maniaci, Dionne Maniaci, Marston, Kathy, Karen Amador, Al Amador, Jill Watson, Cole (guest), Haley Watson.



Family Footprints: 2025 Edition

By Kathy Watson



Lexie Watson enjoyed a productive 2025 with her first job in Madrid at a secondary school as an English language assistant. She returned to the US in June and started her insurance industry career at Legacy Risk & Insurance Services. At the 90th birthday celebration she recognized Marston for his teaching her how to use chopsticks!

Haley Watson works for Blue River Technology in the HR industry, following in her mother's footsteps. When she spoke at the 90th, Haley thanked Marston for handing down the Lebanese rice recipe. She did admit that he makes it the best!



Sophia Amador is a multimedia consultant and social media content creator working with her father at Table Group consulting. She recognized Marston as her "front and center" fan at her theater shows and for feeding her sweet and sour Chinese soup

at the age of two!

Michael & Dani Amador were not able to be at the 90th birthday celebration. Michael has a new position training EMTs and paramedics. His artistry is blossoming—we enjoyed seeing his inktober images on Facebook. Dani continues her professional golfer rounds at the Presidio golf course.



Xander Maniaci is working part-time for a grocery store as he pursues refining his game with a launch expected in 2026. He's looking for a technical position, as well but the job market continues to be tough. At the 90th Xander recognized Marston as the "best Grandpa ever"

thanking him for letting them stay with us when they were evacuated from the California wildfires.

A Christmas Reflection: Thirty-Two Years Strong

By Marston & Kathy Watson

As we gather the threads of another year and weave them into the tapestry of Christmas, we find ourselves pausing with deep gratitude for a milestone that still feels miraculous: **32 years of marriage celebrated on Thanksgiving Day**. Not just any 32 years, but 32 years built on second chances, unexpected grace, and the quiet courage it takes to believe in love again.

For both of us, this is our third marriage (each)—something we once spoke of only in whispers, with a mix of humility and hope. Yet over time, that part of our story has become less a footnote and more a testament. It reminds us that life's most meaningful chapters don't always begin on page one. Sometimes they begin after heartbreak, after healing, after learning who we are and what truly matters.

These three decades together have been shaped not by perfection, but by partnership. By choosing kindness when it would have been easier to be right. By laughing at the small things and holding each other through the big ones. By discovering that love in its seasoned form is richer, steadier, and more generous than we ever imagined in our younger years.

This Christmas, as lights glow softly in the windows and familiar carols drift through the house, we're especially mindful of the blessings that have carried us:

The gift of shared history—32 years of memories, adventures, and inside jokes.

The gift of family—woven together from different beginnings into something beautifully whole.

The gift of faith—reminding us that redemption is real, and that love can be renewed at any age and stage.

We step into the new year with the same promise we made to each other all those years ago: to keep choosing love, to keep choosing each other, and to keep building a life that reflects gratitude for the grace we've been given.

Happy New Year

