



Watson News & Views

December 2018-Twelfth Year

Twenty-five Year Marriage Reflections



Never bring up mistakes of the past. Neglect the whole world rather than each other. Never go to sleep with an argument unsettled. At least once a day, try to say something complimentary to your spouse. Never meet without an affectionate welcome. If you have a choice between making yourself or your mate look good, choose your mate. If they're breathing, your mate will eventually offend you. Learn to forgive. Let love be your guidepost. "For richer or poorer" - rejoice in every moment that God has given you together.

Over the River and Through the Woods

by Marston Watson

The Watsons will host this year's Christmas dinner on Sunday, December 23. Grandma **Kathy** has decorated a nine-foot tree with mementoes of the past twenty-five years of our marriage. Many of the decorations bring back memories of past trips in the United States, Europe and the Holy Land.



A "New" Cousin: DNA

Revealed

by Marston Watson

As you may know, **Marston** is an accomplished genealogist and author. He decided to participate in two DNA projects, which paid off when he learned about near and distant cousins. The biggest surprise came when Marston received an email about four months ago from **Stephen Klein**, who indicated that Marston's name was at the top of his list as a possible first cousin. The same is true on Marston's list.

Marston researched his Maloof side of the family, as Steve indicated that he was of Lebanese ancestry, as is Marston. Bits of information from Marston's cousins led to the identity of Steve's biological father, who was one of Marston's first cousins. Steve (65) was adopted by the Klein family when he was three-days old. Marston and Kathy had breakfast with

Steve, his friend **Theresa** and son **Kevin**, during a trip to San Diego. We are proud to welcome Steve as our "new" cousin!

The Gabriel Cousins in Utah

by Marston Watson

DNA was not needed to identify **Marston's** second and third **Gabriel** cousins in Utah. His genealogical research revealed that they share a common ancestry with a sister of Marston's Lebanese grandmother **Helen (Miner)**



Maloof, affectionately known as "grammy" to her loving grandchildren. Marston and Kathy were hosted by brothers **Ed Gabriel** and **Mark Gabriel** at a family reunion in cousin **Angela (Gabriel) Sharp's** South Jordan home. We are blessed to have such a loving family in our lives. (P.S.: **Steve Klein** is Ed and Mark's "new" third cousin.)

"Grand" 2018 Diary

by Marston Watson

A Soon-to-be Paramedic



Our 24-year-old grandson **Michael Amador** has completed four years of study and field experience as an EMT and in his paramedic academic courses. He is studying for his national paramedic test, which he plans to take in the near future. Michael hopes to begin his medical career in early 2019. He enjoys playing his guitar in a local rock band in his off-duty time.

College Senior

Our 21-year-old granddaughter **Sophia Amador** is finishing her first semester as a senior at the University of Nevada Reno. She has a double major in community health sciences and theater.



College Freshman

Our 18-year-old granddaughter **Hailey Watson** graduated Summa Cum Laude last May from Northgate High School, Walnut Creek. She was delighted to learn that her accomplishments in synchronized swim-

continued next page

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ming these past twelve years paid off when she was recruited by the coaches of the national-champion, synchronized swim team at Ohio State in October 2017. Haley qualified for and was accepted to one of their two teams, which is quite an honor for a freshman.

High School Senior

Eighteen year old **Alexander “Xander” Maniaci** is making the most of his Senior year! He played an attorney in the D. W. Gregory “*Radium Girls*” Analy High School Theater production in November. In April he was Sir Harry in “*Once Upon a Mattress*”. In his spare time, he’s helping to build the Maniaci’s new house.



High School Junior

Our 16-year-old **Alexia “Lexie” Watson** is continuing her studies as a junior at Northgate High School. She was accepted in AP and honors classes there. Lexie manages to continue her participation on the volleyball team as well. Her parents and grandpa Marston are teaching Lexie how to drive, in preparation for her driving test on January 7.



A Harrowing Tale

The Camp Fire hit close to home with the loss of our step-granddaughter **Kori Jensen’s** house at Paradise, California on November 8. She and her son Elliott (2) and Charlotte (9 mos.) barely had 15 minutes to get out of Paradise. Her husband **Eric Jensen** was with his parents in Walnut Creek, California at the time, nearly 200 miles away, as his welding job is in San Francisco. They are living with Eric’s parents for the time being, as recovery and rebuilding could take upwards of two years. Kori’s mother **Jill Watson** is married to Marston’s son **Erik**, who live nearby in Walnut Creek as well.



A Bucket Wish Fulfilled

by Marston Watson

We fulfilled one of **Marston’s** “Bucket List” wishes on our return road trip to and from Minneapolis. The 4,700+-mile-drive included a must-see excursion to the Badlands, Mount Rushmore and General George Custis Park in South Dakota. We visited the No. 10 Bar at Deadwood, South Dakota where **Wild Bill Hickok** was shot in the back of his head by a dastardly coward and gunslinger **Jack McCall**. He was tried, convicted and hung for his crime. We saw the ornate gravesites of Bill Hickok and **Calamity Jane Canary** outside of town.



Our two-week journey through western and Midwestern states eventually led us to **Kathy’s** widowed, sister-in-law **Marcia Todd** in Denver and Marston’s cousins in Utah.

Fun & Games

by Kathy Watson

In April, a local Mahjongg group started up. Having played Mahjongg on the computer for several years, I thought it would be easy to learn to play the real game. Much to my surprise, the computer game is not anything like playing “Mahj” in person! I’ve yet to learn the Chinese version, but the American version is now like “old hat” and I am no longer playing the computer game, but playing the practice version on my phone. Wednesday afternoon has become my “game day” and there is lots of fun with **Paula, Kathy, Elaine, Cynthia** and **Louise**. We gather to play, drink wine and share good times!



Emergency Preparedness

by Kathy Watson

Living in California can be dangerous: wildfires in 2018 and the ever-present high earthquake probability leaves us no option but to be prepared for any emergency! Dialing 911 in an earthquake will do NO good as there are only two staff round the clock to take calls in Richmond. In our gated community, I am the leader, recruiter, communicator for “Breakers Neighbors” formed to educate about how to be prepared. This year, I published ten issues of the “*PEPTalk*”, which Promotes Emergency Preparedness. Then there was gaining a GMRS radio license and recruiting eight neighbors for Damage Assessment. The group supports Marina Bay CERT and participates in regular communication exercises.



This-n-That

by Kathy Watson

To close out this issue of the *Watson News & Views* and put a lid on 2018, let us tell you a bit about our accomplishments. Marston has been writing for the Mayflower Society: one silver book on the Winslow family is in review and the second on the White family is in progress.

Kathy continues to volunteer her computer skills to CSS-DAR (California DAR State Society) as a Vice Chair and keeps the infrastructure humming along. OSMTH (Knights Templar) has a fresh new look for their website launched in late October. SMOTJ (Knights Templar in the United States) will be able to launch an online store for members in early 2019.

Other organizations benefit from our leadership skills: Marston as Treasurer of the High-Twelve and Deputy Grand Prior Region VIII for SMOTJ; Kathy as Secretary and Registrar of Colonial Dames and Daughters of the American Colonists respectively. Our life together of twenty-five years is full and continues to be fulfilled with love, family and friends!