

THE LETTINI NEWSLETTER 2022

INGE

I would describe 2022 as a Ying and Yang year and for those of you who don't know what that means, you can google it. Still hanging in there according to my Heart and Kidney doctor which was good news.

I got all my booster shots that were available for now and got my flu shot. I still wear a mask and probably will for the rest of my life.

The weather was crazy this year. The forest fires which resulted in very bad air quality plus high temps and no rain really set me back. Couldn't go outside because of the poor air quality and we had numerous days of temps over 100 degrees; broke a record. I did manage to get a veggie garden in the front yard and everything came up except my carrots. Planted them 4 times but no not this year they said. Back yard had my heirloom tomatoes which took until the end of October to ripen due to the changes in our weather.

Can't complain through I had bumper crops of the veggies I did grow.

I turned 78 this year, YEA! Michael & I celebrated our 50th Anniversary this year with our kids.

Got to spend time with my grandchildren more this year and Dog sitting was my title for this year. My neighbor Jan and I concentrated on picking Blue Berries this year and I still have about 8lbs of berries in my freezer; I use for my smoothies. Not walking as much as I used to but focused on veggie garden, pulling weeds, and digging holes to plant my fall bulbs in; really now trying to get the garden in winter shape. I need to pace myself now, out for an hour inside for 2 and then back out. I feel good and take each day as it comes.

I wish you all and your families a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

MICHAEL

I am now 80. It was not a good year for me - I spent most of the year in pain. Five doctors can't agree if it is gout, arthritis, Osteoarthritis, rheumatism, calcium deposits, bursitis, overreactive immune system- etc. My rheumatologist thinks it's osteoarthritis or osteosclerosis and has me on a pill with about a dozen side effects. I also have been on steroids to reduce the inflammation and pain for most of the year. But on the bright side - my 80th birthday lunch was great. Went to the Olive Garden.

KIM

Danny and I finished off our final season of Sounder's season tickets and have decided to just pick and choose games to attend rather than attend every game. Home improvements continue as Danny finds more and more ways to increase the efficiency and comfort of the house while also dealing with the normal wear and tear of appliances and other items. You can find anything on YouTube! Work for both of us remains consistent through periods of chaos and calm. I have taken on the recruiting role so if you or anyone want to work at a funeral home, reach out! Danny and I started a tradition of trying out new restaurants every few weeks to get out into the community and take a break from being mom and dad.

Our sweet 3.5-year-old Kona has unfortunately become a regular presence at various vet offices due to a completely torn cranial cruciate ligament (think ACL equivalent for dogs) and arthritis due to a wacky immune system. She's recovering nicely now from the TPLO surgery that placed a screw in her bone. Due to the required activity restriction and the need to carry her, I get a work-out simply by taking Kona up and down the stairs, throughout the house and outside for her short potty walks. It's like having a newborn and this experience has solidified the feeling that our two kids and dog are ENOUGH! 😊

Dominic has been steadily working on his video game. It's been fun hearing about his progress and seeing the updates as he shares them with us. Also, he continues to lead energetic D&D game sessions at the school and our house and we can often hear the laughter and screams from the players as they battle monsters and navigate dangerous lands. I tried to participate once, but after it took almost two hours to create a character, my brain was fried and I was done and happy to let it be a Dom and friend thing! Theater is still a love of his as well as singing and he serenades the house with songs at all hours.

Jocelyn is a junior and has started the exciting process of researching colleges with her friends and on her own. We attended an international college fair and as excited as I am for her future adventures, the mom in me had a brief silent cry when she visited the international booths and chatted with the reps for long periods of time. Then I realized, it means a road trip to visit and everything was better! Watching and singing songs from musicals are a passion for her and we have two outings planned in February: *Six* and *Mean Girls*- and she and I are super excited! With her impeccable sense of fashion and style, I regularly use her as my consultant while offering Taiyaki as payment which she happily accepts.

KARA

Kara, Darin, Charlie, Caitlin and Rosie had a great year. They finally managed to get to Disneyland after postponing twice due to Covid. They stopped in for a day at Universal Studios where Kara and Caitlin learned that they do not like simulation rides (more specifically, their stomachs do not like simulation rides)! But, after a good lunch and sticking to open air rides, they had tons of fun on the Jurassic Park ride (about 1,000) times! They detoured into LA and went to the Observatory, which reminded them of just how small we are. The whole trip was tons of fun.

Darin, Charlie and Caitlin had a ton of fun on the ski slopes this year. Kara gingerly went down the bunny hill, just to prove to herself that post ACL surgery; she could still make it down on her own 2 feet instead of being strapped inside a toboggan with ski patrol.

Kara stays busy at the licensing office and regularly sneaks away to volunteer at school. She loves getting her friends together for “book club”; just don’t ask what they are reading! Ha! Her garden produced later than usual, but it was still very successful.

Darin continues to enjoy working at Comcast and just filmed another local TV commercial, this time co-starring with Caitlin! They had a blast. Darin had a huge year out on the green, winning 3 major tournaments! Congrats Darin!

Charlie and Caitlin have taken up tennis and love it. Darin subs in for one of Charlie’s coaches and all are having the best time developing their skills on the court.

Charlie started Junior High this year, a huge transition from middle school. He’s doing great and loves his teachers. H also earned his black belt in taekwondo after many years of hard work. We are so proud of his accomplishments.

Caitlin is working hard on her photography skills as part of the yearbook committee. She loves the photojournalism side of the job. She really enjoys school and her after school classes like yoga!

Rosie had a fun year chasing squirrels, crows, cats, etc. She’s mesmerized by local family of deer. Oddly, she won’t chase them; she just stares and makes funny sounds under her breath. It’s hilarious!



Joce at 17



My 80 BD Lunch



The Girls

