

# The Lettini Newsletter

Christmas 2018



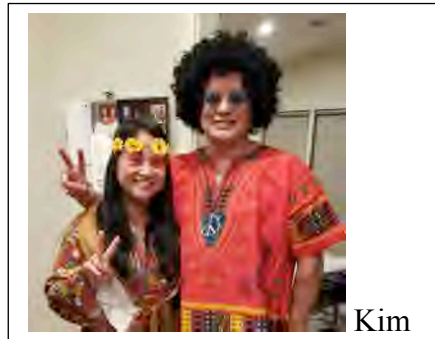
Inge's Award



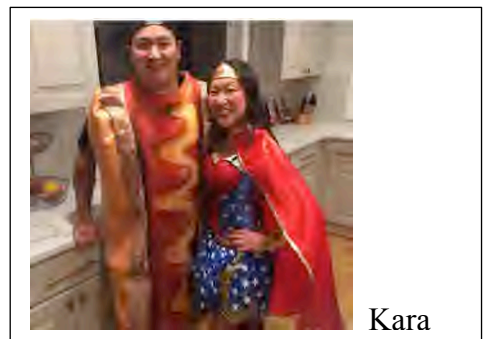
On to School



At museum of Flight



Kim



Kara

Where did we go wrong?

## 2018 – Another Good Year.

I turned 76 this year – and Inge turned 74. I still have a knee problem – can't jog or hike if it's on an incline. Inge is having serious dental surgery. Other than that we are doing ok.

We had a nice summer - set a record for days without rain. Mild temperatures and low humidity.

Inge had another good garden – as usual. The local animals loved it – deer, racoons, rabbits, squirrels, and crows. They left some of the veggies for us. Lotsa tomatoes. She spends a lot of time working the garden and landscape. She won the Kiwanis award for distinguished service and she will be feeding the homeless on Thanksgiving again this year.

Me – well with my knees and shoulders limiting what I can do – I've been working on perfecting the art of doing nothing. I did get a drone with an installed camera, which helps me keep my brain active in learning how it works. And went hiking with Mark at the Mercer Slew wildlife preserve – because of all the light rail construction we didn't see much wildlife.

This was a big year for Darin, Kara, Charlie and Caitlin! After a long search, they finally bought a new home! Still in University place (fort eh kids' school district) they found a newly renovated home with a nice view of the water, a big backyard for the kids, and a party basement for the grownups! The family truly love their new home and have enjoyed countless nights with their new neighbors around their fire pit. They've been busy furnishing and decorating ever since.

Darin still enjoys working at Indeed, helping people find jobs at companies like Starbucks, Microsoft, Banfield and Instacart (his customers). He travels all over, still searching for the best bbq! He had a very successful golf season, re-designed their backyard fire pit by hand (ouch!) and work tirelessly to build the ultimate campfire (there are techniques!). His bowling league just started up, and looks like it'll be another fun season!

Kara still enjoys working at Lakewood Licensing, as it gives her the flexibility she needs for her busy family life! Kara started skiing and looks forward to making it off the bunny hill without having a full-blown panic attack, ha-ha. She had another successful fundraising year for Seattle Children's, as well as her work with the YWCA. She also enjoys getting together with her friends for book club, although all the husbands say it's "wine club."

Charlie had a great season playing flag football, loves playing basketball with his friends, and is really looking forward to the upcoming ski season. He also started piano lessons and loves it. Every other spare second is dedicated to playing Fortnite and writing books with his friends! We can't believe he is in fourth grade!

Caitlin still loves playing the piano, practicing gymnastics and yoga, and just being plain silly! She also has taken up being a detective and solving crimes and mysteries around the neighborhood. Every spare second she is making slime and doing other arts and crafts. She also looks forward to ski season, and making it off the

bunny hill and chair lift by herself! She also lost her first tooth, which was very very exciting. We can't believe she is in second grade!

Kim, Danny and family went to Maui this spring- went snorkeling and enjoyed all the Maui scenes. Joce is now a teenager – wow another teenager in the family. She loves playing the flute and now is learning to play the ukulele. Dominic is mastering his Internet gaming skills. They are enjoying their remodeled kitchen and have many parties there with a very close group of friends. They like to go camping a lot. They also go skiing.

Danny and Kim came over this summer to help Inge clear out all of our blackberry bushes. It was a lot of work. Joce and Dominic helped also.

Both families took me to the Museum of Flight for my birthday – Joce and Charlie flew the flight simulator – it was fun but most of the time they were upside down.

Danny has started working in a different role at Microsoft in Accessibility helping people with disabilities use software. He's now more of a consultant in this new role and loves it. After a two year break from home improvements after our kitchen was completely redone, he decided to redo the front porch and so far, it looks awesome and most importantly, is sturdy and durable. In the middle of this project, he calmly remarked that perhaps this would be the last major home improvement project that he'll tackle for a little while.

Kim's baking collection is slowly taking over the house, but no one is complaining and in fact, they help fuel that passion especially as they happily taste her creations. Spoiler alert: Yes, her Christmas wish list contains even MORE baking items. Channeling her secret inner rock star identity, she received a shiny new bass for her birthday and has started playing with Danny who used to be in a band. If you stand outside of their house around 9pm, you can possibly hear Danny and Kim rocking out while feeling the newly built front porch vibrate from the sounds!

Jocelyn started 7<sup>th</sup> grade this year while Dominic entered his last year (8<sup>th</sup>) of middle school. We now have two teens in the house! As I've always told Kim about old things being cool, Danny and Kim experienced this phenomenon when Dominic bought an old school cassette player and Jocelyn got a record player and is slowly building up her vinyl collection.

Jocelyn loves fashion, listening to music and spending time with her friends. She has continued to play volleyball and this seems to be the sport she loves after trying out others. We're excitedly waiting for her to be able to spike the ball. She was accepted into Web Leader program to assist the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders at their orientation to help them feel at ease as they enter middle school.

Dominic loves video games still, listening to music and spending time with his friends. He has a group chat group and the chirps of incoming messages serenade the household all day and night long. He started working on his 8<sup>th</sup> grade project which will involve educating people on how a print shop works. (Thank you for the Koga's for their guidance on this!)

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !**



At the Museum of Flight.



Joce at 13

