THE LETTINI NEWSLETTER 2021

Last Christmas we all stayed at our homes but did Zoom on Christmas Eve. None of us were vaccinated yet but we got to see our grandchildren, our daughters and sons-in-law via Zoom.

INGE

Michael & I got our Covid 19 vaccinations thanks to our daughters. Kim made the appointments and Kara took us to our appts (February 2021.)

We had interesting weather during the Springtime, but I was happy to be able to get in our garden to get it weeded and the raised bed veggie gardens prepared for Spring veggie planting. The deer managed to eat most of the spring plantings so next year I am going to get an organic deer spray my neighbor used on her garden to keep them away. It is not poisonous so don’t worry! The deer can’t get into the backyard, so I decided to put swiss chard in pots along with baby Bok choy, bell peppers and hot peppers there. I also put 11 tomatoes in pots again which worked out well. I was rewarded with beautiful heirloom tomatoes, peppers, swiss chard and bok choy. In the front yard, the deer ate almost all of everything I planted but I did get carrots, onions, baby artichokes and lots of garlic.

My neighbor, Jan, and I ventured out this summer to pick raspberries and blueberries. Raspberries were okay but we hit the jackpot with the Blueberries and my freezer is full of them. My next-door neighbor has a Greek fig tree and he gave me lots of those and I put them in the blender and now have lots of containers of figs also. Smoothie time during the winter is going to be fabulous for me.

I did make it to my 2 major medical appts: Heart and Kidney. Happily, I can tell you all I am doing great! My heart is strong, and I am still in Stage 3 of my kidney disease. Still have a few other medical appts to get to but not as urgent. I have my energy back and worked in both the backyard and front yard pruning bushes, racking leaves, and the strawberries bloomed again which was nice.

Thanksgiving we will be going to Kara's home 2 days after Thanksgiving for the whole family to gather and Kara will be having Christmas Eve at her home, too. Really looking forward to those 2 events. Caitlin, our youngest granddaughter, will have had her first covid 19 vaccination; she is 10 and I will have had my booster on November 22, yea!

All in all, it was a pretty good year. Still staying home most of the time but do venture out to the grocery store more. visit with my vaccinated neighbors and visit a few friends. I still wear my mask outside, wear disposable gloves and have hand sanitizer with me. I am being very cautious, and I hope you are, too.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and very Happy & Healthy New Year!

MICHAEL

I had only one adventure this year – went to Chateau Saint Michelle with Mark for wine tasting. It is an incredible place – we sampled five wines and then they brought a sixth which we declined. We had an unusual summer – set a record for temperature – 107 degrees – never have we gotten that hot before. It’s usually 70-80 degrees in the summer.

KIM

The Uyematsu clan has had an exciting year even with all the restrictions going on! Danny and Kim were finally able to enjoy the benefits of having Sounder’s season tickets by attending games in person- they had a blast and have decided to continue this fun tradition. Home remodeling projects, spearheaded by Danny, have made the house more energy efficient and comfortable. Despite both enjoying their same jobs as last year, Danny continues to research about being able to retire early which is an exciting prospect! While Danny is researching, Kim is often planning her next baking masterpiece to share with friends and families. Proven tip: If you want Kim to try something, just send her a picture of the creation. Clearly the cutest member of the family, Kona kept everyone active by bringing people her toys to toss around and excitedly asking to go to the local dog park to interact with new friends. Kona is also the neighborhood watch ambassador letting the family know when packages arrive, when animals run through our yard and when the wind is too loud – signaled by her loud and persistent barking and

confusion about why no one else notices these things! We think people also visit just to experience her greetings to them – a loud chirping noise and butt wiggling always occurs and brings joy to everyone!

Dominic’s passion for singing drove him to audition for an additional choir at high school as a junior and he made it in so now he is part of two choirs. His other passion, gaming, has developed into him becoming VP of his school’s Dungeons and Dragons club. This love has gone international in that he also moderates weekly online D and D sessions from his room which includes people from all over the globe! Despite his passion for gaming, he also loves the outdoors and happily takes Kona on local hikes, has gone on a bike camping outing in the San Juan Islands, engaged in the annual PLU camping trips to Lincoln Rock and attended a summer wedding in Portland. At the wedding, he was a dancing machine and even gave an impromptu speech which received raves all night long.

Jocelyn began her sophomore year at high school and is happy that it is in person this year and not remote. Seeing her friends, joining school clubs, exploring the community after school and being able to plan gatherings have been highlights for her. She has expanded Kim’s knowledge of all things musical by frequently exposing Kim to something different each week. The local expert for hair dyeing, Jocelyn can give you the tips about what products to use and what color would look best for you. Her impeccable fashion sense also assists Kim and others when planning outfits for casual and formal outings. She is the resident chocolate chip cookie baker and receives constant requests to supply the family with these much-needed items!

Due to the ability to travel again, they have decided that it is time to experience MAGIC, so a Disneyland family trip will occur with friends in December. One will be able to sense Kim’s excitement quickly (she LOVES all things Disney), but the rest of the family is also excited about being able to venture out into the world a bit more.

Here’s to a healthy and safe 2022!

KARA

2021 was an exciting year at the Robb Ranch! The Family enjoyed a great year of skiing. Charlie continues to impress, showing off his skills on Crystal Mountain and at Snoqualmie. Caitlin really improved this year and has the chance to help mentor a younger friend in the slopes! Darin’s a great instructor and the kids love hot dogging with dad. Kara’s year was cut short when she “fell while being old.” A simple fall turned into a disaster. She had to be tobogganed down the mountain, only to learn she torn the left knee ACL. Surgery and PT took the rest of the spring. But she caught up on lots of shows and read some good books.

And then one night, Charlie presented a homework assignment about the benefit of pets. This led to an additional family member named Rosie. They adopted a 1-year-old shelter pup. She’s a mix of border collie and whippet. She’s a very sweet girl! Darin enjoys his job at Comcast, and recently was given a promotion! The family lives the free cable, ha-ha. But it’s been so nice for Darin to sink his teeth into a role in management, leaving the big stress to his salespeople! And he’s enjoyed being home with the family (on most days, ha!). No more travel and he will start going into the office very soon. His big project was putting in a home gym, which has been awesome during the pandemic. Darin great year of golf and now has a new student: Caitlin!

Caitlin loves golfing. She takes classes with the First Tee program and a local instructor. She absolutely loves it and hopes to be a professional golfer! She continues to play the piano and even composed a few original songs this year. It’s always a treat to hear her play. Caitlin turned the big 10, double digits! She started middle school and loves every minute of it. In addition to skiing, Charlie joined the track team at middle school and got to travel with the team to different schools, what a cool experience! He loves playing hoops with his friends and follows all things manga. He’s almost a black belt in Taekwondo, how time flies! He has fun at school and loves riding his bike/electric scooter around town with his friends. And in general, being a 12-year-old boy!

The garden was a giant success as always. Tomatoes! Tomatoes! Squash! Squash! Peas! Beans! Strawberries! And so many carrots (lots still in the ground). Next year, Kara vows AGAIN to plant less. But somehow all the plants quadruple in size.

In all, it was a great year filled with firsts and an opportunity, thanks to the vaccine, to get out a little and have some fun. Cheers to a great holiday!

 