

Dear Friends and Family,

2017 has been a year of many joys and some rough patches as well. We are so grateful for the former and profoundly thank those who helped us through the latter!

The year started off celebrating Linda's mom's 90th birthday in LA. Linda catered a small dinner in her home from her favorite restaurant (Taylor's Steak House) attended by Linda's cousin Adele and her wonderful neighbor's family.

Steve continues to judge wines, teach writing online through Writing Academy, and organize daily lunches at Alcorn McBride. The company's staff had an amazing year of new products and sales successes, setting a new record in this, its 32nd year.

We were lucky to spend quite a bit of time in Chicago with Dani over the spring and summer. A lot of fine dining was involved, including Oriole, our favorite restaurant in the country. In July we saw Paul McCartney in concert, and all agreed it was the best concert ever. What an amazing performer.

In August we traveled to Nashville for the total eclipse, and chased the holes in the clouds to find a clear spot to watch this incredible event. If you've not experienced totality, believe us, it's a completely different reality.

In September we ducked out of Orlando before the Hurricane Irma, having been there, done that. We met up with Dani and flew to Hong Kong for a wonderful (if hot) week. Our friend of 35+ years, Glenn Birket, joined us for a backstage tour of Hong Kong Disneyland and showed us around the city. His insights into the culture were extremely illuminating! Then we headed south to Sydney, Australia for a week with our dear friend Pamela and her charming family. Such wonderful, welcoming people!

On the way home we stopped in Los Angeles for the EPCOT/TDL 35th anniversary reunion at WDI. What an incredible event – over 500 of us old geezers are still standing! It was a bucket list moment to connect with so many treasured colleagues.

A few days prior to the reunion, bad news. Linda's mom in LA fell and broke a bone in her shoulder; it required surgery but she came through with flying colors. Sadly the trauma accentuated dementia issues already in play. So Linda entered the murky world of Medicare and senior health care in general. A huge shout out to all the unsung heroes in senior care facilities – they are just amazing folks! Linda's mom has been settled into a wonderful care facility in West Hollywood. Linda is so appreciative of all the support from friends and family during this rough transition!

After losing our darling cat Tucker in 2016 it took a while for our hearts to heal, but this year we adopted two Maine Coon kittens, Sophie and Sylvester. They are growing fast, and since their grandpa weighs 28 pounds they are going to be BIG. They are obsessed with water and supervising cooking. We love them dearly, but it is kind of like living with an 8-footed wrecking crew!

Warmest holiday wishes,

Linda & Steve

