

Dear Friends and Family-

It's been a busy and happy year. Linda continues to fly to California every 4 to 8 weeks to visit her mom in memory care and to deal with the small mountain of estate issues. She deeply thanks her support team of friends and family that help her with this! It became apparent in the Spring that the original memory care facility (which had been sold) was no longer up to snuff. After an extensive tour of replacement locations (often depressing!) she got her mom resettled in Sunrise of Westlake Village in June – very challenging to organize a move from the other side of the country! But Sunrise is just wonderful, with beautiful views of the Santa Monica Mountains and an incredibly caring staff. Her mom seems very happy and particularly enjoys their visiting musical talent.

For many years, Steve's company, Alcorn McBride, had occupied a series of three adjacent office condominiums that had sort of morphed into a packrat's dream home, plus a remote warehouse. Last year they bought a large standalone building about a mile from the original offices. Now fully remodeled, everyone is under one roof. Best of all an *incredible* Tiki bar has been installed off the foyer. It's become a favorite place for employees and customers to hang out.

The most momentous news of 2019 was that our daughter, Dani, married the love of her life, Trish Lawlis, in a touching and very fun ceremony in Chicago on October 4. They each have unquestionably found their soul mate! Before the end of the year they expect to close on a condo of their own, and have kindly asked us to also buy a unit in the same building, so we'll be selling our current place in Chicago and moving a few miles north for some all-new adventures when we visit them.

In the Spring, Dani and Trish visited our friend Pamela in Australia and then toured New Zealand. And in the summer Dani and Steve went on a seven-state road trip to Yellowstone and Mesa Verde.

In November we went on a short Crystal cruise in the Caribbean. It was our first cruise on Crystal and we were pleasantly surprised that when they said "all inclusive" they really meant it!

Dani and Trish are spending their first married Christmas in Chicago so we elected to take a page from John Grisham's *Skipping Christmas* – no giant tree and no giant party. Instead we flew to Yosemite Valley to attend the Bracebridge dinner at the Ahwahnee Hotel – a tradition dating back to 1927 that has always been on our bucket list. What a delight – the hotel dining room is transformed into a massive baronial hall with amazing musical talent including members of the San Francisco Opera company!

Last night we drove to Napa and are staying at Meadowood. As we type, we sit in a beautiful mountain suite overlooking the woods with a wood fire crackling – a perfect setting for Christmas.

We wish you and yours the happiest of holiday seasons!

Warmest regards,

Steve and Linda Alcorn

