We have enjoyed the messages received from many of you and hope this has been a good year for you.

Larry enjoyed singing in four choirs this year, including the Columbia Community College Chorus and with the orchestra at the Bear Valley Music Festival. He had a difficult year with new metastatic neuroendocrine tumors to his bones, including one that caused pelvic fractures. These required two more doses of Peptide Receptor Radioisotope Therapy, direct beam radiation to three tumors in his pelvic bones, surgery to insert three 6-inch screw to stabilize the fractures and reduce pain, and continued PT to strengthen weakened hip muscles.

Elizabeth continues to serve on the county Behavioral Health Board and enjoys regular lunches with old and new friends, devouring scores of books, and knitting for the youngest family members. Her retinal detachment has slowly healed but the stem cell treatment of her arthritic knee has not improved her pain. We have both enjoyed a wonderful community of friends in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Tuolumne County.

The high point of 2024 was the birth of grand-daughter Alanna Serene Marum on March 30th. At 9 months of age now, she is a careful observer, listening and mimicking tones, quick to smile, and curious about textures and sound. Big brother Tristan (4) dotes on her with loving hugs. He attends kindergarten at the Sierra Waldorf School, which we helped start in 1989. He loves everything space and rocketry, complex building projects with his Magna-tiles, and making "chocet chip cookies" with Grandma. We had a special time with Tristan, Alanna, Paul and Cicely at our beach house in Kilifi, Kenya for 6 weeks in May and June. Cicely continues her work as an obstetrician and gynecologist with the Adventist Health Hospital and is an amazing gardener and cook. Paul's work at the Public Health Department has shifted from COVID to investigating trends in suicides and drug overdose deaths in the country in order to inform prevention programs, especially for youth. They work on creative home projects, including a dramatic fish and lily pond and an amazing garden with a 270° view.

Elizabeth's sisters and spouses joined us for Thanksgiving and Jim's 80th birthday and we have just completed a 3-generation Corwin family reunion for Christmas, with nieces and nephews coming from as far as New Zealand, Vancouver, Atlanta and Montana. It was a week-long moveable feast with Cicely's exceptional cooking and up to 24 around the dining tables. We got to know godson Charles' partner Kelly and enjoyed watching all the cousins interact. We also had visits from Patrick and Lucy Muzaale from Uganda with their son Aby (a transplant surgeon at Johns Hopkins), and with Paul and Honey from Denver. In Kenya we were able to see much of our extended African family. Gilbert juggles multiple cooking jobs in Kampala, Uganda but our hopes for a US visit were dashed by a dismissive visa officer. Nicholas works for an insurance company and is progressing on his master's degree in accounting. Josephine left her bank insurance job and is having a complicated pregnancy with a due date in February; their son Nate is now 3. In Kenya, Mirriam has beautified their home outside Nairobi, planting fruit trees and gardening; Julius is in his 3rd year of university studying international relations and Larry finished his 3rd year of high school. Regular WhatsApp calls bring us all closer.

Sonja has been house-sharing with a friend, Emily, and her daughter for most of the year. They enjoy preparing meals together, dog walks, and watching Lyla (now 11 months) grow and develop. Their dogs have become best friends and Sonja's Poppy has welcomed two foster kittens, though Mapenzi (Sonja's cat from Kenya) is skeptical. Sonja had a difficult year health-wise. Genetic testing revealed an abnormal gene for the enzyme that breaks down glycogen into glucose in her liver and muscles (glycogen phosphorylase). Continuous glucose monitoring demonstrates near-daily low blood sugar events, which in hindsight were a likely cause of her childhood migraines and many of her current health issues. She had several Stanford hospitalizations this year, including placement of a gastric and jejunal tube in her abdomen, and she is now self-administering intravenous nutrition and medications at home.

Our orchard produced a bountiful harvest of plums, nectarines, peaches and apples; we made many jars of jam and chutney. We shared much of the fruit with friends who helped us harvest and with our local InterFaith Food Bank that serves over 1000 county residents each month. Mountain lions, coyotes and natural deaths have reduced our herd of alpacas to 10 and chickens to 9, but we appreciate their gifts of eggs and fiber. Our labyrinth and view of the ridges and valleys is a daily salve for us, given the troubles within our country and around the world. We hope that, despite the turmoil and disappointments of 2024, the coming year will bring greater justice and peace at home and abroad, good health, and closer connections with friends and family.



Left to right from top: Alanna at 9 months; Tristan making cookies with Grandma; Alanna drumming with Grandpa; Larry and Tristan working on the tractor; Sonja with Lyla; at our house in Kilifi, Kenya Christmas in Sonora: Cicely, Tristan, Alanna and Paul; Christmas dinner with our extended family