

Happy
Holidays

2024



2024 was a busy and fun-filled year. We didn't do anything together that was quite as epic as our Africa trip in 2023, but that would have been hard to repeat. Unquestionably, the biggest event for us in 2024 was our marriage on May 11th and the subsequent celebration on August 10th. For those that don't know the story, the short version is that Jeff always figured he'd have to be the one to ask Ekko to marry him. Well, Ekko decided to surprise Jeff on Ekko's birthday on January 3rd by bringing home a ring from Tiffany's. Given we are both as old as trees, we decided against the big wedding thing and had the ceremony at our house with just five witnesses. We did have a bigger celebration in August, but the venue was still relatively small so we couldn't invite everybody that we would have liked.





As usual, we also did some traveling together. In March, we were at Eagle Crest (Jeff's parent's place) in Redmond, OR with friends from Vancouver. We visited Tiburon in April with are close friends from Palm Springs. We also did our annual trip to Maui in October with Jeff's brother and sister-in-law. Unfortunately, Jeff's parents were not able to make it this year, but several other good friends were able to make last minute trips over to hang out a bit. There was, of course, some snorkeling, some pickleball, some bocce and a record number of gin and tonics. Finally, we visited Chicago in November to meet up with awesome foodie friends from Michigan. It was an amazing culinary adventure that included two Michelin restaurants, a hole-in-the-wall Thai place and, of course, some deep dish pizza.



Ekko continues to work (for now), although he's increasingly envious of Jeff's galivanting around the country and the world. Is retirement in Ekko's near future? His elbow is doing much better than last year, but he's experiencing a new knee injury that has severely impacted his ability to play tennis. Ultimately, this has resulted in him turning to the dark side and playing more pickleball than tennis. In April, Ekko led his college friends from Thailand on a crazy excursion through California, Nevada and Arizona over a two-week period. Ekko was the DD (and he drove 3,000 miles !). They started and ended in LA while visiting a multitude of places in between (including the Grand Canyon, Zion, Yosemite, Las Vegas, Napa and San Francisco). Ekko has also had to increasingly deal with events back in Thailand. His oldest brother passed away in September and then his younger brother was a victim of flooding in Chiangmai and lost his home. Ekko's mom is now 83 years old and so dealing with the typical aging-parent issues (from half a world away) has also been challenging. Ekko heads out to Thailand on December 8th for about five weeks.





Yes, Jeff still isn't working. It's pretty safe to say that he's permanently retired and not missing the working life whatsoever. Jeff still plays a lot of tennis and is trying hard to stay competitive. The body is cooperating so far. He's also playing more golf than ever and has especially enjoyed being able to play frequently with his brother, Kris. Parring a few holes each round and even throwing in a birdie occasionally keeps Jeff going, although he won't be joining the senior tour anytime soon. Jeff has added a few new morning brain games to his repertoire and as of this writing has a 536-day winning streak with Wordle. Jeff also captained the Northwest Cup Tennis Team (for the final time) with Seattle eking out our third victory in a row over Portland and Vancouver. Jeff hopes to make the team in 2025 (if he's even in town). Jeff did a lot of traveling in 2024. The highlight was a month-long trip to France, Italy and Spain that included a lot of wine tasting, good food and a chance to watch the Running of the Bulls in Pamplona. Jeff also played in tennis tournaments in Phoenix, Los Angeles, Palm Springs, and New York and then went back to New York to watch the US Open with friends from LA and Germany. He spent another week in Redmond, Oregon golfing with his brother. Jeff will be following Ekko to Thailand on December 26th.





Our dog, Xena, had a great 2024 (until she didn't). She totally recovered from the crazy health issues she had in 2023 and was re-gaining weight and apparently doing very well. Unfortunately, in late September she was suddenly sick and passed away on September 24th. We still are not sure what happened, but she was almost 17, so we are so very thankful that we had her in our lives for that long. We are heartbroken and are taking a break from pets for a while. That said, you may be reading some exciting pet updates in our 2025 missive.





Wishing you and yours
a fantabulous 2025!

*Jeff & Ekko
(and Xena and Chili from beyond)*