

Dear Family and Friends:

Once again, another year has passed by quickly and we are preparing to celebrate the holidays with our children here in Tucson. It has been a busy year filled with ups and downs, but we make the best of each situation. Our yearly holiday gives us an opportunity to chronicle the years gone by and let those of you we seldom see know what our family is doing.



Our big adventure this year was our (Hannes, Joyce, Masi, and Kelli) cruise to Nordkap the farthest



northern point in Europe, above the Arctic Circle, and witnessed the summer solace. It was a dream of Hannes to go there and see sights in

Norway, but we also saw the Scottish Isles, Edinburgh and London. Kelli has waited to see London since she missed a trip with her dad because of Covid in 2020.

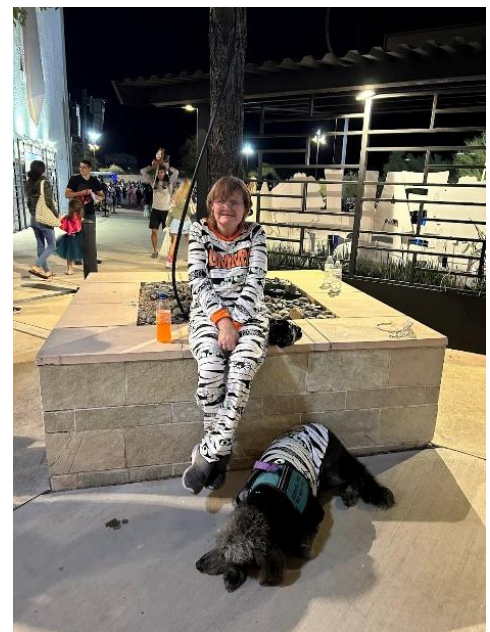


While in Germany we spent a few days with our exchange daughter, Alexandra and her family. We also briefly saw Chris, Stephi, Filiz and Michel. Finally, we had quick stop in Delmenhorst to see our niece and

nephew, plus have a visit with her guest brother Enno, sister Christa and family. Carola and her husband Ekki were also at the evening “grill party” and Carola is the only high school friend Joyce still has contact. We have remained in contact since 1972, but it helps that Hannes was also from Delmenhorst along with his family. Sadly, his parents are no longer among us.

Although some days Hannes likes the feeling of retirement, he would miss the technological challenges he faces as often seen on our Google photos. Aside from work, he is the general fixer-upper of everything that breaks when one owns a home. He takes pride in the 1986 Toyota pick-up that he seems to enjoy making sure it runs. On hot summer days, he enjoys puzzling. Joyce has a full-time job caring for Kelli. Aside from helping Kelli, she is teaching English at the Tucson Refugee Ministry to the point where the students learn enough English to gain employment. Joyce loves teaching, and two mornings a week is therapy for her. She also belongs to a multi-generational book group, and an international educator’s society called Delta Kappa Gama. She started refreshing her Spanish six hundred days ago and now finds she can communicate some with her Spanish speaking students.

Hannes and Joyce still maintain a close connection with their two Afghan families here in Tucson. The Afghans are all flourishing in the community but face the difficulties our administration has put on them. Mujeeb and Nabila both work at the Tucson Refugee Ministry, helping refugees with many resources other agencies stopped when funding was cut, and still waiting for their green cards. Zamir and Marwa, Nabila’s children, are exceling in their education. Fakhria, who came here alone, and Mujeeb became proud parents to little Mariam at the end of August.



Kelli has had some hard knocks this year, and it keeps Hannes and Joyce always adjusting to Kelli's needs. Lucy, her service dog, is very important to her, which is helpful. Kelli goes to several therapies each week, and we all take one day at a time. She misses being able to do the beautiful needle work that she used to do, but the brain just doesn't function like it once did.



Ryan and Charlene's children are growing up fast. Alex is taking a heavy load of science classes for his degree in Pharmacology at the U of A with different ideas of further education in medicine or law. He has a lifeguarding position at a new aquatic center in Marana. Lizzie will graduate in May and is headed to Northern Arizona University to study nursing and surely will be involved in some

dance and singing along the way. She is busy with four AP classes, spirit/pomline, Kids United, and had a starring role in the Christian Youth Theater production as Liesl in the Sound of Music. Dominic thoroughly enjoys band and playing his trombone and guitar. As a sophomore, he was one of the drum majors this year. Charlene completed her master's degree in educational leadership in May and has a new position as assistant principal in a new K-8 school in Marana. Ryan recently received a large promotion at Raytheon for a job he was already doing. As he stated, he now has a real office with a door and windows instead of a cubical. Ryan and Alex play soccer together once a week while Ryan and Dominic enjoy camping. Both the boys help with Ryan's crystal collection adventures for his booth at the Gem and Mineral Show in February.

Annika and family are also very busy. Annika and Luis both work at the same hospital where they originally met. Annika has published two children's books with a third one nearing completion. She has really captured graphic art techniques, as all the books exhibit her talent for art and creativity. Luis



and Annika just celebrated their tenth anniversary in October. Katie graduated from high school and is not sure what she wants to do. But she has a job and can stay at home with her family. We are truly missing the choir performances at her high school. She is very quiet about her vocal ability but made regional choir all four years of high school. Bella is a fifth grader who loves reading, technology, and science. Melanie is in third grade and enjoys her playtime. She is tiny, but mighty, and a strong runner on the cross-country team where she took fourth place out of thirty students.



Masi has a new position as director of the preschool and nursery at the Tucson International School. Gone are the teacher holidays! She continues her Krav Maga, has two black belts, and a blue belt in Jujitsu. She also ran her first marathon in December. Masi usually joins us on our vacations. She is so interested in everything, extremely positive, and

just fun to be around. We try to make our trips a foursome which allows Kelli, a sister, to bunk in with, and Masi is really caring and helpful with Kelli.

Chris and family are in Germany. We saw them shortly in June on our trip, but unfortunately just as Stephi's mother passed away. Stephi is now working with Chris on maintaining wildlife in a certain area close to home. Chris has his business and Stephi still works as a nurse. Filiz will complete her Fach Abitur by June, and we don't know what her future studies will be. Filiz has a good sense for people's needs and a strong desire to further her dreams. Michel is in ninth grade and enjoys activities with his friends.



Our holidays will be quiet and relaxing as Hannes has vacation although he will need to mow the grass. The Tucson family always gets together for Christmas Eve with food and fun. Hannes, Masi, Kelli and Joyce are driving to California to see the Rose Bowl Parade for New Year's Day.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year.



Woof!