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Dear Family and Friends:

Where does one begin to write about 2020! Well, sadly I will begin in 2019. As most of you know, I did not write a letter in 2019 because our family had just suffered the tragic loss of our daughter-in-law, Kristy, in the horrendous Conception boat fire off the coast of Southern California. Kristy was taking a group of divers to the Channel Islands, a regular dive trip for their company. Dan was not with Kristy as he was taking another group to Costa Rica at that time. Suffice it to say, the shock and horror is still with us all. Dan has lost his wife and co-adventurer. Dan and Kristy had completed their amazing trip across the Pacific and returned to the US at the beginning of 2019. They bought a house near South Lake Tahoe and settled in happily to begin developing their company, Worldwide Diving Adventures. We miss Kristy very much. Their company is now struggling with the travel restrictions of COVID.

Earlier in March 2019, a joyous event. Paul and Xue welcomed their first child, a beautiful little girl named Jade. We arrived the weekend that she was born. Because they live less than a mile from our house in San Diego, we see them all very often and love having the opportunity to care for Jade when we are needed.

We started a long transition to move back to California when we bought a house in San Diego in 2017. At first, we wanted to see if we would enjoy living here. WE DO! However, in the winter of 2019, we had some major snow damage to our house in Montana and it took months to get someone to undertake the work to fix it. There is a building boom in Bozeman and no one wanted to do a repair job when they could be building a house!! This delayed us putting the house on the market to sell. We spent the winters of 2019 and 2020 in San Diego and the summers in Bozeman. The repair was finally finished this past summer and we listed the house for sale.

The summer was a good one. There was also joyous news from Kendal and Brandon. They were expecting their first child in November. The garden produced good vegetables. COVID cases were lower in Montana, and we stayed home and just shared time with a small bubble of friends.

On Friday September 4, Gary was alerted to a plume of smoke about two miles to the west of our house. It grew larger, and when we saw flames on the top of the ridge we decided to evacuate. We took some things with us and two vehicles and headed into Bozeman where we stayed with friends. By Saturday morning it appeared that the fire was under control so we went home. Shortly after arriving our local fire department came up and told us that they were very worried about the weather forecast for the afternoon and that we should get out by noon. We feverishly packed up all the things that we had thought about since first leaving, loaded up the vehicles and headed back to our friend's house. By 1:30 the wind was blowing incredibly strongly and the fire took off. By the middle of the afternoon, I called our kids and told them that I was afraid that we were going to lose our house. Gary was a little more optimistic. The fire grew from 40 acres to 7000 acres in 2 hours. The following day we heard that our house and the carriage house had survived but 30 homes around us had not. The fire came within 9 inches of our patio, and burned a significant area of trees. However, it did not jump across the driveway to the other half of our property. While we and the kids had done a lot of work to mitigate the threat of fire in previous years, we owe much to the firefighters, the helicopters dropping water, and to some wonderful neighbors from

across the canyon who came in the night and put out flames that probably would have taken the carriage house. After 5 days we were able to move back into the house.

Three and a half weeks later, we had a wonderful family event: Arthur (AV), our youngest son, married Alixandra (Ali) in a lovely outdoor ceremony just outside Bozeman. They had gotten engaged the weekend before we lost Kristy. Their wedding had to be significantly scaled down because of COVID. The weather on the weekends before and after the wedding was cold. But for their wedding the sun shone, the wind was calm, and the bride and groom were resplendent. Dan performed the ceremony and it was so beautiful. A new career for him!!!! (Not serious). Kendal and Brandon were unable to be there because it was too close to her delivery date, but they, along with many other family members and friends watched a live video stream. Marcus and Paul, Xue and Jade all traveled up, and of course Dan. We missed Sam, Lauren and Allie because of work and school for them.

Ten days after the wedding we packed up a U-Haul trailer and drove to San Diego for the winter. We hope that our house in Montana will sell in the new year.

On November 23, 2020, Kendal and Brandon's baby was born. Arthur Vernon IV (to be known as Ari) arrived after a fairly easy labor, weighing 7 lbs 7 oz. He is a beautiful baby, calm and eats and sleeps well. He seems content to be in this world of ours. We travelled up to see him and to participate in his Bris (Jewish ceremony of naming and circumcision) the week after Thanksgiving. Such a joy to see two more of our children become families and a third one married. Marcus and Sam have led the way with their children for several years. However, it makes our hearts ache for Dan.

Lauren is now 13 and is doing online school full time. Allie is 10 and has had school two days a week but will be doing on line school again in January. How hard for them at ages when friends are so important. We love that they live only a few miles away from us in San Diego and are now into paddle boarding. We are 3 blocks from the beach!! Jade comes often to our house. We love caring for her several afternoons a week while Paul and Xue try to get some work done. Both are mainly working from home and doing so with a toddler is challenging.

That brings us to the political situation in our country. We count the days until January 20 to see a new president installed. We hope to see our country take its place in the world again instead of withdrawing. We hope for an end to the pandemic and a vaccine soon. We have been fortunate that so far none of us have become infected. We worry about AV and Ali, both of whom work in fields (AV is a chef and Ali is the manager of an events facility) where they are unable to work from home. And Sam has to go into work most days as the health and safety manager for a pharmaceutical company. Dan has no work and is hoping to revive the dive business and work as a boat captain. But as a family we can get through this. Our hearts go out to the millions in this world who are so much less fortunate.

And so we send you our love and good wishes for the holidays and for the New Year. As always, we hope for a more peaceful world. Be well and safe. Keep in touch.

Pauline and Gary