

Happy New Year Everyone!

2019 has come and gone without much drama, which is ok with us.

In April David and Brie bought their first home, a townhouse in Union City, CA. He still works for Google in Mountain View. Brie works as a graphic artist in the same general area. They went to Maui in November, where David discovered surfing is not his thing. Eileen paid them a visit in September, when the photo shown here was taken by Brie.



Eileen with David



Rachel looking comfy in her new wheelchair

Rachel finally got her long-awaited new wheelchair and seems pretty happy about it. This one has a seat molded to her body. Most importantly, she sits very comfortably and more upright in it which has dramatically improved her posture and she is able to stay alert for longer periods. Since her scoliosis is officially no longer progressing, she will soon be shedding her TLSO (body brace) and

relying entirely on the chair for proper posturing. Losing the TLSO is going to make her even happier.

Bruce is still healing from his hip surgery in November 2018. He got back on his bicycle in May and resumed commuting to work on it. He quickly realized it was too much too fast, having not ridden since getting a



Bruce's home-converted e-bike



Eileen's e-bike (and Bruce's 1st one)

motorcycle in 2010 and, well, the new hip. So he bought an e-bike (electric pedal-assist bicycle). It's sort of like an electric moped, but Bruce uses it to just provide a little help with pedaling. It makes the

hills and headwinds more manageable, which are the things that tire him the most. He later converted his old bicycle to an e-bike with a better drive system and sold the first one. To get Eileen back into it, he bought her one too. So far, she seems to enjoy it and looks forward to more riding in the spring. Bruce continued commuting into cold weather (down to freezing) until the rains came.

Things are really looking up for Andrew. He got a job with a company that recycles electronic equipment. He has moved out of our house into an apartment. At work he met a wonderful young lady, Oksana, and they have been together since August. They both have been promoted to team lead positions. Andrew believes he can make a career with this employer, though for now he's happy to be on his own with his two adopted cats, Buck and Sam.



Andrew and Oksana

Eileen continues to travel frequently for work. She had what she's calling a "milestone" birthday this year so we celebrated with a 12-day trip to Hawaii and Maui, using lots of Eileen's travel points and miles. This also helped her to get closer to her bucket list goal to visit all 50 states, and now the only remaining ones are Idaho and S. Dakota. In Hawaii, we took a mind-blowing helicopter tour of the big island, drove over half of its perimeter, and attended a luau. In Maui, we mostly just relaxed, but drove the meandering Road to Hana, viewing breathtaking views of lagoons, rainforests, jungles, black sand beaches, and waterfalls. On the last day we finally made it to the beach, where Bruce suffered minor injuries body surfing (must be a family thing).



Eileen and Bruce after the helicopter tour

Andrew's car finally reached the point of no return, so we reimbursed him for all that rent he had paid us by giving him Eileen's 2015 Fusion SE hybrid. It was replaced with a 2019 Fusion Titanium hybrid, pretty much the same car but with nicer appointments. Win-win.



Eileen's New Car

Bruce, Eileen, and Andrew all traveled to New York to visit her cousin, Andy (and Billie), for July 4. Besides just always being a fun and relaxing visit, we also got to see the NYC fireworks from the rooftop of Andy's condo building, offering a full view of the East River with the Brooklyn Bridge in the foreground and the Manhattan skyline in the background. Eileen's high school friend (and now friends with Andy and Billie) also joined us. Just awesome.



Eileen at breakfast in Hawaii



Eileen and Andrew at dinner on his birthday



NYC fireworks from Andy's rooftop

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Happy New Year!
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Bruce, Eileen, David, Andrew, & Rachel



Rachel, happy