

2024 Friends and Family Report

[2024 Family Photos](#) is available online.



This cartoon, which has appeared in the past, seems very appropriate this year.

Jim and Linda

Travels



Gray Whale surfacing between our boat and another

Usually, our friends first question for us is, “Where are you going to travel next?” in 2024, the answer was “Baja California, Colombia, and Texas.”

[Baja California](#) was a fun, short visit. Close up views of very sociable Gray Whales were the highlight.

Cousin Leslie Fuller and good friend Cici Whittle came with us.



CC Whittle Checking Merlin



Leslie Fuller by Floral Dinosaur

[Colombia](#) with [Mark Pretti](#) was a chance to revisit some of the places we went 10 years ago. Most are in much better shape now.

We found this fabulous cat, an *Oncilla*, the highlight, even though it is not a bird.

Oncillas are smaller than typical house cats. This one was wild, not a pet, but had learned that showing off for tourists was rewarding. The hand of our hostess is just out of the image.



Oncilla leaps for her reward



Linda Feeding Tourmaline Sunangel

We also saw many great birds, including this Tourmaline Sunangel hummingbird that was not afraid to eat from the flower Linda held.



Linda and Jim ready for the Eclipse

We returned to Texas to see the Total Solar Eclipse and visit friends and family.

The trip was fun; the Eclipse, a no show. Total described the overcast sky, not the eclipse.

We spent two weeks visiting friends and family in Austin, San Antonio, and Houston, so we enjoyed the trip even if the sky didn't cooperate.

We went with Flo to [visit Casa Mateo](#), a temporary home for

immigrants to Houston. Flo spearheaded the project to convert an Episcopal Church to living and dining spaces and managed to secure financing for it.

More About Jim and Linda

Both of us joined the ranks of *Octogenarians* in 2024. Other milestones included our 58th Anniversary and Jim's 29th *K-Day*.

Linda decided that the occasion needed some documentation and began selecting photos of Jim. Though [*Jim's 80th Birthday Album*](#) is incomplete according to Linda, we offer it to those who are interested.

Linda tried hula lessons at a high school nearby. Decided it was not for people of a certain age.

During the year, Linda had a brush with breast cancer. A routine mammogram turned up a small tumor that was easily removed in a lumpectomy. Unfortunately, the operation found that there was another even smaller one, requiring a second lumpectomy. After that, some radiation, and [Tamoxifen](#) seems to have taken care of the problem, leaving her time to participate in two book clubs.

Not to be outdone on the cancer front, Jim had two more skin cancers removed. One was a basal cell carcinoma on the back of his neck, easily dealt with. More annoying was a [squamous cell carcinoma](#) on the top of his left foot. Both the initial biopsy and the surgery forced temporary abandonment of tennis. Blech. Jim is certain that these cancers are a result of PUVA treatment for psoriasis back in the 1970's and 80's.

Jim made time to write a series of novels about rebuilding society after a global pandemic much worse than Covid. He wrote the first book in 2010 and revised when Covid hit. Now there are four books in **The Remolding Saga**, [available on Amazon](#). You can buy both Kindle and softcover versions on Amazon. If that link doesn't work, try searching for "the other Jim Hargrove."

The idea for the series title comes from a quatrain in The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám

Ah Love! could thou and I with Fate conspire
To grasp this sorry Scheme of Things entire,
Would not we shatter it to bits — and then
Re-mold it nearer to the Heart's Desire!

Book 1: **Hypatia: Reluctant Messiah** covers the establishment of the New Republic of Texas, centered in Austin, of course. Interestingly, there are several other novels with this title, which complicates the search for the book.

Book 2, **Hypatia and Chloe: California Dreaming**, follows Hypatia, the protagonist of Book 1, who finds herself unexpectedly in Boonville California in 1967 and later. Her daughter, Chloe, manages to drive to Boonville in a solar-powered car during the 22nd century.

Book 3: **Chloe: Chloe Herself** follows Chloe as she finds pockets of survivors in far-flung spots, mostly around the Pacific Ocean, and winds up stitching them together. She ends up as Queen of the World, or something like that.

Book 4: **RaraBella: The Random Factor** takes up the tale by following the career of Chloe's daughter, who took the name Ra for herself. She attends The University in Austin and meets the love of her life, Arabella, before having several adventures in the wilderness of eastern North America, where the randomness of the Universe asserts itself.

Philo ADU

The new structure at *Rancho Relaxo*, Claire and Ron's property near Philo, is ready finally, though with a few items that still need attention. It has two main parts, and an attic/loft:

1. An ADU, (Auxiliary Dwelling Unit), that is about the same size as our condo unit in San Francisco, but with a completely different floor plan. We've named it Owls Roost.
2. A "toolroom," which is allowed in rural areas. This one has a bar, pool table, game table, and a stage. That's because Ron's "tools" involve music. There is also a "storage room" outfitted as a spare bedroom
3. The Attic, configured as a place for kids to play and sleep, with a secret room behind a bookcase, except the bookcase is one of the few items *needing attention*.

The outline for the document you're reading was created while spending a week there. We also stayed there for Labor Day, Halloween, and Thanksgiving.

Ron and Claire hosted a birthday party in Philo for a 50-year-old friend. Sixty human guests and 4 Black Bears (a mother, a yearling and two cubs from this year) attended.

Here is a [link to the album of photos](#) of Owls Roost and the Music Room.

Charles, Amy, Kai, Kiera

Kai:

Our oldest grandchild entered Puget Sound University in Tacoma, WA, where she is studying math and computer science.

Kiera:

Kiera, a junior in high school, managed to find time to learn [Aerial Rope](#), performing acrobatics on a "smooth rope" made of silk that hangs from the ceiling. She is also in the high school dance troupe, and on the [Ultimate](#) team. Back in the 20th century, this was known as Ultimate Frisbee, sort of like football or rugby without tackling, played with a frisbee.

Charles and Amy:

Charles continues as children's librarian at the Kensington library. He has returned to fencing, with Kai as an occasional opponent.

Amy, meanwhile, finds time off from her work as a Nurse Midwife to teach a Zumba class and perform with the Contra Costa County Chorale. She also helps Marilyn/Mormor (her mother) catalog pictures, belongings and memories

Their entire family spent a vacation in Sweden and Denmark so the kids could practice Danish and visit family.

As usual, Charles and Amy hosted their Annual Iron Chef Party, always a highlight of the holiday season. We were lucky this year and had *pecans* as our ingredient, a pleasant surprise after Tobiko, Taro, and Mangosteen. We made three different cookie recipes, including one savory one with cheese, and some spicy pecans. This garnered us more votes than our typical 1, which Jim always gives himself.

Ron, Claire, Scarlet, Nico

Scarlet:

Scarlet, then in the sixth grade, astonished everyone on Pi Day (3/14, of course), by reciting the first **173** digits of π , beating last year's champion, an eighth grader, who managed only 70 something. This year, she is shooting for 314 digits. She loves math and frequently asks Grandad for a problem to solve. You may want to try your hand at proving the Pythagorean Theorem using [Garfield's proof](#), one of the exercises.

She also loves crocheting.

Scarlet would love to sell you some [Girl Scout Cookies](#).

Nico:

Our youngest grandchild, easily the fastest runner in the family, used speed to advantage on the soccer pitch. Though mostly playing defense, he scored a goal in one of the matches and continues to improve.

The entire family enjoys skiing, but no one else can match Nico's daredevil style on the slopes.

When back in San Francisco, both Scarlet and Nico love "[Bouldering](#)," climbing a wall without the use of ropes or harnesses. This was an event in the recent Olympics.



Nico making gnocchi from scratch

Nico, following male role models in the family, shows an interest in cooking. This deserves a photo, don't you think?

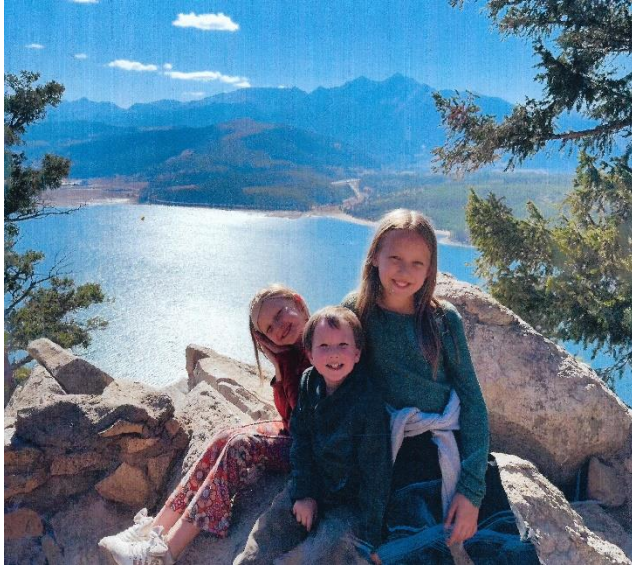
Ron:

Ron enjoys playing guitar in a local band, Light Chain, which released their first album in 2024. He hasn't quit his day job at [White Oak](#) but if you checked out the photos of Owls Roost, you'll notice that the "toolroom" side of the new structure has a stage and accoutrements for performances.

Claire:

Claire completed a full year as a self-employed pediatric anesthesiologist. She still works at the Children's Hospital in Oakland as per diem, but now she doesn't have work nights or weekends. Her main deal is working at dentist's offices, when they have patients that need something more than a local anesthetic.

Visitors, etc.



Marley, Bailey, and Lennox Arnold

Rachel Todd, our foster-grandchild visited with her three children, Marley, Bailey, and Lennox, so we sort of have great-grandchildren. This photo of the kids was taken by Rachel, who has a portrait photography business.

Jesse and Adelaide Moorman, Linda's cousins tested the sleeping arrangements at Owls Roost over Labor Day and found them acceptable

We visited Linda's cousin, Eliza Moorman Wright and Tom Wright in LA. Cousins Jesse and Adelaide Moorman joined us for a family portrait.



Adelaide Moorman, Jim, Eliza and Tom Wright, Linda, Jesse Moorman



Suzanne Saul as Picnic Lunch

Suzanne Saul, a neighbor on Balmoral Dr in Oakland, joined us for a Halloween Weekend trip to Philo. Her costume, "Picnic Lunch," won a prize at The Grange in Philo.

We had a crowd for Thanksgiving with the Stoddards, who own the place next door to Rancho Relaxo.

After a spirited game of Pétanque, we used their kitchen to cook the turkey and eat a typical huge feast. Here is Ron with the turkey he roasted.



Ron with Thanksgiving Turkey

Our old friend Tish Paul and her grandson, Preston, stopped for a visit on the way home to Houston from [Vachon Island in Puget Sound](#). Tish and husband Horst also joined us in San Antonio for the Eclipse, but noting the weather forecast and expected traffic left early.



Leslie Bloch and Linda by Salesforce Tower

An old friend from Columbia days, Leslie Bloch, spent a day with Linda roaming around San Francisco. Jim borrowed the Bloch name for the eponymous mathematician who proved the fictional Bloch's Paradox that figures prominently in Jim's novels. The Paradox states that Time Travel is impossible, unless it has already occurred. Then it is inevitable.

As always, we welcome you to visit us, either in San Francisco or Philo.

Jim's Afterword:

While finding a copy of the quotation from Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám, I noticed this quatrain, which I like. Actually, I like a lot of the Rubáiyát.

Oh threats of Hell and Hopes of Paradise!
One thing at least is certain — *This* Life flies;
One thing is certain and the rest is Lies —
The Flower that once has blown forever dies.