



MADDISON FAMILY HOLIDAY TIMES

Christmas 2017

Yes, yes, yes... another year....!

What? No way. It's not already Christmas again... is it?

OK, ok, I give up, it's going to happen regardless, so here goes 2017 for you...

Last year ended with a wonderful trip to Michigan over Christmas to visit the relatives there.

Late winter found us having a great time hosting a student from France and braving traffic jams to see the spectacular wildflowers in Anza Borrego Desert.

Patty continued working at her job as a contractor handling document control for a drug company, and Todd spent the year as usual— working on “everything that can be worked on” around the house and elsewhere.

The fireplace was finally re-tiled (and we now have a real mantel-piece), Mark came to visit to provide some essential help in the Fence Project (a few hundred feet of fencing was built...) Stucco

walls were painted, the gazebo over the patio refinished, the rental house in Seattle mostly repainted, and—finally—the kitchen countertops replaced!

Todd continued on with the school district involvement—as “parent representative” on the district’s budget committee, co-leader of the Parent Advisory Committee, vice-chair of the high school’s site council, and occasional pain in the rear at Board meetings...

Patty continued to be involved in “everything the girls are doing” (which keeps expanding) to keep them on the right path.

Mary appeared in more theatre productions—including both Lion King and Hairspray. She also got her first paycheck—for working as part of the backstage crew for the Moonlight Youth Theater...

Katherine’s GS troop received their Silver Award for last year’s

aquaponics project. She’s doing great in High School (of course), involved in the Model UN program, and was elected as a student rep for the school site council this year.

Anna continued onward and upward going into her second year lifeguarding on Camp Pendleton while carrying on with her involvement in Model UN, studying for every test known to man, scoring exceptionally well on her SAT’s (she made her goal, which was to beat her Dad’s score..), and diving into the college selection and application process.

Travel? Vegas (to meet up with the Schwegman siblings and cousins!) in the spring, Seattle (for rental fix-up), and then while our world-traveler Anna spent a couple weeks in Italy, Todd and

the younger two spent some time in Minnesota at the cabin.

A trip to Yellowstone—for Therese’s birthday (and, oh, that little solar eclipse thing) was a highlight of the year, something Todd had been planning for many years... If you missed it this time, start planning for 2024 now!

Todd was also able to spend a couple weeks between Berlin, Dresden and Prague in the fall, testing his “how cheap can you go” travel plans...

Next year? Anna leaves for college!

Oh my!



Yup, it's not only Lake Woebe-gon where all the kids are above average....

Anna continues to work on being smarter than her dad and mom, blazing the trail for the other two. Near the top of her class, Honor Society, great SAT and ACT's, involved in various clubs and organizations, and working too... Whew.

Katherine is hot on her trail, following the same path both academically

Girls Still Above Average....

and in outside involvement—also in the Model United Nations as well as joining in on her own range of clubs.



Mary? Inducted into the Junior Honor Society, shooting for that 4.0 award, involved in leadership in the ASB, volunteering for everything she can and still hopping from theatre production to production.

We get tired just looking at their calendars...



Visitations!



The Grandmas made their way to Oceanside during the year, with Marilyn arriving in April for a spring visit, then again in August to celebrate Patty's 50th.

Judy travelled out for both theatre productions Mary was in this year, the Lion King in May as well as Hairspray in November.

Uncle Mark made an appearance, as a subcontractor on the Fence Project, in March!



And a highlight of the year - the entire Schwegman sibling group came out to say “surprise!” at Patty’s 50th!



Birthdays!



Mary made it to teenager-dom this year,. Or maybe she turned

21. Or.... at least she thinks so. Next up in 2018? High school!



Katherine clicked over to 15 this year, became a sophomore, and will start driving soon. Look out, world!

Anna just kept going, turning 17 this summer, having a birthday get-together with her friends immediately after the end of the school

year and right before leaving for her trip to Italy... College next year!



Patty turns...

Well, we won't say it (and she continues to look "not a day over 30..") but we had some great parties. Our neighbors put on a giant gathering of pretty much "everyone in Oceanside" and her family hatched a plan to all visit San Diego for a surprise!



To Italy!

At the end of 2016, one of Anna's best friends in San Diego's dad was transferred—to Italy, near Venice.

Which provided a great excuse to travel, of course...

In June Anna and her friend Hannah boarded the plane and travelled there to spend some time with Genesis and her family!

They had a great time, not only nearby in Venice but also in visiting other parts of Italy as well.

Her Mom and Dad are extremely jealous.

Regardless, she's going to rub it in this Christmas, with a trip to Paris (again with Hannah) to stay with the family of the French student we hosted earlier this year.

Her Mom and Dad are extremely jealous. Again.



While Anna was in Italy, the opportunity came up for Todd, Katherine, and Mary to make a little trip to Minnesota.

We had a great time in Bloomington with Grandma Judy and Uncle Mark, stopped off to visit with Grandpa Harry, and then spent



most of a week at the cabin on Namakan.

Visiting with cousins Beth and Alan, getting in some

... and Minnesota!

tubing time, watching the annual 4th of July Parade in Crane Lake, a visit to the Ellsworth



Rock Garden, the usual beautiful sunsets....



All topped off by one of the most incredible lightning storms ever!



... and Germany/Czech Republic



We've never been high-maintenance travelers—the point is to be there, not to stay in 5 star hotels—but Todd had an opportunity this fall to test some options for inexpensive travel and jumped.

Google's "find me the cheapest flights anywhere" tool pointed at Berlin, and since this is somewhere Patty has been already but Todd not, tickets were bought!

Berlin, Dresden, and Prague were on the agenda, with long enough stays in each to

have enough time for flexibility, and Todd just "winged it" from there, staying in hostels and AirBNB throughout. That worked well—his roommates and hosts were great.

The occasionally-increment weather made it perfect (for Todd) as well. No crowds—and with all the historic places to see (and a "Museum of Math/Physics" in Dresden and "Technical Museum" in Prague), who could ask for anything more?

More pictures are [here](#), for anyone interested...



Eclipse!

So.... Way back in maybe 2012, Todd marked the family calendar for August 21st, 2017—and started planning...

In 2016 that planning kicked into high gear, and thanks to some great help from the Gallaghers in Seattle those plans hatched—Yellowstone/Grand Tetons for the Eclipse! (and Therese's birthday, of course....)

The Maddisons wound their way up from San Diego over the course of several days, stopping at various sights along the way, including the Valley of Fire, Kolob Canyon, a day in Salt Lake at the Olympic Center, picking up an RV trailer there and then a swim in the Salt Lake. Stopping in the Tetons for a few days, we met up with the Kiefers, who were on the tail end of a months-long adventure in the Airstream, then moved on to Yellowstone to camp with the Seattle group.

The day before the eclipse we moved the RV to the spot on the map that Todd had chosen long ago, just off I-15 north of Idaho Falls.

It was a beautiful clear day, the eclipse was, of course, an awesome thing that no one in their right mind would miss. !

We're now planning for 2024, where will YOU be? For more pictures, go [here](#)...



Theater!

With Katherine occupied in high school clubs and sports, the theatrical side of the Maddison family is being upheld by Mary – who is, of course, involved in everything.

Continuing to participate in the Glee show choir, taking the part of Shenzi (the leader of the nefarious hyenas) in The Lion King, and then another role in Hairspray in the fall...

Combined with her “backstage” work as an assistant choreographer for the Star Kids, costume intern and backstage crew for various Moonlight Amphitheater products, and volunteer on “Annie” as well as the Glee Christmas volunteer shows for retirement homes and other groups...

And Todd has gotten a bit more involved as well, now shooting the PR photos for the Star Kids and Glee as well as various photos for other Star productions...

More pictures from various productions [here](#)....



Sports!

Anna continued on with the high school swim team this year, doing well and lettering again. She's now “warming up” for the next swim season doing lap time at the local YWCA.

Katherine joined the swim team in the spring as well, and continued on with tennis in the fall, lettering in both.

The Year in Pictures...

(for more pictures from 2017, click [here...](#))



*May Peace and Love fill your Hearts in 2018!
The Maddison Family*

www.maddisonweb.com/xmas for this and prior editions...