

Ex employer now struggling to get by without me.



Roger, Dot, Marv, Helen, David, Susan, Jim & Alice (March)



Jim & Emma (March, Tucson)



It's a Girl (August, Phoenix)



The ceremony... and the next day (October, Palm Springs)



January 2017

Dear friends & family,

Please excuse the tardiness of this holiday letter. My theory that leaving the country for the holidays (see below) would make them go away proved illusory, so here is my news of 2016.

The chief item on the work front this year is that we are done with all that. I stopped working in March, and I now call it retirement, though the move was not without external encouragement. Looking back on my almost 8 years with Accenture/Fjord: I worked on 33 projects and traveled to 20 cities for projects ranging from 1 day to 9 months. It was a good run, but a time comes when improving usability for yet another evil empire multinational no longer inspires.

I always thought I'd be bored in retirement, but so far, not so. I've done a couple small projects, and I'm spending more time with the Historical Society (even agreeing to be president of the board). Also, I've written an article about my early Eames days that I hope will be published this year. For daily distractions, I find that email, Facebook, Instagram, Flipbook, Quora, and other sources of clickbait, fake news and calamitous predictions — all this easily stretches to a late lunch. Then it's time for a nap, leaving only a modest amount of time before cocktail hour! We'll see how long I can keep this up.

On the family front, stuff has been happening. In March, Alice bravely joined a reunion of the four Hoekema siblings (Dot, Jim, David, Helen) in Tucson, AZ. (Gold stars for tolerance go to Roger, Marv, Alice and Susan). Daughter Emma joined us from Phoenix, quietly dropping the news that she was pregnant — with unavoidable implications that I might become a grandparent. This was followed in August with a "Gender Reveal Party" (this is a thing now) where she, partner Ryan, and the rest of us learned the baby's gender. (Only the mothers knew before.)

Then it was Sanford's turn. After going back and forth (geographically and otherwise) for years, Sanford and Courtney (nee McEntire, of Phoenix) declared they were getting married, and then actually did so! Both gifted with an individual sense of style, they exchanged vows on Halloween weekend at a botanical garden in Palm Springs, with catering from In-and-Out Burger! We stopped by the next day before they led hardcore partygoers to Disneyland, on their way home to Encinitas, CA.

Before and after the wedding, Alice and I took a few days in Los Angeles to see friends and family (hers, mine, and ex) as well as a few sights like the Broad museum. We had dinner with Alice's "ex" Philip, and two days before the wedding, while waiting for Alice's son Newton at Philippe's (old L.A. restaurant famous for French Dip sandwiches), my "ex" Wendy appeared, making her only stop from LAX to the wedding venue in Palm Springs.



Lost in a sea of pumpkins



Alice and Hannah in New York, May



Emma, Ryan & Parker Rae. Parker at about 3 weeks.



Just outside of Haarlem

Alice and I continue to enjoy living in the Hudson Valley, with the ever changing, always beautiful Hudson River never far from view. Even Newburgh, for all its urban issues, seems to be finally turning a corner. Younger people getting priced out of Brooklyn and Manhattan are showing up here to find creative studio space or fix up one of the hundreds of 19th-century houses that can be had for a fraction of what such places cost in New York City. We now have friends who own restaurants and wine stores on Liberty Street, just a few blocks' walk from home. This place is getting so hip, we'll need to leave before long!

Alice has enjoyed a productive year in her bookbinding studio, binding old and new books, doing restorations, and creating special editions and artist portfolios. She taught again at the New Paltz campus of the State University of New York (SUNY). Not one to rest on present laurels, she took some specialized workshops from master bookbinders in Boston (handy for visiting son Winston) and in North Carolina.

Alice's daughter Hannah earned her M.A. in furniture design at Cranbrook Academy of Art in May. We went the ceremonies in Detroit and helped her move back to Chicago, but her plans changed when a long-running relationship suddenly came undone. After visiting friends and participating in a couple of exhibitions, she decided to decamp in Newburgh for a while, so we happily see a lot of her (and I get to enjoy her culinary skills).

In September I tagged along with Alice to her annual bookbinding conference. This year it was in Charleston NC, which we combined with a visit with friends in Savannah.

On the 12th of December, Emma gave birth to Parker Rae Marshall at a healthy 8lbs 9oz and 20.75 inches. (Did my genes exert a mysterious influence?) She and Ryan are wildly happy – all are doing well.

Finally, the excuse for missing holiday deadlines: From mid-December to early January, Alice and I traveled to the UK and the Netherlands. Mostly together, but with some solo travel, we visited friends and a few museums in London; celebrated Christmas with Dot & Roger and family in Macclesfield; then saw the sights and visited cousins & friends in Amsterdam, Haarlem, and Den Haag — including a lovely drive in the country with cousin Wouter; and finally returned to London for a few days before heading home. A detailed account with pictures would require several pages, but we had a grand time.

As for news of the world, the less said the better!

Jim (& Alice)