

## Christmas 2025

It's been another busy year. It started off with the Rose Parade and horses in our neighborhood, and then the Eaton fire came around. We were up at Lake Arrowhead that night, and it felt weird seeing the fire on the TV news and thinking that we didn't know we were evacuating when we'd left to go up there. The next morning, our neighbors sent us a photo of our house still standing. The driveway gate was broken down, and there were boot prints melted into our roof, but the firefighters stopped the fire spread 40 feet before our house. We came home a couple days later just to pick up some things from the house and went back to the mountain. We basically camped out there for a week before coming home. The house smelled a bit of smoke, but the new windows we had really saved us. We mopped the floors, washed the walls and bedding, and aired it out thoroughly, and we got the smell out. Three houses on our block had burned, and as of this writing, there are still a few families not back in their houses. Overall, we were pretty lucky.

Stan had cataract surgery this year. Now with new lenses, he can see without glasses for the first time since he was 9 years old. And the lenses came complete with a little card for each saying who made them, when they were implanted, the power, and even the serial number. Just like the replicants in "Blade Runner".

We're both pretty happy now that all three of our kids are back in southern California. Trinh and her husband Shiraz recently moved back to the LA area after a short spell in Chicago. They are renting out their house in Georgia, but aren't sure they'll return to live there. Melissa and her boyfriend Kyle are living in Carlsbad, and they hosted Thanksgiving for both of their families at their place. Stan bought a small condo in Alhambra for Lucinda to live in, so she's set up now. Like our mountain house, she should build a shrine to the iPhone, since it's the reason we can do things like that for her.

Other adventures included the Cats exhibit at the Natural History Museum, a 3-D screening of "It Came from Outer Space", and the "No Kings" protest. We also got to go to the neighborhood reception at the Rose Parade headquarters, and the Museum of Illusions in Santa Monica. In the mountains, we went to Big Bear Zoo, and we both rode in the Tour de Big Bear bike ride. We also went to Disneyland several times, although we may be done with that, since it's just too crowded now. Stan also went to two tattoo conventions, feeling a bit like a tribal elder there. And Kathleen took a class to learn watercolor painting, which she does in the woods at our Lake Arrowhead house.

Hope you had a good year, and best wishes for 2026.