

The Times of Our Lives



So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (*Psalm 90:12*)... Dates on the calendar marking the milestones of our lives serve to remind us of the passing of time. Who could have ever imagined that *The Times* would reach the 20-year mark, and yet here we are. The first markers seem to move at a snail's pace. Then they seem to quicken their step with every significant date passed. Birth, first tooth, first steps, first day in school, high school graduation, college graduation, first job, and on the clock ticks. In essence, it also appears to make each milestone of life a significant appointment with God. Let the calendar be your friend, numbering your days of sojourn so that you look upon each day, milestone or not, with an anticipation of recognizing the experiences God sends you of His grace. Be sure to include Him in your celebrations of each milestone. He has extended this life to you, it is for you to display its full meaning and His purpose. **Happy holidays from Mannie, John, Samantha, Justin & Leo!**

What Do We Do Now?

John and Mannie have been enjoying the empty nest for nearly four years now and their calendars have been fuller than ever. Mannie continued her short work-related trips – this time to Charlotte, Savannah, Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, and Boston. John traveled with her to Beantown to stand in awe of the Green Monster at Fenway Park, of course, among others.

For John, he is in his 5th year writing [newsletters](#) for Xceleration Volleyball

Club, and he is also keeping its [website](#) up-to-date – check it out! Tournament travel in 2017 took John to Salt Lake City, Denver, Long Beach and Orlando, but he expects it taper down in 2018.

The couple also filled their weekends hosting friends and family in the Napa Valley once (or more) per month during the year. The count of wineries visited is now more than 20% of the roughly 500+ vineyards in the Valley. Cheers!

Mission (Almost) Accomplished!

Since Fall 2017, Samantha has been employed as a Front Desk Associate at the Hampton Inn & Suites Flagstaff East while a full-time student at Northern Arizona University (NAU). Here she is applying her prior work experience as an intern with Leftwich Event Specialists (thanks, Normie!) in various events in San Francisco during the summer and at Renaissance Westchester two summers ago.

Samantha also continued to serve in an executive capacity as Vice President of the

Da Big Island!

Soaring on ziplines over waterfalls and gliding on Segways through verdant rainforests were part of the Big Island adventures in 2017.

NAU chapter of the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality. She joined a contingent that represented NAU at the society's annual national conference held in Jacksonville earlier this year. On tap for 2018 will be her first visit to Chicago for her final conference attendance.

Samantha will then reach an educational milestone in May 2018. She will get her B.S. in Hotel and Restaurant Management from the W.A. Franke College of Business at NAU.

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In Holy Matrimony... then the Party Continued at Sea!

The foursome celebrated the marriage of Rex and Nicole (John's niece and first cousins to Sam and Justin) in Tampa, and then set sail on a brief cruise to Nassau and Coco Cay in the Bahamas for a Thanksgiving at sea with family friends, the Pinedas.

Promoted!

Justin remains a Scottsdale resident and completed his first year with TEK Systems, where he has advanced to Account Manager. He stays connected with his fraternity brothers and is always looking for opportunities to move around within or out of the industry... ah, these millennials!

10 Jobs, 1 Company

"Affordability" is the new buzzword at PG&E, and John once again survived two rounds of staff reductions in 2017, "Rats!," he said.

John was grateful and thankful, however, as his timeline and major milestone at the company is at a minimum about 18 months away when his eligibility to start collecting his pension kicks in after 35 years of service. During that span, John has held many roles (10 jobs to be exact), including his latest position that started this Spring in the Enterprise Project Management Office. There he writes, edits, and works with project managers to develop business cases on major capital projects prior to senior management's approval.

Underwater Bubble

While Mannie and John chilled in Nassau, Justin and Sam snorkeled. At Stuart Cove, they also popped their heads into large clear bubble helmets and piloted battery-powered scooters (or personal subs) while surrounded by sea life.



Not them; they didn't take pics! ☺

Disaster struck PG&E once again when the North Bay Wildfires scorched more than 245,000 acres near the wine country. Though no official cause of the conflagration has yet been determined, finger-pointing at those with deep pockets is unavoidable, throwing affordability out the door, but opportunities will be plentiful.

2018 Preview

2018 will be another milestone year. Planned on the calendar are visits to Maui after the New Year; Portland for a Valentine's Day matchup between the Dubs and Blazers; the Holy Land to walk where Jesus walked for a 25th wedding anniversary celebration, and Flagstaff for Sam's graduation. And we have to include everyone in the family... Leo will be 12!



Movin' On Up!

Justin is moving up at TEK Systems, Inc. He has been promoted to Account Manager and assigned several major clients that include Safeway grocery stores, P.F. Chang's restaurants, and PetSmart. He is now overseeing nearly 25 technical recruiters in the Phoenix and Scottsdale areas.

We hope 2017 has been good to you, and that 2018 will be even better! Mannie, John, Samantha, Justin & Leo

