

The Times of Our Lives



So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31)... A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance (Ecclesiastes 3:4). We provide two verses as the year was filled with celebrations and heartaches. The first day of 2018 started with our beloved best friend Leo going to heaven. We were then afforded many blessings and celebrated a few milestones in our lives, while remembering always to thank Him for these gifts. Before we step into 2019, we reflect on these bounties in the 21st annual edition of *The Times*. We are blessed beyond belief, grateful beyond words, and thankful for all HE does! We wish that your holidays are filled with lots of love, joy, and warmth with your families!
Mannie, John, Samantha & Justin

Celebrating Marriage

In the spring, Mannie and John celebrated 25 years of marriage with a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, in places we often read about, such as Bethlehem, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Jordan River, and Jerusalem where the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Temple Mount and the Western Wall provided the highlights.

Vows Renewed at the Wedding Church

The transformation of water into wine at the **Wedding at Cana** is the first miracle attributed to Jesus in John 2:1-11. Mannie & John renewed their wedding vows with Father Bart Hutcherson.



“The trek through the desert into Jordan to visit the archaeological city of Petra (think Sean Connery and Harrison Ford riding into the sunset at the end of Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade) and floating on the Dead Sea were wonderful memories of the trip as well,” said John.

The couple bookended the pilgrimage with a quick visits to Maui and Portland (to watch the Dubs get creamed by the Blazers) earlier during the year and an R&R in Kauai to get the golf juices flowing once again.

Mannie said, “Kauai always holds a special place in our hearts. Kayaking the Wailua River, sloshing through knee-deep in mud, and crossing rivers guided by a tow line to get to Secret Falls never gets old.”

Lumberjack Alum Heads to the Woods

Samantha was hired into Aramark's Accelerate to Leadership (A2L) Program after graduating from NAU; A2L is an early leader development program that targets recent college graduates and is designed to provide the tools and resources they'll need to successfully learn the business and set themselves on an accelerated path to a leadership role in the organization! She elected to work at Asilomar Conference Grounds, a National Historic Landmark on the western tip of the Monterey Peninsula in Pacific Grove, CA. The center was opened in 1913 for the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and famed California architect Julia Morgan designed and built 16 of the buildings on the property, of which 11 are still standing.

Celebrating the Graduate & Employment

In May, Samantha completed her B.S. in Hotel and Restaurant Management from the W.A. Franke College of Business at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. With the immediate family, her grandparents and Auntie Reby joined the celebration as she walked the stage to accept her diploma.

After turning 21 and a short summer break, Sam went immediately to work as an Assistant Front Office Manager for Aramark Corp. at the Asilomar Conference Grounds.





Celebrating Life... and Bay Area Sports Dynasties

Left to right: Comedy Night is part of college life at Northern Arizona where the comedian Jokoy stopped by to entertain the students. Justin and Sam started the year in Maui before heading back to the desert. The foursome flashes the number of championship titles each earned by the Golden State Warriors and San Francisco Giants in the last eight years. The 49ers have a ways to get back to their glory days.

Samantha said, “Having a small studio apartment a stone’s throw away from the beach and minutes from work is a godsend. Living near the picturesque Monterey Peninsula, Carmel, Pebble Beach, 17-Mile Drive, and Big Sur are not bad either. Stop by whenever you’re in the area.”

Celebrating Careers

As Samantha is just beginning her career, Mannie continues her tenure at Jensen Hughes as the Director – Bay Area Operations and is a bit closer to home with the office moving to Concord. Her travel has been limited to Las Vegas and a 1-day trip to Maui this year but expects to pick up in 2019.

John is likely to be at Pacific Gas & Electric for a few more years; however, his countdown has begun (see below). Disaster struck once again when the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history in Butte County followed on the heels of last year’s Napa County fires, bringing challenging times ahead for the company. John will mark 35 years of service at the utility in 2019. He will also begin his 6th year with Xceleration Volleyball Club, working on its various communications needs.

2019 Preview

Who knows what the future holds... but Samantha will decide what avenues to pursue with Aramark after her A2L program in the summer. Justin will follow the roadmap to get him to the next level at TEK, and the couple will continue their positions at Jensen Hughes and PG&E at least through their planned visits to Oslo, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Stockholm, St. Petersburg, and Moscow in 2019. And never too early to plan, Mannie and John have booked to attend the Passion Play at Oberammergau, Germany, in 2020, which is an event held every 10 years since the 1630s.

Time to John’s Earliest Retirement Date	Time to John’s Latest Retirement Date
Countdown Timer 155 09 01 38 <small>DAYS HOURS MINUTE SECONDS</small> <small>Time until Wednesday, May 1, 2019 (San Francisco time)</small>	Countdown Timer 673 08 59 58 <small>DAYS HOURS MINUTES SECONDS</small> <small>Time until Wednesday, September 26, 2020 (San Francisco time)</small>

Justin continues as an Account Manager with TEK Systems in Phoenix to gain more experience and build relationships with existing accounts, including a new one assigned to him this year – American Express. He still longs to return to the Bay Area, however, and hopefully land with one of the big Silicon Valley players, which he has pursued of late, unless other opportunities come up at TEK. “All I can do right now is to continue to do my job, as well as I can, to the best of my ability, and things will eventually fall into place,” Justin said.



Fun Times at TEK

Top: Who would have thought that a simple summer job getting students to go to Spring Break events at Lake Havasu would lead to recruiting IT professionals... Justin and friends at TEK won the local kickball tournament this summer.