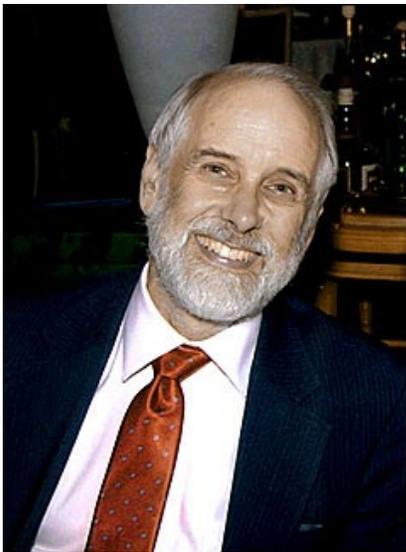


Dear family and friends,

Well, here we are with Christmas again upon us, so your chronicler had better get a move on and write and mail this epistle before Epiphany closes out the season. We've been here before about this time of year – too many times, in fact, to count.

Again this year your chronicler offers a brief abstract of our year so you can skip to the end if you don't want to read the details. (If you want to see even more, you can again visit family websites, some of which are up to date: joe.jaquette.net, dan.jaquette.net, and stratton.jaquette.net -- all part of the whole of jaquette.net.) Working backwards, Joseph & Rachel and Daniel & Ellen came to Los Altos for Christmas. Roughly early October, Stratton cruised with Punahou classmates from NYC up to Canada for 10 days, which were a lot of fun, except for a couple of minutes in Peggy's Cove when he fell and smashed into granite, breaking teeth, etc. Before that, Stratton was in Maine for a month 'working' and on vacation. Prior to that (early August) all five of us plus other Jaquettes were in Honolulu (and Hilo) for parents' celebration of 180 birthdays at their retirement home. Before that, Joseph & Rachel went to Ohio to visit Kirleys and to UK with friends for exploration beyond to Ireland, and Daniel & Ellen have stayed busy in the midwest, except for 2 grand excursions, below. Now look at a few pictures below, and you have seen it all. --



We can begin with the two family gatherings: (1) All 5 of us were in Hawaii for parts of August 5-12 and the main attraction of John & Margie's celebration of 180 birthdays, as they each turned 90 in August. We 5 plus Peter Jaquettes (Andrea with Elisabeth, Jonathan, and Matthew) were there for the event. We were all put up and the New Otani Kaimana hotel off Diamond Head end of Waikiki, so family, new and old, had a chance to (re)acquaint with each other. To begin, Daniel & Ellen Qualey arrived from Madison to meet with Stratton for 2 days in Hilo, where Stratton got to meet Ellen for the first time, we found rainbow and Akaka Falls, the Tsunami Museum, and hiked all around Kilauea, where even the amateur volcanologist Stratton was impressed by the summit eruption in Halemaumau (actually just gas, steam, and minor ejecta but with huge plume); we hiked via Kilauea Iki into the caldera and again at the foot of the Chain of Craters Road. In Honolulu, we 5 climbed Diamond Head and explored a bit of Stratton's childhood venues in Manoa Valley and Punahou School. The party itself on 8/8/8 was a great success, with Hawaiian trio, a video slide show of John & Margie's lives from age 1 or 2, courtesy Peter, with leis, refreshments, and a grand time for all invitees (family friends and Arcadia residents). Then we had dinner for 12 in the dining room. Stratton stayed on a couple of days to help parents and visit with friends, one of whom provided many rides for him, e.g., airport. (2) For Christmas, Joseph and Daniel came 'home', so we had 5 for Christmas dinner, eve, and morning. Stratton provided stockings and new live tree; Santa

provided the fillings and some presents under the tree. It took all morning to open all the presents and have breakfast, plus start on delivering the Swedish Christmas cookies Stratton baked, as usual (the younger generation prepared all the cookie plates for friends and neighbors, leaving only a few for all of us). -- You can see pictures of these grand fêtes above and on the website.

Now trying to keep this short, your chronicler will slash and cut out, all the other things they have to say, beginning with Stratton. He continues to be unemployed, and the vagaries of the system made him hunt for work and collect weekly checks for over 40 weeks of the year; these paid his first mortgage. The financial collapse affected him, but he is undisturbed, as he can start collecting Social Security anytime he wants to (once he is no longer unemployed and retires). Stratton continues with usual volunteer activities: He was Clerk of Palo Alto Friends Meeting until September 1, was and is Clerk of Pacific Yearly Meeting's Nominating Committee, and still volunteers at Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D, aka Reading for the Blind and Deaf) Mondays and Fridays. He is still active in Friends affairs, including Christian Friends Conference, early morning First Days readings (Robert Barclay's *Catechism* this year) and resumed as Board member of Friends Association of Services for the Elders (FASE) and its retirement community in Santa Rosa (Friends House) – he still clerks the Planning Committee and is Recording Clerk of the Board, still finds the drive long, but continues in this and other service. In May and June, first his garage door collapsed (replaced door & repaired/repainted car) and Modesto Ash in the front, dying, was cut down so he could split it up and stack it for winter warmth. He bought a new camera before the Hawaii trip, so maybe his pictures will now be better, but you won't be able to tell unless he gets them up on his website. In the summer, after Hawaii, he spent a month in Maine, mostly at his Restawhile Cottage on Little Deer Isle. He visited Friends in Waterville again, same to Farnsworth Museum (but this year also going out to the cottage where Christina lived, if you know *Christina's World* by Andrew Wyeth), played bridge at the Island Country Club and tennis twice a week in Open Tennis (see photo of him playing tennis on the website). In late September, he returned home with Sailor to bring him home and see the Bus Barn Stage Company's first play of the season – to keep his attendance at 100% and volunteer as Host – and then turned around to New Jersey to visit brother Peter's new house and cruise to Canada with Punahou classmates and friends. That 10-day cruise was exciting but included two accidents (#1 before we sailed ripping up an arm and #2 falling down and smashing teeth, etc.). We stopped in Boston, Halifax, Quebec City, Charlottetown, and Sydney with side excursions at all stops, often with Punahou friends. He found Quebec City to be most impressive, and he had no mishaps there. See the website for a bit more. Stratton is grateful for family and friends – and his nine and a half year old Sheltie dog, Sailor, who takes him on lots of walks around town and ensures he does almost all his shopping in town on foot. He stayed home for Thanksgiving and fixed a special Turkey loaf.

Daniel continues to live in Madison, Wisconsin, with Ellen Qualey, who is in her 3rd year in law school at UW and also enrolled in the library school, planning then to get both law and library degrees and get a permanent full-time position as a law librarian. (She is already working as a law librarian part time.) Daniel continues to work two jobs: he is assistant director of an after-school program in a Madison Metro school and also works at Capitol Kids ("*In 2008, we were voted Best Kids Store by Isthmus and Capitol Newspaper readers*"), an independent toy shop within easy walking distance of the apartment – a new larger 2-bedroom one since August a block and half away from the former one. During the summer, he worked full time for the school but still worked a bit at the toy store. Daniel continues to make steps settling into Madison by getting a Wisconsin driver's license (still without a car) and by joining a kickball team in the spring and an ultimate Frisbee team in the fall, both of which he hopes to continue once the winter weather passes. Travels have included a wedding of friends, Thanksgiving in Eau Claire with Ellen's parents, and visits to families and friends.

Joseph still works for Integra Telecom in Portland, Oregon, which is still expanding by acquisition, causing more than enough work for Joseph – a systems analyst – along with promotion and more work. He and his household changed further this year, with the last of Joseph's housemates moving out, some minor remodeling, and acquisition of both dog (Bela) and cat (Corgan) from the used pet dispensary. Rachel continues working for Portland Opera in Development. Joseph bicycles to work occasionally, now on his new fancy bike, rides by car with Rachel as she goes on to her east side riverside office sometimes, and works from home sometimes. Joseph and Rachel celebrated with first anniversary on June 23, 2008. A highlight of their trip to UK and environs was finding one of Rachel's ancestral towns in Ireland. They stayed in Portland for Thanksgiving and ended the year with short evening cruise after returning from Christmas in Los Altos.

You already read about Sailor and know that parents John & Margie remain in Honolulu, are still playing some bridge games, and remain busy at Arcadia; the vagaries of life at 90 influence their activities somewhat. Older brother Dave and his wife Anette continue to take long summers in Maine at their house with the rest of the year in southern California and elsewhere in the world, this year including trip(s) to Honolulu [but not in August]. Younger brother Peter and Andrea and youngest son still at home are now in Summit, New Jersey, where he gets to his new job in New York City at PIRA Energy Group by train.

Well, did our chronicler keep it short this year? We all look forward to 2009 – now upon us – and hope that the world's economies recover from the recent American Contagion, that strife and wars will become distant memories, and that we might see you this year, as we miss all of you we haven't seen in the past year ... we think of you as we write this letter! May you be blessed with health & happiness this year and feel God's grace upon you and yours.

*Merry Christmas! and Happy New Year!
Mele Kalikimaka! ame Hauoli Makahiki Hou!*

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