

Reflecting on the Blessings and Challenges of 2014 and Wishing Us all well this Holiday Season and in the New Year.

Many personal moving events took place this year: four weddings of nieces and nephews added well to our family clan. Several passings of loved ones, most notably our dear Mom, Eleanor, who lived in faith and love for almost 98 years.

We are pleased that our children came to know and love *Gramma*, and took the time to visit her. Aimée valued her daughter Lois getting to know her great grandmother. David also introduced his new wife, Eno, to her, and they shared some close moments. In her last days maybe Eleanor didn't know who they were, but one could tell in her eyes



Four generations came together when Patricia, Aimée, and Lois visited Eleanor at home.

that she knew that she was loved and that these people were somehow a part of her life. In her passing we also received the love and support of family and friends, as if this were her parting gift to us. We are grateful for Mom and the many lives she so inspired.

Then, too, there were other events in 2014, some extraordinary, some more mundane, but great or small, they helped define us.

John and Aimée opened up their [Presidio Pizza Company](#) on Divisadero and Pine in San Francisco. John keeps busy with three other businesses. Meanwhile Aimée's non-profit theater company ([FOGG Theatre](#)),



Us with family and friends on opening night of John and Aimée's Presidio Pizza

fostering the arts in The City, had two successful fundraisers. Their first play opens in January. She also auditions for voice-overs and commercials, which she tells us is "like fishing: the more you bait and cast, the better your chances are of catching a fish." We enjoy being included in their lives and taking care of Lois whenever we can--though Patricia treks more to The City than Joe since he has been working on several house projects this year.

David still lives and works in Los Angeles, but finds time to phone us almost daily on his drive to work. His main job is as a software engineer and graphic design artist. He also freelances with other computer related jobs as well as occasionally entertaining at birthday parties as various cartoon or action figure characters. Eno, just won First Place in three Toastmaster's contests, and came in Second in the district-wide event. She has a jewelry business called African Charm, and is quite the businesswoman in her own right.

In addition to her involvement with her spiritual community, Patricia has taken on teaching English to 5-6 Latina women at the Catholic Worker House in Redwood City. She loves it. She also participates in several self improvement organizations.

Joe still helps middle school students with their math homework twice a week at the same site as Patricia. He continues to golf, play tennis, bikes, and do core muscle exercises for ten minutes twice daily to prevent his back injury from recurring. His online [muse-letter](#) for interested friends and family is now in its fourth year.

This year we re-did the backyard, side pathways around the house, and had a stamped driveway put in. When Patricia suggested the putting green, Joe was all over it!



Artificial turf and putting green to conserve on water, avoid gophers, and have fun.

He was involved with [the design](#) and construction of a drainage system which empties into three dry wells under the artificial turf and a putting green. We both worked on the new double-doored gate. So far, all's holding up well in the rain, and the putting green is a real treat, Joe's daily meditation.

From February 28 to March 8 we are touring Oahu, Hawaii, and Maui for 8 days via [RoadScholar](#).



Christmas dinner last year in our home of 42 years. Zoom in on Lois who is practicing her wink.

[Click to view Lois' dance clip.](#)