



# Happy Holidays 2022

JANUARY



Angela, Liya, and Bree corral Jan into leading a family Dungeons & Dragons campaign. Bree keeps things lively with rash but surprisingly lucky decisions.

While washing dishes after dinner, Bree drips a lot of water on the floor. "Now my socks are all wet — Ugh! It's almost like my actions have *consequences*."

Jan spends hours processing hundreds of kiwis from our garden into gallons of kiwi syrup. We like the syrup for kiwi soda, but a little goes a very long way.

FEBRUARY



Before painting over a family room column, Jan records the height markings with which we'd tracked the kids' growth. When the heights are adjusted for age, it becomes clear that Liya has always been the tallest.

Bree enjoys her last year skiing in her K–8 school's all-school winter sports Fridays. Angela and Jan join in to spend the day with other school parents. Jan hits a mogul funny and tears a calf muscle, then hobbles around for weeks.



Angela keeps an apartment in Enumclaw so she can spend occasional nights near work. Bree dubs it "The Mom Cave". After ski season, Angela lets The Mom Cave go in favor of setting up a bedroom in the manse next door to the church.

A big change! Anya announces that they're transgender and begins transitioning. Now using he/him pronouns, he chooses a new name: Evan.



Jan, Angela, and Bree spend the mid-winter break in Maui. We do a nice hike near the summit of the Haleakala volcano. While diving at Molokini, we hear humpback whales singing nearby. Evan's busy at school but is enticed to join us for a long weekend, figuring that it's more fun to study by a pool than in a dorm.

While we're away, our catsitter discovers an exciting water leak pouring into our kitchen. This continues a streak of bad plumbing issues. Multiple plumbers fail to solve the problems until Angela correctly guesses the root cause: our water pressure is too high. Workers confirm the main water pressure valve had failed.

Sabriya and her friends spot a coyote wandering through our backyard. Our cats Mojo and Moxie evade the coyote for a week until he finally moves off.

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Liya comes down with COVID and must spend 10 days in a quarantine dorm.

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Jan visits his friend Bruce, who's doing a work stint in Utrecht, Netherlands. Jan has a wonderful week biking around the cycling and public transit utopia, visiting De Haar Castle, The Hague, pretty parks, and cafés with great coffee.

Bree gets into cosplay: creating outfits to represent specific characters from manga and anime. She attends the Sakura-Con convention in April, cosplaying as an electric superhero from the series *My Hero Academia*. In August she attends Emerald City Comic Con, wearing a different outfit each of the four days.

Her school's Ultimate Frisbee team invites Bree to the Spring Reign tournament. (They need more girls to qualify as a team.) Bree agrees, and her team wins!

Bree's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class travels to Germany and Austria for a 12-day school trip.

Angela's always wanted to see the redwood forests, so while Bree's away, Jan, Angela, and Liya fly to Northern California for a week of redwoods and coastal towns. We stop in Redding to see our friend Siri. Jan makes the dubious decision to enter Redwoods National Park on an obscure back road that gets progressively steeper and rougher until we're relieved to see pavement again. We see redwoods in 4 different parks and they're absolutely amazing each time. An unexpected treat is the magical Fern Canyon in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

Liya travels to Taipei for an intensive Mandarin language program. She and her classmates have a fun summer exploring the city and other parts of Taiwan. Liya posts her illustrated trip journal at [liya.miksovsky.com](http://liya.miksovsky.com).

Bree graduates from middle school. Her class holds a graduation party at Seattle Farm. Jan and another school parent reveal a puzzlehunt they've created for the graduates modeled after *The Amazing Race*. Jan's happy he was able to create a puzzle combining the quadratic formula and the farm's goats.

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Angela completes a two-year program in Spiritual Direction: helping people listen better to God.

Jan spends a week doing a section of the Pacific Northwest Trail that winds across Washington State. An extremely trying day crossing steep snowfields, fast rivers, and acres of blown-down trees provides good practice for an even *more* challenging off-trail hike in August: 5 days in Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park guided by legendary hiker Andrew Skurka. The trip goes deep into remote sections of the immense national park, far from trails and people. Each day the group struggles to make their way off trail over high, rocky passes before dropping down into deep canyons. On balance, they get to swim in unnamed alpine lakes, camp with spectacular views, and eat surprisingly good meals.

Jan's mom, Lyn, has brain surgery to remove two aneurysms that might have induced catastrophic strokes. The surgery is successful, but unfortunately triggers delirium (persistent disorientation) and anterograde amnesia (difficulty forming new memories). Lyn lives with us for two months until the delirium resolves and she can resume living independently. The amnesia stubbornly remains. She's generally happy, but her activities are constrained.

Evan takes jobs helping high school seniors with college essays and serving as a remote English conversation partner for a range of students living in Korea.

Angela has now worked at Community Presbyterian Church in Buckley for over a year. She enjoys meeting people in the community, attending the Buckley Log Show, and growing closer to God with the people in this small, friendly church. Less enjoyable: the church flooded 4 times! She hopes any flooding next year will be more spiritual than literal. You can watch her preach at [cpcbuckley.org](http://cpcbuckley.org) on Sundays at 11:00 am Pacific Time.

Bree turns 15 and begins driving lessons. Bree has been, by far, the most excited of our kids to learn to drive. Later in the year, Liya turns 19 and Evan turns 21.

Angela sees the K-Pop group Stray Kids in concert in Seattle. When she decides that the tickets aren't quite good enough, she attends for a second night.

When Jan and Angela are walking downtown after a date night, Angela stumbles and breaks her foot. She needs surgery and then spends weeks in a plastic boot.

Bree starts high school at a Catholic all-girls academy that she picked for its math curriculum, drama program, and large size. She builds on her cosplay interests by making costumes for student plays; we get to see her work in the fall performance of *Clue*. The senior leading the costuming team says: "Bree, when I come back here in three years, I think you're going to be leading the team!"

Liya and Evan start their sophomore years at Yale and Stanford. Liya ends up tackling a substantial course load — she'd expected to drop a class but likes them all too much and ends up taking them all. She particularly likes biology and declares her major as Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. For the fall term, Evan heads to a Stanford study abroad program in Santiago, Chile.

Jan squeezes in one last backpacking trip to the Olympic Coast to join a nice Japanese couple, Atsushi and Miho, as they complete their thru-hike of the Pacific Northwest Trail. They spend a week with us in Seattle. Looking through the city through tourist eyes reminds us that we live in a beautiful place.

When Angela gets a Sunday off, we head to Langley on Whidbey Island for a weekend that includes a hike at Ebey's Landing and a bunny safari around town.

Four straight months of warm, dry weather lead to several weeks of forest fire smoke. At one point Seattle has the worst air quality of any city in the world.

When Stanford tells its students in Santiago to stay home to avoid political protests in the city — what do you think the students do? Go out in the city in search of unrest to observe, naturally. Some chaos ensues.

Jan flies to Sedona, Arizona, to meet up with Chris for their first brothers' weekend since the pandemic began. It's a beautiful place with perfect fall weather for hikes. A desert bike ride on gravel roads gets gnarlier than expected.

Johnny visits for Thanksgiving — another post-pandemic first. He comes with his younger son, Brian, who's now a junior in high school. We also host our family friend Evrim, now a freshman at Brown University. The holiday becomes complicated when Evrim and Jan both come down with COVID.

And that's all that fits! We post more stories all year at [family.miksovsky.com](http://family.miksovsky.com).