

# ★ ★ ★ ★ Mike & Jane's Annual Report ★ ★ ★ ★

## December, 2023

Back in action! The traditional New Year's Eve gathering of our "Wineaux" Group at our home went off without a hitch, as distinguished from the misfires of the last two years. This crowd has been getting together now for over six years, during which time we have tasted over 160 varieties of grapes (plus Lord knows what else). On to 2023!



*Cribbage Night on the Patio*

And so, in January we went to visit our dear friend Lisa Gregory in Florida, who had moved there to live with her parents and her sister and brother in law, which was quite fun. We got to visit the Salvador Dali museum, which inspired Mike to think about a potential Return of the Moustache, until (thankfully) Jane talked him out of it.

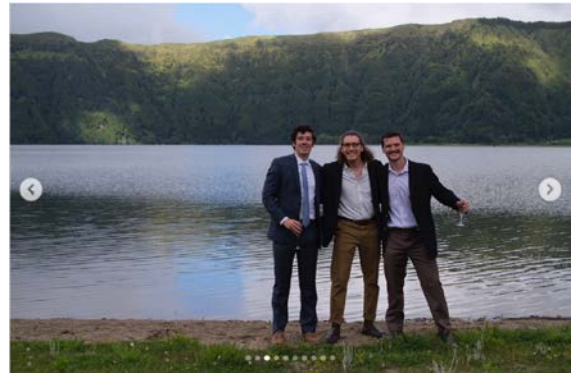


*Somewhere along the way, we discovered monthly whiskey dinners...*

In February, Jane claimed her second family Fantasy Football championship, mainly by cleverly choosing players who did not get hurt. Unfortunately, this year things are not going so well for either of us, but we are still grateful for our co-commissioners, Dave and Michael, who keep it going.

Also in the springtime, we conned our pastor into letting us do some premarital counseling for engaged couples. We've worked with several of them already, who all finished up going "Whew! We're going to be just fine - at least we're not like *them*..."

Re: Dave, it was quite the year for him, having *seven* weddings to attend, plus a bachelor party, scattered all over the place. At least we managed a cribbage game or two on the patio in the middle of all that.



*Dave & Pals in the Azores*

Which leads into this year's theme: the *Canis Annus* (you see, there was a lot of dog sitting). First, Maggie and Michael headed out to Belgium for a wedding of some dear friends, so we hung out with their dogs Pogo and Boomer. In May we got a long stretch with Dave's dog Sylvie while he was in the bridal party for a marriage in the Azores. He came back to be the best man in his friend Brandon's wedding in the Dallas area, and was really honored. We also had another stretch with Pogo and Boomer while Maggie and Michael went off to Sicily and Rome with the Colonna clan, in a trip postponed from 2020. And then was some more time with Sylvie, and moving on to December with Mike's sister Betsy's dogs Daisy and Holly, while she and her husband Cary went with Trish and Michael Zang on a river cruise.



*Bonden and his part time roomies Daisy, Holly, Pogo, Sylvie, Emma, and Boomer*



*With Joe & Renae in Arkansas*

Dave resurfaced later in July, when he and Michael took Mike to a Rangers game out in Arlington. As this turned out to be the year the Rangers finally won the World Series, that made going to a game just that much more memorable.

In August we got to go visit our dear friends Joe and Renae in Arkansas. And in September, we made a trip to Wisconsin and had a wonderful time with Jane's extended family, who trucked in from as far away as Milwaukee... and California, and Spain. Then, another big birthday to celebrate for Mike's sister Katie,

with a trip to Sarasota in Florida; it was great that Jane's cousin Suzanne was able to jump in on a foodie tour with the crew!

Thanksgiving was a wonderful occasion to celebrate along with the Colonna family, Maggie's in-laws. The day after, we headed to one of our longtime favorite restaurants, Masami.

Work stuff: Mike is still continues his legal practice, assuring us that he gains credibility as he ages in the field of estate planning and probate. Jane continues to work in the HALO Initiative supporting Catholic education in Dallas.



*Ladies in Florida*

Michael continues to do well with his company Protiviti and has continued to expand his role. We think this is some sort of record for a millennial to stay at a company for... going on nine years! Maggie finished her post doc research, and began a new role with a nonprofit in Dallas called Research Bridge Partners. She is enjoying her new work which keeps her connected to many research labs, as well



*All the Kesler siblings together!*

as funders who are trying to find the science to best benefit the community. And Dave is doing very well at the Tombras advertising agency, and also received a promotion this year. He was pleased to be part of winning an award for his work with the American Cancer Society.



*With Maggie & Michael at Orchid Show*



*With Mike's sister Trish and nephew Conner at Jeng Chi*

**Here's to a happy and fulfilling 2024: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!**

*Mike & Jane*