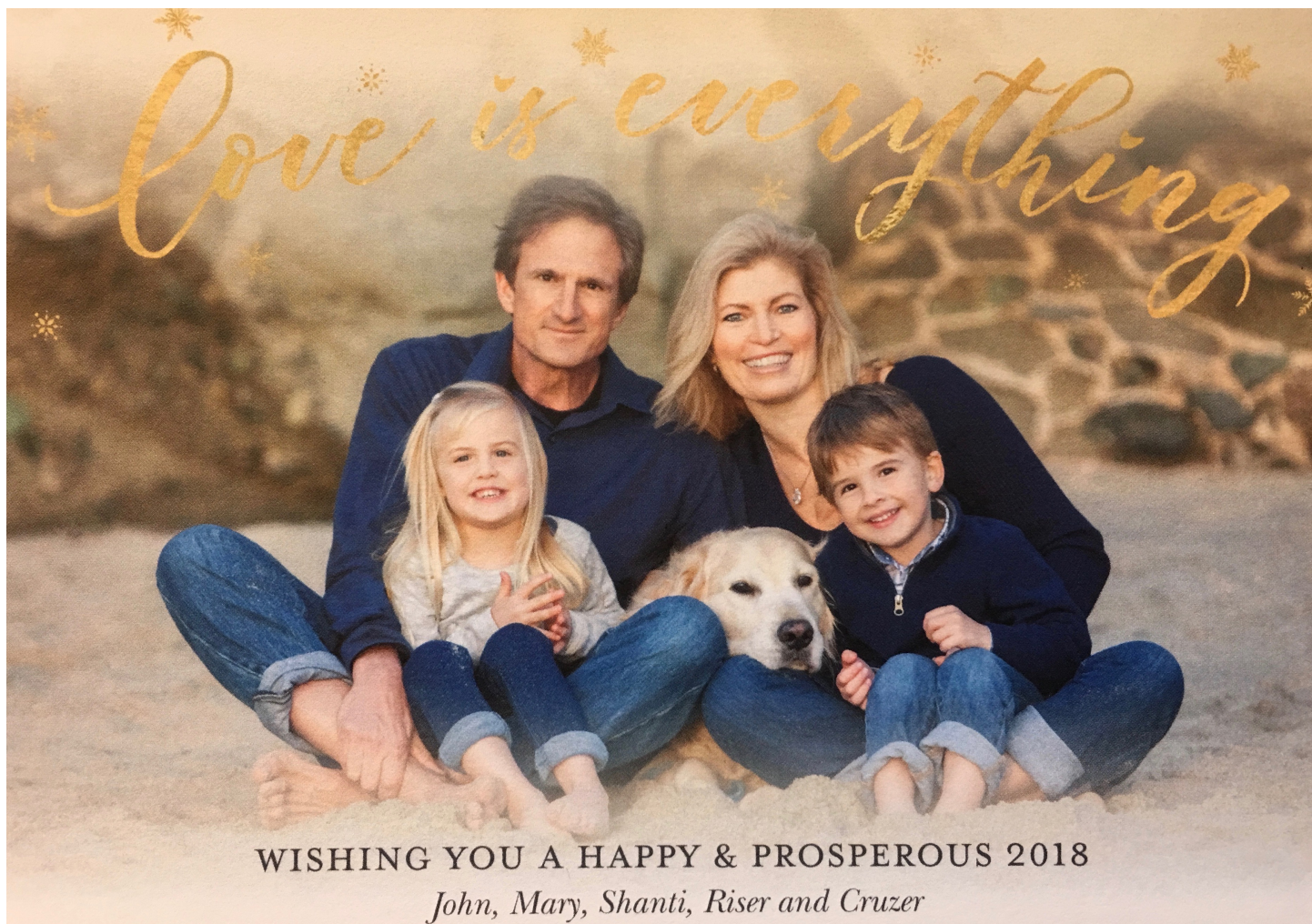




Happy New Year 2018!

Happy New Year! Has it really been 3 years since our last update and holiday card? Oh my. Time flies, doesn't it? I'm delighted to reconnect, share a newsy update, and express our appreciation for your presence in our lives. It has been a joy to comb through my address book, reflecting on our times together, new and longtime relationships. Wish we could catch up in person, especially if we haven't in a while.

Many know, this time 2+ years ago, we packed up, shed half of our belongings, put the rest in storage and moved the entire family, including our dog Cruzer, to Tel Aviv, Israel. John's company SkyTran was building a full-scale test system at IAI (a big aerospace company in Israel) and was needed full time. Since the kids hadn't started school yet, and I can do my business from anywhere, we decided to make it an international adventure... and it was indeed! At 3½, Shanti and Riser's first pre-school experience was in Tel Aviv with kids from Russia, Japan, France, Israel, Korea, and England. Every day, we stuffed the double stroller, 2 kids, Cruzer and myself into the elevator, went down 4 floors and walked 15 minutes to their school. Well, I walked, they rode in style as we passed shops, cafes, parks, and activities along on the Yarkon River. Then Cruzer and I went to the dog park, talking to anyone I overheard speaking English. My biggest focus was setting up and maintaining our household in a foreign country. Easier said than done. Simple tasks were often multi-day projects. Grocery shopping was always a test. We all learned some Hebrew, but relied on countless bilingual people who helped along the way (usually other customers). Had to give up reading labels since reading Hebrew was not in the realm of possibility. Did very few touristy things... except a long walk to Jaffa (historical city) & trip to Negev Desert. I was always too exhausted from walking so much all week, plus everything is closed on Saturdays (the only day John and team had whole day off). Instead, we visited stellar playgrounds, or the North Pier on weekends, gazing at the gorgeous Mediterranean Sea and eating delicious food. Restaurants were fantastic, lots of faves and I miss the Falafel stand a block from our apartment. Tahini and hummus just don't taste the same in the USA. Weather was similar to California, although much rainier the winter months we were there. Overall, we felt safe. We grew accustomed to security checks at malls & IKEA, and seeing Army dads visiting their kids at the playgrounds in full uniform with machine guns around their shoulders. Christmas 2 years ago included 1 strand of lights and two faux-stockings & 3 ornaments. LOL! We did enjoy celebrating other traditional holidays of Israel including Hanukah and Purim, similar to Halloween.

After 4 months, we returned to USA as our travel visas required us to leave the country. We spent 5 weeks with my Dad and Oma in Waynesville, NC, with a fun get away to Charleston, SC for my 50th birthday. By this time, the team decided the vehicle development would be in California, making a case to return "home." John flew back to pack up the rest of our belongings and fetch Cruzer. During that adventurous year we lived in 7 different places. No one can say our family can't go with the flow. Our adventure came with countless challenges, but also priceless experiences we'll cherish for a lifetime. While I will forever adore Israel, I have a deeper appreciation for our United States and its many conveniences & familiarity, including Amazon.com. Oh, and fewer terrorist attacks.

Upon our return, the kids started Montessori in June 2016 and jumped right in. In September 2016, they went into separate classrooms to foster their independence. Both are now in their second year at the tops of their classes. Because of John's extensive traveling and our international travels, the kids became enamored with the map of the USA. That lead us to a video of a 5-year-old singing "The 50 States Song" and voila...within a couple weeks, we all learned it! Both kids were only 4. Last year at Xmas we got 2 wall maps... of USA and The World. Riser's curiosity, emerging interest in reading, combined with John's international travels sparked his interest in world geography, and he quickly learned "The Countries of the World" song. Who knew there was a 7-minute video of all 183 countries sung in alphabetical order? Another huge accomplishment for both kids was learning to ride bikes about this time last year... without training wheels. Was amazed it only took 2-3

days with John's expert support running around by their side! When Shanti got her bike, she decided to skip the training wheels all together, and that was that. Once again proving, you can do anything you set your mind to. The kids have enjoyed a variety of after school activities... from yoga, dance, science, musical theatre, cooking, ballet, swimming & Spanish. Of course, not all at the same time. Parenting is demanding and rewarding (as you know). It's a joy witnessing their learning and growing, writing "I love you" notes, fascination with blooming Bird of Paradise plants, counting in multiple languages (Hebrew, Chinese, French, German, Spanish), learning to read, love of art, their innocence, curiosity, sense of humor (I refer to Shanti as "Goose," short for Silly Goose). And now a never-ending stream of questions. I love my 5 year olds ☺

Last summer 2016, the investors and team agreed that John should take over as CEO of SkyTran. He recently closed a significant round of funding (hurray!), and the next set of milestones include building the next generation vehicle, guideway and a rideable system for commercialization. The team just signed a lease in Irvine where they'll "mostly" be, as testing continues in Israel. It's looking like we'll be planted in California for a while, but will likely relocate at some point. Our investors and partners are amazed at what this team has accomplished on limited resources these past several years. Couldn't be prouder of John and the heroic efforts of each team member. One day, this journey will make a spectacular movie... John won't let me share many details these days. Many of you have heard about our Skytran journey for years, holding the vision of success with us. Others skeptical. However, we're on track to sign our first customer, with several other key projects in the works. Stay tuned.

After 19 years of life and business coaching, I'm still at it (happily!) and enjoy supporting my extraordinary clients. I revamped my website www.lifecoachmary.com and created a free new audio and ebook, "5 Keys to Inner Peace Now." You may remember, I'd scaled back other parts of my business 3 years ago... newsletters, interviews, events and group programs... to spend time with my littles. In Israel, I only coached one night a week (morning in USA) because of the time difference, and demands living overseas. I ramped back up after settling back in Laguna Niguel. It's amazing how FULL my days are, even with my somewhat scaled-down business and kids in school. But, that's now changing. My passion for helping people experience exponentially more inner peace inspired me to jump back into writing weekly newsletters again. I'm also enthusiastically working on a proposal for my next book about "finding inner peace in any moment." Lord knows I've been tested over the past few years, and have lots of practice and an abundance of hilarious, surreal and everyday stories of finding calm in the craziest and most stressful moments.

We've become expert travelers, flying to Waynesville, NC for Spring Break 2017 at my Dad and Oma's, where the kids enjoyed time with their cousins Emma (9) and Oliver (5). This summer we enjoyed 2 big trips. In June, we flew to the East Coast for John's High School Class Reunion in Easton, CT. Fun to see the house John grew up in. Ventured to RI to meet Dodi and their 17 Golden Retrievers (including 5th ranked Golden in USA!), hold 7 five-week old puppies and meet Cruzer's mom. 24 Goldens in one place was heaven! After 28 years and receiving 4 amazing dogs, it was nice to give Dodi a hug in person. Then to Cape Cod where we stayed at John's friend Vinnie & Donna's cottage... spent time on the lake chasing tadpoles & dipping feet into the icy ocean. Then back to NJ for John to fly to Florida for business while we visited friends Dave & Kate who came up from PA. We also met friend Gisele and her twins for a playdate in NYC's Hudson Park. John came back for our final stop, a tour at his alma mater at West Point where Riser climbed on every canon. The USMA is gorgeous, and it was awe-inspiring to get a feel for where John labored for 4 years. Impressive beyond words.

In July, we drove 15½ hours in our new minivan to Ouray, CO for a week with Dad, Elizabeth (Oma) brother Bill and his wife Laura, brother Mike and his wife Lisa (who were married in July 2016!), cousins Carolyn and Gordon, and his girlfriend JoAnn. Highlights included an epic jeep trip over 4 passes at a peak of 12,930 feet (kids were troopers), riding the tram in Telluride, hot springs, and 4th of July festivities – Ouray's annual water fight (think teams of 2 firefighters spraying fire hoses at each other!), Jeep Parade and Fireworks. Then, drove

to Denver for John to fly to Israel (notice pattern of travels inserted everywhere? Lol! He just earned Premier status on United!) We visited cousin Heidi and her daughter Jo who was starting cooking school in Boulder. Met bestie Ann Speer and her family at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Denver for lots of laughs. Then, the kids, Cruz and I drove 10½ hours to Salt Lake City (an adventure!) John flew back from Israel to SLC and we all visited the family ranch in Tabiona, UT... playing in the river, hiking, and enjoying lazy afternoon rain showers on the porch. Squeezed in a few coaching days along the way, & family reunion (35+) at Uncle Lon & Aunt Zoe's. Surreal to see kids running around like we did 40+ years ago. Then drove to Sacramento to visit my Mom... running out of gas between SLC & Nevada. Oops! Met friends Jeanna & Steve and their boys in Benicia for a Journey/Foreigner concert, then John had an investor meeting in Palo Alto so we visited friend Roger in Los Gatos. Then stayed in Santa Cruz with Skytran partner Robert and Elizabeth. Then to Santa Barbara to visit Tracy & Rich, then Oxnard to visit Chris & nieces. Fun bonus was magically visited ALL family members over our 26-day road trip covering 4 states! We just returned from 10 days in Waynesville, NC, where we built gingerbread houses (newer tradition), played in snow, enjoyed time with my Dad & Oma, and got the kids on skis for first time! While Facebook is a great way to stay connected, there is no substitute for "in person" visits.

In June 2015, we celebrated my Mom's 80th birthday in Sutter Creek, CA with a huge party. In July 2016, she was part of Mike and Lisa's wedding in Eureka, CA (my kids were in the wedding). This past year included 5 trips to visit my Mom in Sacramento. She's now settled in an Alzheimers's care facility where she enjoys live music 6-7 days a week. The kids always bring a fresh dose of joy to her and the other residents, and we're cherishing each magic moment and "I love you" that emerges in our visits and calls.

Of course, it's impossible to summarize 3 years in a few pages. But I wanted to share a snapshot, since I used to do this annually. As I attempt this endeavor, I'm reminded of how blessed and rich our lives are, despite the many challenges along the way. Those are never as much fun to write about, but they make the highs that much sweeter.

Summarizing the rest in gratitude....grateful for our circle of friends, family near and far, happy and healthy children, clients, business partners, conversations with my father, babysitters, virtual assistants, living in the USA, the future of SkyTran, Savy walking again after horrific 5x car rolling accident, inspiration, cameras and iphones to capture the moments, the conveniences of technology and Amazon.com, veggie smoothies, Suja green juice, YMCA, yoga on Thursdays, my new FitBit, Zhena Muzyka's Book Writing Weekend, catch up calls with Kristin, beach days with friends, girl's wine-tasting weekend in Temecula, sleeping in on Saturdays (when John isn't traveling), happy kids in the morning, books and snuggles, moments of brilliance, time to reflect, compassion for those trying times, new experiences, sunsets, the weekend away for our 11 year anniversary in Laguna Beach (and 10 year anniversary at Biltmore Estate in Asheville), Cruz's joy chasing the ball and head in our laps, Clark and Janet's hospitality, the month at the furnished Mickey Mouse House, our Israel friends and family, SMOMC, dinners at Becky and Brett's, Disneyland and Legoland, Facebook and Facetime, Pop and Oma visiting for Xmas last year, the Newport Beach Boat Parade, weather in California, full days spent ocean side for birthdays and anniversaries, Monarch Bay Montessori Academy, parents night's out, date nights, global interest in skyTran, opportunities galore, last minute trip to SLC and time with Jackie & Rob Hibbard, and reconnecting through New Year cards and letters to keep relationships alive or reignite them.

Thank you for being part of our lives. Thank you for reading our long, newsy update. For more regular updates, let's stay connected on Facebook, if not already. www.Facebook.com/MaryAllen1 Wishing you and your family a year filled with health, happiness, meaning, ease and flow.... and of course, inner peace. Let's create more memories together. Happy 2018!

With warmth and love,
Mary and John

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HERE'S TO CREATING LOTS OF MAGIC MOMENTS IN 2018. WE LOVE YOU.