

Wishing You Warm Hugs, Many Laughs with Friends & Loved Ones, and Special Time for Yourself!

The holidays are upon us and reflection on all the directions this past year has taken us fills Charlie and I with joy, heartache and gratitude. The expression "what a difference a year makes" certainly applies.

As always, the restaurant closes for two weeks in January. The Café @ Adele's crew gets much needed rest and Charlie and I escaped to explore San Pancho Mexico. Our stay at El Nido De La Tortuga was paradise in the jungle overlooking the beach and our gracious hosts, Bill and Melissa Roberts, were a Trip Advisor find we highly recommend. Commuting the cobblestone roads in a golf cart to town was great fun and lucky for us we returned ours to the rental company hours before the local police decided a golf cart round-up was necessary to impose a license tax. Big news for this charming village. Though we kept a close eye on the weather back home during our stay we did not escape winter's wrath. While our Mayor took a much needed get-away Karen found herself filling in as mayor Pro-Tem in the situation room for the 2017 flooding and grateful for sleepless efforts of community heroes who rose to the occasion. An ice storm wreaked its own havoc on Casa Abowd and our bartender Mark and wife Ellen had their own flooding woes but in retrospect of diminished importance compared to hurricane and fire destruction elsewhere... we all feel fortunate!

The cloud of winter seemed never ending and the personal struggles for some around us painful. We lost Charlie's cousin Pauline to ovarian cancer and a dear friend Paul D'Anneo is finally at peace after his long cancer battle. Finding comfort in focusing on the positive, Charlie and I hit the social security milestone and shared a Valentines date at the social security office learning what it means to take a number and wait your turn. Securing our Burning Man tickets was a highlight...more on that to come.

Cabin fever made for a jam packed late Spring and Summer. Bumpa Paul Abowd's 90th Birthday got the season off to a great start. Mallory and Abby, both 11, scored 2 special overnights with us. A white-water rafting trip got postponed because of freezing rain so a day spent at the Discovery Museum was an enjoyable substitute. Rafting happened later and was a thrill. Part of the water damage at our home was the room the girls share when staying with us. They are maturing faster than we want to admit and choosing to make lemonade out of the lemons of construction repair, tasked them with re-decorating their more grown up space under one condition...that they agree on choices. They did a tremendous job and worked together well. Both are avidly involved in sports. Mallory owns the court in volleyball and basketball and Abby shares that strong winning drive in basketball as well. Her co-ed team took first place for the season. Abby brings that same attitude to the classroom and on a recent exam was marked wrong on an essay answer she knew was right. She requested a meeting with her teacher, made her case and raised her grade! Mallory chose to dedicate some of her community service hours this summer to helping out at the Alpine Ranch pig farm and treasured every minute of it. We love watching our granddaughters blossom! The boys these days need to sit down to look us in the eye as they tower above us. Austin is 15 and a freshman at Galena High. We are proud of his team spirit and conscientious efforts as a running back on the freshman football team and who knew he has a talent for composing rap lyrics and is quite good, He is looking forward to working with his Uncle Mike this summer to refine those musical skills. Taking advantage of the last of cutthroat trout season at Pyramid Lake was our special time spent with Austin. He got skunked but we did bring in one. Turns out we were lucky to have that time on the lake as the area surrounding it experienced wild land brush fires from that same evening and throughout the summer. Cameron was supposed to be part of that trip as well but was sick with strep throat. Now almost 14 yrs old, he is a young man of few words, but we had lots of laughs during his special overnight at Twin Lakes, camping in the "Burner Mobile" with Beagle Abbey and having our camp invaded by a mama bear and her cubs. He discovered a love for fishing and one-upped his brother catching a trout within minutes of casting his line. Cameron continues to be a natural on the basketball court and was instrumental in the final fall tournament team win for the season.

Personal growth took different directions for our own kids in 2017. Racquel had a much-needed surgery that thankfully went well. She also left teaching to become the director of sales and marketing for Hometown Health. It was bittersweet leaving her students, but she enjoys the challenge of her new position. She and Scott are working on remodeling the house getting ready for him to move in and completing the family circle. We are so happy for them! Eric has gone out on his own to form Aspire Capital Advisors and continues to do well. He is also diligent in training for a strength and fitness competition in Spring. Nicole is excelling in her job with Kassity Management Group to the point of winning a trip to Disneyworld because of her great work. Jeremiah is thriving in his IT security sales position but manages to enjoy extreme off roading by bike or truck and 'only' managed to crack his ribs in a bike accident at Whistler this year. We are counting our blessings. Shelby shares his passions and we hope to get to meet her at Christmas.

The 9th annual Concert Under the Stars to benefit The Greenhouse Project (TGP) was a leap of faith this year as the scale to which it has grown necessitated moving it from Café @ Adele's to the Brewery Arts Center. The Family Stone rocked and had young and old on their feet. To date it was the most financially successful event TGP non-profit has experienced. Mindful of what needs improving we both are thankful for this growth. An auctioned dinner at our home with patron and friend Evie Griffith and her lovely family capped our July. The cuisine was amazing and the company delightful.



Any spare moment in August was consumed with getting ready for our one week stay in the Black Rock Desert. Local artist Phil Lanzino did a fantastic mural wrap on the Burner Mobile in keeping with Charlie's love of the Grateful Dead. In the spirit of giving back on the playa, Charlie and I worked two shifts in the Café at Center Camp. It's amazing to see how strangers from all over the globe work together to get the job done for a continual line of customers. My hats off to the

baristas of the world having had to make an iced rocket chai in a large bot'a bag and fit chunk ice through a 2" opening with a smile!!! Friends Terry Sullivan and Gwen joined our camp which was a treat and multiple folks stopped by recognizing our rig including Carson City artist Michele Raley whose beautifully powerful Maya Angelou sculpture was out on the playa along with some other equally incredible interactive art. That alone keeps us coming back! Only one mishap... a bicyclist stopping suddenly in front of me caused fall necessitating 3 stitches to my lip at the Burning Man ER. Doc Omar did a great patch job on me and Charlie was highly entertained in the waiting area. Saturday Night Live cannot write the material for the costumed folks that walk into that emergency room!



The Nevada Day Parade was a celebration to arts and entertainment and Charlie and I got to be in it with the Burner Mobile as part of the Burning Man art car entries. Charlie was in his glory riding around on his playa bike in his tie-dyed Johnny Depp velvet jacket and top hat.



Community fun at its finest! The Celebrity Chef Harvest Dinner and Cookies with Santa will complete the Café @ Adele's calendar year for benefits and I look forward to Holiday with a Hero with the grandkids who enthusiastically want to help out, Appreciate their spirit! Hosting Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve at home with family is down time we treasure and our hardworking staff at Café @ Adele's looks forward to the same.

Speaking for our family and our extended Adele's family... thanks to all of you who care about us and support us. We wish you blessings in the coming year.