

Jim and Linda continue trying to make up for lost time, criss-crossing the planet in their goal of seeing at least 50% of the bird species of the world. Besides local birding with *Tuesday for the Birds*, and two local Audubon Societies, they kept up the pace, with two foreign trips and more in the USA:

February: A return to Africa, with a marvelous visit to Tanzania (PDF report online)

April: A Grouse Viewing Trip to Colorado, where we saw all the target species

June: A Mini-reunion of Rice Friends in Bend, OR, in June, where Linda canoed for the first time in 40 years. We lucked into a Woodpecker Festival where we saw 9 different species of woodpeckers and other nice birds.

July: A Rice Alumni Trip, following part of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, where Linda canoed *again!* (PDF Report online)

August: A Return to Brazil, Last Visited in 1985, where we saw a wild Jaguar (PDF Report online)

September: We traveled back to Houston for celebration of Marion's (Granny's) 93rd birthday with a family party.



Jim still plays tennis and bridge fairly regularly, while Linda occupies herself with Book Club, Pilates and gardening.

Claire and Ron's remodeling of *Rancho Relaxo*, their weekend place near Philo in Mendocino County, added bedrooms and a bath. The second floor now has room for four kids (more in a pinch), with a separate bedroom for chaperones. The second bath is much appreciated.

Claire and Ron: Claire is a pediatric anesthesiologist at what is now called USCF Benioff [Children's Hospital of Oakland](#) (CHO for short). Ron continues at [Advent Software](#), now merged with [SS&C](#), another financial tech firm.



Nico has really changed this year, into a walking, talking young boy (man, does he talk! *Why* is his favorite word!). Both Nico and **Scarlet** are in pre-school now. Time flies. Both of these photos date from October, when the pre-school had a weird hair day.





Charles has returned to the workforce, at the [Rio Vista Public library](#), with a schedule that no one else can figure out. It is a long commute, though not by Bay Area standards, but against the grain, leaving plenty of time for podcasts. **Amy** continues working as a midwife for Kaiser.



For the 11th year in California, **Charles and Amy** hosted the annual Iron Chef party. They assign each couple an ingredient, supposedly selected randomly, but somehow we got the same ingredient as Ron and Claire this year, Peppermint. 40 people (more or less) competed for prizes in different categories, such as "most daring," "best use of ingredient," and the coveted "best in show."

We failed to place again, but at least we got votes this time, at least one for Best in Show! We opted for individual peppermint/chocolate cheesecakes, which were delicious. Ron and Claire came up with peppermint infused beef jerky, which earned them the prize for Most Daring.



As last year, Kai and Kiera are still at nearby Harding Elementary, a short walk from home. The school has a lot of activities for parents as well as children. Charles works with the Dad's Club frequently. Amy heads the Committee for Harding After-School Enrichment Program.

Besides working with Minecraft, **Kai** practiced baseball and took piano lessons. **Kiera** also plays Minecraft, as well as taking lessons in ballet, art, violin, and sewing.



We still have **Chipper** and **Cash** to help us keep warm in bed, However Claire's cat, **Princess Moonbeam**, who has accompanied her since Med school in Dallas, thru 7(!) moves finally reached the end of the road. She had a sweet disposition, and liked to be close to people. [A very fine cat, indeed, to quote Dr. Johnson.](#)

Hope you have a wonderful 2016. We look forward to welcoming any visitors to our home in Oakland whenever we are there.

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Twitter  and Facebook  instead, we'd like to know.

Go [Golden State] Warriors!