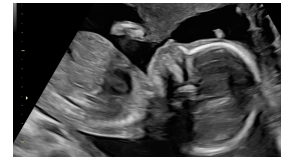




CONTINUATION
HOLIDAY TRADITION OF VISITING COMO PARK CONSERVATORY



CONSERVANCY
RICK KEEPS SCANNING OLD FAMILY PHOTOS



CONCEPTION
WE WERE EXCITED TO LEARN THAT ANNA AND ALEX WERE EXPECTING

WATTMAN “WANDERINGS”



Any excuse to gather: A collection of Coenen's on the occasion of Claire's wedding to Eric Davis, July 29 (left to right): **Ilsa, Katie, Zeke, Ben** with **Angelina, Rich, Grant, Esther** with **Linnea, Mike, Andrea, Rick, Jordon** (peeing out), **Theo, Jason, Diana, Nick, Joe, Anna** with **Thea** (short for Theodora, pronounced “Tava”), **Shannon, Alex** with **John**, and **Judy**. (Not shown: newlyweds **Claire** and **Eric**.)

A Year of Growth

The year **2023** represented growth. Our family grew; our faith grew; our garden grew; even our peach tree grew. What? You heard correctly. We planted a hardy peach variety and were blessed with a basketful of peaches *in its first year*.

The **family grew** through both birth and weddings. **Anna** and **Alex** were blessed with the healthy arrival of **Theodora Jeanne Bauer**, on June 27. Her older brother **John** is very gentle and attentive, though it is undoubtedly an adjustment to have a baby sister. **Anna** stayed home with **Thea** while **Alex** went back to work as a teacher. In December, **Anna** returned to work as a school counselor, and **Alex** began his period of paternity leave until **Thea** is old enough to begin childcare in the spring.



Four generations: Judy, Theo, Thea, and Anna.

Elise and her girlfriend **Jahda Bowes** eloped in a civil ceremony, also on June 27. We were very happy to have met her on our visit in December 2022, even though we were not present in **Vancouver** to celebrate with them.



The other side: The Wattman family gathered in Lake Oswego (left to right): **Emma, Marshall, Marian, Synthia, Margaret's Eldest** (aka Brian), **Megan, Doris, Rick, Margaret** with **Ramona**, and **Rob**. (Not present; **Ethan, Emily** and **Andrew**.)

Our **faith experience** is growing as well, with a new church. We are attending a neighborhood church with the **Bauers**. We are meeting people, participating in a book club, and enjoy sharing the experience with our grandchildren (AND their parents!).

Judy was able to visit her mom in **San Diego** twice (March and May, and has planned a December trip as well); **Rick** participated in the **Brule** work weekend, reconnecting with the Swanson clan and helping improve the property. He also made a quick trip to **Lake Oswego** again this year to spend time with his mom and family.

Elise came to town in March, upon the occasion of her induction into the Kennedy High School Hall of Fame. One of her work assignments had her in **Toronto** for a month, so **Judy** and **Rick** scurried up to see her there. We even checked off a side visit to **Niagara Falls** from our unofficial bucket list.

In October, **Judy** had work assignment in **Florida**, so we went together, staying near **Orlando**. We toured the NASA visitor complex, and were captivated by the Cape Canaveral National Wildlife Refuge. Alligators and birds abound! We also visited with a former workmate and her family. They treated us to an airshow, with the Thunderbirds, so it was a full visit.

We are blessed by almost weekly visits with **John** as he comes for a sleepover many weekends. In April, while pushing a truck through our backyard John stood and shouted to the sky, "It's supposed to be warmer!" He was right!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

2023 in a Flash



2023 in a Flash: (top to bottom) Elise' visit in March [3/18]; touring Toronto with Elise [5/14]; bucket list at Niagara Falls [5/15]; Jahda and Elise eloped [6/27]; Theodora Jeanne joined the Bauers [6/27].