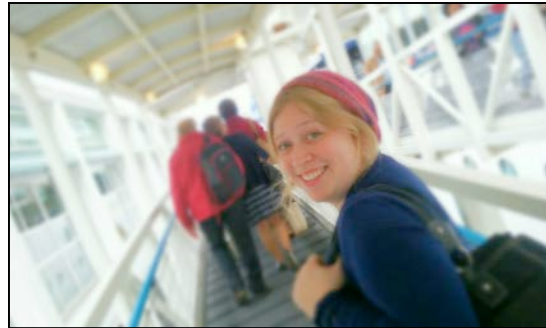


# Happy Holidays!

## 2016 Wood Family Newsletter

**Vienna's** experience of 2016 was eventful to say the least! She celebrated 10 years together with her husband Michael by going all out on a magnificent cruise that spanned the entire west coast from Vancouver to San Diego, with many fun-filled stops along the way, including Victoria, Seattle and Catalina Island. They made friends – most of which from a considerably older generation! – competed in ship game shows, and sang an abundance of karaoke, all the while taking time to revel in the accomplishment of having made it so far together and looking forward to many more joyous years.



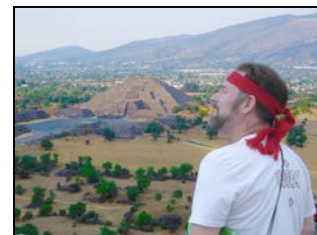
Vienna was lucky enough to have not one but two epic travel adventures, the other being a whirlwind tour of the California Bay Area in honor of her friend of 13 years, Candace, flying out to the west coast for the first time ever! Within five short days, they visited Monterey, San Francisco, Napa Valley, Yosemite and, of course, Santa Cruz. There was no shortage of selfies and karaoke, which all together made for an unforgettable, perfect Californian experience.



This year Vienna continued to try to better herself every day by completing a year-long reading challenge, beginning oil painting, helping to train incoming volunteers in the local Suicide Prevention organization, participating responsibly in political discourse, and, most notably, leaving behind her job for a new, more promising

opportunity. Her job had been fulfilling in many ways, and she learned a great deal from her two years there, but unfortunate circumstances led her to find a more suitable company to work for, doing the same work, just with different faces. It was a painful transition, but now she is comfortably settled in to her new job, building relationships with new coworkers and families, and once again doing the work she loves. In the coming months she plans to apply for Graduate programs in Counseling Psychology, so 2017 is sure to be filled with more great memories and opportunities for Vienna!

**Andy** continued to pursue his ambition of seeing as much of the world as he can, lecturing in Mexico and Finland and finding time to travel around Europe. The Mexico trip followed a pleasant conversation last year in St. Petersburg, Russia when he was asked to present a week's worth of talks at Tecnológico de Monterrey (San Luis Potosí) as part of a global faculty program. For months afterward, he wondered about his itinerary and grew anxious about the details of the trip. Only at the last minute did the schedule fully materialize, which stressed our resident Type-A personality



out just a little bit. But once he arrived and adapted himself to the rhythms of academic life South of the Border, he fell in love with the program, enjoying opportunities to meet fascinating professors, chat with delightful students, and savor some amazing food.



In Europe Andy returned to Finland to teach a third time at Jyväskylä and sought new opportunities to explore a country that has so much to teach U.S. educators and urban planners. He then met up with Jenny to share some adventures in Spain and France (Jenny details that journey later in our letter) – which would certainly seem to be enough travel for one year. But Andy couldn't resist an invitation to join Matt Spangler and his family for a trip to Scotland to experience the Edinburgh Fringe

Festival. To Andy's delight, the Fringe is a weeks-long immersion into all sorts of edgy performances – including one show that took place in a *wrecked car*. Andy rented an apartment with Hanns Hohmann and packed nearly every waking hour with an eclectic itinerary of wild and often surreal performances.

Back home, Andy and Jenny chose a timely theme for their annual Halloween porch performance, dressing up as Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton (in zombie form) to deliver a humorous “debate” for the kids. Andy worried a bit that folks would balk at the political orientation of the show. Turns out, he had nothing to fret over. Even our little guests could recognize our characters, and some of the older ones delighted in hurling barbs at the GOP candidate (“Hey Donald! Where are your tax returns?”). Like so many folks in our part of the country, Jenny and Andy thought that this routine would be the scariest part of the 2016 presidential race. Now... who knows what will happen next?



2016 was a building year for **Jenny**, spending most of her time building her grant writing business. Sitting on her couch, surrounded by her beloved cats, she researched, met with clients, made phone calls, and wrote her little heart out on many grant applications and letters. She had several that were funded, including her first paying award, meaning she made her first real paycheck! The grant gave St. Francis Soup Kitchen \$20,000 to purchase a new truck. So, not only did Jenny earn a little scratch for the family, she helped a great organization serve the homeless of Santa Cruz.

This summer she and Andy traveled to Europe to visit Spain and Paris with a little stopover in New York City. Starting in Madrid and then taking the train south, they visited their old stomping grounds from when they were newlyweds, Rota. A fishing town turned tourist trap, Rota was home to Andy for three years and Jenny for 1½ when Andy was in the Navy. Most of the town had been transformed into a tourist town, but blocks away, on the road where the Woods' apartment was, not a thing had changed. It was like stepping back in time, and memories came flooding back.



After Rota, we visited Valencia and Barcelona, where we saw the exquisite Sagrada Familia, the architect Gaudi's famous never-completed basilica. Second only to the Sagrada Familia, was the Salvador Dali museum in Figueres. A train-ride took us to the romantic city of Paris where Jenny and Andy got reacquainted with some favorite sites and enjoyed some new ones. New York City was also a treat, though Andy was sick in bed most of the time. The city was a perfect end to a great trip. The election was great entertainment for Jenny who argued her true heart on Facebook and enjoyed watching Trump's daily antics. Jenny wound up the year with a trip with Andy to Florida to visit Grandma and friends. A side trip to Cedar Key was a highlight.

Jenny is excited about 2017 and the opportunities it will bring. She hopes her grant business will take off and that she will have plenty of opportunities to serve others, which is her greatest passion.



Jenny Wood, Andy Wood, Larry Wood, Michael Beck, and Vienna Beck (thanks to Geni Certain for taking the picture!)

## PS: Here's the Wood Family's Year in Facebook Status Update-form!



**Andrew Wood** Enjoying Solo '16 (but missing Jenny!) Some highlights: Flying my quadcopter over an ersatz Stonehenge in Maryhill (WA), touring the Yakima Valley Museum and gazing upon their glorious Neon Garden, and grooving on Dragnet radio shows (complete with Jack Webb taking a Fatima "smoke break" at least once per episode). I'm now waiting for twilight to shoot some Yakima neon.

March 29 · Like · Comment



**Jenny Boyer Wood** This grant writing just might work out after all!! I just had my first grant awarded for a paying client!!

April 18 · Like · Comment



**Vienna Beck** This week, Michael and I get to practice being parents, as Reese Scott has bequeathed us with her children while she takes a much-needed vacation. Let the wild rumpus start!

May 1 · Like · Comment



**Jenny Boyer Wood** Life may be all about people, but there's also something about places that connect with you. We spent 2 years at Berry College and it is one of the magic places of our lives. Visiting again brought many emotions - mostly joy and comfort.

May 22 · Like · Comment



**Vienna Beck** I'm planning a completely epic tour of central California for my good friend's visit this coming week! A day in the north, San Francisco and Napa, a day in the south, Monterey and Big Sur, a day east in Yosemite, and a day in Santa Cruz and Big Basin. We're talking California done EFFICIENTLY.

June 13 · Like · Comment



**Jenny Boyer Wood** Awesome day - Barcelona Cathedral, Sagrada Familia, and tonight an AMAZING Flamenco show with a surprisingly delicious dinner. Of course we only have this one photo that the nice lady took of us because SOMEONE (\*cough\* Andy) left the camera battery in the hotel. Gaahhh! But, we still have our memories - well, the quickly fading ones that we can't share on facebook.

June 30 · Like · Comment



**Andrew Wood** Enjoyed a leisurely last morning in Rota, then caught a bullet train to our next destination (300 k/h is still considered "bullet," right?). Now we're in a town about which neither of us have a clue. But at least we're enjoying our Donna Summer room in our music-themed hotel. I can honestly say this is the first time I slept under a disco ball.

June 27 · Like · Comment



**Jenny Boyer Wood** Girl's camp hike up to Eagle rock. What a view!

July 20 · Like · Comment



**Vienna Beck** Starting my new job tomorrow! Same responsibilities, new company. I've stopped feeling anxious and started feeling excited!!

November 8 · Like · Comment