

The Taylor Gazette

There's always going to be bad stuff out there, but here's the amazing thing: Light trumps darkness every time. You stick a candle into the dark, but you can't stick the dark into the light. ~Jodi Picoult

Greetings. We hope your holidays were joyous and we wish you a happy and healthy new year.

Each year we have things to be grateful for, along with life's challenges. This year is no exception, but perhaps a bit heavier on the challenges. At year's end, we are especially thankful for the blessings that have kept the challenges in perspective.

For those of you who don't live in the northeast, the winter of 2013-14 was a bear! We had not had that much snow in over a decade. We were rewarded with a beautiful spring/summer to mitigate our winter misery.

Deb and Jim managed to see a few shows together (The Hitmen, Book of Mormon and the Beach Boys), and Jim a few extras (Jay Leno and the Four Seasons). They also took a class in Mental Health First Aid, as part of their CERT team service.

In preparation for their trip to France for Debbie's 60th birthday, Debbie tried very hard to refresh her French. All seemed to be going well until she would try to make a coherent sentence and understand someone when they talked at normal speed.

We replaced the tenants in our Pittsburgh home with a good family, after a year of extreme drama with the first tenants. We also decided to defer our move until the spring of 2016. With lots to do to get our house up to selling condition and Debbie's health matters (coming up later), we thought it wise.



Jim and Jay, hanging out.

Debbie's art endeavors were limited this year. She took a writing class in the spring and a few classes in Maine this summer, as well as teaching several again at the summer arts festival. She also showcased 2 statement pieces at the City Lights Gallery.



Copper cuff from class



Show @ the City Lights Gallery

We are sad to report that Jim's mom passed away in April at age 89. She had been declining for the past 5 years with dementia. In the past year she became physically frail as well, further diminishing her quality of life. Fortunately, she had a wonderful caregiver and she was comfortable and content until she died peacefully in her own bed. One can't ask for more. She had a full life and didn't suffer. But she is missed. The following months were a big undertaking, owing to the magnitude of her possessions. Trying to discern the valuable from the junk made the project extensive and physically exhausting.

May was exciting as we saw David graduate with honors from the University of New Haven and embark on "real life." He is working at the Agency Group in NY, a multi-million dollar recording studio at Firehouse 12 in New Haven and continues to do live sound at the Space, working with many cool artists.

David also recorded and mixed a full-length album (<http://civilpilots.bandcamp.com/>) and went on a 24-day tour of the Eastern United States in the summer. He ended the year with a 10-day Birthright trip to Israel. We all were glad things were relatively calm in the region and that he had a great time. As all participants say, it is a bit overwhelming as they pack a lot of sights into a short time, but the experience provides a great experience overall.

Don't miss his photo album on page 5.



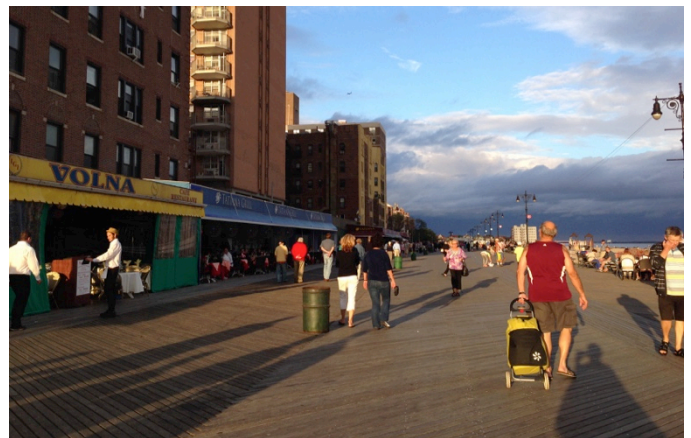
David graduates from the University of New Haven, in May



Margaret (Peggy) Taylor

1924 - 2014

Travel this year was closer to home. Debbie went to Boston in May for the AARP conference with good friend Ilene. In July, she went with friend Judy to Pittsburgh. Jim was in Las Vegas for his industry trade show in June, but Debbie wasn't interested in the desert in June! They both took a trip to Brooklyn to with friends to see an exhibit at the Museum and scout out old, familiar sights.



Brighton Beach boardwalk, Brooklyn

August brought the usual trip to Maine. Both Jared and David were able to spend a week there along with friends. It was great to have the family together in the same place at the same time. It had been several years since Jared came to Maine. We all ate like kings with the kids doing a lot of the cooking. Two days after everyone left, Jim and Deb expected a nice, quiet week, but the dogs thought otherwise. They went out to do their evening business and came back at 10PM with porcupine barbs in their snouts, feet and chest. It was pitiful.



It was great to have our boys in the kitchen!



MAINE 2014

← Where's my lobsta already?

Here it is! →



Jim and Debbie remain with Kramer and Norwalk Hospital respectively, but Debbie's employment was short circuited by health matters in September. After learning she had the BRCA1 gene mutation, she was advised to have a hysterectomy and mastectomy to greatly decrease her risk of ovarian and breast cancers. The first would usually be a fairly simple procedure, but in the presence of previous scar tissue and adhesions, turned into a serious situation. She was operated on September 9th. Due to prior surgeries, tissue was compromised, resulting in the need for 7 units of blood. In the following days, fistulas (holes) opened in various parts of her intestines, making her condition critical. She had 6 more operations in the following weeks and remained in the intensive care unit for a month. When she stabilized, she spent another month on the surgical floor.

Needless to say, their trip to France was cancelled and Debbie celebrated her 60th birthday instead, in the hospital with her family, sister, nieces and cousins there. By then she was stable, but would still need months to fully recover. She was unable to eat until mid-November and was on intravenous feeding. Debbie's health trials will continue into 2015, but should be less dramatic. She will begin having some

sense of normalcy when she starts doing some consulting from home in January. We are grateful for her survival with the incredible support of friends and family. This year we all knew the true meaning of Thanksgiving, which was celebrated at our house with much loved family.



Sadie is a normal dog while Simba the clown tolerates anything. Here, David tried his wardrobe on Simba while cleaning out his room.





Benefit Brunches



Jared continues to work for Disney Channel and doing the things he loves. He hosted four small plate brunches, delighting the appetites of many while raising money for Children's Hospital Los Angeles. These events helped shape his food website <http://effingdelicio.us/>. He co-lead the Disney Triathlon Team, completing the race for the third year in a row and for the first time, tackled the Vineman 70.3; his first half iron man triathlon race in Sonoma County, CA in July. He said it was one of the coolest thing's he's ever done. Another challenge was skydiving. We're not sure by the look on his face that he will want to repeat that experience! On a non-athletic note, Jared worked the red carpet and pressroom at the 66th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards. He DOES live in Hollywood after all! He also has committed to writing, publishing on [Medium](https://medium.com/) every week in 2014 and will continue to write going forward. All this and he found time to visit the east coast 6 times!



70.3 miles and he can still raise his arms! ↑

Ohhh S*#&\$! →



← Disney Tri-team

At the Emmys →



From David's summer tour



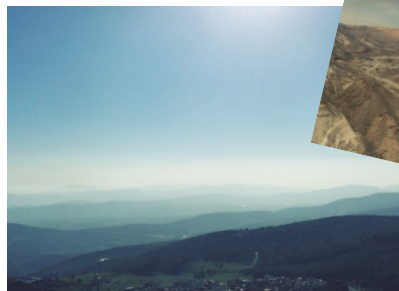
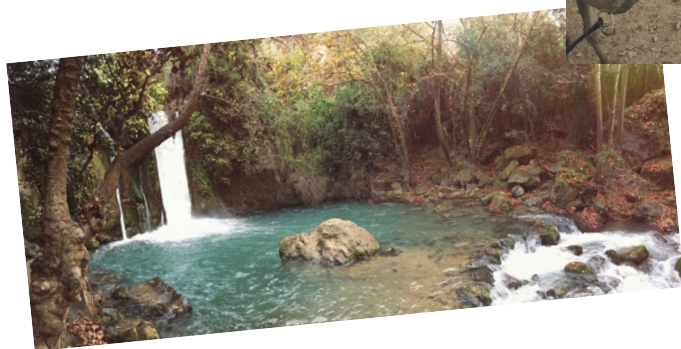
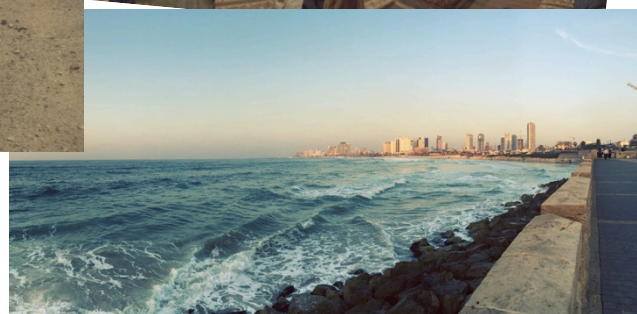
@Firehouse 12 studio



Cover of album
David recorded



From David's trip to Israel



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We don't rate contact info. so just "hi."

