



Greetings from Rosalyn & Gary

7136 Chester Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057

952-652-2325

[rosalynpautzke@live.com](mailto:rosalynpautzke@live.com) or

[rpautzke@gmail.com](mailto:rpautzke@gmail.com)

Does the snow-covered April ground qualify this as a winter holiday greeting? Perhaps not, but I would like to share our family news with you, tardy as my effort may be.

Some highlights of the year 2017 and early 2018: Dorissa moved from the Twin Cities to Boulder and Lesanna moved from Seattle to Northfield, Dorissa & Angel welcomed baby Avni June on February 21, Nick and Andy welcomed baby Grace Laurel in July, Crystal and Nick welcomed baby Weston Edward in December, John (Ron and Kristen's son) and Allison welcomed Sophie Doris in April of this year, our oldest grandson (on my side), Talus, celebrated his fifth birthday with a fantastic party at the Minnesota Zoo, and our oldest granddaughter (on Gary's side), Hailey, will graduate as valedictorian and head to Drake this fall.

It is hard to imagine that our children are beginning to experience the "empty nest," but Tanya and Chad's oldest will be at college this fall. Of course, with five children at home, the nest hardly will be empty. Their children participate in sporting events, concerts, plays, recitals, and reunions, some of which we have attended.

Nick and Andy completed the adoption of their three beautiful children. The oldest, Angel, is in school. They live close enough to come out to visit us on the farm occasionally. The kids enjoy the animals and are brave enough to ride the big, black draft horse.

Crystal and Nick Daur had their sixth child two days after Christmas, their second boy. Nick works as a welder and Crystal takes care of the children including home schooling daughter Hazel. Both Crystal and Tanya's families continue to live in Springfield, Minnesota where they grew up.

Jaslyn and Jim have visited Minnesota several times during the past year. They enjoy projects at their farmstead, where Lesanna and boyfriend, Aaron, now live, and spending time at our farm. Last summer they installed two rope swings at the farmstead and had several bonfires, which Talus loved. Talus appears to have endless energy, which he uses to explore and learn about everything around him. During my most recent visit to



Colorado, he commented on the effects of gravity on an orbiting space station. He seems happiest when he is jumping on his trampoline and spinning a tale. Several new animals call Goathead (Jaslyn's ranch in Longmont, CO) home including two piglets from Minnesota, a curly feathered goose, and other water fowl.

Lesanna now works as a veterinarian at the Minnesota Zoo caring for more than 4000 animals. Her patients range from seals to tigers to wolves. She still works with SR3 (scalifer3.com) as Executive Director and spends time in Seattle ensuring that the rescue, rehabilitation, and research work of the non-profit continues. She and her boyfriend have four dogs, a cat, several chickens, pheasant, quail, a parrotlet, and a rescue sow with five piglets. Currently, we are taking care of their two horses, an extraordinarily wide Percheron and a handsome white Arab / Standardbred cross. As a child, Lesanna celebrated her fifth birthday at the Minnesota Zoo, just like Talus thirty-some years later. This fall she may celebrate her 37<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Zoo!

Dorissa is a radiology resident in Denver and Angel is a pediatrician at a Boulder clinic. Their two children, Arav (just turned three) and Avni (just turned one) are enjoying the outdoor life their new location offers: hiking in the mountains, biking, riding scooter, and climbing. Of course, Avni has assistance in some of these activities. However, being the youngest in a family that includes two large dogs, she has learned quickly to become mobile and independent (and remarkably similar to her mother at that age). In the blink of an eye, Arav morphed from an infant to a boy ... complete with big boy bed, pants, scooter, bike, etc. Mature beyond his years he carries on deceptively adult conversations until he veers off into toddler demands such as going to medical school instead of pre-school or drinking the same milk (replacer) that Aunt Jaz feeds the piglets. He and Avni love to visit Talus and the animals at Goathead.

The rhythm of life on our farm was interrupted by two major projects this past year: preparing Jaslyn and Jim's farmstead for Lesanna's arrival last fall and renovating our kitchen. Except for the cabinets and floor, Gary and I and family members did most of the work on the kitchen. We are finally catching our breath after (nearly) completing the kitchen --- just in time for my outside work in the yard and pastures and Gary's skid steer business to pick up.

This past year we said goodbye to four wonderful companions: Kirby, my Mom's thirty-year-old cockatiel, Daisy, an eighteen year old Chihuahua, Buster, an ancient rescue goat, and Callie, a fifteen-year-old Doberman that Lesanna rescued during veterinary school. They brightened our lives and we miss them. We found a Doberman in need of a home and recently adopted her. We are adopting a small goat whose mother used poor



judgment in deciding to give birth *outside* the barn on a minus twenty-degree night in January. The little goat lost her ears and hind feet to frostbite but can walk.

Since retiring in the fall of 2016 (after 43 years in road construction), Gary has been quite busy doing a variety of work involving his skid steer; hence the business name Odd Job Gary. At our place, he built a unique "board walk" from heavy lumber (guard rail posts actually) for the horses to get over a creek and muddy area. Gary is always on the go --- planning full days of activity and completing tasks that he could not tackle when he was working. The deer, birds, and other wildlife count on him to keep their feeders full. He makes frequent trips to Springfield to visit his Mother, kids, and grandkids. Retirement suits him well.

Like Gary, I always keep busy. Gary has his skid steer and I have my Cub Cadet pasture riding mower and my John Deere walk behind yard mower. I have spent time upgrading electrical systems in our home and outbuildings, sewing new drapes, making clothes, painting, tending flower gardens, fixing fences, sealing the porch floors, and all those things farm women do. Jaslyn's farmstead offers a great place to garden as evidenced by the 212 quarts of tomatoes I canned. This spring, I plan to scale back on the number of tomato plants. I am happy to be outside doing chores, yardwork, and gardening or cloistered inside feeding the wood stove, sewing, cooking, dealing with photographs, or wrestling with the muddle of life's required paperwork. I am fortunate to connect often with my family and friends and to live in a place where I can watch the wood ducks jockey for houses, hear the coyotes howl, see the deer walking single file on their paths to the feeder, smell the freshly plowed fields, listen to the frog chorus through the open window before I fall asleep, and provide homes for animals in need of rescue.

Gary and I send our best wishes to you for a healthy, vibrant 2018. Keep in touch.

Warmly,

Rosalyn for the family

In addition to the pictures on the back of this page, see a photo album at:

<https://www.wildflowerimagination.photos/Holiday-2017-early-2018/n-WcV4f5/>

The pictures are annotated so you know what you are looking at.





Hailey and Gary's  
Mother



Lesanna, Talus,  
Jaslyn at Zoo



Zoo Party for Talus  
5th Birthday



Supermoon



Aarav, Avni at  
Goathead



Avni Dorissa love  
piglets



One of our spring  
snow storms



Odd Job Gary to  
the rescue

More pictures at:

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