

To health & happiness in
2025!

Geoff, Jill, Grace & Madelyn

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July marked Geoff and Jill's 20th wedding anniversary. We both agree that in 2004, people who had been married 20 years seemed much older than us! We celebrated with a trip to the Oregon coast and enjoyed wine tasting in Willamette Valley, eating fresh seafood, and relaxing by the shore.



Maddie is in 8th grade this year. At school she joined choir, played basketball, ran track, and plays cello. She took on 2 roles in the Nutcracker this year: Soldier and Rag Doll, and added even more pointe and ballet classes to her busy schedule. She enjoys volunteering and helping others with a K-1 dance class, and even donated her hair to charity.



This year's family vacay was another epic cross-country adventure with the trusty pop-up camper. We went west again and spent 2 weeks in 8 national parks and monuments in Utah, Arizona, and Colorado.



Our house once again began playing Tchaikovsky on repeat in July. Both sisters took the stage for the Nutcracker again this month, and we were lucky enough to even watch both dance together for one scene. Proud parents in the house!



Though we had hiked before, this trip was the kind Geoff has been waiting for. All got new hiking boots and put 40+ miles on them. Jill loved Arches National Park. Grace was captivated by everything at Zion. Geoff struggled to choose but loved the slot canyons and our hike in Arches. Maddie preferred the pool after days of hiking.



Grace is in 10th grade and dances, a lot. She is on the Ames High dance team, and still dances 6 days a week. She met personal goals in the Nutcracker this year, with roles of Ballerina Doll, Snow, Marzipan, and Candy Cane! She stays involved with other AHS activities like Dance Marathon and Student Council.



Life is driven by the girls' calendar, and it's rarely empty! It's hard to make it out of town, but somehow we snuck in a visit to Geoff's mom in Florida and caught up with extended family over holidays and family weddings. With friends being super important to our teens, we also took extra kids with us to the cabin to work in a quick summer visit.