

## Jon and Diane Claerbout's 2020

Diane moved to the Moldaw Residences in mid-2015 and Jon arrived about a year later. (We had to wait until the cat died.) To develop some friendships there, Jon became the volunteer secretary for a weekly one-hour men's social gathering. When the COVID hit, Jon took that group onto Zoom (on-line internet).

In preparation for our big home move, Jon had purchased a battery-assist bicycle. With it, at Moldaw he soon found he loved the 30-minute five-mile bike ride to his office at Stanford. In mid-2018 he joined a 3-4 person biking group that runs a weekly biking trip of about 12-20 miles. He began taking [a photo or two per ride](#) saving them in an album to show off the amazing diversity, beauty, and charm of our local surroundings. Diane loves the local walking with shops on one side of us and residential homes on the other. She often walks with friends always aiming for 10,000 paces a day. That's a bit over three miles. When a pedestrian highway overpass is completed next summer, we will have a pleasant 1-¼ mile walk to the bay.

With COVID keeping us at home this spring, Jon took a serious interest in developing [a flower garden on our balcony](#). Thus began a photo album of our garden growth. From Diane's gardening at our Stanford house, Jon got the idea that the flowers of bougainvillea were long-lasting and would make fine donations for Jos at the cemetery and on his plaque at the water fountain along a nearby trail. So, Jon went headlong into bougainvillea farming. These have gradually grown to be as successful as the Mandevilla plants of Diane's that we brought with us from Stanford. Links to these two photo albums now reside in the signature line of Jon's email.

Being south-facing, our balcony garden is delightful all day. Diane is maintaining a hummingbird feeder. We had two meals a day out there until daylight saving time ended. Most days now we have only lunch out there.

We feel fortunate to be living at Moldaw. We have lovely meals, more activities than we can keep up with, and Diane has good friends to talk with when she passes them (wearing masks) in the hallways. Our apartment gets cleaned regularly and all maintenance is taken care of. It is very easy. Our balcony

garden has enough space to entertain another couple while maintaining a 6' separation, but we are not permitted to do so because of COVID.

With COVID keeping us from traveling this spring we've been doing jigsaw puzzles. The highlight is a spectacular gift we received from our son Martin, a 1500 piece puzzle that took us 9-days to finish. The puzzle is [a painting of Pieter Bruegel's Dutch Proverbs in the year 1560](#). It's hanging from a wall now. Please do not ever send us a gift puzzle with more than 500 pieces!

Beginning in 2015 Jon got serious about no longer being a fat person. He seems to be stabilizing in the 170-180 range and hopes he can keep it there. He also recommends some [brief science and engineering Youtubes](#).

Last year we found a local lapidary club (rock polishing). Too bad we didn't find that sooner! We only went a half dozen times before COVID shut everything down. Needless-to-say, Jon can share with you a Google Photo album showing his bolo ties and miscellaneous rocks that we have collected. Over the last five years, he has been working towards getting all our family photos into Google Photos. We were surprised to enjoy the feature that it recognizes **faces** and **things** so we can make impromptu albums of people like "Hina" or things like "fish".

On Sundays, there is a hiking club that usually goes to the wonderful nearby Baylands. Diane enjoys this. She studies Spanish every day with Duolingo (although she misses teaching her class in Spanish). She is the secretary for 3 groups and assistant librarian. She is still selling on eBay and Amazon. She is also part of a short story group. Much of her energy goes into weeding books, clothes, and finishing unfinished craft projects. She plays Scrabble **online** instead of **with** friends at Moldaw. She is going to take another Mahjongg class in January. She also misses giving massages in the Memory Unit at Moldaw. She enjoys giving lectures and has several ready to give when COVID is over.

It was not a great year health-wise for Diane. Her fragile bones caused some problems and in October, she had her thymus gland removed, a thymoma operation. She says she doesn't miss her thymus since she never knew that she had one. The operation was done robotically at Stanford. The husband of one of her good friends was the co-inventor of the DaVinci robot which was used in the

surgery. She recovered very well and is looking forward to an active, healthy 2021.

Our son Andrew with Amy and their sons Leo, Huck, and Roy (17, 14, and 12) live in Vermont. Andrew finished building a duplex last year for rental income. Andrew had planned a spectacular vacation for us in Costa Rica where they were living for a year. Three days before we were to arrive, Costa Rica closed its borders because of COVID. That was our biggest disappointment of the year.

Our son Martin lives in Maui, Hawaii. Because of COVID, his two college-aged daughters live with Martin and Yasuko. They do their university work at home on-line. Both girls have done spectacularly well at winning scholarships. Hanna is a Senior. Although nominally a University of Hawaii student, she managed to arrange for one year at Sophia University in Tokyo and half of another year at the more famed Keio University also in Tokyo. She also squeezed in a couple of months on an internship at the US embassy in The Hague in the Netherlands. She'll graduate in May.

Hina is a Freshman at Hawaii University but actually still at home because of COVID. She has begun a program in Public Health. She lost out on her high school senior prom, her high-school graduation, and the ballet performance she would have starred in. What a lousy deal Covid has dished out for her!

The girls' mother, Yasuko, sends us an email or photos nearly every other day. We're very thankful for that! Martin corresponds regularly with Jon. Hooray! Recently we've had an all-family Zoom meeting. At one moment, Hina lifted a leg up, pointed her toes at the ceiling above her head, and spun around! The girls were more entertaining than the boys who appeared to be awestruck.

We look forward to a better 2021 hopefully having time with more of you.

Enjoy the photos below. You can enlarge this page to full screen width.

We did what we could with Zoom but sadly, some family members are reticent. Maybe better luck next time.



Diane has been working in the library here at Moldaw.



Here Jon works on the flower garden on our balcony. He bicycles about 25 miles per week, mostly with his friends who have been doing 14-20 miles on Wednesdays, mostly with battery-assist bicycles. He takes many photos of our delightful neighborhood.



Andrew and his family found a way to take most of their year in Costa Rica. Andrew and Leo did a lot of work rebuilding the run-down house where they lived. This photo was taken right after they returned home. They maintained a detailed



picture-studded blog of their year. If you'd like to learn more, just ask.

From Martin and Yasuko's family, we just received news that Hina (middle below) has won a big scholarship for next year. Hooray!



We always remember our dear son Jos who preceded us on the journey to the Great Silence. This photo from his water fountain along the Stevens Creek Trail.

