

Happy

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Busy Busy! These proved our dual, iterative mantras in 2023. Let it be known that we Vanderlips seek an identical karmic stance over the next 12 months. In that spirit, please accept our best wishes for the New Year, along with this recap of the one just completed.

The big 2024 happening remains the union of Silas Phillips & Rene Sanchez in Montana, come June. Did you know Clara moved there already, so as not to miss any build-up? Well, she did.

Meantime, Sharon, Hal & Percy hold the Maine fort, quilting and writing (new book deal signed in November), dodging floods and active shooters, traveling and digging holes in the sideyard, making music and managing the Hasty House Studio.

Come visit and we'll block it off for you — or stay in The Big House with us. Produce this document and the drinks are free.





Top: Family hike near Silas's place of work, 9 Mile Ranger Station, just west of Missoula. Team Vanderlips converged on western MT in August, upon Clara's move there... Right & left: Scenes from June's Quilt Cruise to Alaska, a Vandermay-hatched and -dominated event; Bottom right, Silas butchers his first antelope; bottom left, Team Grubhoe (aka Wesleyan Golf Team Alumni) during super-fun late-October reunion round at CT National GC.





Clockwise from above: Sharon & Hal in July at Portland's Bramhall Pub, scene of the crime first date, back in 1993; Clara with teaching colleagues and (below) her kindergarten students, celebrating June's last day of school at Success Academy (she moved west 6 weeks later); Wellesley United SC alumni meet-up, an ongoing bonus consequence of *Generation Zero's* 2022 publication, at The Library in Portsmouth, NH; below, we present two sides of The Matriarch After Dark: the glamorous "Clubbing" Sharon, beside the "Napping on Living Room Floor with Dog" Sharon.



Clockwise from top: Father/Son golf in MT, where, on the 15th hole at Rock Creek Cattle Co., Silas drove the green & drained his 35-footer for first-ever eagle; Hal sorted all the old family photos into albums last year — see here early evidence of the boy's prowess (when he played right-handed!); Sharon at Maine Garlic Festival in Skowhegan, where Anniversary Weekend also included screening of new 4K print of *Stop Making Sense*; Clara in recharge mode; brief timeline of First NextGen Vandermay Baby — Lillian Joyce Baldwin — courtesy of niece Analyse; visited NZ & Oz in April, producing this album-worthy shot of Dave & Shazz at a former Melbs convent, and our visit to Cape Reinga, where Māori souls enter this world, and leave it.





Clockwise from above: Silas in Snowbunny Mode, Anniversary Hike Mode, Bowhunting Mode; fun '90s-era reunion of Young Married Portlanders w/Kids Circle, in Freeport; Clara embraced rampant BarbieMania in 2023 — randomly at an NYC cafe, with intention on Halloween; family Flaming Lips concert at stunning Kettlehouse Amphitheater in Mizzou; Moon Over Ossipee Music Festival in June.





Counter-clockwise from directly above: Yahnundasis GC near Cooperstown, NY, site of annual Sept. Golf Trip; Silas' Forest Service gig includes *ad hoc* fire-fighting duties; Clara attends fake, effectively lit May wedding with fake date Nick, in Brooklyn; when Clara decamped for MT, Sharon escorted her cross country — trip included very blue drinks in Erie, Pa., and International Quilt Museum in Lincoln, Neb.; Cousin Kari & Co. visited Maine in July, when young Audrey cavorted with Trolls prior to obligatory lobsterfest in Boothbay Harbor; Crystal Caverns near Antietam Battlefield, day after Thanksgiving in Baltimore with sister Janet & Mom Phillips, who moved there in September; Hal jammed with Maine Gov. Mills (The Other Janet) at St. Patrick's Day party. She played the spoons.

