

Chapter 17. Introspection

While trying to understand myself and looking at general strengths and weaknesses in my psyche, I did not do a lot of self-examination until I started writing this testament. I did not brood over matters that did not go my way, nor did I search my soul about my many failings. Please understand that in the following, I will discuss tendencies and not absolutes.

I. Conquering my major fault – my bent toward idleness.

I don't know exactly when it was that I realized that my greatest failing was some level of laziness. When I did come to understand this failing, I recognized that it was POSSIBLY a family trait. It's not that we didn't work, work hard, or do what was expected of us at our occupation; it's just that we have not looked for things to do that require more work than is necessary. For instance, housekeeping was never a strong suit for my parents' family. If company was coming, that might be the time to expend the effort. It might also be that we did not set high expectations and so found ourselves easily satisfied with the way things were.

I must have understood this failing sub-consciously because I almost always overcompensated for it in my job. I was usually the first to arrive and among the last to leave. To maintain a work output that would be measured positively, I had to change from someone who was normally disorganized to someone who constantly multitasked and created routines where none had existed before. Early in my career with Graybar, my managers used my talent to train others and had me work with new or disorganized employees to help them learn to do their jobs better. In all my supervisory positions, I think that my strong suit was my ability to summarize the duties and tasks of jobs and explain them to people I was responsible for training.

I truly believe that, had I not had a life-partner committed to our family's interests, it would have been easy for me to fall into old ways of just doing enough to get by as I had in high school and in college. Most likely, I would have taken the easy way out and been a more than adequate but largely unfulfilled restaurant employee. That was pretty much what was in the back of my mind for years even after I started working for Graybar. JoAnn and our family were pretty much my compass which kept me focused on the right direction.

II. Deciding how to use a major asset – my equanimity.

Early in my career with Graybar, I had an office manager and another co-worker who had extremely caustic personalities. It was seldom that a friendly word was uttered by either of them. I realized that there must be reasons for their attitude, so I avoided confrontations with them; but when it was impossible to get out of their way, I had to make a choice. I could respond to them in kind, or I could figure out a more pleasant method of dealing with them. At that time, I decided that I wasn't going to let anyone pull me down to their level. There was no way that I was going to win if I let them choose the battle and was forced to use their weapons to fight it with.

It would not be true to state that I never had moments when anger or frustration got the best of me, but, almost without exception when I did "boil over," I was able to delay taking any action that might have made matters worse. I recall a situation clearly that came up with a recently hired security manager who took a position that I disagreed with strongly. I felt that he had a view of his own importance that crossed the line. As our argument got more heated, I could feel myself considering something physical, so I simply stated that our boss would have to decide the issue. He came back later, apologized and we got along well from that time forward.

One characteristic of my personality has always been the ease which it takes to satisfy me. My main consideration, therefore, has been to do everything I can to promote a pleasant atmosphere. To be in company with others who are enjoying themselves is my idea of a good time. Likewise, being in the company of others who are actively not getting along is my worst nightmare. Being around a lot of unpleasant situations in my early life is probably the catalyst that causes me to want to avoid open

unfriendly or disagreeable situations. My first inclination upon sensing overt discord is to see what can be done to smooth over the situation.

Unfortunately, in attempting to defuse this type of circumstance, I have often found myself in the middle of competing camps. The best result of being caught between conflicting concerns is that you are in a position of hearing and seeing both sides of the issue from within. The worst consequence of this is that by getting all the facts, you probably know which side you feel is more correct. If that side is not going to win, you have a quandary and could be forced to accept less than optimal conclusions.

Altruism is a virtue to be desired, but not one that can define all your social interactions. If you spend your life catering to the whims and notions of others, the result must leave a bitter taste. Occasionally, you must try to affect the opinion of others to realize circumstances and goals that are important to you. There is a pleasant feeling derived from the setting of a tone for agreeable communal relations.

III. Rationalizing a life fraught with procrastination.

I have admitted to postponing activities that I truly felt were not timely and I have no excuse for the effects of this. I do feel, however, that often the mere delaying of a decision until it has been thoroughly thought out is far better than jumping to rash conclusions and making hasty decisions. Often, I have found out that my first inclination is not the best course. I think this is because I have unbounded optimism and trust which must be reined in by reality. Pericles, a 5th century Greek general, warned another general: "Time is the wisest counselor of all".

It doesn't always work, but I find putting off a difficult decision that you do not feel comfortable with is the best path. The critical part of this strategy is in knowing when the decision must be made and putting into place a plan to arrive there in plenty of time. A rule that I believe in is to not put off until tomorrow what can be done better today. Unfortunately, I have not always lived up to that.

Not only are we called upon to make decisions between right choices and wrong choices, but we often find the dilemma to be "which is the best among several right decisions." Most of us know the difference between utterly wrong and indisputably right, but the world we encounter is often a hazy shade of gray. Why else do we see that on many divisive issues the split, politically, is often close to 50/50? An open, inquiring, selfless mind will most often find the answers that can be looked back on as "right", given the knowable and provable circumstances.

IV. Explaining why others come to different conclusions than you do and why they might not be wrong (even if you are right).

The way the brain works is one thing that we don't necessarily consider to be as important as it really is. We tend to think that all our brains were made the same way so they must work the same way. In not realizing how different each of our brains is, we relinquish the tool that would be the most helpful in preparing us to deal with others. Although we see, hear, feel, and smell the same stimuli as others, that does not mean that our brains process the information they receive in the same way.

For instance, what is it that creates the difference between people that call themselves conservative and those that consider themselves to be progressive? They can look at the same facts and come up with diametrically opposed opinions. This must mean that their brain is processing the same information but is producing entirely different emotions for the inferences that are drawn. The strength of these emotions seems to be the overriding determinant of our conclusions. Emotions such as self-reliance vs camaraderie, trust vs suspicion, empathy vs indifference, openness vs intolerance, flexibility vs intransigence are all in every one of us – but the strength of each sentiment is what guides our thought process.

V. Explaining the passion of a moderate.

I believe that I have always thought the reasonable, temperate, rational course was best for me. Lately, I have concluded that these are the ways I would recommend to all who live life in the margins – that quiet majority of us who are not driven to be the makers of history. Read the following points and understand that they apply only to ordinary human beings – not saints, geniuses, or history-making individuals.

1. Don't expect more out of life than you are willing to put on the line.
2. Be enthusiastic for those who demonstrate the abilities that you revere.
3. Be aware that even if you are in the middle of the pack, you may be ahead of at least 50% of the pack.
4. Small dreams are attainable; big dreams are mind-blowing.
5. There is a point where many "good things" becomes "bad things". Moderation must try to recognize that tipping point.
6. It's not so important where you came from or where you arrived at, as how you navigated along the way.
7. There are a lot more ways for things to go wrong than for them to go right; so, limit your attempts at amelioration to (1) problems that have a good chance of being improved and (2) problems that are so dire that it's worth both the effort and the chance you are taking.
8. **Epicureanism** is a system of philosophy based on the teachings of **Epicurus**, founded around 307 B.C. It teaches that the greatest good is to seek modest pleasures to attain a state of tranquility, freedom from fear ("ataraxia") and absence from bodily pain ("aponia").

Some quotations on moderation are:

"Gratitude turns what you have into enough." - Aesop

'Some luck lies not in getting what you want, but getting what you have, which once you have it you might be lucky enough to realize is what you would have wanted had you known.'
– Garrison Keillor

"He who is not satisfied with a little, is satisfied with nothing." - Epicurus

VI. A broader definition of luck.

Luck in gambling is most often defined as beating the odds, which is strictly looking at the numbers. This is only true when it is applied to "games of chance". Games that may employ skill do have the element of luck but are skewed by differing skill levels. I believe this is true in life as well. Most of life's outcomes are (more or less) governed by circumstances beyond our control. As with the political process, we may have input, but we stand or fall mainly with "one man – one vote".

We are completely at the mercy of fortune when it comes to birthright. We depend absolutely on the grace of God's design for the complement of genes that determine our physical and mental makeup. Our cohort is rarely what we would elect to join if there were alternatives readily available. We must choose our long-term relationships from a relatively small sampling of the population. The universe is a scary, dangerous, and sometimes unforgiving environment but we must live in it and with its' hazards.

We should acknowledge luck when we recognize it in any aspect of our lives; so, to paraphrase Barry Switzer, former Oklahoma University football coach "if we are born at third base, we should not act as if we hit a triple". We should thank Providence if our physical and/or mental capacities are above average. If we are dealt a bad hand, we should strive to make the best of it and be glad that it was not a "cold deck" (definition: never going to get better). We need to accept people for what they are and endeavor to improve rapport and understanding. If, somehow, the life we are given is measurably or intuitively better than most we know of, we should tip our hat to whatever instrument of good fortune suits our perception of life.

VII. Facing reality and bending a life's outcome.

I can honestly say that for at least our first 4 decades of marriage we did not have a plan. Things happened and, fortunately, those things were mostly positive. We dealt with life as it occurred and made mistakes. We haven't dwelt on those mistakes, but we have talked about them and tried to not relive them.

Does a 68 year relationship, raising four children who brought to our lives 16 grandchildren (not to mention who knows how many great grandchildren), and being able to retire successfully by the age of 70, having a longer than average number of years in retirement and living longer than anyone else in our immediate family, indicate some measure of fortune – or a very lucky roll of the dice?

JoAnn and I proved that two people who are opposite in almost every way can get together and succeed in marriage. We both had a lower middle-class childhood but our interests coming out of that were very different. Lucky for me that her main interest was taking care of her family. Ironically, she had a more stable family life than mine which gave me no role model for being a father whereas her mother was always a partner to her stepfather. I gave 100% to my career but did basically what I was asked to do at home. I did make some adjustments in outside interests as she did with her interests; and over the years, we became even more compatible.

First, JoAnn and I were able to stake out the areas of responsibility that best fit our own abilities and needs without having the other spouse feel slighted or overburdened. A lot of this just happened because we are creatures of our times when men were the breadwinners and women the home-creators. To make this work, we sometimes had to cross over and give the other a hand as JoAnn did when we reached a point where our income didn't cover our move to a more expensive locality. But that was not the whole story; we also had to accept along the way that decisions had to be made even if complete agreement didn't always happen.

Fortunately, we were different enough that we were able to compensate for each other's shortcomings. Isn't it strange that certain qualities can be both a failing and a virtue? The way to accomplish a melding of attributes to improve overall family unit success is by recognizing your own shortcomings and not putting a premium on personal validation. I'm not trying to pretend that I had this all figured out from the beginning or at any point along the way. It's only looking back that some of this explanation makes sense.

The way I think this worked is:

Pragmatist/Idealist

I have always tried to seek solutions that didn't require people and events to be operating on the highest plane. There are some results that would be very positive but come with requirements or measures that may be of too high a price. Sometimes though, in trying to negotiate some issues, you give up too much when you try to arrive at the lowest common interest. It always helps to keep the best possible outcome in view. JoAnn was always there to remind me what a better result might be like and often pushed me out of my comfort zone in this regard.

Laidback/Strict

My leadership/parenting/human interaction persona has always been that it is necessary to accept that we are all different and we have our own perspectives. When you unsparingly expect things from people that they cannot or are not likely to provide, it is usually counter-productive. If you know that someone does not have the intellectual or cognizant will to accomplish a task, you have three choices: (1) get someone who does, or (2) adjust the requirements for the task, or (3) provide the additional input yourself. Fortunately, for me, the third way worked most of the time.

It helps to be strict with those that are dragging their feet for the following reasons: malingering, laziness, intransigence, extreme bias, and short-sightedness. An example of this is one that I dealt with at considerable length with several people who worked for me. Often in business you are confronted with corporate decisions that you may not agree with. I always tried to influence what I could but often had to

stifle feelings about decisions that I knew I had no way to control. I had more than one subordinate at times who thought that we ought to make noise through our work process to point out the corporate judgments that they did not agree with. I felt it was my job to tamp down their excesses to avoid the possibility of them losing their jobs.

In our family life, JoAnn was always a strict parent, who knows what problems might have resulted if she was more like me.

Procrastinator/GTDer (gets things done)

There are several issues with procrastination that are probably positive. First, a delay in acting may be the right course if you do not have all the necessary information. Second, action may not be necessary or called for because the situation may take care of itself. Third, any action taken by you may be counter-productive if you are not the appropriate agent. And, finally, a plan to deal with the situation may require postponement of immediate action.

Although I have always been a procrastinator, I combined this with multi-tasking in 1966 when I was the Warehouse Supervisor at Graybar in Pittsburgh. The warehouse was on a lower floor from the office. It was often necessary to confer with office personnel. Not only was it strenuous to climb (30-40 steps), but it was time consuming. I became extremely adept at accomplishing multiple tasks during my trips up to the office. I carried this through all my jobs up to those involving computers and peripherals. When procrastination is solely for the purpose of delay, it takes someone to be the adult and say, "let's go." That is where JoAnn back-stopped me to keep things going in our home-life.

Analytical/Emotional

My whole work life has been involved with studying, analyzing, and planning. I have carried this into all areas of my life, and I cannot deal with issues on strictly an emotional level. From the most personal to the most crucial matters, I can't act without going through an examination of the issues that impact those concerns. Many times, this study leads me to the conclusion that I should not react the way my initial emotions indicate that I should. That is where JoAnn's outlook was beneficial, particularly whenever the security of our family was an issue.

I have an example of a situation where I acted on instinct instead of carrying out a thorough investigation before taking an action. In 1987, the stock market was doing great; by mid-year, my Graybar profit sharing plan investment was up 30 percent for the year. I changed from the equity plan to the fixed income plan to lock in these gains. As often happens, the stock market continued to rise, and I was concerned that I was missing out on further profits. I decided to jump back in with both feet. On Black Monday, October 19, 1987, the stock market crashed 23% and went down further from there. Some obvious reflection was in order here. There are many emotional subjects that lead us to be more cautious.

Planner/Worrier

All the above characteristics and my professional life point to my nature to always insist on a plan. My disposition is to not worry about something that I have no ability to affect. Conversely, JoAnn often worried about what might happen without gauging the likelihood that it could happen. When I can, I try to direct these situations to the planning stage - what, if anything, can we do? I do have anxiety when I see people that I love doing things that might be very damaging if their direction is not changed. This anxiety, however, is always directed to whether I can influence a change or assist in a better outcome.

I learned a long time ago that I wanted to avoid certain things. One of those is the hassle of being late whether that is boarding a plane or attending a meeting or simply arriving at an agreed-upon time. Even though I see people showing up at the last minute all the time, it is not worth it to me to try to shorten my possible waiting time. Many years ago, I found myself running through Miami airport and having to beg for the gate to be reopened (and this was before 9-11). I had not allowed myself enough time for rental car return.

My very first plane flight, which was to Buffalo NY, was almost a disaster as I had no idea what the correct amount of lead time would be. I was accompanying my boss on a business trip. I should have been

honest with him and asked his advice about arrival time. The only way to avoid the possibility of lateness is through planning, assessment of possible obstacles, and not putting everything off till the last moment.

Optimist/Pessimist

Being the eternal optimist is one of those two-edged sword traits. When things go wrong, your optimism makes you look more foolish than a pessimist looks regarding things that go right. If you are an optimist, you must learn from your mistakes; otherwise, you will inevitably come to question your own judgment.

It is a simple fact that an optimistic view is more likely to be the outcome on issues that bear on judgment. For example, there are many, many more honest people in the world than there are dishonest people. Public systems function as they are designed, most of the time. Human activities tend toward orderliness and away from chaos. Relatively few things happen that are anti-historic; and those that do make history generally are preceded by manifest precursors. Over time, the economy, and our ability to deal with it both got better. Anyone who is aware of what is going on and what has happened in the past can predict the most likely outcome for circumstances that don't vary widely in their outcomes. A strong proof of this has been the steady growth of the stock market over time.

Problems arise with optimism when it is not tempered with a healthy dose of risk avoidance. A "cock-eyed" optimist would not buy insurance, subscribe to an alarm service, pay for financial advice, or have a safety deposit box (all of which I subscribe to). To make optimism work, you must assess the possible outcomes and perils that may arise from your decision. If you are willing to live with them all, go for it; otherwise follow the moderate path.

Chapter 18. Our move to Trilogy

For several years we had anticipated that eventually our home in Winter Garden would be too large and too hard for two future 80-year-olds to care for. We are both private people who prefer to do what we can for ourselves. We decided at that time we felt we could continue in a house that was considerably smaller and get help whenever that became necessary. The house that we bought in Trilogy of Orlando seemed to fill that bill.

I have lately come to regret this as I know that JoAnn never fully agreed with making this change and leaving the home that she loved so much. This was another case of her trusting my judgement. I am sorry every day that I didn't recognize this as being a bad decision on my part.

In January 2014, we flew to Kauai for eleven weeks, our longest stay in Hawaii. We were gauging our desire to continue our annual trips. We both stayed relatively healthy with only a couple of trips to an urgent care facility. We played 47 9-hole rounds of golf. We returned home in March to finish arranging the furniture in our new home. We were reducing from 5 bedrooms with a separate dining room, an office, and a handicraft room to a great room for the kitchen, dining and living room, 2 bedrooms, a TV room with a sleeper sofa, and a Lanai converted to a 4-season patio/dining/sitting area. Fortunately, it was furnished with a large laundry area which allowed for a desk/office seating arrangement and much upper and lower shelf and drawer storage. We tried to sell much of our excess furniture but still ended up with a 10' x 10' storage for several months while we tried to find a new home for whatever someone in the family needed. We ended up donating a truckload to Habitat for Humanity.

In April we drove to West Chester to see Jon Jr. and family. We stopped in Virginia to see Joe and Janet Exline. Joe was an invalid to complications from a burst heart valve. This was one of several trips that we stopped by to visit them since his heart valve replacement surgery in 2007. We have always felt the importance of keeping in touch with relatives and friends. In June, Ryan graduated from High School.



In July, Rebecca Suzanne Brill married Donald McKinney, and we attended their beautiful reception in Ocala.



Rebecca and Donald McKinney

In November, we drove to Tampa for the annual Graybar Florida retiree's luncheon. Jon, Shannon, Lauren, and Allyson came down to spend the week after Christmas. They spent a day at Universal Studios with Charles and his family. We had a terrific reason to fly to Virginia in January 2015 to see our first great-grandchild Rosie Nicole Wolff who was born on Christmas Day 2014.



Rosie Nicole Wolff with Great Grandma

From Leesburg, we drove over to Berkeley Springs to see my nieces Susan and Nancy Leigh. We wanted to look at the Greenway Cemetery for our funeral arrangements. We have discussed the possibility of both of us being buried in the same casket with one of us being cremated first. My sister Nancy had purchased 8 plots in Greenway Cemetery for her family and Susan suggested that we use one of those.

We flew to Las Vegas for the annual Graybar "Omega" Retirees Reunion in February. We stayed eight days there, mainly recovering from a stomach illness. From there, we flew to Kauai for our six-week vacation. We were only able to golf 12 times this year. JoAnn had leg and back problems that kept us from the golf course for the final three weeks. The saving grace of the whole trip was the fact that we were kept in the same condominium unit for the whole stay. JoAnn had knee replacement surgery on her right leg in May followed by a 10 day stay at a rehabilitation center.

In July 2015, we threw ourselves a party to celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary and our 80th birthdays. Most of our family were able to attend including my sister, Mary Bess Rains, and her son David Stubbs from Wilmington NC.



Family at Trilogy Clubhouse Emma's Kitchen

In September 2015, my niece Nancy Leigh Metzger died in Berkeley Springs. We flew up to Dulles and stopped to see our great granddaughter Rosie in Leesburg, VA before driving to Berkeley Springs for the funeral.

That fall, Jonathan and Emily decided to move to Tennessee. It seemed sensible that we would help Carol purchase their house, which would help them move quickly and give Carol some place to live at a reasonable price. She was facing an increase in her rent at her current apartment. JoAnn fell in our bedroom on November 1 and broke her hip which required a partial hip replacement, and a 3 week stay in Lake Bennet nursing home in Ocoee. I made sure to be there every morning when she woke up so that she would not have any difficulties first thing. She was released on Thanksgiving Day.

Our second great grandchild, Nikita Connor McKinney, was born on November 19, while JoAnn was still in rehabilitation recovering from her hip replacement. Circumstances prevented our meeting Nikita until January 24 2015.



Nikita Connor McKinney

JoAnn's brother Joe Exline died January 10, 2016, at the age of 81 after a nine-year struggle with the effects of a burst heart valve. He had been in the army, had a master's degree in biology and a doctorate in earth sciences. He was a high school science teacher, the Director of Science Education for the state of Virginia and a Project Director for Virginia Quality Education in Sciences and Technology. We were not able to attend the funeral but were glad that we had taken the opportunity to see Joe and Janet whenever we were able.

Late in January, we flew to Las Vegas for the Graybar "Omega" retirees' reunion. From there we flew to Kauai for 51 days. When we returned after JoAnn golfed 21 times and I golfed 23 times, we felt that she needed some therapy on her balance. We were in the middle of this therapy when she fell during a session on June 7 and broke her right femur at the shoulder. The surgeon felt that it would likely heal without surgery. After about a month she began therapy for her arm. She went through 12 office therapy sessions and many more at home sessions to get back the use of her right arm. In April, Lauren was awarded West Chester Universities nomination to the "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges".

On June 10, 2016, Hope Elizabeth Brill married Riley Jonathan Vary. We attended their reception in Ocala and had a wonderful time meeting Riley's family.



Riley joins the Brill Family

Later in June, Jon came down from West Chester and helped me with some yard work, including building a raised planter where we placed the bird bath that Ken had given us years ago.



In November 2016, we flew to St. Louis to visit with Kenneth's family. We had Jon's family, Charles' family, Carol, Benjamin, David, Mary and Rosie for Thanksgiving Eve at our house and the same group less Charles' family for Thanksgiving Day. Charles' family was down again for Christmas Eve. Ryan was in Utah on his 2-year mission. We drove to Tampa in December for the annual Graybar Florida retiree's luncheon.

We flew to Kauai on January 5, 2017, for nine weeks. We golfed 21 times, but JoAnn injured her back, so we had to return 2 weeks early to Groveland on February 23. While we were in Hawaii, Rowan Elliot Wolff was born January 10 in Tennessee. We would not be able to see him until later that year. JoAnn needed therapy for her back in April.

Holly graduated from High School in May 2017.



The first opportunity that we had to see Rowan was in August. We had a wonderful 2-day visit with Jon, Emily, and Rowan at Fairfield Glade Resort in Tennessee, where we saw that Rowan was now big enough to swim.



Rowan Elliot Wolff

We flew from Knoxville to Las Vegas. Regrettably, while walking to the airport baggage claim, JoAnn fell and fractured her left arm (the opposite of her previous fall). Luckily, a flight attendant saw JoAnn fall and stayed with us until the EMTs arrived. Since we had to take JoAnn to the hospital, she said she would take care of transferring our luggage, which we hadn't picked up yet. JoAnn was released later that day, and I arranged for the rental car to be delivered to the hospital. Just as we arrived at the hotel and were checking in, our luggage arrived. A lot of people would not have trusted a stranger to go to those lengths, but I do have confidence that most people are dependable in a crisis, and it was not a live or die decision.

In October we flew up to Virginia and drove to Berkeley Springs for their Annual Apple Butter Festival. Jon and Shannon drove over to visit with us for the weekend. We spent a lot of time with Susan and Pete Moss, my niece, and her husband. On our way back to Dulles Airport, we had a couple of visits with grandson David Wolff, his wife Mary, and our great granddaughter Rosie. In the morning before our flight, we visited with Harry Saville, JoAnn's brother-in-law, his daughter Judy, and his son Timmy.

We were prepared to leave on January 6, 2018, for Hawaii, but circumstances prevented this. JoAnn fell coming through the door to the screen house in early December. She didn't seem to have any immediate injuries or aftereffects but within a few weeks she started to have pains in her left side. It kept getting worse and on December 29 we decided to have it checked out by a doctor at the urgent care center. They x-rayed and checked her over but found no obvious physical problem. They suggested having an orthopedic surgeon check her out. Unfortunately, we caught such bad colds at the urgent care center that we couldn't see the doctor for 2 weeks. I say that we caught these colds at the urgent care center because we rarely get colds and don't often go where a lot of people are ill. During those weeks, we had to cancel our arrangements for the trip. The doctor diagnosed the problem as spinal stenosis probably aggravated by the fall.

On July 19, 2018, at 11:18 PM, Emily and Jon welcomed Everett Linc Wolff at 7 lbs. 9 oz.



Everett Linc Wolff

On Saturday, July 21 at 1:38 AM, Rebecca and Donald welcomed Lennox Cole McKinney at 8 lbs. 1 oz.



Lennox Cole McKinney

In August, JoAnn had cataract surgery that was 100% successful and eliminated her need for glasses. She was operated on by the same surgeon that did my surgery in 2007, Dr. Catherine Wang. Dr. Wang also did our annual checkups for about 6 years. When I had my surgery, the technology was not as accurate so I chose not to have the most expensive procedure that probably would have meant that I would not have to use reading glasses but since I had become used to glasses anyway and the outcome wasn't guaranteed, I had opted to save some money.

On August 29, Bob Wolff, David's dad died in Lancaster PA at the age of 74. Bob and his wife Ginger and family lived across the street from us in Glenshaw in 1974-75. In October 2018, we flew to Dulles Airport for a trip to Berkeley Springs for the Apple Butter Festival. We saw David, Mary, and Rosie in Leesburg and again in Berkeley Springs. We had a meeting with the director at Helsley-Johnson Funeral Home and made some future arrangements. Our niece Susan Webster was extremely helpful while we were there. In Leesburg, VA we had lunch with JoAnn's brother-in-law Harry Saville and his family – Judy and David Loose and Timmy Saville.

On November 16, 2018, Emma Colleen Brill married Andrew James Bedford. We were at the temple and had pictures taken after the ceremony. The next day we went to their reception at the Appleton Museum in Ocala. We had a wonderful time talking with Andrew's family.



Andrew joins the Brill family

We flew to Philadelphia on December 27 for the wedding of Lauren Aliece Brill to Eric Burke. We attended the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner on 12/28 and the wedding and reception the next day.



Eric joins the Brill Family