

Browns' 2014 Newsletter

December, 2014

Mary's Year in Review

What an eventful time this has been! Jared and I started off the year in Florida with our family enjoying some much needed R&R. Soon after we returned it was time to buckle down and plan our August wedding. After the major details were locked down, we decided that we weren't busy enough so we went on the search for our first home together.

Three short months and 25 house tours later we found the one. It was a 1906 home and rough around the edges but on April 2nd we bought our four bedroom, two bath home a mile from downtown Portland, across the street from a park and in a great neighborhood. Luckily the previous owner had done all of the essential projects (new roof, new sewer & water line, new furnace) and we were left with "just" cosmetic updates. We spent the next few months painting, doing yard work, putting in a new bathroom, installing new shelves and appliances all the while still continuing to plan our big day and trying to ensure the house was ready for our wedding guests and rehearsal

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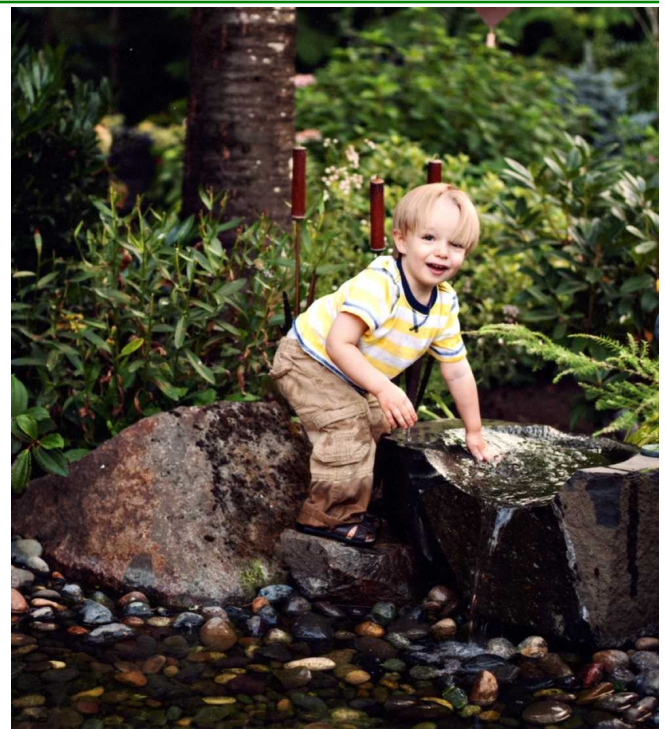
The Bride, the Groom and a couple of others.

Liz's Year in Review

2014 was surely exciting! After a cold, snowy winter in Northern Virginia, Nelson, Scott and a pregnant me packed up and moved to hot Tegucigalpa where I started my first overseas tour as a Consular Officer. I adjudicate non-immigrant visas about 6 hours a day (which means I decide which Hondurans get visas to visit, study, and work in the US, based on the law). I usually interview around 100 Hondurans per day, from all walks of life and socio-economic classes. Then, just as we were settling into a nice little routine, we picked up and moved to the Pacific Northwest to begin my maternity leave.

For the first four weeks we stayed with friends in Seattle while I worked at the Seattle Passport Agency processing complex/questionable claims to US citizenship (aka applying for a passport). We moved down to Vancouver earlier than planned hoping Matilda would follow suit and make her entrance before her due date...she didn't...she was 4 days late. She was born in our house in my old bedroom after a quick labor and uncomplicated delivery. Grandpa had gone out to get snacks for everyone when it

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Granddad Only Took His Eyes Off for a Second!



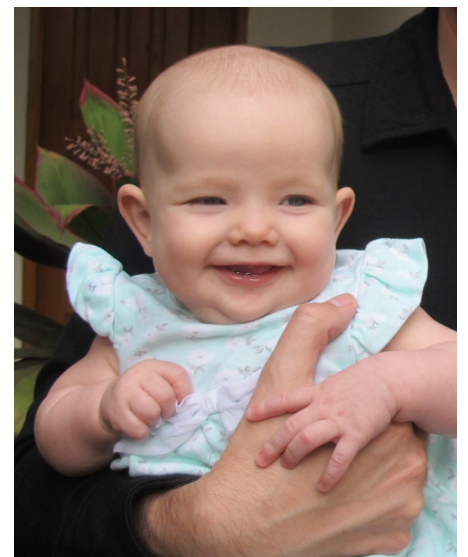
Everyone was happy to see Mary get hitched!

(l-r) Jesse Brown, Scott Brown, Elizabeth Streett, Scott & Matilda Streett, Terry Heiser, Emily Heiser, Kim Heiser, Bill Brown, Adele Brown, Mary Wiener, Jared Wiener, Elaine McClure, Bill McClure, Laura Anastasia, Jeff McClure, Beth Lillie, Kathryn Lillie, Jay Lillie, David Lillie.



Adele can still get down and boogie!

Baby Matilda likes to party, too!



Mary's Year (cont'd)

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dinner.

In addition to all of the house and wedding work, Jared and I were also training for a half marathon and a triathlon. Before we knew it, our bachelor and bachelorette parties, and my bridal shower came and went (all were wonderful) and it was time for our wedding guests to arrive.

In one whirlwind week we had relatives flying in from all over the country to share in our special day and on August 16th we were wed. The wedding was held at a beautiful winery outside of Portland, and was truly the best and most memorable day of my life thus far, and we were so excited to move to the next chapter of our lives.

After the wedding, we took a mini-honeymoon to Bend and Crater

Lake, Oregon with the plan of taking a longer and more luxurious honeymoon at a later date. We have settled in to our lives as a married couple, have the house & tree decorated for our first Christmas, and are excited about our honeymoon in Moorea, French Polynesia in February.

As I said, what an eventful and wonderful year this has been, and we can't wait to see what next year has in store!

The Streets of Honduras

The Happy couple — Jared & Mary Wiener



Santa came to visit us in our new digs.
Adele took advantage of the visit to sit on
his lap!



Liz's Year (cont'd)

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started and she was born before he got back! Between her birth and Mary's wedding, August was the highlight of 2014. Matilda has been a great addition to our family; she is cheerful, smiley and loves her nighttime sleep!

After a quick 6-week recuperation we headed back "home" to Honduras.

Although I didn't go back to work right away, it now feels like we never left. I went back to work and Scott started his new job as a security escort. Fortunately, we can afford a full-time nanny who both Matilda and Nelson love!

Speaking of love, Nelson loves Matilda, but wishes she could do more. He helps her roll over and has started playing with her hair like he does with ours; she smiles more for him than anyone else. It has been a year of many changes, and we are excited to see what 2015 brings!

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New Address:
415 SE 177th Ave.
Apt. 236
Vancouver, WA 98683

We're on the Web:
Brownransomfamily.org

The Clan: On top: Nelson Streett; 2nd row: Scott Streett, Elizabeth Streett, Bill, Mary Wiener, Jared Wiener; Babe in Arms Matilda Streett; Seated: Adele; Laying on grass: Blixen Wiener



Bill & Adele's Year in Review

This has been a very mixed year. There were some truly joyful events — and some of the other kind, too.

2014 started (or maybe 2013 ended) on a happy note. We flew to Tampa to visit Adele's sister in their new beachfront digs in Longboat Key. As always, Elaine's hospitality was wonderful and we got to see our nieces and nephews and their children. At one point there were 7 little boys, ages 6 months to 6 years bouncing around the place. What a scene!

As icing on the cake, our daughters Elizabeth and Mary — with their families — joined us. We spent Christmas on a short (7-day) cruise through the Western Caribbean. The weather was beautiful and the time spent together was priceless.

We returned home after New Years and prepared to enjoy another Pacific Northwest winter. The rain, wind, and cold did not disappoint and came through right on schedule, but we didn't mind, because we

were anticipating a new granddaughter from Liz and a new son-in-law from Mary during the summer.

Both events came off as planned and were very special.

As if a new grandbaby wasn't exciting enough, Liz chose our downstairs bedroom as the maternity ward. Old Granddad was pretty nervous, but, as always, Liz was very efficient and granddaughter Matilda was born without a hitch. Mother & baby were fine. Even Granddad survived!

Liz, Scott, our grandson (Nelson) and the new baby stayed with us for almost two months and it was really a delight.

Mary's wedding was especially nice since several of Adele's family made the long trek westward. In addition, my son Scott Brown and my granddaughter Jesse were able to come as was my daughter Kim Heiser, her husband Terry, and my granddaughter Emily. It was so great to see them all and to have them celebrate the occasion with us.

The rest of the year was not as joyful. After a lot of agonizing, the family decided it was time to move to assisted living. For those of you who have had family members go through this, I don't need to tell you how difficult it was. We moved in to a very nice place on Dec. 5th and are still adjusting. Our unit is a very spacious 2 BR, 2 bath apartment and we are not as crowded as we thought we'd be. We're still settling in and going through transition pains, but the staff and other residents are really nice and helpful people. There are many activities and programs so we are busier than we were at home! There is a swimming pool and a gym to keep us in shape. The food is nearly as good as it was on the cruise ships.

My health is still holding up pretty well and I'm looking forward to making some new friends. However, it must be said the Adele is of the opinion that "they're all old people!" Well dear, so are we.