

Aloha and Mele Kalikimaka! We are so grateful for all we have been given and experienced this year and are excited to share with you the highlights of 2018!

Ryan has finally saved enough stock options to be able to take a sabbatical from work and pursue his dream of running and maintaining model trains. Basically our entire garage has been converted into a train cave. Thousands and thousands of ~~dollars~~ trains! And tracks! And whistles! So many whistles! **Stephanie** is, as always, very supportive of his dreams, and looks forward to him getting this out of his system before he retires. At any rate, he looks very cute in his conductor cap and overalls and loves the looks he gets from the other adults he encounters when he insists on accompanying **Stephanie** to Costco. Ha Ha! So fun!

Stephanie has not been left out in the dream-pursuing this year, either! She has recently partnered with a startup to raise guinea pigs for meat. Did you know that they are a delicacy in Peru? (And soon to be a delicacy in Sacramento, if she gets her way!) The future looks bright in dining forecasts, and the backyard is adorable with the free-range GP paradise. (Marketing consultants have suggested we refer to them as “Free range, all white meat Guineas”) **Stephanie** is also utilizing her cooking skills to develop a recipe book that showcases the exotic gaminess of the Guinea. Can anyone say “Rotisserie?”

Kalea has truly enjoyed spending as much time away from home as possible this year. She has signed up for every single extracurricular activity possible, as well as working tutoring in the evenings. If we didn't know better, we'd think she was eager to get away from us! Ha! When she does come home she loves spending hours in her room with the door locked. She's such an introvert! She has lots of friends on the internet and recently told us that she has been applying to boarding schools on the other side of the country. She's such a kidder. She still loves to sing and dance, and has started writing songs about being embarrassed and miserable—**Stephanie** keeps telling her to write what she knows, but you know **K**, always wanting to stretch her imagination!

Melia has really embraced her Anglo-Saxon heritage this year and jumped headfirst into the Creative Anachronism crowd—you may know them as the kids at the park with nerf swords. She is about finished with her first suit of chain mail, which she knitted herself out of aluminum foil, and is currently designing a working catapult. Ever the helper, she has been eager to share the Guineas with her new friends and they enjoy roasting them over bonfires after every “battle.” She is semi-fluent in Elvish and is learning to speak Troll, as well. We have high hopes that she will also learn a “living” language, but baby steps, right? We have all gotten used to answering calls for “Aerymwythhe The Elder Queen” but **Stephanie** put her foot down at a legal name change. (She can do it for free when she gets married!)

We are looking forward to our annual family vacation this winter, but still are narrowing down the location. **Ryan**, of course, is loath to leave the locomotives, and when I ask where we should go, **Kalea** has only texted one-word answers like “Hell” or “Siberia” or “Therapy.” **Melia** is anxious to visit New Zealand and take the Lord of the Rings Tour, but honestly that seems like a pretty large undertaking. Luckily, **Stephanie** has a tour of Peruvian Pig Farms coming up in 2019 so she gets to travel no matter what the rest of the family decides!

We love you all and are thrilled to have you as friends and family. (We would also love to have you as investors in **Stephanie's** venture, check out www.TheOtherOtherOtherWhiteMeat.com to get in on the ground floor!)

Love always,

The Porters