

2023 was a year of struggle and loss. But, it was also a year of joy and triumph.

We lost Omen in October. He is meeting Chromagus at the Rainbow Bridge. Chro has been waiting for him since right before we moved to Florida.

The main other dark side of the year has been Joe's health. He did not spend time in the hospital this year. But, the symptoms from the stroke never went away. They should have by now. So, he talked to a neurologist.

It had gotten to the point where he really couldn't walk without assistance. The neurologist put him on dopamine tablets. It is something that he takes three times a day, although it is hard on his stomach. But, that combined with physical therapy 2 to 3 times a week is moving him closer to walking unassisted

But, there is no cognitive decline and no speech impediment. We are both very grateful for that.

This may be lingering results of the stroke. But, they have also used the words Parkinson's disease. That is a little scary.

The goal is to walk unassisted by April. In April, we are going on a cruise!

Our friend, Michael, and his wife, Lisa are going with us. This is their first cruise. So, that is very exciting.

The other interesting thing is that we will be traveling with concierge privilege for the first time ever. It is a little more expensive, but the extra perks are exciting. This is our first time on the Disney Dream.

Debbie and Joe are taking another cruise in November 2024, with concierge added. That one will have a Christmas theme.

In 2023, Nick and Natalie went with Joe and Debbie on a cruise. They came back engaged.

It was not really a surprise. She knew he was going to ask. But, still a beautiful, romantic setting aboard the Disney Wish ship.

She is such a wonderful girl. We are happy to welcome her to our family.

The wedding will be in Brandon, Florida. It will be on 1/25/25.

Joe is active in the DWO photo club. He is the vice president and maintains their website. It is at

<http://joeobrin.com/DWOPPhotos/>

Michael, who is going on the next cruise with us, came to Florida and visited us several times in 2023. It was always a good time, and very appreciated.

We had other visitors in 2023. Jenny and Tristan from Colorado, Ray and Sheri from Washington state, Mary Ann from Texas. With all the attractions and amenities in central Florida, there is always something to do. And it is always great to see old friends.

it was an up and down year. we are looking forward to 2024.

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