

## **Holiday Letter from Flamenco Romántico 2017**

We are lighting the candles for Hanukah and the weather has been in the 60's and 70's. The garden still has a few strawberries and some tiny zucchinis, leftover Poblano and Chichimeca peppers, a few green beans, and parsley as well as chard, kale and onion greens. The holidays are again upon us, the fire burns in our living room stove, and all I want to do is work on my book.



2017 has been a year of change for us. Freddie moved his guitar shop from the house to our barn loft. He runs up and down the stairs and is immersed in fixing guitars. Both his speech and his walking are steadily improving. Our land mates and dear friends, Nick and Michelle, are now licensed Chinese Medical doctors and have been treating us consistently with Chinese Tuina massage and acupuncture, to the immense benefit of our health.

Last January James moved to Portland. A month later Martina moved into her big, Robin's egg blue "tiny home" next to the oaks near my dance studio. Ricky still visits, but is no longer "living" in the little trailer. Joel, a new friend, is staying in Freddie's workshop and helping him. And me? I am still working on my book. I have started another edit and am excited about how it is going.

In April, Freddie felt strong enough to travel to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico for almost a month, by himself, visiting friend Marc Silber. I joined him for the last week. Of course, Freddie entranced almost everyone he met. As we walked down the long street of the market, Freddie stopped frequently, introducing me to many smiling faces of people who sat

behind the colorful stalls. At the hotel where he had stayed part of the time, he presented me to more friends. We both had a fantastic, relaxing time.



Our parents are both 98 years old. Freddie's mother Bea will turn 99 in February. She is getting weaker but Freddie can still make her smile and bring the twinkle to her eyes. Freddie sister Dorothy and brother Timmie and their families have come from far away a number of times this year. They came again in December, because Bea was very sick and in the hospital. With relief, she is now back at Heart & Hands convalescent home.

I visit my Dad and Peggy once a week in Monterey. After lunch, I often read them parts of my book. I am so happy to share it with them. And, I always give thanks to my semi-self-driving beloved Tesla for making my ride so much easier.



My sister Elaine and family are doing well; I am grateful that we see her and husband Ken frequently.

Although my writing has moved into first place, I still teach Flamenco dance classes three time a week. It keeps me in shape and I love teaching. During the year, we hosted three Flamenco workshops with Spanish guest teachers. We totally enjoy getting to visit with our friends from Spain and the workshops were inspiring. At the most recent one, Freddie got up and danced.

This summer I had a wonderful time visiting granddaughter Josie, who is now eleven and much taller than I am. Of course, I also visited her

parents, son Elun and daughter-in-law Donna –all in upstate New York just below Ottawa.

Freddie and I also took our first two long trips in the Tesla –we celebrated our friends Ernie and Deb’s 50th wedding anniversary near Mendocino and then our friend Dave’s 77<sup>th</sup> birthday in Fort Bragg, taking a vacation from our busy summer vacation rental business.



Two Weddings: In September, we hosted a colorful multi-national wedding for our friends Kevin and Shanthi.



In June, we flew to LA to attend the wedding of granddaughter Rosie, the daughter of Freddie’s son Mano. There we got to meet the new babies –great grandson Jax and great-great granddaughter Juliette. A brand-new generation continues the cycle.

Unfortunately, getting older also brings death closer. Our dear friend Alice Peterson died in March and then another dear friend, Roberta Barnett, died unexpectedly this December. We mourn.

And our lives continue. I still see psychotherapy clients and facilitate my shamanic drumming journey circle once a month. I go to my four-hour writing class every week and we have hosted my teacher Andy’s writing retreats here. My writing is growing, pushing out through the edges of my mind, new parts demanding to be heard and written. Please see my blog: [www.MariannaMejia.com](http://www.MariannaMejia.com)

We are grateful to have Martin in our lives, our guardian angel who keeps this place running and expanding, his creativity coupled with his skill

and competence, all wrapped in love. Thanks to his care, our paradise stays beautiful. We go outside and are astounded by the view of the sea and the trees and mountains, red, orange, and purples of sunsets and sunrise, flowers, birds. We smell the plants and breathe in the colors. Our feet touch the earth and our hearts are uplifted.



Freddie's daughter Maggie and family moved from San Diego to the east coast so we haven't seen them in a while. His step-daughter Jessamy, who is a daughter of his heart, keeps in touch and we are still waiting for



her to visit with her two children.

Freddie and I wish you much peace, happiness and beauty in this coming year and more. Happy Solstice, Happy Holidays.

Love,

Freddie and Marianna Mejia