

FELIZ NAVIDAD 2023

And so it goes. Another year has come and gone. And a new year is about to begin.

May you, your loved ones, friends, family, and especially the marginalized in our communities and throughout the world enJoy & rejoice in the goodness all around us, as challenging as it may seem to be. The joy is there. Look & see. (That - after all - is what Navidad is all about).

And - in 2024 and beyond - may reason, science, hope and faith prevail over the destructive "D's": darkness, desperation, desolation and despair. Don't give in. Pray + Vote + Act.

¡Feliz Navidad!

As for us, we continue saying GRACIAS for the amazing blessings bestowed upon us in 2023:

- [Esme](#), our newest grandchild was born to Jess and Iggy;
- Rembe, Jr., Dana, [Mirabelle. and Berto](#) continue their tradition of our Sunday dinners; and,
- [Cachao](#) is getting his daily walk in the natural beauty that is Sligo Trail.

Life is indeed full of precious gatherings, commemorations and celebrations. Among these in the last year, we were able to:

- [Journey to the Holy Land](#) in the summer - something that has become exceedingly personally meaningful given the current events;
- Visited the 'country of Miami' four times over: To accompany [Tio Paco on his 90th Birthday](#), to remember the life of our cousin Chuchi and Tia Lila who passed away at the tender age of 103, and to [celebrate the wedding of our cousin's daughter](#).
- Gather with friends and family in our backyard for our (quasi) annual [Memorial Day Caja China Pig Roast](#).

Reemberto's engagement at the University of Maryland and Geraldina's passion work at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health took us to places near and far:

- Reemberto [traveled to Cuba](#) with his study abroad course and did field work to fight displacement in [gentrifying neighborhoods in Miami, Chicago, and Los Angeles](#) and 8 other communities; and
- Geraldina was able to return to Africa twice to do her HIV/AIDS work in Botswana and Senegal.

While we love to travel, we remain totally committed to living local:

- Reemberto continues serving on the Board of [Montgomery History](#) and active with the [local Rotary Club](#);
- We also remain committed to supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs in our community of [Silver Spring](#), [Takoma Park](#), and [Long Branch](#), including:
 - the countless restaurants, car repair shops, new bakeries, and so much more;
 - and partake in local walks, celebrations, and festivals.

We continue supporting our charities of choice:

- [Shepherd's Table](#), serving food to the food-insecure;
- [Puente de Amistad](#), providing aid to the children of Cuba;
- [Catholic Relief Services](#), always being there in global emergencies; and,
- We also try to support the many other efforts that our friends bring to our attention, as well as those initiatives at our [Jesuit parish, Holy Trinity](#).

Next year's travel plans and celebrations are evolving. For now we look forward to:

- Portugal (actually, this Christmas);
- Reemberto's 50th High School Reunion (in Henry County, Georgia);
- Visiting Yellowstone Park (and other National Parks);
- Returning to Cuba (Reemberto with UMD) and Africa (Geraldina with NIH); and,
- Celebrating Esme's baptism in the Spring and Berto's 1st Communion Memorial Day Weekend (with a Caja China Pig Roast, of course).

But most of all, we look forward to seeing you virtually and in-person somehow somewhere somewhen sometime. In the meantime, you can find us at:

- FACEBOOK: Rembe Y Geraldina and/or Reemberto Rodriguez
- THREADS & INSTAGRAM: Reembertoss (ss for Silver Spring)
- X (formerly Twitter): Reemberto (but migrating away)
- LINKEDIN: Search for our names ([Geraldina Dominguez](#) and [Reemberto Rodriguez](#))

Staying connected,

Reemberto Rodriguez, Sr., and Dr. Geraldina Dominguez, PhD