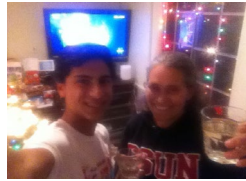
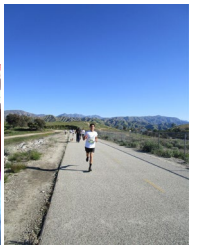
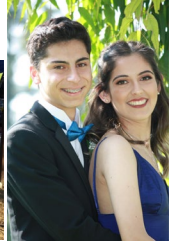


Javier y Renée 2019



January

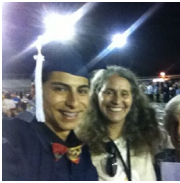
February



March

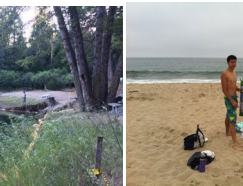
April

May



May

June



June

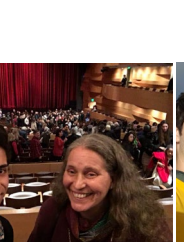
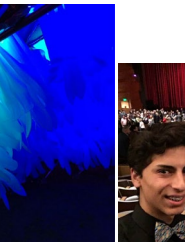
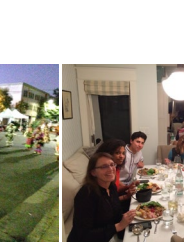
July

August



August

September



October

November

December

We toasted the new year at the **2019 Rose Parade** (featuring the All City Band, aka **Los Angeles Unified All City Honor Band**) – where **Javier played trumpet and marched**, following the of his good friend and **drum major Liam**. This year they did not march in the annual Kingdom Day Parade, due to the LAUSD teacher's strike. We stood on picket line with the United Teachers of LA for their victory! (**Jav had perfect strike attendance**, despite the rain and harsh weather!) The last day we **celebrated the pending victory with thousands downtown** – including listening to band directors from around the district play in their strike band! Later we partook in some of the **museums** that had been **made free for students (MOCA and Natural History)**. At the end of the month we enjoyed Renée's birthday with a nice dinner and cake.

In **February**, Javier competed in the **Academic Decathlon – this year's theme was "The 1960's – A Transformative Decade."** Each team prepped for months about the era and its history, art, music, science. They were also tested on math, writing and public speaking. Apparently six months of Zero Period "AcaDeca Class" (at 7:00 a.m.) must have paid off: Javier got an award for the speech competition, and Reseda High improved their past standing by placing in the top 14 out more than 100 schools from around LA County. During the month we also had fun **going out to lunch for Tashi's 6th birthday**, later joining the family for cake and presents. At the end of the February from up above, on, and around Pacoima's **Hansen Dam**, Renée cheered on the Students Run LA and during the **18 Mile Friendship Run**, (a training event for the LA Marathon).

In early **March**, **Lee Anne visited SoCal** for work, and **Mom/Abuela** stayed with her in **Newport Beach**. We all got to hang out for a day, including a nice walk on **Balboa Island**. Later during the month **Renée sprained her ankle while playing Ultimate Frisbee**, and **ended up on crutches**. This made it a bit challenging the next weekend trying to following around Javier as he ran his **6th LA Marathon**. So this year, Tia Elizabeth met him at the finish line and we reconnected at Santa Monica High. Later, as is our tradition, we all went to Elizabeth's home in Venice to visit and recover.

April started off with a two week run of **Reseda High School Theater Company's production of the musical "Sister Act."** **Javier played one of the comically incompetent gangsters**. He helped choreograph a couple songs, danced in several numbers, and also had a solo; his girlfriend Caitlin played a lead (the novice). Our neighbor Marilyn, Ruth, Norah, Tashi, Rashawn, Liam, Cristi and Alyssa were able to attend performances. In the middle of the month we took our annual MTA trek to USC for the **LA Festival of Books**. As usual, we did some huge group crosswords, listened to authors lecture, looked at tons of books, and talked with authors/ illustrators. The next weekend our **extended Martínez family** gathered in celebration of **Uncle/ Tío Abuelo Marciano's 80th Birthday** – it was wonderful to catch up with so many people, while honoring a sweet man. The next day, in **Lake Arrowhead**, we enjoyed **Easter** with family. Good company, good food and even some dyed eggs! We ended the month with **Isabel** hosting a wonderful **house warming brunch** at her home in Venice, and had fun with family and friends. We ended the month with our **Renaissance Fair** tradition, which is always very entertaining!

In **May** Javier finished high school athletics with Track & Field, Swimming (making it to Regionals/City Prelims in Long Jump and 50m freestyle), while also help coach JV baseball, and having joined the varsity baseball practice team (due to schedule conflicts). As part of his senior year festivities **Javier and Caitlin went to the Reseda High Prom** – which entailed lots of preparation in Casa Martínez – they looked great and had lots of fun! For **Mother's Day**, Isabel hosted us for brunch at her place in Venice. It was a wonderful time and nice chance to honor the moms who were present. Afterwards Javier convinced his mom to visit the beach and go fly a kite (for old time's sake)!

This **June** marked the special occasion of **Javier graduating from Reseda High Science Magnet – Class of 2019!** **Mom/Abuela** was able to come and watch another Martínez "walk across the stage!" As Renée repeatedly observed, "Best Friday night lights, ever!" It was an exciting end to a great high school experience: Engineering emphasis, many opportunities for interactive, project-based, hands-on learning and Advanced Placement classes, Academic Decathlon, Marching Band, Mariachi and Jazz, All City Honor Marching Band, Theater, Cross Country, Soccer, Swim, Baseball, Track & Field, and Students Run LA. It was a wonderful preparation for him to pursue a **Mechanical Engineering BS from Cal State Northridge**. The day after graduation we took Abuela to the corner French pastry shop for a continental breakfast. That night we also had a little party at the Posey's with the family recognizing Rashawn and Jav, our Class of 2019 grads! The next day we got to join Liam and many Multicultural Learning Center alum to celebrate his graduation from Canoga Park HS. A few weekends later **up in Lake Arrowhead**, we had a chance to celebrate with la familia Martínez, while also wishing **Mom/Abuela happy birthday**. During the month, marking new beginnings for her too, Renée received a promotion at **CSUN**, becoming a **Retention & Data Specialist for Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) students in College of Health & Human Development** – providing new opportunities to apply her decades of experience in helping support student success.

The summer always brings many fun activities, including **CSUN employee appreciation "Summer Celebration," Movies at CSUN, Movies in the Park, Art Walks in Canoga Park, Shakespeare in the Park, and Shakespeare by the Sea**. Marisol, Cristi and Liam often joined us for many of these summer events. **July** brought fireworks on the 4th and **Javier's 18th birthday**, which we celebrated in **Lake Arrowhead with Abuela, Tias Michele and Elizabeth**. The next day Michele joined us for a quiet morning of **free fishing at Orchard Bay** (we only caught some peaceful lovely sights). As is our tradition, we birthday celebrations continued throughout the week, at several places. Liam and Jav played miniature golf and we had dinner together; we also had cake and ice cream at Ruth and Norah's house with her family. We got in a day at **Hermosa Beach and hung out with Primas Cara and Shae, Tia Elizabeth and Tíos Danny and Paul** – BBQ and the "kids" made s'mores in the backyard fire pit! That same week Jav got a chance to join the Posey family camping near Yosemite.

Sadly, **August** brought us the unexpected and sorrowful loss of Prima Mari Helena, just after her 70th birthday. Nena was among the first cousins of her generation in Martínez family, and it was felt deeply by so many of us! She will be missed. In early **August** we renewed our routine of **visiting National Parks**. This year we **shared the fun with Liam and camped at Zion**. It was a very fun trip with lots of hiking, prompted by two teenaged athletes – including **The Narrows** (waist deep water), **Angels' Landing** (so steep you have to hold on to a chain), Weeping Rock, and an easy night hike back down on Watchman Trail after viewing the sunset as it settled over the canyon. We also had a chance to see **Hoover Dam** on the way home. We got back just in time for their **California State University Northridge** new student orientation the next day. It is both Javier and Liam's first year as ME majors at CSUN.. For Fall Semester Javier took an intro Engineering class, Calculus 2, Chemistry, and English composition. He also joined the CSUN Brazilian jiu-jitsu Club Team. Renée started a new exercise routine of working out every weekday morning at the CSUN Student Recreation Center, helping refine her Tai Chi practice, and allowing for a great start to her work day.

On Labor Day weekend we got to spend time in Lake Arrowhead with Abuela. The next weekend Renée got a chance to celebrate **EOP's 50th Anniversary** at their statewide conference in Long Beach. For her it has been an honor and privilege to be part of the program's legacy; she enjoyed acknowledging its founders, many of whom spoke and connected with current students and staff at the event. The beautiful surroundings and thoughtful sharing of innovative practices left her inspired by the leaders past, present and future. Later that month we had a great time joining **Tia Elizabeth** at the **LA County Fair**. We even went on a few rides. The next day we had the pleasure of **joining Bea and her family and friends for her son Kurush's wedding**. It was a wonderful time, and though his father Cyrus was dearly missed, we all felt his presence at this special occasion. We closed September with the CSUN EOP 50th Anniversary celebration, with the campus acknowledging the hard fought struggles to open this public university, and to make CSUN more accountable to the community.

In **October Renée and Tashi** started a new tradition we decided to call "**Family Connecting Time**," by taking a **long walk/hike at the Hansen Dam reservoir**. Sadly, wildfires sprung up several times in and around the San Fernando Valley, with CSUN closing one day – lots of smoke and frayed nerves. In October Renée got a chance to join the Trio program (y Los Hermanos Muniz) for the Chumash Pow Wow, and a trip to Solvang – Javier got a bucket of cookies from Ramon as a souvenir. For **Halloween Javier** joined Liam for trick or treating, after carving (on three sides) the huge pumpkin he got from the CSUN Associated Students giveaway.

In **November** we celebrated **Día de los Muertos** in our own neighborhood festival as well as at CSUN. For **Mari Helena** we made an **altar**, and joined family for her memorial. We were blessed later in the month to see our dear friend Rocio when she was in the country for a quick visit. At the end of the month **Thanksgiving** was once again hosted by **Nino Paul and the girls**. It was wonderful – great food and a nice time connecting with family and friends. Later that weekend, we joined **Ruth, Tashi and Rashawn** for the **CSUN Pow Wow** – but left when the rain started pouring down!

In **December**, we renewed our tradition of going to see **Guadalupe Dios Inatzin in the LA Cathedral** and visit the **Grand Park Winter Light Show**. We also caught the **Nutcracker at CSUN**. Later in the month **we were excited that CicLAvia came to Canoga Park; plus we got to see Liam and Cristi**. We ended the year with Norah and Ruth hosting our Solstice Party. To our circle of family and friends: **Wishing You a Year (and decade) of Hope and Joy!**