

Javier y Renée 2018 [www.csun.edu/~martinez](http://www.csun.edu/~martinez)



January



February

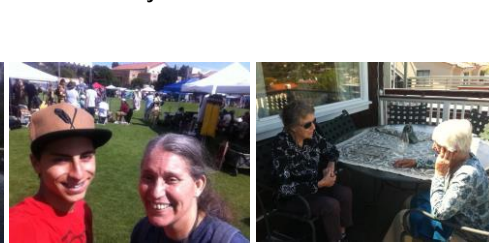
March



March



April



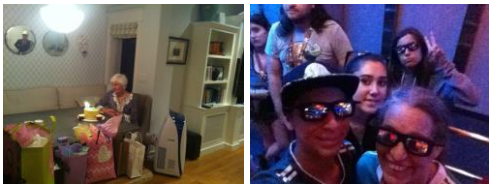
May



June



May



June



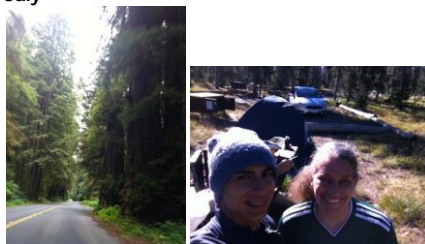
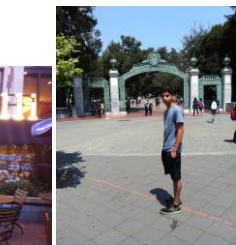
July



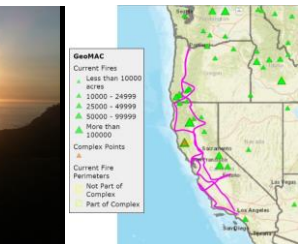
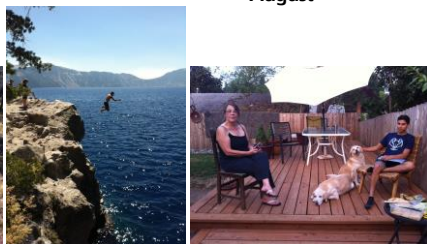
July



August



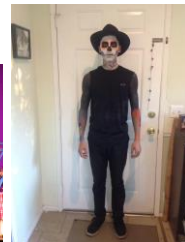
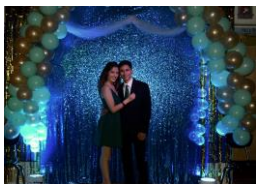
August



September



October



November



## 2018 for Javier and Renée [www.csun.edu/~martinez](http://www.csun.edu/~martinez)

2018 began with all things being about All City (aka, **Los Angeles Unified All City Honor Band**) –where Javier played trumpet and **marched in the 2018 Rose Parade** (along with his pal **Liam**). Later they also marched in the annual **Kingdom Day Parade** to celebrate Martin Luther King's Bday. There Renée joined up with Ruth, Norah Tashi, Deynique and Mr. Baby D. (Dytron). In preparation for the LA Marathon, Javier ran in a new **Students Run LA (SRLA)** event, the **Rose Bowl Half Marathon**. It was a fun one for him. At the end of the month was Renée's birthday and we celebrated with a nice dinner and mini cake made by Javier.

In **February**, once again from up on the **Hansen Dam, Tashi & Renée** cheered on Javier and SRLA for the **18 Mile Friendship Run**. Also that month, former Rim High School bandmate **Bruce Rubio** invited us downtown to catch trumpeter and family friend **Scotty Barnhart** (Director of Count Basie Orchestra) playing with his quartet. They were filming a concert for PBS TV show *Craft in America* – highlighting his custom-made Monet trumpet. After the concert, we had a nice dinner and conversation with Bruce at our favorite Olvera Street taco stand. In another trip downtown in February, we enjoyed Chinatown and marking the Lunar New Year with our friend Marisol. Later in the month we celebrated **Tashi's 6th birthday** twice – first the family party and later by going out to lunch, and a little shopping trip to Ikea.

We began **March** hanging out with our friend **Profe Stevie Ruiz at the Huntington Garden** taking it up a notch from our usual movie and dinner routine. **March is LA Marathon** month in our household! Javier ran his 5th LA Marathon, finishing with in 4 hour and 7 minutes. This year, at the end Jav not only met **Tia Elizabeth** at the finish line, but also had a surprise appearance by **Tia Lee Anne and Abuela!** Jav and I went home with Elizabeth to Venice afterwards to visit and recover. On the last weekend of the month we joined thousands of youth and many allies for the **March for our Lives** downtown. We were among the millions around the nation and world honoring the memory of those murdered at Stoneman Douglas HS in Florida.

In **April** we gathered with **family for Easter n Lake Arrowhead**, and even dyed some eggs! It was a nice visit, great company, and some wonderful food! Also in April we were able to attend one of Javier's favorite events, the **LA Festival of Books**. There he got some graphic novels with high tech Augmented Reality, heard some authors do some readings, did some group crosswords, hung out at USC and enjoyed the day. We ended the month with a visit to **Griffith Park with Tashi** and had fun looking at the exhibits and enjoying the beautiful views.

**May** was a busy month, kicking it off with the **UCLA Pow Wow**. At school Javier finished out both Track & Field (making it to regionals in 2 mile, Long Jump, and Triple Jump) and Swimming (100m Backstroke, 50m freestyle, 4x100m Medley - Backstroke, and 4x100m Freestyle). His relay team made it to City Finals at the Olympic Coliseum pool, but due to an AP exam he couldn't compete. For **Mother's Day** we had a wonderful time at Paul's. It was also a **Dawrs Family Reunion – Uncle John Ed & Gail**, cousins **Charlie** and **Josh**, and **Aunt Pat Dawrs** were on the mainland for a family graduation in New York. There was lots of catching up after years apart, we enjoyed wonderful company and good food – many chefs at that event, but John Ed had BBQ oversight! We closed out the month with our **Renaissance Fair** tradition, which is always entertaining. Memorial Day was fun at Bob and Belinda's (formerly Labor Day) Party giving us such a sweet chance to see Martinez family. We also got to spend the weekend with **Abuela** and loved time in the mountains, including walking around the local arboretum and taking in the beautiful spring.

We began **June** and summer attending the Reseda High School Bike Safety Fair (as memorial to a student who was killed riding). Fleet Bike mobile service got our bikes tuned-up so they were running like new! We also got the treat of learning to play **frisbee golf** from a real pro – **Shawn Posey Sr. and Shawn Jr. at Veteran's Park in Sylmar**. At mid-month we had a **birthday** celebration in Hermosa Beach for **Abuela** and also **Cara's high school graduation**. We continued Cara's party at **Disneyland** later in the week. For our household, both June and July were filled with **2018 World Cup** fever, despite the venue and corruption, and other such problematic things. We still enjoyed it, and caught nearly every game. Summer held our usual range of fun activities: **Movies at CSUN, Movies in the Park, Art Walks in Canoga Park, Shakespeare in the Park**, and this year, for the first time in years, we caught a **concert at Grand Park** (where my grad school friend Mari Riddle is now the director!). Once again for summer, Javier served as a **Junior Counselor at CSUN's Sunny Days Camp**, where he took on added responsibilities helping coordinate weekly activities. He also took a LA Pierce College Beginning Drawing class. We even spent some time drawing together. Cristi and Liam often joined us for many of these summer events, as did Marisol.

**July** brought **Javier's 17th birthday** along with 4th of July fireworks. As is our habit, we celebrated for a week at several places, including in **Lake Arrowhead with Abuela, Tias Michele and Elizabeth**. After pizza, **Liam and Jav had a late-night miniature golf** game (so the temp would drop down into the 90s!), and the next day spent hours playing various sports and games at the CSUN Student Recreation Center. Eventually an exhausted Jav made a **life-sized World Cup trophy cake** (which fell apart), and we partied at **Norah's house with her family**. We ended the month with another treat of seeing **Scotty Barnhart** perform a tribute to one of our all-time favorite trumpet players, Freddie Hubbard, at the **Jazz at LACMA** series (LA County Museum of Art).

For **August** we took to the road on an epic two-week **3000+ mile** friend-visiting, car-camping, site-seeing, National Park drive-through, **Javier College Tour**. Javier's search for **Mechanical Engineering programs** entailed time with Wanda and Cindy, Jenny Strauss, Donna and Jim, **The Luthers**; camping at Henry Cowell State Park, **Crater Lake National Park**, a BLM camp on Lake Britton (on the road to Lassen Natl Park), **Sequoia** and US Forestry sites in Los Padres NF (among the inland mountains above Big Sur): sightseeing in **Pinnacles National Park**, **Santa Cruz, San Francisco** (where we walked 10 miles!), **Redwoods National Park, Crater Lake National Park, Portland, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Sequoia National Park, Big Sur**, and The Elephant Seal Refuge, and Hearst Castle. We saw **UC Santa Cruz**, San José State, CSU East Bay, **UC Berkeley**, San Francisco State, UC Davis, Sacramento State, CSU Chico, Humboldt State, University of Oregon, (Eugene), Lewis and Clark, Oregon State, (Corvallis), **UC Merced** (which is out in the middle of fields and we got stuck behind a tractor getting there), Fresno State and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. (In September, October and November he looked at SoCal schools: UC & Cal State San Diego, CSU Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona, UC Santa Barbara and UC Riverside). There were very **serious fires all over NoCal and Southern Oregon**. This made our travels challenging and we encountered lots of smoke. We also took some pretty sketchy alternative routes (including a wild ride from Red Bluff to the coast and Eureka, via route 36 - apparently only opened due to the fires since it's a single lane gutted dirt road closed for construction - in pitch black, sheer drops, thanks to google maps and male teenager 's wisdom!).

We got back just in time for Javier's Senior year at Reseda High School. Because of their block schedule, students take a year's worth of class in four months. He took Engineering, AP Calculus, AP Econ, and AP Physics. He also joined the Reseda High Academic Decathlon Team. Jav started his last season with the RHS Cross Country team (where he eventually PR'd). He also joined SRLA to run the LA Marathon for the 6<sup>th</sup> time. They have monthly marathon training races – 5k, 10K, 15K, half marathons. This year SRLA joined in the Dodger 5K. He once again was in the RHS Marching Band. **On Labor Day** weekend we got to spend time in Lake Arrowhead with Abuela. Renée got a chance to attend her **40<sup>th</sup> Rim High School Reunion**. Later that month we joined Elizabeth at the **LA County Fair** and had a great time. Although not with his buddies, Jav still had some deep-fried dessert item!

In **October** Ruth, Tashi, Rashawn and her friend saw Jav perform at the RHS Football Homecoming game. **Jav and Caitlin** went to the **Homecoming Dance** – for which he received his graduation suit early. This year Jav got to explore his interest in drama by playing the part of **Sonders in the Reseda Theater Company's** production of **On the Razzle** by Tom Stoppard. He did well and had lots of fun. He plans to be in their spring production. This year, unfortunately Renée spent much time and energy, again having to protest against campus and CSU attacks on Cultural Studies curriculum and CSUN diversity. Sadly, in October, we suffered the enormous loss of our dear Uncle John Ed, from lung disease. We are grateful that Grandma got a chance to see her "baby brother" when she flew to Hawaii to say goodbye, and that many of us saw him when he visited the mainland twice this year. For **Halloween and Día de los Muertos Javier honored him with his "walking altar" body paint costume**, and joined Liam for trick or treating.

In **November** we ended year by celebrating **Día de los Muertos** in our own neighborhood festival as well as at CSUN. For **John Ed** we made an **altar for CSUN and home ceremonies, honoring our loved ones** who have passed over. Our memories of them bring us joy. Javier also paid **homage to Uncle John Ed** during the **Carrera Del Muerto 5K run downtown**. We had a wonderful **Thanksgiving** hosted by **Nino Paul and the girls**, with nearly all the family. The next day Javier joined his Nino, Tío, Brett Smith and primas for a Ducks game. On the weekend, we went to the CSUN Pow Wow and enjoyed all the activities.

In **December**, Norah and Ruth hosted the Solstice Party, and Cara organized a cookie making party. This year Jav again has joined the **LAUSD All City Honor Band** – practicing for hundreds of hours preparing for performances at Disneyland, and in the Rose Parade. At the end of a very busy and sometimes challenging year, we reach out to you - Our circle of family and friends with this wish: **May 2019 bring you joy, happiness, and love!**