

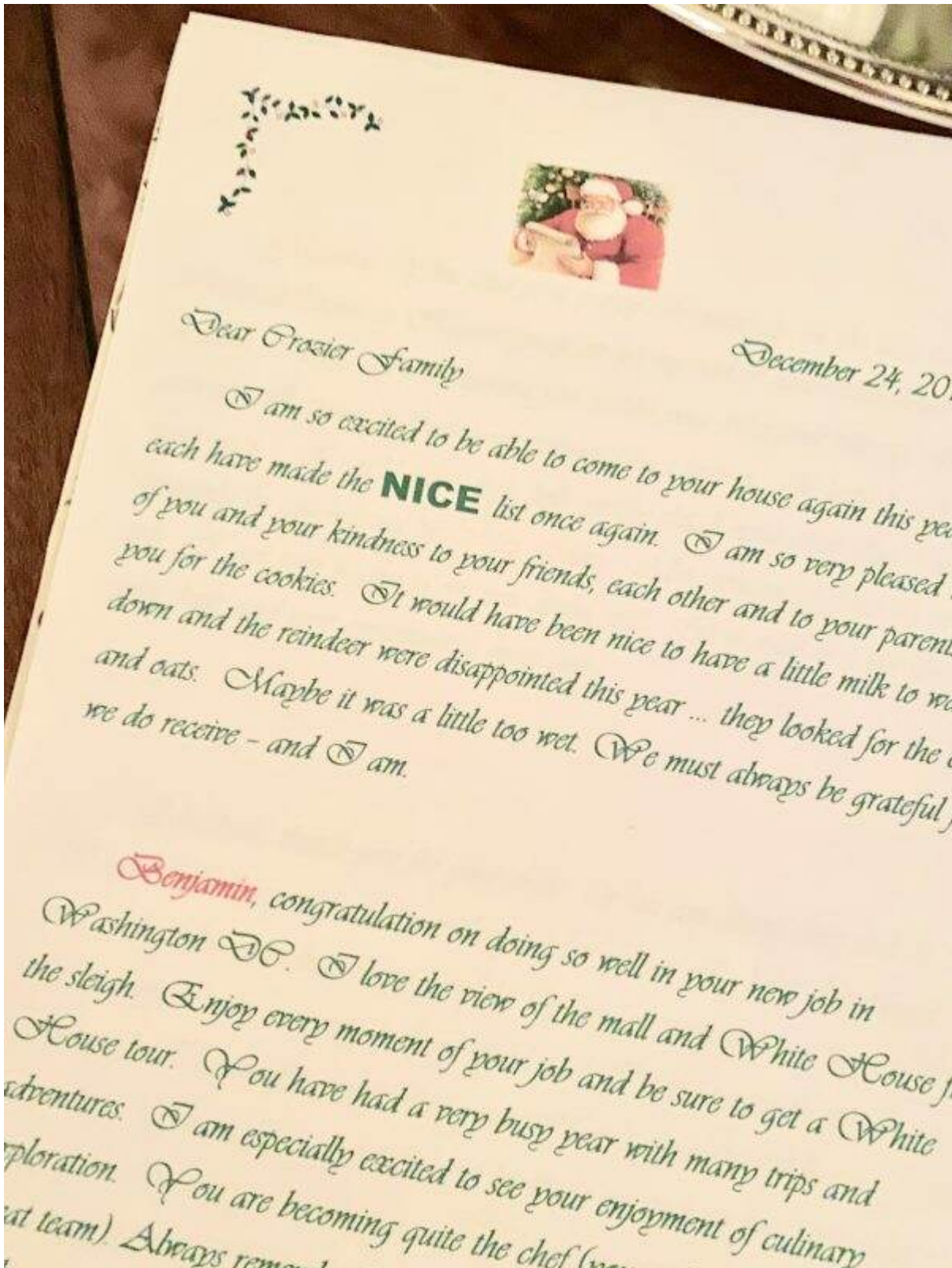
Post Christmas News



It was a very rainy Christmas morning here in Phoenix~~just perfect for lighting each of the fireplaces. This is one of the first years we didn't have guests, so it was just our

family. That set the tone for a very relaxing and easy day.

After reading Santa's letter and opening presents, Dad made his legendary Eggs a la Goldenrod for breakfast. Click [here](#) for previous post recipe. This breakfast dish has been a family tradition and is a big hit with the children.





Benjamin made mimosas with fresh squeezed orange juice and Prosecco.



Picking fruit in the rain in his annual holiday suit

I set an easy table this year for dinner, mostly because I left that chore to the last minute. In keeping with my "simple" theme, we used holiday placemats in lieu of a tablecloth.





The 3 silvery trees came from Whitfill Nursery



The Christmas dinner was also simple. Benjamin made a reverse-seared prime rib and the rest were items from the garden. Two types of cauliflower, broccoli, peppers, carrots and beets were seasoned and roasted. I even managed to dig up potatoes too!





As you know, each holiday we bake, from scratch, a new cake for dessert. This year's selection was superb! From our favorite cake cookbook, [Layered](#) by Tessa Huff, we made the Gingerbread Coffee Toffee cake. Four layers of an old fashioned molasses cake, with coffee French buttercream and toffee pieces between the layers. It was covered in a Swiss

Vanilla Meringue buttercream on the outside and a toffee molasses sauce on top. Ooh la la!





We also tried a new cocktail from Half Baked Harvest~~White Christmas Mojitos. It was surprisingly light and refreshing. An easy blender drink using coconut rum, white rum, coconut milk and sparkling water. We used cranberries instead of pomegranate arils for garnish. Click [here](#) for the recipe.



My big surprise present from Santa was an Apple Watch. With news this year of a few friends having cardiac moments, I am happy to be able to track my heart rate and workouts going forward (plus work off that delicious cake!)



Nearly fell off the elliptical taking this picture-which is why it is a bit blurry!

We had a REALLY good Christmas. I hope you had the same. Not sure what, if anything, we will do to celebrate the New Year.

But I am truly enjoying this quiet time in between. Happy Saturday!

Mary