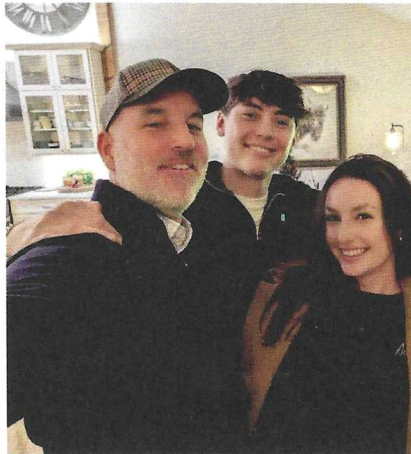
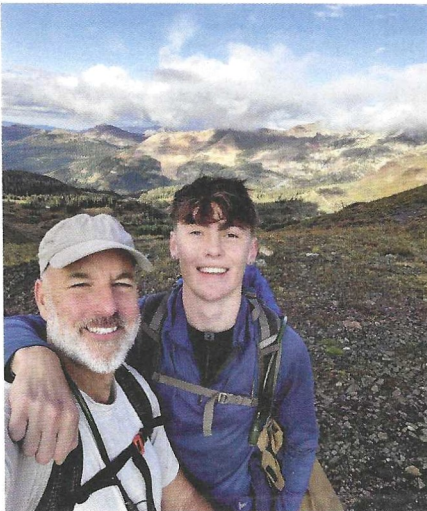
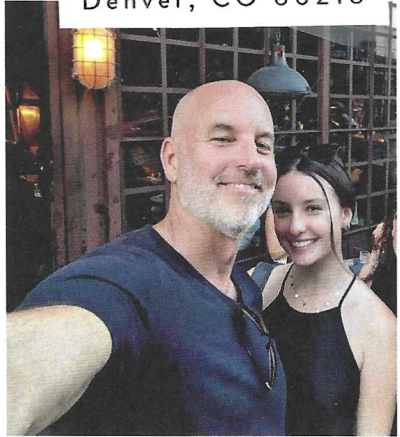
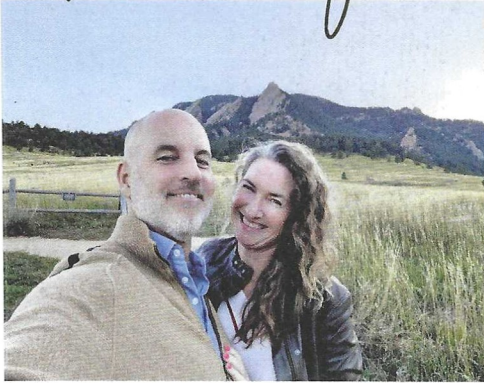


Adam Mackstaller

387 Corona St #501

Denver, CO 80218

Thankful



HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS

from the  
Mackstaller clan

Dear Bob & Joan,

Pull up a chair if you'd like...

I love taking the time every year to sit and reflect on life, on being alive, and what I've learned over the past year. It was recently pointed out to me that 2025 is the year of the Snake in the Chinese zodiac – a year of shedding, transformation, and inner growth. For me, that fits...

This past year has been truly extraordinary. I had Rhen here for 2024/2025 school year doing a high school "year abroad" here in Denver, from Spain (oddly backwards, but true). I met my person, Emily (cue the Chariots of Fire beach running song). And I have done some very meaningful personal work to deepen my inward journey. Okay, I'll dive in...

Having Rhen here was incredible. Lots of laughter, good talks about life, total shenanigans, plenty of outdoors and adventure, and if you saw one of my rare posts on FB – a capstone backpacking journey from Durango to Silverton on the Colorado Trail. I recently went back through this years photos and we did SO much. There are an inordinate number of photos of him throwing some made up gang sign with a 'too cool' expression on his face. Oh, how youth is wasted on the young. And no, it was not all easy. In fact, holding him accountable has made me at times, wildly unpopular. But I'm in this for the long game. He's a great kid.

Cleo... aww... Cleo. There is something probably quite predictable about a strong-willed dad, trying to raise a powerful young woman, only to have his prodigy turn that energy back on him. This story must be rife in Greek Mythology, right? It feels cliché, and yet – here we are. We love each other very much, and... sometimes it gets tense. What I can share is that she is CRUSHING it. That girl is going places. She's living in London in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Kings (which is a 'work' year in her International Business program). One of many beautiful parts of our relationship is that now she calls me to ask for input on how to handle things going on at work etc. It's been a lot of fun. And... my daughter has the power to break my heart like no other.

Ah... and Emily. I'd need 200 pages to share fully about this year with her, but here is a teaser. In January I was at a retreat in Colorado and as I walked into the large open room on the 1<sup>st</sup> day, my eyes were drawn to a woman on my left. Something was special about her. I could feel it. By the end of the week, our journey together in this life had begun. She is my perfect muse. She is light and fun, and deep and focused. She is competitive and an athlete, and she is a wise grounded Queen. She can work a room, and yearns for her solitude. She is seeker of inner truth, and holder of the paradoxes of life. And she is mine (or so I like to pretend ;-). This year we: met each other's families, traveled to England to see our children together, I taught her to mountain bike, she and her son came out skiing with Rhen and I, she's teaching me to golf, we went to Burning Man, we just bought a fancy camper van, and we're moving in together in January. Can you tell we're all in? New adventures are being hatched...

And then, there is what I deem to be the purpose of my life – to evolve my soul. It's been a busy year in the "inner workshop of Adam". I've always believed that being in relationship is a powerful way to do our inner work. Relationships are tough – we bump up against ourselves, our foibles, our triggers, our ugly spots. And then, we either choose to get curious and go deeper, or we look away. In spite of my best attempts through my life, I've often looked away, only able to handle so much. But this year, I've gotten much more curious. Having Emily in my life has created such clear motivation to be better. I'm finally becoming the man I've always wanted to be. I have a dream that in the second half of my life I'll find a way to help other men on their life's journey.

A small shameless plug... My work life in the world of real estate is good, but rarely do I talk about it. And yet, it's all by referral, so if I don't say anything no one knows. So, I'm saying something (just for a second). If want to support what I'm up to in the world, a referral to someone buying or selling a home is a most amazing way to do that. ;-)

2026 is the Year of the Horse: Boldness, Movement, Clarity, Alignment. I say, BRING IT.

Wishing you a Happy Holiday. In gratitude and love,

