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DECEMBER 2015

NOW

Tradition of Togetherness

At Home With Joe and Tonya Matlock

Improving the Days

Jennifer Williams loves helping the city through her executive admin position

A Life of Song
Making Merry
Filling a Niche

In the Kitchen With Hilda Barron

2015
Holiday
Shopping
Guide



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ON THE COVER



The Matlock family fills their home with Christmas spirit.

Photo by SRC Photography.

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Editor's Note

Season's Greetings, WeatherfordNOW Readers!

Christmastime always brings a smile to my face and joy to my heart. Peace and good will are on our minds during this season, as we volunteer to serve others, watch giddy children open gifts and share enjoyable conversations with friends and family. I wish you all a comforting and delightful December.

As we begin 2016, you will see a new face in the monthly Editor's Note. I am stepping down as community editor, and Lisa Bell will take on the responsibility. For the past three years, Lisa has done a tremendous job sharing community members' stories in WeatherfordNOW, BurlesonNOW and GranburyNOW. I know she will excel in her new role. Feel free to email your story ideas to her at lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com.

I will continue to share your stories as a freelance writer for *WeatherfordNOW*. My sincerest gratitude goes out to our readers and the NOW Magazines family for three exceptional years as community editor!

Until next time,

Amber

Amber D. Browne
WeatherfordNOW Editor

P.S. The publisher and staff of NOW Magazines wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy holiday season!

Merry Christmas



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At Home With
Joe & Tonya Matlock

Tradition of Togetherness

— By Amber D. Browne



Holiday traditions are celebrated by families each year. As families grow and children begin to age, those traditions can evolve or new customs may be born. Aledo residents Joe and Tonya Matlock continue their annual tradition of spending Christmas Eve at his parents' home, but Christmas Day is spent experiencing a new holiday practice. After opening gifts at home on Christmas, they share lunch with their boys, Joe Jr. and Jacob, at Tokyo Steakhouse in Weatherford. "We've done that for about six years. We have extended family there," Joe laughed. "We don't ever have to cook for Christmas."

Eating out allows the Matlock family more quality time together on Christmas Day. "I like watching the boys," Tonya shared. "It's all about them. They don't need anything, but anything you buy, even socks, they are as happy as can be when they open it." Underneath the 12-foot Christmas tree



decorated in green and red in the foyer, Tonya places pre-wrapped gift boxes. After the boys opened their gifts one year, Tonya asked them to check under the tree. "Their big surprise was in there, and they'd been walking past it for a month!" Under the gift boxes, Joe and Jacob discovered their new technology. "They're very grateful for everything they get."

Christmastime brings back memories of when their teenagers were young. Holiday school projects dating back to kindergarten are displayed in their living room. "She's funny about matching and having the trees look a certain way. And then, whatever they put together in kindergarten, first or second grade, she puts out," Joe grinned.

The handprint reindeer pictures are Tonya's favorites. "You don't get those little handprints anymore," she shared. Every year, she also switches out framed photos to include Christmas pictures. One photo is the boys' first Christmas together. "It's out every year." One of Joe's favorite holiday decorations is wooden reindeer gifted to him by a resident at a health care facility he managed. The man built and painted them for Joe, and they are proudly displayed in their home each Christmas.

Pockets of Christmas decor are found throughout the Matlock's Spanish-style home. Although the open floor plan in the living and kitchen area provides ample space for entertaining, the home



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has a cozy feel to it. With wood and tile floors and dark beams on the ceiling in the living room, the ambience is welcoming and warm. Tonya decorated the home with a mixture of Spanish and western items. A round, cowhide ottoman is available for visitors to prop up their feet while sitting on the leather sofa in the living room. In the foyer, jeweled cow skulls adorn the wall, while a large leather tapestry hangs above the entryway to the dining area. The dining area features a large, cowboy painting

and throw pillows to match. “I’m a know-it-when-I-see-it kinda girl, so I’ll leave a wall blank until I find it,” she said. Many times, Tonya will have an idea of a decorative piece in mind, and she’ll share her vision with Joe. If he comes across something that matches her decorative style, he’ll send pictures to her before purchasing it.

The Matlocks moved into their custom-built home in June 2011. Building the home was easy for Joe and Tonya. “We like the same things,” he shared.

They had built several houses before, so there wasn’t a lot of debate on the style of home they chose. The exterior of the home is stone with a terra-cotta roof. Each Christmas, Tonya places poinsettias up the concrete pathway to the iron front doors. The cove above the doors and the dome ceiling in the foyer are painted to resemble copper. Family photographs are displayed on the walls and in frames on the table in the foyer.

A stone fireplace is the perfect spot for roasting marshmallows on a cold winter’s



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night. Tonya decorates a second “skinny” tree with Santas and poinsettias in the living room. The large windows overlook the covered patio and swimming pool out back. The curtains are often closed to create an atmosphere perfect for curling up on the sofa to watch scary movies as a family. Their pups Kiki, Charlie and Sally keep watch nearby.

The powder room downstairs is painted cherry tomato red and features Day of the Dead decor and a stand-alone copper sink. Another copper sink from Mexico accentuates the limestone countertop on the island in the kitchen. Turquoise accents are incorporated into the cabinetry in the kitchen, and a copper-leaf design was added above the six-burner, gas stovetop.

Downstairs is the adults’ domain, and the boys spend most of their free time upstairs playing air hockey or video games. Joe Jr., who is a junior at Aledo High School, films varsity football games and enjoys science. He is now researching colleges and has several career choices in mind. Jacob is an eighth-grader at All Saints’ Episcopal School in Fort Worth. He plays football, wrestles and runs track. “They’re best friends, but they’re polar opposites,” Joe shared. “They’re teenagers, so we rarely see them.”

Joe is the chief executive officer of Optimum Healthcare Management, and Tonya volunteers at All Saints’ as the spirit coordinator. Joe and Tonya knew each other while attending Brewer High School but didn’t date until college. They will celebrate 20 years of marriage next summer. It took about that long for Joe to once again take up the hobby of motorcycle riding. He sold his first bike to buy Tonya a wedding ring. “I went a

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long, long time without a motorcycle,” he grinned. “She finally lightened up and let me get one.” Tonya has just recently started sharing in the fun riding on the back of his bike through the neighborhood. In her free time, she shops, always keeping an eye out for the perfect piece to add to their decor.

As a family, the Matlocks love to travel. Every Thanksgiving, they take a trip. This year, they traveled to Turks and Caicos. In the summer, they enjoy traveling to cooler climates. Tonya’s mother and sister live in California, so they often take trips to the West Coast. “We try to take a couple of trips a year,” Joe shared.

Family is important to them, as well as church. Every Sunday, the Matlocks attend Central Full Gospel Fellowship, which was built and founded by Joe’s father, Dr. JW Matlock, 37 years ago. Joe now plays guitar there, and his son, Jacob, plays drums. At Christmastime, the family comes together to celebrate the reason for the season and to remember the importance of building on tradition. Whether it’s sharing a meal with extended family on Christmas Eve or sharing Christmas Day lunch with restaurant strangers who have become like family, the Matlocks experience joy — together. **NOW**

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