

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO THE GRAJEK FAMILY

MUSIKER

COLLECTOR'S
EDITION

5

EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEWS!

Andy, Justin, Ben
Dan, Lori

2017

Is this the real life?

*An in depth look
at the Grajek's
pivotal year*

ALSO!

*Ben's bold post-
grad trip to
California*

**The Belly
of the Beast**

*Justin spends
three months in
"the Swamp"*



2017

IS THIS THE REAL LIFE?

For the Grajeks it's always been a strange journey – as anyone following these newsletters can attest. But this year presented an altogether new set of adventures and surprises. Dan and Lori have been living all over the state for various reasons, Justin spent three months in Washington DC, Ben drove to LA and back with his friends. And all this in the wake of the inexplicable victory of Donald Trump and the most astonishing headlines in recent history.

Newsletter by
JUSTIN GRAJEK

LOOKING BACK AT THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR WE'RE asking ourselves, how did we get here? The answers are simple. Dan and Lori spent the summer trying to sell her parents' condo in Frankfort, since the passing of her mother Janet. Now they've moved to St. Clair Shores to live with her father Rolf. Justin graduated college and had an internship in the DC area, and Ben graduated high school and went on a celebratory adventure. Andy continues to thrive as an architectural engineer at Albert Kahn Associates.

BEN's trip was made possible by relatives in California, summer job savings, and the sometimes reluctant approval of parents. The trip is also indicative of Ben's life now. Since turning 18 in September he's been in constant

motion. When he's not skiing, hiking, or playing paintball, he works as a shift manager at Einstein Bagels, and delivers pizzas by night. He's taking a gap year before college to save up money, and has been looking into investing and finance. When he has a spare moment he's at the gym working out.

Oddly enough, by his own admission he was "kind of lazy" in high school. But he attributes this to feeling uninspired by the day-to-day grind of doing only what others (parents, teachers, etc.) wanted him to do. Now finding things that truly inspire him has given him renewed vigor.

"Now I get to do what interests me, so I take the time to work hard for it," he said. ➤



Ben braves the sub-zero weather for a trip to the corner store while sporting his iconic green ski jacket and maroon cap.

MUSIKER'S Top Artists 2017



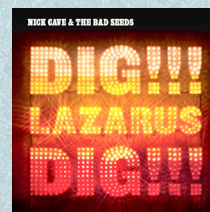
MAC DEMARCO
Justin



TOM PETTY
Dan



TANGERINE DREAM
Andy



NICK CAVE
Justin



JACQUES OFFENBACH
Lori

JUSTIN had an extremely busy final semester at Franciscan University. He developed two websites in a web design class, learned Adobe Animate and After Effects software, and wrote a screenplay called *Shattered Mirror* for his senior thesis.

"It was a labor of love, but toward the end more of a labor," he said of the project.

Nonetheless he completed the second draft just in time for the deadline. He also became a member of the "Fishers of Men" household (similar to a fraternity) where he engaged in spiritual formation and brotherhood.

Justin graduated in May with a bachelors in Communication Arts. After spending summer at home, he got a job as a Graphic Design intern at The Media Research Center in Reston Virginia (just outside of Washington DC). While there he had a front-row seat to the insanity unfolding in the news, and got to meet MRC president Brent Bozell III (who is the nephew of William F. Buckley Jr.)

Justin returned to Michigan in December and is now job hunting full time.

ANDY spent a second year working at Albert Kahn Associates in Detroit. He helped design a car testing facility called the DDL project, which will be used by Ford. Another part of his job is making buildings more energy efficient.

In December he took part in a charity project at Gleaner's food bank called "Canstruction," in which he and his co-workers used donated cans to create a model of the Beatles' Yellow Submarine. The event was briefly featured on FOX 2 News.

In his free time Andy is working on a novel called *Pseudo Science*, the first book in a trilogy called *Perilous Paradigms*. It is a dystopian sci-fi novel based on the different philosophies in

today's world. He's finishing up his YouTube series based on Dante's Divine Comedy as well. To check it out, his YouTube channel is [engineer4god](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4g0d).

DAN has continued to promote his book *The Last Hobo* by doing talks at libraries, and organizations such as the Rotary Club and Kiwanis club. He has spent a lot of time researching and writing its sequel *The Last Hobo Meets the Moon People*.

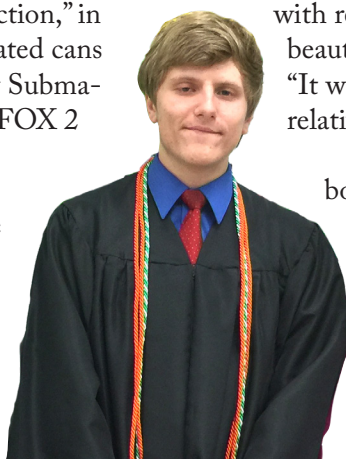
He's also continued substitute teaching at various high schools and catechism at Sacred Heart. In July and August he lived in Frankfort with Lori and Rolf in order to help sell the condo, and in November he moved to the St. Clair Shores condo to help Rolf, who sometimes has trouble with his memory. Though this hasn't stopped Rolf from picking up the violin, which he often plays for his friends at the local Panera Bread who treat him like a celebrity.

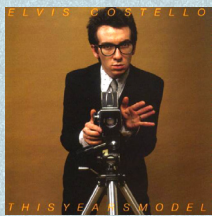
In order to stay active and out of the house, Dan has taken Rolf on a few adventures, such as Detroit's Heidelberg Project, where he met the artist Tyree Guyton.

LORI's year has been almost as crazy as Dan's. She's spent a lot of time helping Rolf, but has also worked hard as a substitute music teacher at Long Elementary and Miller, driving between the two. It's a fun job she always looks forward to, even though the kids are annoying at times.

In the summer Lori enjoyed a family reunion with relatives from out of state. Everyone met in a beautiful spot by Lake Erie in Lexington Michigan. "It was great for the whole family to connect with relatives they may have never met before," she said.

Back at home things have been quiet, with the boys always away doing something (at work, or out of state), and she has begun to feel like an empty-nester. However, due to Lori moving in with her Dad in December, the boys are the empty-nesters. Student loan debt and other ➤





ELVIS COSTELLO O
Justin



ALLEN PARSON PROJECT
Andy



FRANK SINATRA
Lori



NICK DRAKE
Dan



MAYNARD FERGUSON
Justin



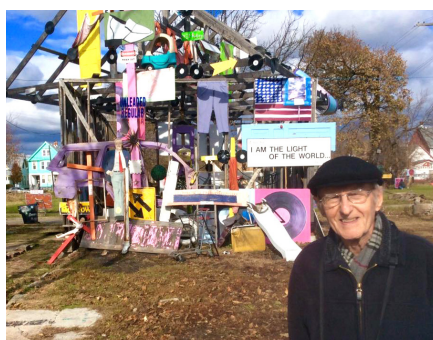
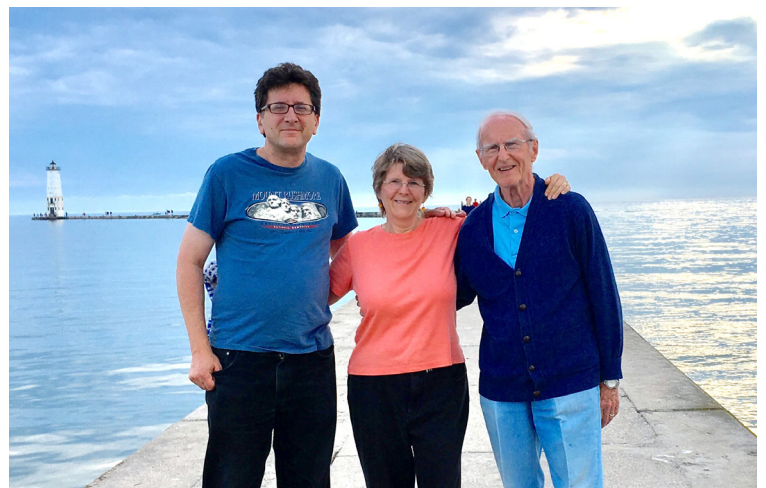
THE WAR ON DRUGS
Dan

◀ factors will probably keep them in the Dearborn house for a while,

IN RETROSPECT this was a very fruitful year. Despite being an arduous journey at times, it has led to enormous growth for everyone involved. It remains to be seen where the Lord is leading us, but we are convinced there are great things around the bend.

To all our friends and family we wish a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Note about the name: MUSIKER is the German translation of Grajek, which means "musician" in english. We thought it fitting considering our family's dual Polish and German heritage.



Bottom left: Grad #1 with Dan & Lori, upper left: "Canstruction" yellow submarine, top right: Ben and his gang of grads, middle right: Dan Lori and Rolf at the Frankfort pier, bottom right: Rolf at the Heidelberg project.



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