

Ari's Journal RV Trip

December 20, 2015- January 29, 2016

12/20/15:

We are at home packing and getting ready to leave. We leave in the middle of the night. My mom and I fall asleep on the RV. We are excited about the trip. We will be driving for a long time. During the drive, we will be looking for all different license plates and checking them off on a board.



12/21/15:

We arrived in St. Louis. We went to a really cool museum called the City Museum with a giant metal playground. There was a room that was a skate park but you were not allowed to skate in it. Instead, you run up and down the ramps. There were also cool tunnels that went under ground. You had to crawl in them, but they were fun to explore. I liked the museum, it was fun.

We also went swimming at a cool pool with a giant water slide.



12/22/15:

We are still in St. Louis. We went to the arch and saw how it was built. We went on this weird elevator that brought us to the top of the arch. It took 4 minutes to get to the top. At the top of the arch there were small windows. From the top you could see the inside of the Cardinals stadium.

We also went to the college basketball museum. There was this game where you have 40 seconds to shoot as many baskets as you can shoot. My high score was 34. There were also a few other games and a court to play ball on.



12/23/15

We are in Kansas now and at my uncle's house.

In the morning we played with my uncle's (part coyote part wolf part domestic) dog. Then we went to the college that my aunt teaches at. The college basketball team is the Kansas City J-Hawks

And we saw a sculpture of their mascot.

Then we went to The KU Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum and saw a lot of different kinds of animals but they were all stuffed. The museum had 6 floors. It also had a giant thing behind glass and it showed a lot of animals in their habitats. There were also live snakes and bees. The museum was not my favorite but it was still ok.

Then we went to a toy store that was called The Toy Store. I bought a Nerf pistol and Cerberus the three-headed dog from Greek mythology.



12/24/15:

We spent the morning playing at my uncle's house. We were supposed to go to Santa Fe for Shabbat but due to a blizzard, we went to Lubbock, Texas instead. Then we got in the RV and left we were traveling, traveling, traveling, bla bla bla.



12/25/15:

It was Christmas Day and we saw Alvin and the chip monks. It was so funny when Alvin was throwing toothpicks at a guy's face. The guy tried to hit Alvin with a metal bar Alvin ran away and it broke the table in half and Alvin and the other chip monks spun in a circle and launched one it into the guy and he went sprawling on the ground.

When we got back to the RV, we got ready for Shabbat. We had my favorite Shabbat dinner: challah and corned beef. Since we were parked in a shul parking lot, we went there for Friday night services. There were a lot of old people there. They were very friendly and happy to have us.

12/26/15:

We spent the whole day in the RV. I finished a series and did a puzzle and did this and did that. I played a game of scrabble with my mom are high score was 14. At night we left where we parked and went to San Antonio. The ride was really bumpy due to bad weather. We saw houses that looked like Wild West houses with lots of Christmas lights. Overnight, my parents had to climb up on the roof to fix something. We arrived in San Antonio while I was sleeping.

12/27/15

We went to a RV park. Then we went to a maze thing where you need to find your way out when all the walls are mirrors and some mirrors are mirror doors. There is also this place where you walk into a room after you select your mode and lights appear and you need to get through with out hitting a light if you do then it makes a noise and the light disappears. We also went

to the children's museum. I went to this spy thing and did one mission but then the museum closed. I got a spy card that if you put it under certain lights and either something activates or a door opens. It also says how many missions you completed.



12/28/15

We went to a museum in San Antonio, TX and I got a bullet necklace. The museum was called The Buckhorn. We went on the path around the museum and there was a shooting gallery and my score was 1,240. Then we went on a riverboat ride. It was kind of cool. It showed and told about the history and architecture of San Antonio. Then we went to the Alamo. We saw all kinds of knives and guns we also saw cannons then we left the Alamo and went back to the RV park.





12/29/15

Pretty much all we did was drive, drive some more get some ice cream then keep driving. We are heading to New Mexico. I also jumped into a freezing cold pool on a freezing cold day. I also successfully did an olly while moving on my skateboard.

12/30/15

We arrived in New Mexico. Then we went to the caverns. The caverns are the biggest caves in the Western Hemisphere. It had a giant rock that fell from the ceiling it was called the iceberg rock. Then we went to somewhere else- I'll tell you about it tomorrow.



12/31/15

What I said yesterday about going somewhere.

We went to: the white sand dunes. When we went there we went sledding in the sand. I know you're like what's going on but I went sledding in sand. We went to all different hills. Some were big, some were small, and some were steep. I even got air on a really steep hill. My sled bumped up. It was awesome. In my opinion sledding in sand is fun. We even had a "sand ball" fight. Then we left for Phoenix, Arizona where are family friends other house is. We will stay there for a couple of days. My mom's grandpa and uncle also live there. I'm happy it will finally be warmer.

We celebrated 2016 with dinner, horns, and dessert.



1/1/16:

We arrived in Phoenix, Arizona and went to a house are family friends let us borrow. Then we had this guy come over to help us with the house. While that was happening, I created a realm in minecraft (don't ask me what it is because I don't know either). Then we got lunch with my great grandpa. Finally we came back, had Shabbat dinner, and went to bed.



1/2/16:

On Shabbat we went on an hour-long scooter ride just to eat lunch and go into a library. However, I found some good books. But I couldn't take them home. The real fun happened at night. We went to mini golf with my mom's uncle and his wife and children. Then we went to ice cream. I got cinnamon bun flavor and cherry brownie flavor. Then I went to bed at 11:30.

1/3/16:

In Sedona we hiked up Cathedral Rock. During the climb I helped my family by finding the best places to climb. When we got to the top of Cathedral Rock we looked off it and the view was really good. Then we went on a jeep tour and our guide's name was Rock and his daughter's name is Athena and his dog's name is Ares (a lot of Greek god stuff). We had fun on the tour. He gave us lots of information about Sedona. He knew his history well. One fact I liked was that had Sedona not been covered by water so many years ago, the iron in the mountain rock would be useful today instead of rusted. The drive was cold and bumpy.

The driver liked going up and down on rocky hills. He taught us survival skills and we talked a lot about Native Indians. Native Indians lived here long ago and used the land and resources a lot for the stuff they made.



1/4/16:

We had a lazy morning. Then we went swimming in the Rain. We made the pool warm. I shot my mom with a water gun. It was fun.

Then we went to the library. I found a Greek Mythology book. I read, read some more read for like 20 more minutes blah blah blah. Then I did my homework (I didn't want to but my mom didn't ask for my opinion).

There was a therapy dog there that my sisters read and played with.

After the library, we went home and ate giant hot dogs. Then we watched Alvin and the chipmunks. IT WAS SO FUNNY!



1/5/16:

We went to the science museum. It was big and interesting. I controlled many dinosaurs made out of metal parts with an Xbox controller.

Then I did coding, the theme was minecraft. There was a computer and there were 14 levels you had to do. I did 12 of them. We spent a lot of time there- it was fun.

We went to my uncle's house for dinner. Then me and one of my cousins and my sisters played the Wii. We played super smash bros. I taught my sisters how to play. Then we ate I forgot what we ate but that's not important. Then another cousin and I drew pictures together. He is an artist. We drew dragons.







1/6/16:

We went to a Bunny Shelter and there was a bunny named Zeus (god of the sky in Greek mythology) and one's name was Apollo (god of healing, archery, and music in Greek mythology) but Apollo was already adopted.

We went to Barnes and Noble and I got a New Greek God book by Rick Riordan. It has many stories about the Gods.

Then we went swimming (we went swimming a lot).

Then for dinner we had oatmeal and for dessert we had Oreo ice cream sandwiches. **THEY WERE SO GOOD!**

Then we packed up.

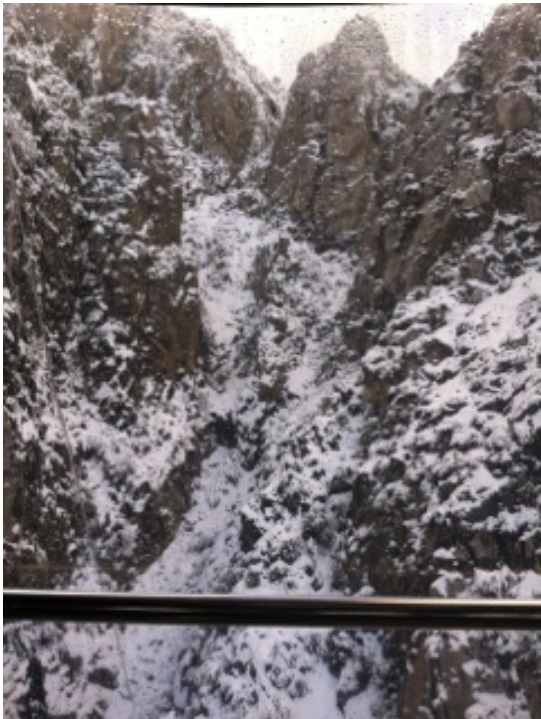


1/7/16:

We are in RV heading to Palm Springs, California.

We went on an Aerial Tram Ride up a mountain. It was really high. There was a lot of deep snow when we got outside. We went sledding on the mountain and then we went inside and got hot chocolate.

Then we drove to Sand Diego.



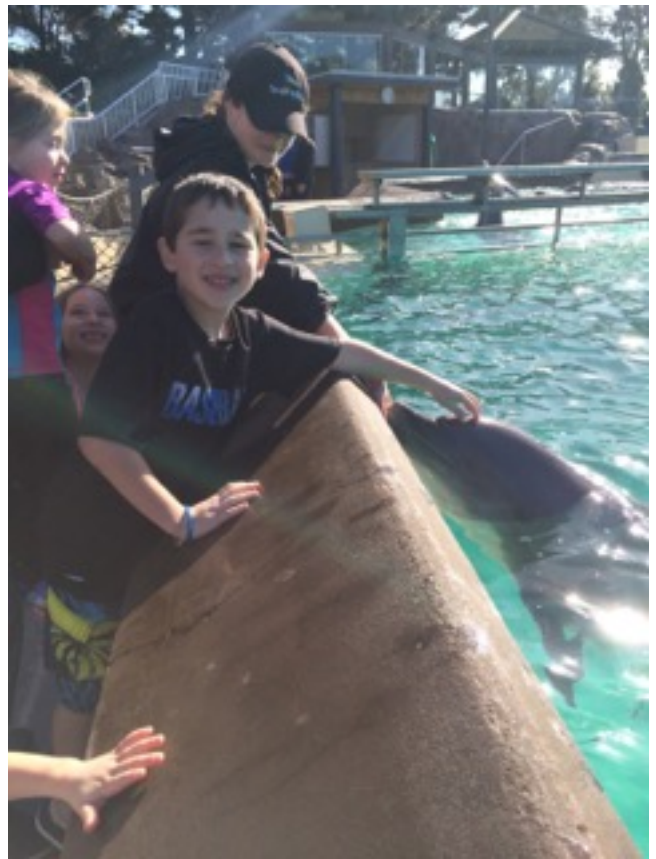


1/8/16:

We went to Sea World. There was a ride that was half roller coaster half-log flume and it had an elevator that the ride car went in when you were on it. There were lots of steep hills and turns. You get splashed a lot. It was very fun.

There were also animal shows. One of them had an otter (if you want to be specific, it was a sea otter) that stole a lot of stuff. It was very funny especially the jokes in the beginning.

There was also a Killer Whale show where they did cool things. Some of the cool things were the way they jumped. They jumped high. I sat in the soak section and got wet when they jumped. Since it was my sister's Birthday we had Shabbat dinner and we had ice cream cake for dessert.





1/9/16:

In the morning we celebrated my sisters birthday and had cereal with marshmallows for breakfast. Then we went swimming in a 90-degree pool. We swam for a long time. We played games as a family. Then we went on a scooter ride over the bay. Then we went back to the RV and just enjoyed the rest of the day.

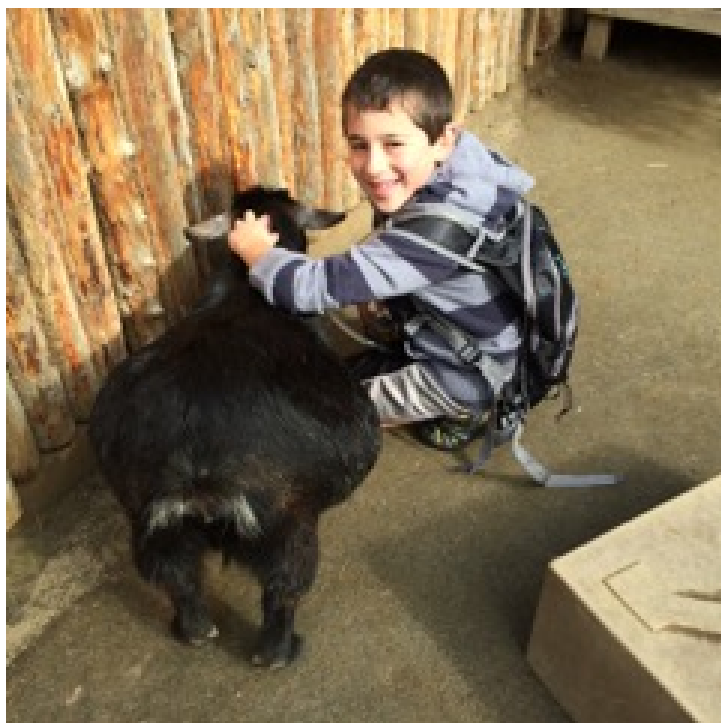


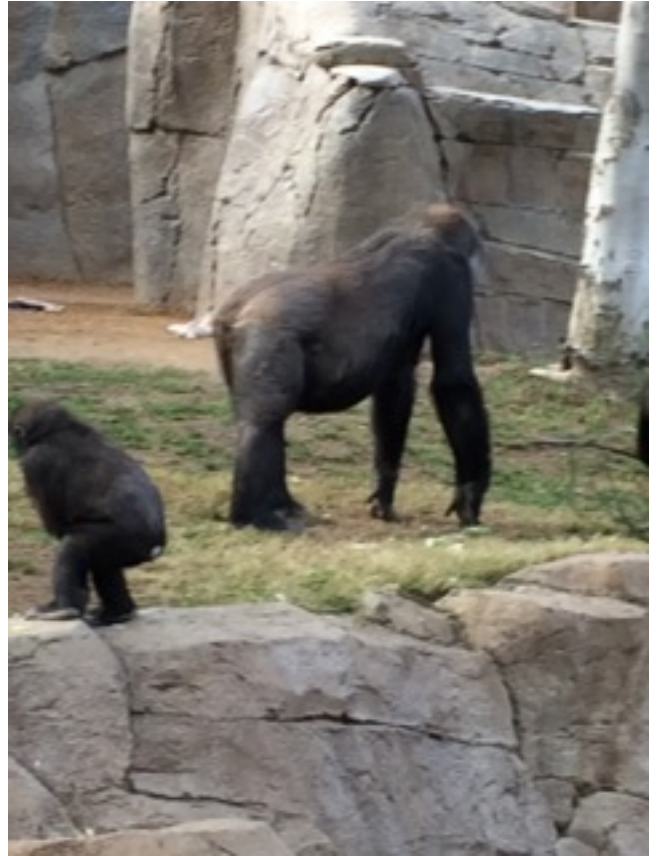
1/10/16:

We went to the San Diego Safari Park. We went on a tram ride and saw baby cheetahs and lions.

Then we went on the tiger trail and saw a baby tiger and the daddy tiger. The baby tiger was playful. We saw the zookeeper train him. They used a hamburger meat mix to train him and gave him blood to drink from a bottle. We saw parrots that don't repeat what you say and gorillas that show their butts to everyone and a baby gorilla that caused a lot of trouble. My favorite part was the tigers.

Then we had dinner at a friend's sabba and savta's house (ba ba ba and sa sa sa). We ate a lot of dessert.





1/11/16:

We went to the San Diego Zoo. We saw maned wolves, lions, mountain lions, tigers and bears oh my! (Just kidding we saw no bears well except panda bears and polar bears). Then we saw foxes and reindeer and get ready, cheetahs, rhinos, elephant, dogs, koalas, gorillas, Tasmanian devils, monkeys, wart hogs, hippos, crocodiles, alligators, lizards, snakes, goats, and a lot more I could go on forever. I found a crocodile that nobody else could find. I liked the zoo.

Then we had dinner at a sushi place and I watched fake wrestling and it's really bad (my advice is don't watch it).







1/12/16:

We went to the beach and I went surfing. It was really fun I always rode almost to the beach then fell off. Some times I fell off right on the wave and it pushed me to the beach. Me and my sister and we made a giant hole and a wall then a bunch of sand towers and behind it we made a sand city a big wave came it went over the hole, broke through the wall, but only the sand towers stopped the water from flooding the town. It was so fun.



1/13/16:

WE WENT TO DISNEYLAND!!!!!!!!!!!!!! My favorite ride was Hydrospace Mountain. It was really fun. It was really dark and there were sudden drops and sudden sharp turns and it went really fast. It was really loud. There was also a ride called Thunder Mountain. You're in a train and you go really fast around and up the mountain. There's a ride called Matterhorn where you ride up a mountain and fake yetis roar at you when you ride by. I did this show where you dress up as a Jedi and you fight Darth Vader. Then we saw this really cool fire work show. After that I got a light saber from star wars the force awakens. I LOVED IT!!







1/14/16:

We had a Lazy morning. I did a lot of homework. Then we went to the park. I skateboarded there. Then I had a fake light saber fight. It wasn't the best park for third graders but it was ok. Then we went home and had meat for dinner. It was very good.

1/15/16:

We played in the morning. Then we went to the Skirball museum, the Jewish Museum of LA. There was a Noah's Ark exhibit. All the animals were made out of recycled materials. There were also things like making lightning and making the coyote howl. We also made banners. We went to the social and justice exhibit. This exhibit showed what everyday people and leader people are doing to make the world a better place. Then we had Shabbat.





1/16/ 16:

On Shabbat we went to shul. At shul we met Jonah's cousin (I don't remember her name). When we got home, we had an ice fight. It was fun; we chunked pieces of ice at each other. Then we went on hike through the forest and we stopped and climbed a tree. When it was starting to get dark, we turned

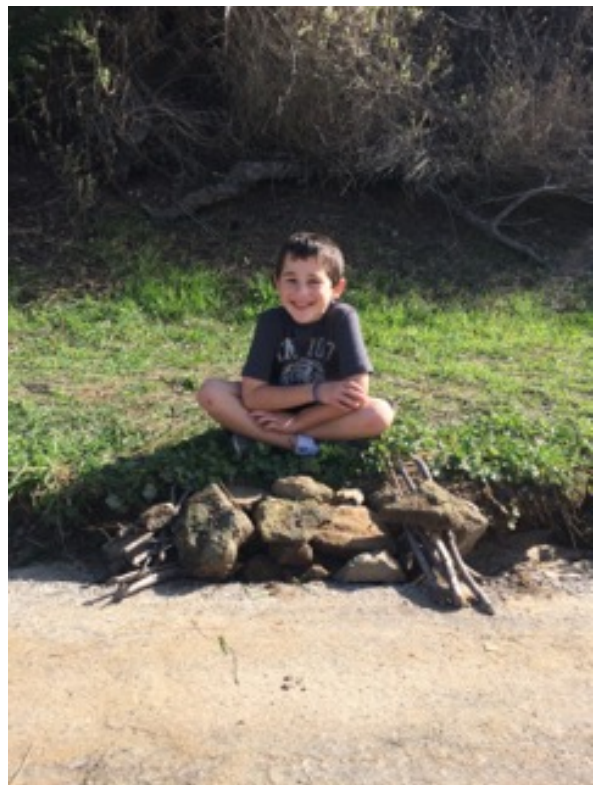
around and went back to the people's house that we were staying at.

1/17/16:

We hiked to the Hollywood sign. On our way up we saw a tree. We stopped and took a few pictures then kept on climbing. I made a cool rock bridge with a lot of heavy rocks. I loved the hike.

We then drove through Hollywood. We saw some people dressed as characters. Spiderman came to our car and gave my sister a flower balloon. We saw lots of theaters. Most of them were playing Star Wars. There were stars on the ground that said movie star's names. We then left LA and headed to Edwards Air force base to visit our cousin Daniel.





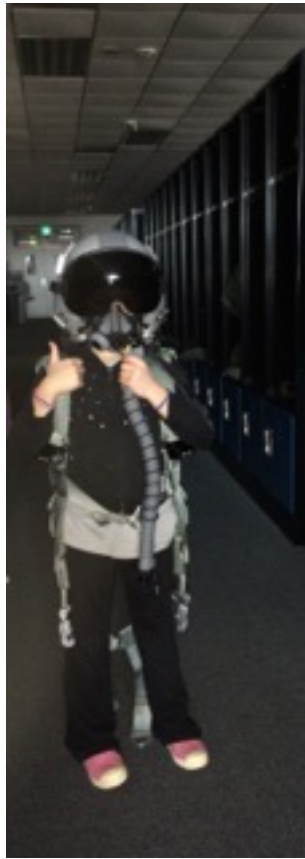
1/18/16

We woke up at are cousin Daniel's house and ate oatmeal and played with Ava the dog. We got in the car and went to NASA. We saw planes that used to fly. Then we went to Daniel's flight school. On the way we saw the newest plane in the world called The Lightning (Also known as the F-35). We went to the place were everybody gets their flight stuff. I tried on my cousin's helmet and vest. I was able to go in two different mock cockpit used by pilots to practice. Then we went to a museum of different jets and helicopters. We went back and had ice cream for dinner (I'll probably get a lot of texts saying: very funny Ari, what did you really have for dinner I am warning you DO NOT DO THAT).











1/19/16:

We went to Las Vegas and went to a chocolate factory. We went on a tour of the chocolate factory and saw them making Valentines Day chocolates. We tasted different chocolates: milk chocolate, dark chocolate, white chocolate, and pecan toffee crunch. I liked all of them except the toffee. I liked the dark chocolate one the best. There was an M&M world there and we got bags of different M&Ms to bring with us. I got peppermint, cherry, and crispy M&Ms. We drove to the strip in Las Vegas. We went to a bigger M&M world there. We watched a 3D M&M movie. We are on our way to THE GRAND CANYON. We passed cool mountains and the Hoover Dam. I couldn't really see the dam but the pictures look cool.





1/20/16:

We went to the Grand Canyon. We watched a movie about the canyon. It told us how it was formed and about the people who lived there. Then we walked the rim. We saw the inside of the canyon. It looked really cool. There were many different colored rocks. Some parts were so high that they touched the clouds.

Then we hiked a little over 2 miles on the Bright Angel trail (which went all the way down into the canyon). It was covered in

snow. Which made it really hard and tiring but we did it and came back up. On the way I was putting snow on my head and calling it my snow hat. It was fun!

We had hot chocolate in the Bright Angel Lodge. We went to the History Museum inside the lodge. There were videos about the National Parks. I learned that in Devil's Tower there are lots of prairie dogs. President Obama created a program that all fourth graders and their families can attend the national parks for free. I can't wait until next year!







1/21/16:

We went to Bearizona. We went on a bus ride through animal exhibits. When the tour guide wanted sheep to come she yelled Sheep! Sheep! Sheep in a loud, high-pitched voice. We thought it was really funny.

When we went to the wolves they walked right next to the bus. If we stuck our hands out and they wouldn't have bitten our hands off, then we could have pet them. There was one wolf named shadow. There were also bears (duh). The eldest bear was a grandma bear. There was also this bear that paced back and forth because before Bearizona rescued him, he was kept in a very small cage and that was the only space he had to move. Then we saw a porcupine show in the gift shop. It was an Africa (Mohawk) Crested porcupine. We learned how they trained it. It learned how to go on a leash, touch the trainer's hand when told, and went into his cage on command. We walked around and bought stuff.

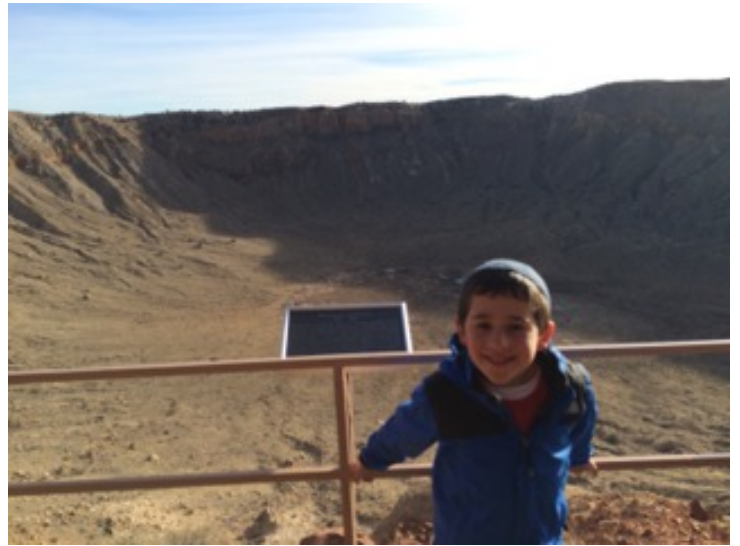






Then we went to Meteor Crater (most preserved crater in world) we watched a movie about the crater. It described the meteor as a small piece of iron nickel but because it fell so fast, it made a big crater. We walked down the side of the crater and looked through telescopes. The crater was a huge round hole with an airplane wing in it. When we got to the end of the trail I said it was a dead end and Noa said she knew what dead end meant and she said it meant if you go that way then turn you get dead and that's the end. There was this rock called the house rock (it wasn't even the size of a house it looked more like a shack so I called it the shack rock). Inside the museum, I made meteors and comets on a simulator to see their IMPACT on earth. It was fun. If you did the right things you could blow up the whole earth. Meteors fall every day but they all land in the ocean so if you happen to be swimming in the ocean and see a rock fall out of the sky and you find a little of it on the bottom of the ocean don't be surprised.





1/22/16:

We woke up in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We went to the Balloon Museum. It had all different kinds of balloons (as in hot air balloon not your normal kind of balloon). Albuquerque is the hot air balloon capital of the world. I did a hot air balloon simulator. What you do is you pull two ropes one makes you go lower one makes you go higher. I did well on it. I got 86 out of 100. I liked it. I liked it. We drove to Santa Fe for Shabbat. Nice people helped us find a place to park the RV. Then we had our last Shabbos dinner in the RV.



1/23/16:

We scooted to Shul. It was a really small shul with only 3 rooms. They had a good kiddish. The kiddish had babka, liquorish, lamb, and vegetables. The people were really nice.

When we got back to the RV, we climbed up the ladder on the back to the top of RV. I was excited to climb up. We had a great view of the city. We scooted into Santa Fe to meet friends from Beth El in Highland Park but we got lost so we went to a bookstore and I found a book that I wanted (so that night my dad got the book but that's a different story).

We went to a Cathedral in the plaza and it had YHVH (God's name) written over archway because the Jewish people gave money for the Church to be finished. It was big and quiet. It had many statues, pictures, and stained glass. There was a man playing the piano.

We scooted back to the house of a family we met from the shul in Santa Fe.

1/24/16:

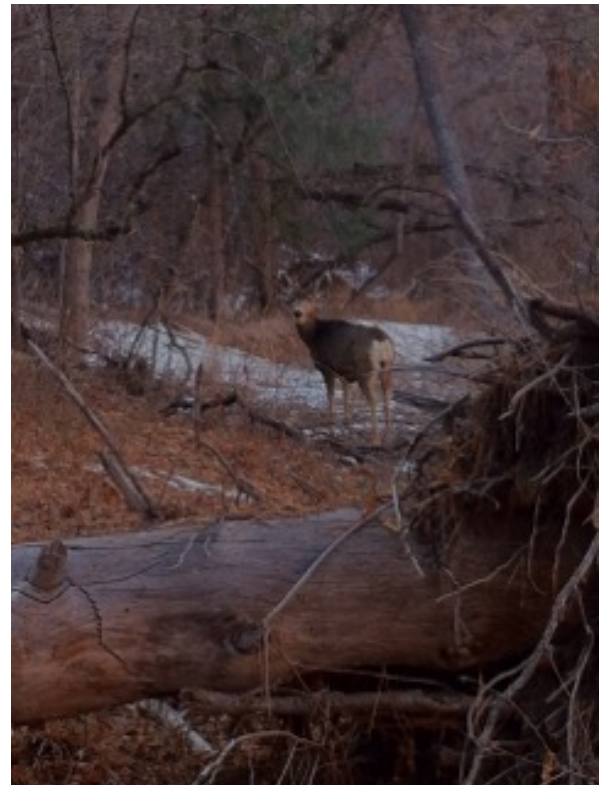
We woke up early (at 5:00) for a sunrise (and moon set). We went on Hot Air Balloon ride in Albuquerque. We flew over The Rio River Grand (by the way my mom thinks its so cool to fly in a Hot air balloon). The view was really good. Our pilot was Troy Bradley. He is famous for piloting a hot air balloon named The Two Eagles across the Pacific Ocean. He and his co pilot set the world record for flying their helium balloon for seven days across the water. After the ride we got breakfast and a certificate in the balloon warehouse. It was fun.



Then we went on a hike in Bandelier, a national monument. We saw (and went in) Ancient villages. We saw pueblos (a pueblo is a little hut that is built into a mountain) and went in them. We climbed tall ladders and walked over creek bridges. We saw elk and kivas (meaning holes in ground where important decisions were made). We also saw these wall things. They were shaped like mazes. It was fun.











1/25/16:

We went Skiing in the Santa Fe Mountains. I took a skiing class with my sister. We learned how to turn, stop, go faster, and go slower. I soon was able to go off of the ski lift. The ski instructor told me I was almost ready to do the blue circle after my first day skiing. One time when I was going down I went the green square when I saw a little passage so I went through it and swerved and I went over a ramp and I made the jump and landed on my skis and kept going. Then I went on another passage that went behind a tree. There was a drop. The first time I did it, I fell but the second time I did it, I landed on my skis. I loved it. It was so fun. Then we went to dinner with friends we met at shul. The David (the male friend) worked at the ski place we went to but he wasn't there today.



1/26/16:

We woke up to snow on the ground in Santa Fe.

Then we went to the hot springs in a town north of Taos. We hiked the stagecoach/Manby hike down a canyon along the Rio Grande River to the Hot Springs. It was 30 degrees outside and

snow and ice covered the mountains. When we got to the bottom there were two hot springs next to the river.

We quickly changed into bathing suits in the freezing weather and we ran into the springs (when I was running I tripped and fell face first into the spring). They were really hot. The springs were so hot because they came from deep under ground. When my mom was undressing my sister Noa, she peed on my mom even though my mom said not to pee. When we finished swimming, we had to get out into the freezing cold to dry off and change. We hiked back up. The hike had a lot of mud and ice. It was fun (and slippery and muddy). We went to Taos. We had Ice cream. I had malt chocolate Oreo in a waffle cone. Then we got back to the RV and started the drive to Kansas.





1/27/16:

We drove to Liberal, Kansas. In Liberal we went to Dorothy's House in Dorothy's hou... never mind I'll just tell you what happened. When we got there we walked into Dorothy's gift shop (I didn't know Dorothy had a gift shop) any way we went to this room with a bunch of random Native American stuff. Some person tricked me with a horse/bull thing. It was this Native

American guy who disguised his horse as a bull and strapped a bow and quiver to it (I don't think it worked very well it was also a statue so it didn't hurt me when I said that). We went to "OZ". Our journey started when the old tornado blows away a old house to an old land... (I've said enough of old) so we went to this OZ place and the house landed on a witch (what's the big deal) and there were these munchkin things and this fake army guy with a fake rifle and a fake hat and fake clothing (Ari! Enough of saying fake! Whoops). Then we went to the witch's castle with flying monkeys (their weird) and a big green witch. We then journeyed back to the Emerald city and gave the "wizard" the witch's broom and then we "found out" that the wizard was a regular person. Then we played on their playground that needed repairs (I didn't want to be a munchkin in the picture). Then we drove to our Uncle Ben and Aunt Germaine's house. It was a great bonus visit!







1/28/16:

I don't think we're in Kansas anymore! We went to Eureka, Missouri. We went to an Endangered Wolf Center. It was really cool. We went to the "endangered" classroom. We got to feel dead wolf and fox hides. We made enrichment for the foxes. It was cinnamon, flour, water, and some other stuff. Then we went to see the animals. First we saw 4 swift foxes then we saw wolves. They were Mexican gray wolves their names were Rio and Mack (who were the boys) and two girl wolves but I forgot their names. There were 5 red wolves but I forgot their names too. We also saw maned wolves and African dogs. I bought a wolf poster. I might adopt Mack. Then we started the drive home the drive that will end the trip, the ever-lasting drive that will end soon.



Thank you to every one that took the time to read this funny info-giving Journal. Also thanks to my mom for helping me with it and one more thanks to my dad for being an awesome driver and companion to have around.

Lastly, a special thanks to Gerry Schechter for lending us your RV-our family has made memories that will last a lifetime. We are beyond appreciative.

I appreciate everybody who read this,
Ari