

# Calgaros Try Not to Be a Downer, but 2016 was a Garbage Fire of a Year

**M**ost year-end reviews have acknowledged the unceasing series of unfortunate events that unrolled during 2016, so the Calgaro family might as well go along with the trend.

“I just hope we don’t harsh anyone’s vibe during this holiday season,” Áine Calgaro asserted. “Some of this stuff just isn’t amusing.”

We’ll just get right to it, then.

As winter was ending, Áine’s mom was battling heart and kidney disease. She had been in and out of the hospital for over a year, and had made more than one near-miraculous recovery. But the family knew they were on borrowed time.

Áine made quite a few trips back and forth to Rockford to be with her parents. The night before one of them, the smallest Calgaro dog, Luna, began to cough and pant. Áine and

Gabi (honorary Calgaro from Brazil) took Luna to the emergency vet clinic, thinking they would get her checked out and go home. Instead, Luna hung on for several hours getting fluids and even CPR — and passed away as the vet was preparing the needle to help her along.

The next day, as she was driving to Rockford, Áine had a call from her own doctor. She needed a breast biopsy to check out an abnormality. (In an unusual turn for such an ill-fated year, Áine had a clean bill of health.)

But her mom, Lee Sullivan, was scheduled to be transferred to hospice care on April 1. Instead, Lee took her last breath that day in her hospital room with her daughter and husband at her bedside.

Áine could tell about a thousand stories about her mom’s blunt yet often optimistic and humorous nature. It might not be a coincidence that she took her leave on April Fool’s Day.

A few months later, Áine had knee surgery as a fun respite from all the previous tragedy.

## Inside:

- It’s Not All Terrible
- Please Keep Reading
- Really, We’re Fine

**back issues online!**  
[calgaros.com](http://calgaros.com)

# Pete Keeps it Together Despite Destruction and Chaos

One highlight from Pete Calgaro's year was sorting through nearly 25 years of accumulated office detritus, recorded materials, awards, and other remnants in preparation for NBC15's move to a shiny new building.

"There's nothing I enjoy more than having to upend everything I've depended on to get my job done," said the station's art director. "Meeting all my deadlines when the tools I use aren't even connected to the network is certainly a fun challenge that keeps my mind limber!"

Pete keeps his body the same way by dodging falling debris from the old building's demolition. The old and new buildings are just a few feet apart, so Pete's daily 4-mile round trip run hasn't been compromised.

## Of Course There was a Snowstorm the Day of Pete's Concert, Geez

Because weather is a fickle harpy, Madison had a winter weather warning the day of Pete's annual meditative holiday concert benefitting Porchlight and Second Harvest. While only about a dozen people braved the hazardous road conditions in order to attend in person, Facebook Live made it easy to spontaneously stream the concert on the Pete Calgaro Music page.

Interested parties may still donate to the charities on their own.

Pete also released two new CDs, "Simply Piano" and "Within." All his stuff is at [petecalgaro.com](http://petecalgaro.com), and it's probably a good idea to go there and try to recover your chill.



ABOVE: *The heavens shine down upon the NBC affiliate.*

He also maintains his composure by doing yoga, taking relaxing baths, and petting the family's adorable dogs, Kavik and Trax (pictured on this year's Christmas card, aww).

## New Cultures Galore

Several Calgaros experienced a welcome break from the everyday challenges of life in the U.S. by visiting other parts of the world.

In January, Pete and Áine traveled to Compostela and Chacala, Mexico, to visit their fantastic, hospitable expat friends Marshall and Shanti Norman. They enjoyed many adventures including driving on winding mountain roads in unfamiliar areas after sunset towards a destination that didn't have an actual street address. Of course it was all awesome. Especially the beach.

Gabi (Medeiros Simas, but honorary Calgaro after living with them for over three years) visited her parents in Hong Kong during the summer, and is spending the holidays with them (and her boyfriend Zeph) in Vietnam. Gabi's dad is an airline pilot, and they moved from Brazil earlier in the year. Being a citizen of the world is a good thing.

# Rachel Gets First Tattoo

Rachel Calgaro followed up her first piercings with several more, along with her first tattoo.

And then her second.

Her first experience under the needle was in October, when she had the Tree of Gondor applied to her lower leg.

She enjoyed it so much that she decided to start a half sleeve dedicated to her favorite bands, including the nordic metal group Sabaton.

In other body modification news, Rachel had her nasal septum and ear cartilage pierced. She finally had her earlobes pierced as well, with a goal of wearing gauges (like her mom!).

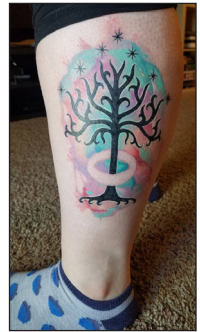
Rachel's actions inspired Áine to touch up and expand one of her own tattoos, the one on her upper chest

that features a wolf Rachel had drawn at age 12.

Thankfully, working as a software engineer for King Show Games means that Rachel is in an environment where a creative appearance can be an advantage.

After work, Rachel heads home to her apartment in Plymouth, MN to spend time with her roommate, a 2-year-old Swedish vallhund named Deadpool.

It's no surprise that she's planning a future tattoo that involves the Deadpool logo and a paw print.



# Peter Leaves Party House

As readers may remember from the 2015 issue of this publication, Peter Calgaro IV was the proud co-renter of a house with a varying number (5? 6? depending on who's crashing there) other young men in their 20s.

Amenities included a rotting bathroom floor, clogged shower, and a friendly community of mice. Surprisingly, the roommates never got around to hosting a dinner party for their parents. In fact, the formal dining room had been divided into living space through the clever implementation of sideways pallets with rags stuffed into the gap between the pallets and the ceiling.

Area parents were shocked when the lease ended in August and Peter decided to move alone into an efficiency apartment.

"I'm not necessarily done partying, but I'm done *hosting* parties," he explained.

Peter and one (just one!) of his roommates worked tirelessly to clean the party house before move-out, and were rewarded with part of their security deposit.

He continues to grow his bank account by working as a pizza delivery professional for Topper's on Madison's east side. In his spare time, he teaches himself about all kinds of random things, lifts weights, buys nutritional supplements, and allows his facial hair to grow.

In January, he and his friend Cal are flying to San Francisco to visit another friend. Other forthcoming pursuits may include continuing his formal education at Madison College (aka MATC).

# Pete and Áine Preparing for Empty Nest — Again

Pete and Áine's children have moved out, and back in, and back out. But Brazilian student Gabi Simas has saved the Calgaros from the plight of an empty nest.

For now.

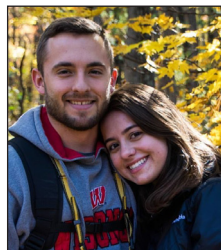
Gabi, who has been living with the family since her junior year of high school, will complete her sophomore year at Madison College in May 2017. She plans to transfer to a 4-year uni-

versity in Michigan to continue her schooling.

The Calgaros will have a big adjustment to make.

Áine pointed out that since Gabi will be taking her Pekingese, Shigwa, with her, there will be an opening for the position of Third Family Dog.

"There is no Third Family Dog position," Pete responded. "Don't get any ideas."



*ABOVE: Gabi with Zeph, who graduated and is going to work for Ford. In Michigan.*

## FAQ

**Q. How is Áine's dad? You kind of left us hanging with that.**

A. He'd be the first to say it's been rough, but he is an amazing person. He is going to be 89, and his social life is probably better than ours. He went on a veterans' trip to Washington, DC in May, and he plans to sell his house next spring and will be moving in with Áine's brother and sister-in-law.

**Q. This newsletter was rather light on dog news. What are they up to?**

A. Kavik and Trax are still cute and loud. Their newest endeavor is taking turns accompanying Áine to work on Fluffy Fridays. They attended the office Christmas party together.

**Q. Did Áine get a different job?**

A. Why, yes. She is now Marketing & Communications Coordinator with Free to Breathe, a non-profit focused on curing lung cancer. The office is close enough that she could follow Pete's example and run there HA HA HA HA. OK, maybe she'll try biking in the spring.



*ABOVE: Peter, Pete, Rachel, and Áine's dad Sully at Thanksgiving.*

*RIGHT: Áine is always taking the photos, so of course hers is a selfie of her own choosing.*

