



FROM HOLLY AND MATT

An Exciting Year . . .

Actually, THIS is the most exciting thing that happened to us this year, so if you're looking for tales of travel and adventure, feel free to move on to the holiday letter from one of your more interesting friends . . .



We joked (?) our house was possessed this year. We had RATS!!! In the process of getting rid of them (now *that's* a tail)



December 2022

we found some problems with the wiring and plumbing, and we had to replace our ancient toilet (no sh*t). This year, we also had to replace a four-year-old refrigerator and a nine-year-old car.

Holly also tried to replace her 20-year-old office chair, but after buying and returning SEVEN of them, decided what she really needs is a new back. Unfortunately, they are apparently "back ordered" on Amazon. Ha ha. (Yet Holly has the spine to rib Matt about his puns; is it hip for Matt to have to shoulder that?)

Other Goings On

When not dealing with repair people, Holly taught a graduate course online for UPenn. The students were engaged and she loved using her brain again. Unfortunately, it seemed to be the spark that ignited the smoldering anxiety of the past two years into a bright red flame. Thanks to therapy and yoga, she plans to teach again this spring. In addition to teaching, Holly continues to quilt, volunteer, and stay

in touch with friends via phone and in person.

Matt continues to find that pandemic introversion agrees with him. His fourth grade humor has continued to “develop”, which has helped keep things light for Holly. Matt still plays pickleball when his various body parts allow; works happily more than half-time in “retirement”; and, sometimes with Holly, visits friends online (eating) or in person (eating outdoors).



Although we're both spending more time with our physical therapist, we've been able to keep up our daily walks together. We have done some of what our friend Beth calls “sad travel” -- day trips to towns in the neighboring Hill Country -- mostly to The Quilt Museum in La Grange. We were desperate to get out of Texas this summer, but with the loosening of Covid restrictions and all the craziness with airline delays and cancellations, we stayed home.

Grateful

This is the life we expected to be living in our 80s or 90s. Holly's friend Barbara reminded her that being bored means you're safe, and so we are safe, which we are grateful for. We've stayed healthy, and we're done with

all the repairs and purchases of appliances and a car at their new, inflated prices. We are more appreciative of simple changes in our routine – like the Chinese takeout that opened three blocks from our house. We're grateful for TV and new books from our favorite authors. Where would we be without Kindle and Netflix and podcasts?

We're still determined to be the last people in Austin to catch Covid and are thus still very careful, but we've gone out to eat a few times (outside) and appreciated seeing friends and a break from home cooking. Most of all, we're grateful for friends who listen to us complain and share their own remedies for various ailments. And for each other – we couldn't ask for better pandemic partners. Finally, we appreciate the little bit of remaining weirdness in Austin, like Santa on horseback on Congress Ave.



Wishing you a happy holiday and a new year full of unexpected delights!