

Happy Holidays

GREETINGS FROM HOLLY AND MATT . . .

Hmm. What to say about 2016?
Looking forward to 2017 . . .

SUMMER MISADVENTURES

This summer we tried to decide if we wanted to remodel our house or just move. We spent a month in Palo Alto, California where Matt enjoyed working with colleagues at Kestrel. Later we went on a three-week trip to Seattle, Portland, and Olympia (Washington). Seattle and Portland reminded us of Austin – and not in a good way: hot at times, lots of traffic, and insane real estate markets. Olympia was appealing, though.

While we were in Oregon, we took advantage of their legal marijuana. We got stoned and watched reruns of *Law and Order*. It messed with our short-term memories so much we couldn't follow the plots at all, even though we've seen every episode multiple times. So much for being party animals . . .

After seeing probably 100 houses in four states, we've decided we like our house best. While our neighborhood and our city have changed in ways we don't like (epic traffic, pompous noisy restaurants, and outlandish property

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taxes, anyone?), this seemed to be a problem in other places we visited as well. So for the time being we plan to stay put and remodel.

MATT'S WORK

One good thing about the summer is that with all this talk of moving, Matt realized he is not ready to retire. He is enjoying his work, in large part because he has done virtually no reviewing or attending conferences! (He did read two Ph.D. dissertations, but that was fine.) His current project is . . . well, either you already know, or insert "blah, blah, blah" here.



Visiting Matt's Uncle Ross in
California—Matt Showing His
Usual Respect

HOLLY'S NONWORK

Holly life continues to be organized largely around writing. She is in two writing groups and she and her friend, Elota, are developing one of Holly's pieces into a performance for a local theater festival in February. For her birthday, Holly organized a reading by writer friends. In addition, she started a group to provide mutual support for keeping New Year's resolutions. She continues to take classes at Seton Cove Spirituality Center. This year she has also been raising money for one of our favorite local charities, Foundation Communities, which builds affordable housing.

HEALTH NEWS

Of course a holiday letter from nearly anyone in the over-60 set is not complete without health updates. Matt had relatively minor eye surgery (imagine a doctor scraping your cornea with a cheese grater) and is still trying to figure out what is causing his frequent, but treatable, headaches. His MRI showed: a) he has a brain, and b) thankfully, there is nothing obviously bad in there. Holly had four dental implants this year to replace loose teeth. They are beautiful, but cost as much as a car! As her friend Beth said sagely when Holly complained about the cost, "Well, you've gotta have teeth!" So true.

ETC.

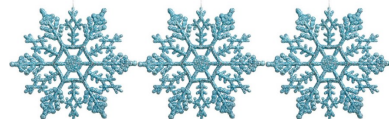
After years of blissful reclining, we had to replace our sofa – with another

reclining sofa! We have a new favorite Mexican restaurant -- La Mancha -- that we love so much we considered moving closer to it! In Portland we developed a new vice: donuts. The Portland chain, Voodoo Donuts, opened a store in Austin. Thank goodness parking there is a nightmare or we'd both be the size of houses!

We read lots of books this year. Hooray for Kindles! A recent favorite was *A Man Called Ove* about a grumpy, but lovable, guy (why did that resonate so?) We recommend both the book and the movie (in Swedish, with subtitles).

SHORT POLITICAL RANT

Like many living in our particular bubble, we were shocked and disoriented by the outcome of the election. Clearly some people feel they haven't been heard. Well, we hear you now. We wish our new President the best of luck. One of the great things about getting older is surviving events that seemed horrible at the time. Let's hope this is one of them.



PEACE ON EARTH
GOODWILL TOWARDS EVERYONE--
NO EXCEPTIONS