

happy HOLIDAYS

FROM HOLLY AND MATT

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Still Loving Life in Olympia

December 2025

We are still loving it here and are so grateful we made the move. Our apartment suits us, we love our neighbors, and the management here is stellar. We are gradually decorating



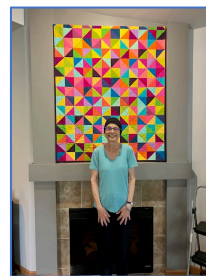
the place so it looks less like a group home (see Matt sitting on our new purple reclining sofa and Holly with her quilt we hung over the fireplace). We love the local concept of

“traffic” and being able to walk to stores and doctors. The summer weather is amazing and we both tolerate the cold, wet winters with a minimum of complaining, although we did enjoy a break in San Diego for nearly 3 weeks in January, soaking up some sun and visiting our friends Marion and Richard.

Social Life

We have made a few friends here. We have weekly get-togethers with our delightful neighbor, Christina and have become friendly with a few other neighbors. We also get to see Matt’s cousins, Bob, Linda, and their son Joel, who live in Olympia, on a regular basis. Holly is also able now to have regular get-togethers with her friend,

Freida, who lives in Port Townsend, two hours away. We also see Matt’s stepbrother, Brian, who lives in Quilcene, a bit this side of Port Townsend, and his girlfriend, Andy pretty regularly. Zoom lunches and regular phone calls continue to be a fun way to keep in touch with friends outside the state. For a couple of introverts, this feels like a pretty full dance card and we are grateful. Of course, our social life includes each other: nightly TV (one series after another, including guilty pleasure “Love is Blind”), daily walks (sometimes two), and — finally — eating in restaurants (when they’re not crowded).



Holly Stays Busy-ish

Holly continues to enjoy quilting, her meditation group, and a monthly writing group. After the election, she participated in rallies and organizing with Olympia Indivisible as well as regularly emailing and calling our elected representatives (one of whom called Holly!). One of the highlights of the year was supervising two students from an online program at the

University of Pennsylvania who completed their doctoral dissertations and graduated in May.

Matt Stays Busy-ish

Matt took advantage of the half-year of beautiful weather surrounding the summer by playing pickleball. Oddly, he's enjoying the break from it now — maybe not so odd actually, since he enjoyed the break from squash season (the sport, not the excessively bland vegetable) in college. He continues to follow UT football and basketball, for no reason that makes any sense (even to Matt). Add in reading novels and naps, and it's not a bad life! He also continues to work on the ACL2 theorem proving system (for the past 35 years) and enjoys that for the most part. Funding has largely dried up so, at least for now, it's mostly a hobby. He finds that he's enjoying the lack of external pressure (even though pressure was minimal by most standards). It's not clear how Matt's attentions will shift in the coming year. He's also had fun working on a research paper with his buddy, Konrad.

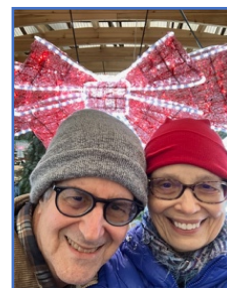
Cancer-Free by Christmas . . .

Starting in May Holly began experiencing stomach pain and nausea. After numerous visits to doctors, her GI specialist found that she had an ulcer. A biopsy determined that the ulcer was caused by lymphoma, a blood cancer. So, in early August, Holly started chemotherapy: six cycles of about three weeks each. Despite this diagnosis, we have felt very lucky. Holly's oncologist and care team are very experienced and caring and most of the treatment is delivered within walking distance of our home! While chemotherapy is certainly no spa

weekend, overall she has tolerated the treatment with a minimum of side effects such as nausea, gut pain, and neuropathy. Her doctor is very optimistic that she will be cancer-free by Christmas. She's already had a CT scan that showed the lymph nodes have shrunk, with no evidence of cancer, and she will have a PET scan on December 22nd (after the final cycle of chemo), which is expected to show that she is cancer-free. So, we are hoping for the best Christmas present ever.

There have been silver linings to this experience. Holly lost 25 pounds during the past six months and is now able to eat things, like donuts and Pop Tarts, that she hasn't eaten regularly since she joined Weight Watchers decades ago. Chemo brain has sort of mellowed her out (less worry and shorter to-do lists), though Matt has to make sure she has her phone and keys when she goes out. We purchased our new purple reclining sofa while Holly was under the influence of steroids during chemo cycle 2. It gave us the courage to make a bold color choice.

This has been a year of appreciating things we used to take for granted, like hair and democracy and a functioning digestive system. And we appreciate each other, health insurance, and the support of friends and family, even more.



*In this time of change and chaos,
we wish you peace in 2026.*