



We had a stellar year. In some ways, nothing happened. In other ways, a lot happened. In other words, we were happy and healthy!

We decided to start the year doing something new. We rented a condo in Kaanapali, Maui, for two months. Sedona has gotten too cold for Jan to be comfortable as her Raynaud's progresses. This could lead to interesting winter opportunities to explore warmer climates. Meanwhile we've signed up for the same condo again for 2020. 2020? How did that happen? Wasn't it yesterday we were going crazy over Y2K?

To continue to drive home the fact that time is passing, we celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary! We had a lovely patio party with lots of friends.

In August, we did a 4000-mile motorcycle trip to Nelson, BC, to ride with our friends, the Sauters. Jan feels that it might have been her favorite ride. We really felt like we were a part of the landscape as we kind of floated along. We visited with our granddaughter, Sadie, at her school in Montana and celebrated her 16th birthday with her. Sweet! We stayed in Yellowstone and got way too close to a huge herd of bison in rut. Alan tallied up our motorcycle mileage after the trip. He broke over 400,000 miles—16 times around the world! Jan is at 55K miles and holding. This was probably our last ride together, at least on such a heavy bike.

We celebrated Jan's cousin's destination wedding for four days in Natchez, MS. We visited and reconnected with family as we have not been able to in our adult lives. It was all just great. The wedding was beautiful with events in a number of antebellum mansions and historic sites.

Alan and his new half-brother decided it was time to meet. So, we went from Natchez to Tampa and spent an entire day with Ray, his wife Robyn, and niece, Johanna. Johanna is half-sister Judith's daughter. What an incredible day! Conversation never stopped! We look forward to another opportunity to get together.

We visited other Tampa-area friends that we don't get to see often enough. We even had a private tour of the Dali Museum in St. Petersburg. That was really special.

We took a Rhine River cruise in October. Note to self — that was way too cold and rainy. We had extra days in Amsterdam to wander and explore. The Van Gogh Museum was a highlight. Jan got a long, uncomfortable bout of either acute bronchitis or walking pneumonia, depending on which doctor you believe. We went right to the ER on the drive home from the airport.

Jan participated in two exhibits and sold a painting in each. She also participated in two arts and crafts shows and sold a lot of little goodies. She is gratified that people always smile when they see her work.

Jan's mom will turn 100 in January. Sadly, her memory is long gone. She knows she had a daughter, but thinks Jan is too old to be her. We are planning a celebration for mid-December. Jan captains a team in the Verde Valley Walk to End Alzheimer's. This year the team raised over \$3500.

We lost too many friends this year. All unexpected. Alan bought a new sport bike to help him feel young. The first day on the track made him feel older yet, but the 2nd time was better.

We were happy to note that throughout our travels this year, we enjoyed most of the people we met. Sometimes it was clear we weren't of the same political persuasions, but politics did not govern the conversations. We didn't encounter any negativity in Europe, either.

Cheers,

*Jan & Alan*