



Merry Christmas,

And so, what's new with you and yours? We hope it was a great year for all of you.

We survived the year in decent health. We'll get that out of the way first. Alan's back issues got worse. No golf, no pickleball. Strangely, tennis and motorcycling were OK. He had a laminectomy in October. The outcome is TBD, but looking good. Unfortunately, there was an unexpected side effect that caused 3 weeks of noteworthy inconvenience. Any more would be TMI. Jan and her doctors are still dealing with lung issues that surfaced when she contracted pneumonia on our Arctic trip in 2024. Fortunately, it isn't keeping her down.

As we write this letter, we are at the tail-end of a fun cruise from Miami to LA via the Panama Canal with Cindy and Gordon. Very relaxing. Too much good food. We will be home for Christmas week this year before heading to Florida.

One of our most memorable events was taking our two granddaughters, 22 and 25, to Las Vegas for a weekend. We saw The Wizard of Oz at the Sphere and the water-based Cirque de Soleil "O" at the Bellagio. We had a couple of delicious dinners, including one at the new Mayfair Supper Club with constant entertainment, and had a fabulous spa day. We haven't seen as much of the girls as we would have liked, largely because of the pandemic putting everyone out of sync. We all loved our weekend together.

We enjoyed a really fun week with our Canadian friends, Rick and Julia, in Victoria, Vancouver Island. Beautiful weather, water taxis, great shopping, wonderful restaurants, and even some riding (for Alan). And a dog!

Our two winter months in Florida were warm and perfect. We tried a different condo unit which was much better for us. We are renting it again this coming year. Jan got into playing canasta all afternoon on Tuesdays. Any other Tuesday events were taboo. Cindy came for a week as usual. Patti Pope and David Gluss, wonderful friends from SCT days, spent a fun weekend with us. Once more proof of the old saying that truly good friends just pick up where they left off no matter how long it has been since they've seen each other. Same for our other friends who now live in the Naples area—Marcella and Sparky, Larry and Karen, Paul & Jane, and Alan's new-found family.

Jan had a tremendous art year. She tried new ideas, collaborated with a new friend, and was often so excited by ideas that sleep was difficult. She finished her term as Workshop Co-VP on the board of El Valle Artists Association in June. Before she even finished her deep sigh of relief, she found herself on the board of Sedona Visual Artists Coalition.

Jan raised over \$4800 in her annual Walk to End Alzheimer's fundraising effort. She reconnected with her college at an alumni function in Naples. She was favorably impressed with the new president and staff and decided that it wasn't necessary to wait until her will kicks in to fund endowments at her college. That was a very satisfying experience. Jan reconnected with her former math dept. chair and favorite college math prof who really affected the trajectory of her life. That was also special. Lastly, she was really excited to go to a Bruno Mars concert. Third row center. She loved it; Alan, not so much.

Daughter Diane turned 50! Granddaughter Taylor turned 25! Yikes!

Alan played lots of pickleball in Florida, but reverted to tennis when we got home - easier on the back. The rest of the time, he mostly tried to enjoy his bike as much as he could. In Florida, he rented a bike and rode a circle around Lake Okeechobee (not recommended), plus a trip into Everglades Nat'l Park and down the Keys (highly recommended). He has missed his regular trips to Tahoe, so he made one up - Death Valley, Yosemite, Lake Tahoe (including a ride around the lake - makes him wonder how he ever did that on a bicycle with his 13 year-old daughter - child protection should have intervened), plus Bishop and Las Vegas on the way back. For more kicks, he rode the Coronado Trail Scenic Byway (formerly Route 666 and the "Devil's Highway - now US 191) - 120 miles, 5000' downhill with 400 curves. You need to be committed.

We wish you a wonderful 2026,
Jan & Alan