



Merry Christmas,

Is it really time to write our contribution to the ubiquitous holiday letter pile? It seems so.

The continual barrage of divisive political rhetoric in the social media, the not-so-social media, and in daily interactions pretty much sucked all of the air out of the year for us. Jan took the rest of the air, so we will happily bid 2017 good-bye.

Jan was overjoyed to have her knee replacement fast-tracked by her orthopedist last January, but complications set in during the first week. Alan spent a couple of months doing just about everything for her and mostly being afraid to leave her alone unless a friend was visiting. What was truly amazing was the outpouring of concern and meals and, most of all, the visits of our friends. It was quite humbling, and we thank them all for that. Knock wood, Jan seems to be far past all of that. She is now the poster child for a successful

replacement. She walks over 4 miles every other day, goes to the gym, and has much better flexion than most normal knees at our age. However, she is still plagued by pain and isn't comfortable on the motorcycle! Hopefully, this too shall pass.

We had a lovely, long cruise from Miami to Rome visiting every possible spot of land along the way. Jan did much of her rehab onboard, in the gym and on the stairs. Rome, which seems to have an inordinate number of stairs, too, was a new experience for both of us. We loved it all. Bring on that gelato! The Vatican and the colosseum were highlights. Jan was really taken with the Gaudi church and Las Ramblas in Barcelona, too.

In July, we picked up Diane and Martin in Las Vegas and took a driving trip to Death Valley (124 degrees, Martin's flip-flops melted to the pavement.) and on to Yosemite for several days of hiking and sight-seeing. Martin rediscovered his love of photography, and Jan proved to herself that she wasn't going to be side-lined by her knee.

Jan was selected to be on call for federal jury duty for the 5 weeks of August — in Phoenix. The potential jurors had to call in every Friday after 5 pm to see if they had to show up Monday morning. They also had to call in Sunday evening to see if they were still wanted! On one of these Friday nights when we learned that Jan was free for the coming week, we hastily packed and headed off for what turned out to be one of the highlights of the year—visiting our friends, the Petersons, in Sun Valley, for the total eclipse. What an experience! Since we were close, we then went to Yellowstone for a few days. Then it was Friday night again. Again, Jan's services were not required, so we headed to Denver to visit the girls and meet the newest grand-dogs. Pshew! That was truly a whirlwind road trip, but a lot of fun.

Alan got back into golf this year, and has had a wonderful time playing on our course with neighbors. About time, after 14 years of living on the course. He's much in demand for fixing issues nearby friends have with their growing number and variety of Apple devices.

There were no long motorcycle trips this year, but Alan did ride to Lake Tahoe for one of his Sierra Angels Investment Group meetings. Lest you start pitying him, note that he got enough riding in to run through a set of tires on his touring bike, and also had a fun track-day in Phoenix on his sport bike.

Jan's art work was mostly jewelry this year, but she did win an award for a painting that she entered in the watercolor society's juried experimental show and sold over 40 of her handmade cards. Ancestry.com seems to take her on long journeys into the past for hours and hours at a time. Nothing else holds her attention like that does.

Jan's mom is still hanging in there in assisted living in Pennsylvania. There must be some darn good genes in there somewhere. She still mostly knows Jan, but she wants the little one. We visited her in June. Skype is a useful tool for checking on her, too.

We are ending this year and starting 2018 with a bang. We are taking a 5-week cruise around Australia that spans the holidays. Let the dieting begin!

We wish you a happier, healthier, gentler 2018.

Jan & Alan