



Merry Christmas,

To borrow from Charles Dickens, for us, 2022 was the best of times; it was the worst of times. We sincerely hope that 2022 was only the best of times for you.

With covid seemingly abating, we became courageous and booked a 12-day cruise out of Miami over Christmas 2021 and New Years. We planned to go to Florida a week early and visit new family, college friends, work friends, and neighbors who now live full or part-time in the Tampa/Naples area. Omicron hit just before we were to leave. Saner folks would have canceled, but we went anyway and had a fantastic time with all the friends and relatives. We passed our optional PCR tests prior to embarkation. All passengers had to pass a mandatory antigen test before boarding, too. There were probably some false negatives among those antigen tests. After the first stop, passengers were informed there were active cases onboard. Three of our seven ports told us not to stop there. We could hardly wait for the cruise to be over. We went directly from the ship terminal to the air terminal and on to the condo we've been renting on Maui the past few years. Staying warm is a priority!

In the spring, we went to one of our favorite, local, outdoor Mexican restaurants. We blame that for putting Jan in the hospital for a couple of days, severely dehydrated.

Over the summer, Jan spent many enjoyable hours preparing a card-making workshop to present to the El Valle Artists Association in September. She thoroughly enjoyed the work, and the participants seemed to have a great time. She is on the El Valle board this year, too. It is certainly time consuming, but it is a fun organization. Jan did two art boutiques this year, but has probably priced herself out of that market.

Alan was bemoaning the fact that he had not taken his new Ducati on any long trips. We thought we'd had our last long ride, but not so. We spent 30 days riding to Skagway, AK one more time. We had a nice ride, but were disappointed that we saw only one bear and no wildflowers! Catching up with our Canadian friends for a few days was a highlight.

We celebrated Alan's October birthday in Las Vegas with Cindy and Gordon. We all had a special time together, but after we got home, Alan came down with covid. When he thought he was over it, he overdid, and relapsed. Isolation wasn't fun the first time, let alone the second. As a final twist, covid landed Alan in the hospital for a couple days with blood clots in his lungs thanks to a very painful clot in his left knee. COPD, Covid, and Clots, oh my! 🎵 Recovery is very slow and painful. You know it's bad when he has no interest in his bike.

Jan raised nearly \$4000 on her Walk to End Alzheimers. That's her best result yet. Thank you to all who made that possible.

We are looking forward to a year without covid, and wish you the same.