

Seasons Greetings, 2016:

Once again we find ourselves writing to you from San Jose del Cabo, Mexico, where we vacation at our TimeShare each year.



We are recovering from a disappointing (Carolyn says “frightening”) political election, with the exception of the results in California, where we got it about 90% right. As trends often start here in the West and travel East, we are still hopeful.

Our major creative activity continues to be composing articles and blogs and delivering workshops in communication for the veterinary profession. Some of our latest are posted on www.VeterinarianCommunication.com.

Also, John continues to create sing-along programs for six or seven Memory Care venues in San Diego. He also continues composing poems and poetry programs – volunteering at White Sands and hired by other venues. Between the two, he has one gig or the other nearly every day. You can see some of his work at www.ICSinc.info, including his latest publication, *Life’s Ride, Selected Poems by John L. Meyer*.

Carolyn’s daily ritual is entering our writings into the computer, updating the websites, volunteering as newsletter editor for White Sands and for the La Jolla Democratic Club and leading a *Great Decisions* discussion group on international affairs.

Besides our “work,” we manage to play at least four hands of two-player bridge each evening “to keep the grey matter active,” exercise regularly, and volunteer as judges or ushers at area theaters.

One of our biggest events this year occurred in St. Paul, MN on July 3 when we celebrated John’s 80th birthday with a gathering of over 40 family and friends. It was quite a time.



Other travels this year included a trip to Boise in February to see Susan while two of the grandsons skied, a special visit to Boise when Susan was honored as the Idaho Professor of the Year, a trip to meet Susan’s family during a college hunt in California, a week in the Spring in New York City to visit Ellen, see her dance production (“Jump on the DanceWagon”), and enjoy Broadway shows, a visit with Karen in Wausau, WI, a workshop for the Western Veterinary Conference in Las Vegas, another workshop for the American Veterinary Medical Association in San Antonio, and a 30-day trip to Europe.



The Europe trip involved a few days in Amsterdam followed by a Viking River Cruise south on the Rhine River with stops in Germany and France, ending in Basel Switzerland. In Basel we visited with LifeCircle, the caring folks who provide Assisted Voluntary Death for those who qualify. Then we traveled to nearby Laufen to visit cousin Leonard Schumacher (where our wonderful stay included a visit to the Laufen yodeling club’s rehearsal).

Our travel across Switzerland further included a stay in Lausanne with a visit to the Charlie Chaplain museum in nearby Vevey and then a stop in Bern.



Onboard the Golden Pass train we took in the gorgeous alps, ultimately stopping in Lucerne and Appenzell to enjoy more Swiss culture, including, of course their folk music.

From there we traveled to Salzburg where we recalled the filming of “The Sound of Music,” touched many Mozart sites, and had a chilling visit to Hitler’s Eagle’s Nest. We ended our 30-day trip in Vienna where we saw the Lipizzaner horses and became acquainted with Sis, the beautiful wife of Franz Joseph (emperor from 1848 to 1916).

Our travels enabled us to meet and greet wonderful people and places, reminding us of the importance of staying in touch – as we are doing with this letter.

So, we’re in touch. Now YOU stay in touch.

Love and best wishes for the year ahead from *John and Carolyn*

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