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ughes

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Dear

Ready or not, here it is! The turkey's been consumed, the lights are going up all over the neighborhood (not at our house, so far), and carols are in the air. It seems a bit sudden but the calendar doesn't lie. Have to say it's been a good year. But it sure went by awful fast.



Speaking of turkey, we really did have one. Yes we're still vegetarian/vegan but there's a young man here who isn't and so we invited a few more friends and did the traditional thing. Sandra documented the cooking job, pretty good I'd say for a v-guy although I certainly didn't

eat much. When I was busy with something else an unknown hand heaped a pile of white meat onto my plate but the cat got practically all of that as I didn't want much and definitely prefer dark. I basted the bird with a mixture of olive oil and some brine from the batch of green tomato pickles working away on the counter and it seemed to be an inspired choice. The meat was exceptional and the gravy to die for.



Did a few more pickles this year, again to rave reviews. Several people (including my employer!) told me that maybe I should be in the pickle business but I don't think I'm ready for anything that drastic. However, another refrigerator is indicated cause what we made this year went altogether too fast. These are uncooked and uncanned so they need to be kept cool once the fermentation has done its work.



Chris came to live with us in March. We were already giving Joshua Goodwin sleeping space as he wasn't ready to move into his apartment until he'd married his fiancé, who was already living there. So we had a fairly full crew for a while, although it always seems pretty quiet around here. Chris turned 22 in May and we've been able to help walk him through some of the adventures of employment and taxes and his first car and such. Life has a lot to be learned and it's a privilege to help where

we can.

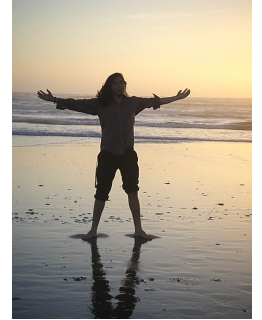


We took Chris up to Seattle for his birthday. In July we added Shayne to the party and went to the coast for Joshua's wedding. Sandra's been to the beach with her lady friends and up to Bremerton with family. Doesn't feel like we've done anything until we look at the pictures and then we've done a whole lot.





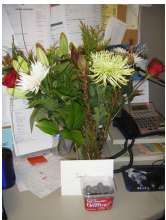
Interesting season for health again. I keep making progress but it's cyclical, seasons of detox come back from time to time. This year was similar to what I went through in '06, with coughing and weight loss, but since I started out under treatment it wasn't near as severe this time. My weight only dropped to 107 and I felt better in general but it was still a challenge. As the year ends, however I'm closing back in on my normal, still-bony 122 and picking up strength again. Life has moments.



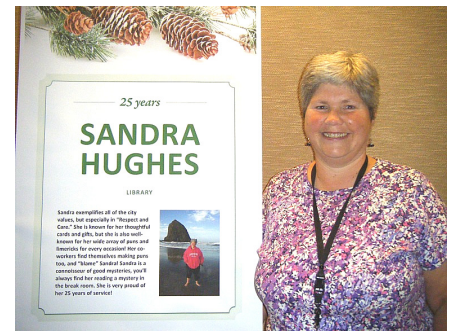
December saw a major upheaval as Chris lost one of his closest friends. Death is always a shock, and the young seem far less prepared for it. We were thankful we could be there and give him whatever support we could. Although we barely knew the fellow who passed we definitely felt the weight of Chris's loss. Life is for real and for keeps!



I turned 63 and have received my first Social Security payment. Decided to jump in and start drawing as the money will help restructure my life right now. Looking a bit more to outreach and things that are people oriented. Trying my hand with a non-fiction book, an overview of Bible prophecy. Nothing deep or heavy, just pointing a person in the right direction for their personal reading and study. More complicated than it sounds because the prophetic portions are also the most divisive for believers in general. So far I'm very happy with what I've written but it might be a hard sell. Will have to see.



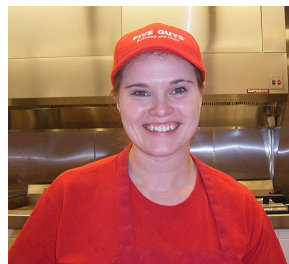
Sandra was honored for working twenty-five years at the library. Her job's a blessing but always has fresh challenges. This year it was *Automated Materials Handling*, a conveyer belt assembly that checks in media as it comes through the door and does the initial sorting. It's cut down the backlog while making everyone scramble, just keeping up with the machine. Fortunately she's been doing gym time, staying fit and ready ...



Alissa & Joshua



Amy



Sarah



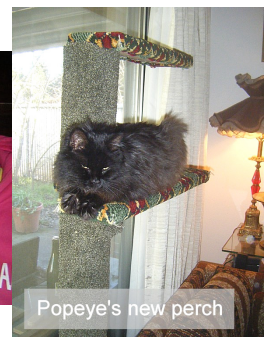
Denise & Sandra

Gary & John

Kiara's Graduation

Janice

Kathy, Mark, and Sandra



Popeye's new perch