



December, 2011

This year, for a change, Jim and I spent Christmas in San Francisco. Much of my family lives there, and we wanted a different holiday experience ... which we had.

Jim and I visited the Exploratorium where we, and all the other children, had a fine time playing with all the devices which demonstrate natural laws and principles of physics. Much fun. Then Jim napped and I joined Emily, Shaun, and other family at Grace Cathedral for their Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols, with their men and boys choir. Lovely.

We also walked around a lot, enjoying the many "painted ladies," the carefully-painted Victorian houses in San Francisco. Pictures here - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/10171645@N06/sets/72157628608009647/> .

In a torch-passing, of a sort, we had a magnificent Christmas family dinner at Morgan's and Rusty's, our young cousins, house in Mill Valley. It was rather a potluck, with contributions from Emily and Shaun, and Brook (Morgan's sister). We older folk just came and ate and enjoyed. Roast beef, goat cheese & veggie tarts, two big green salads, a cannellini bean and veggie cassoulet, fabulous Tartine bread, and pecan and fresh lemon pies. A feast!

As for events of the past year, perhaps the most notable was my marrying two friends in Phoenix, in November. A few years ago, I became ordained as a minister in the Universal Life Church. When

our friends, Elizabeth and Joey, told us they were getting married and said they had yet to find someone to perform the service, Jim suggested they have me do it. They asked, I agreed with pleasure, and that led to one of the highlights of the year. I welcomed the guests, gave a brief homily, Joey & Elizabeth exchanged vows, and then we all had a wonderful dinner and party. As Jim and I had a Universal Life Church minister marry us, it seems appropriate to continue the tradition.

Our other adventures in 2011 include 2 camping/visiting trips to AZ, one in the spring and another in the fall. This fall, Jim and I celebrated our 25th anniversary with friends in Yosemite, at a dinner at the Ahwahnee. Yay! We helped our friend, Peggy, celebrate her 65th birthday in Tucson, And then we celebrated my 62nd birthday at the Grand Canyon. That was some trip, ending with a quiet night camping in the desert, without another light to be seen, other than the stars. Perfect.

Our back deck is (finally!!) done, and we had our house painted inside - both good things. 2012 may bring new siding for the house. I also vow 2012 will be the year of organization. Or so I hope.

Jim continues his work with North Fork American River Alliance, with the Golden Drift Historical Society, and as a county parks commissioner. I continue to edit the local paper and support several nonprofits' websites.

We're both well, as are our three cats, Loki (12?), Slater and Taberius (both 2 3/4). Life is grand, we see our family and friends often, and are happy. There's nothing better.