Christmas

Tim & Victor



CHRISTMAS 2025



Welcome to Our 12 Months of Christmas!!

All we can say is... What a lifetime this year has been!

If you're reading this it means we somehow survived. But JFC...

You'll note that we went back to sending an actual card.

The postcard didn't really work and the email/text was a pain in the e pluribus unum - as Tim's father was wont to say.

This seems a more civilized approach in a totally uncivilized world.

So sit back and enjoy our take on the year -

It was memorable... in more ways than one!



January

anuary 20, 2025 - a date which will live in infamy - if we survive, that is. It's an ominous start to the year, but January wasn't all doom and

gloom.

We started our year with Season Tickets to <u>Broadway</u>

<u>Rose</u> - our local musical theatre company! We had seen several shows there and decided it was time to see more - we're so gay, sometimes! First up was **8-Track: Sounds of the '70s**. We knew all the words to all the songs - we're so old, sometimes!



Victor flew home to Philadelphia as a surprise for his sister **Joanna's** 60th birthday. He flew in Friday night and was staying downtown since he was arriving late and didn't want to bother anyone picking him up, etc, plus the dinner party on Saturday was at a restaurant a block away.

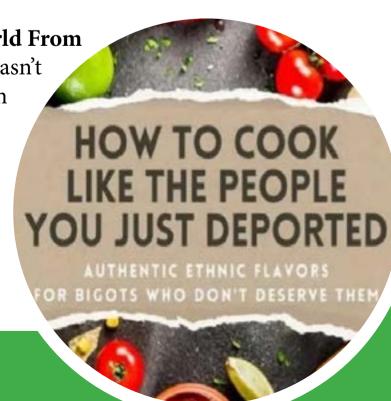
His brother invited him to stay with them on Sunday, so he checked out to stay with them for a bit of quality family time. It was quite fortuitous in many ways. On Sunday, the Eagles won the NFC Championship to head to the Super Bowl. Broad Street - where his hotel was Ground Zero for the festivities. He never would have made it back to his room.

Tim stayed home... his Doctor didn't want him flying, yet, with the new hip. The good news there, is he got to do a couple of projects around the house, make a few messes, and was able to get everything cleaned up before Victor arrived home.

Another fun thing started this month was "Cooking The World From A-Z". We figured a little solidarity with the rest of the world wasn't a bad idea, since our current administration seems hellbent on alienating us from them.

We also made reservations to visit **Vancouver**, **BC** in April. Hopefully the border will still be open. We bought the travel insurance, just in case...

We're going to take the train. It should be fun!





Ah... Valentine's Day and Sweets... so much for trying to stay healthy!

But on to other fun stuff! First, Tim had his final hip appointment and was cleared for normal, everyday life - well... normal is a subjective term... Back to the gym and back to the pool. Treadmill for walking, pool for some low-impact exercises - and tryouts for the Aquacade. It is keeping him warm during the frigid winter.

And then there was football...

What a game!!! It was just so much fun to see Philadelphia on top and Kansas City crash and burn. And we won two quarters on the Football Pool!

As we celebrated the win, we had **The Blizzard of 2025**! It was absolutely beautiful watching the snow fall. Everything was white, sounds were totally muffled - and it was all gone in two days! Just the way it should be.

Then we got notice that our **AARP United Healthcare** plan was not renewing their contract with **OHSU** - Victor's main hospital plan - and his medications were skyrocketing! One lengthy phone call later, we were signed up for **Humana** - to start March 1st at a lower overall cost. Tim still has his **VA coverage** but has a secondary plan because who knows what is going to happen with Elmo Muskrat and his search and destroy mission to our country and our democracy.

They don't seem to see the irony of an immigrant destroying American jobs...

Protests and Push-back are happening. Just not fast enough.

Time to eat some candy...









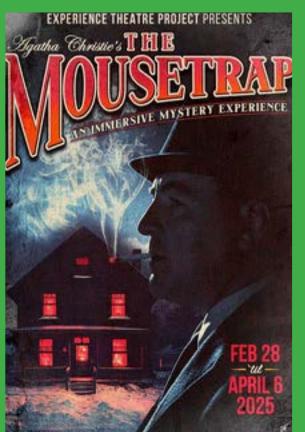
A new baby boy has joined the family - a 7lbs 14 oz, 21 inch fabulous bundle of joy! **Logan** is, of course, totally adorable! **Momma Emily and Daddy Jacob** are doing great and **Grandma Phoebe** and **Granny Nancy** are over the moon! We think babies are so much fun when you don't have to deal with diapers! Momma is a pre-school teacher so she has LOTS of experience with little ones! We're sure it's going to come in handy!

In non-baby news, We Got Tattoos!!

Tim got his very first - the words "Samhlaigh Síocháin" on his arm - it means "Imagine Peace" in Irish. Victor has the same saying in Italian on his arm. Victor - who has several tattoos already - got daVinci's "Vitruvian Man" on his arm. We're rockin' old age!

A slow month medically-speaking, but a good one for the pool and gym. Weight is still s-l-o-w-l-y coming off. Will we be Speedo Svelte by Summer?!? Stay tuned...

The switch from AARP United Health to Humana was... interesting. Form letters were flying from their prescription site, seemingly sent out in 10 minute intervals mentioning a problem, problem solved, need prescription, prescription received, can't ship until problem solved, problem solved... BUT... everything settled down and all is well with the medical insurance world - for the time being, anyway...



HEWS

On the domestic side of things we had to replace our back fence. It was definitely old, but completely fell apart - for the second time - during some high winds. Alas, band-aids were not going to work, this time... It is definitely an improvement. And to add to the fun, our refrigerator crapped out, so we had to replace it, and someone backed over our mail-box, so we had to replace that, as well. It's been the month of \$\$\$\$\$ ka-CHING!!

Because we all need some pure, unadulterated fun, we saw Agatha Christie's **The Mousetrap** at *Experience Theatre Project*! The show was excellent! The beauty of **ETP** is they are an immersive theatre company. The shows are performed within the audience - and not on a stage - literally right in front of you! (We saw **Misery** in 2023 - OUCH!!) We now have tickets for **Boing! Boing!** in May!



Several thousand people showed up in our little hamlet with placards and signs, noisemakers and attitude. Elderly in wheelchairs to babies in strollers, it was an event for all ages. It was fun, it was lively, and it was Democracy at its finest!

And we had our very first **Puerto Rican** dinner at a local restaurant celebrating **Nancy's birthday**! The food was excellent - the company even better! We will be back!

It was *Musical Theatre Time at Broadway Rose*, again! We saw "Grease"! Another great show with another great cast. We are loving the Season Tickets! So much talent and so much fun!



Yet another fun highlight of the month was **Tim** spending a weekend at the lovely **Portland VA Medical Center!** Yes, another syncopal event had him in for another battery of tests. His attending physician - a really nice woman ready to question everything - took a more holistic approach to things after noting he had already had every test imaginable.

She switched out some meds and ran him through a battery of bending, walking, stand-up-sit-down procedures over the course of two days. The main diagnosis this time around was *Orthoscopic Hypotension* with high blood pressure and allergy related vertigo among the culprits. He's definitely feeling better! It's still a fabulous place and what's left of the staff is still outstanding, but the [*insert expletives here*] in DC are taking its toll.

Speaking of... Our first venture out of the country this year was to **Canada** - **Vancouver**, **BC**, to be exact. Our first thought was to throw ourselves at the feet of the customs officials and beg for political asylum as we got off the train. Alas, we didn't get to take the train! It seems there was a lot of corrosion on the cars for the **Amtrak Cascades** and they pulled them - running buses from Portland to Vancouver. Yeah...No.

We flew, instead.



April

It was Victor's first trip to Vancouver and Tim's second.

Tim had first visited circa **1979** when he was working for **Hyatt**, taking advantage of the free rooms they offered employees. Rumor has it he had a great time.

46 years later, it was a much more relaxed and refined trip...

The onus for the trip was **Victor's Birthday**, so we were back at the **Hyatt** and **Tim** did his best schmooze for a lovely upgrade!

We spent an evening with the **Vancouver Symphony** - a screening of the first **Harry Potter** movie - and then a really fabulous play called **Casey and Diana** - the story of a 1991 visit **Princess Diana** made to **Canada's** first freestanding **AIDS Hospice**.

The Symphony was fun, and the play was excellent! It told a story we both lived through and brought back memories we both have of the far

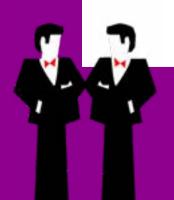
too many friends we lost - due in such a great part because of a President who just didn't care. Sound familiar?

We spent six glorious days meandering through the city, up into **Stanley Park**, walking all over - the new hips have made walking a breeze, again! - and lots of food and beverages!

Going through Customs into Canada was fun - upbeat border folks with lots of smiles. Coming back into the USofA we were met with grumpy, surly, unsmiling robots. Fortunately, We were able to bring back 2 bottles of our favorite Canadian Whisky - Forty Creek Double Barrel Reserve.

We do wish we could get it down here...

(And, maybe it's a good thing we can't!)







The have somehow made it to May.

May, as everyone knows, is named for Maia, the eldest daughter of Atlas. Maia

was considered to be the most beautiful of the *Pleiades*, which is fitting, since Victor's mom and Tim's mom and his four sisters and his Grandma Dineen were all born in May. It is cake and ice cream heaven!

But on to our newest MAY BABY!



May, 2025, brought us a new birthday to celebrate! Oliver Randolph joined the family on May 19th!

Momma Megan and Daddy Brandon are overjoyed, as are Aunties Arlene and

Eileen whose birthday he now shares! **Grandma Phoebe** and **Granny Nancy** are thrilled to have
TWO new grandbabies this year! Naturally, they're
completely adorable!

In non-baby news, We saw **Boing! Boing!** at *Experience Theatre Project*. It is so much fun be an actual part of the productions!





Another great cast and great show! We'll see **Frankenstein** in October! We cannot wait to see how they pull it off!

MESSI

We got the garden planted once we were back from Vancouver. Our niece, Christine, started the tomatoes and peppers from seed. We have seven different varieties of tomatoes, and six different peppers. Since we cannot find our favorite east coast peppers out here - Italian Long Hots - we had six plants shipped from New Jersey!

We cannot wait to start roasting them!

In medical news - it seems there's always medical news - Tim had Mohs surgery on two places on his noggin to remove some **squamous cell carcinoma**.



His fair, Irish skin just doesn't like the sun. He did get a fancy new cap while we were in Vancouver, so, who knows... maybe his next Dermatology appointment will be a bit less dramatic.

There's always that hope...

In the meantime, Victor needed a biopsy of his thyroid and everything came back excellent - no problems, no issues.

More good news was Victor was supposed to remove the stitches in Tim's head after his Mohs procedures - four in front and four in

back. (They actually gave us a little kit!) Since we happened to be at the VA for an unrelated issue, Victor convinced the Dr that it would be a great idea if he removed the stitches - since we were there, and all. The Doc agreed, and spent almost 20 minutes getting them out - and he's a professional!!

It would have been a LOT of angst trying to do it at home!





Welcome to June and Gay Pride Month!

This is the month where we head *Gayly Forward* instead of *Straight Ahead* as well as protest the [*insert expletive here*] Military Birthday Parade.

One needs a bit of humor - especially with **TACO Donny** at the helm. It was great to see him so perfectly humiliated. As **Stormy Daniels** observed, it was small.

Our little town saw thousands gather for his anti-birthday celebration. It was a wondrous sight to behold.

But, even as politics just keep getting weirder and more intense, June 18th saw us at "*Friends of Dorothy: A Queer Cabaret*" here in beautiful downtown Beaverton. It was a great show. Our host was the fabulous <u>Poison Waters</u>, with a score of entertainers on stage for nearly three hours. It truly was a blast!



That [*insert expletives here*] Republicans want to outlaw Drag and their war on transgender people really shows how seriously ignorant they really are. This was some serious talent and a really great and enjoyable evening!!!

We had so much fun!

We'll be back next year!





of course, all that wasn't the only fun we had in June...We also saw the musical "Waitress" at Broadway Rose.

The show was total fun - an excellent cast, great music, a couple of real scene-stealers, and a great set.

We already have our tickets for the **2026 Season** - and we find out at a special Reveal Party in August what the shows will be!



Te have made it to July - and not the best way to start to the month.

Tim's sister **Judy** is not doing all that well so we flew down to San Francisco over the July 4th weekend to visit. We're all starting to reach that age where the parts have worn out and the extended warranties aren't being renewed. She's a tough old bird so hopefully she'll be organizing poker games, soon - fleecing the staff for some quality pharmaceuticals...

Fortunately, we were able to do a few things besides visit the hospital - dinner out with **Mike** & Debbie, dinner out with **Justin and Chris**, and dinner in with **Rob and Norma**! We ate well!

The City is as wonderful, vibrant, and as politically astute as ever. This photo was on a hill in the Inner Sunset just a few blocks from where we used to live.



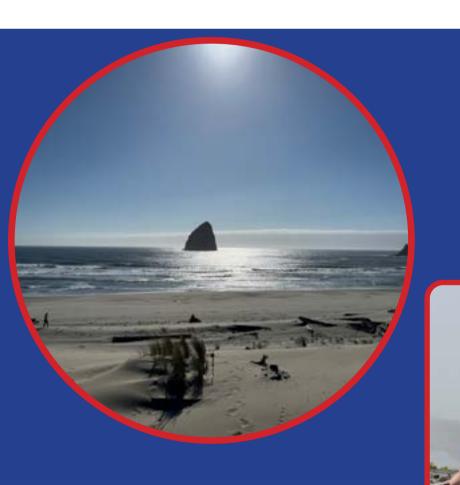


Unfortunately, we didn't time our trip better - the **Giants and Phillies** were playing at Oracle Park the day after we left. There's always next year...

We did get in a bit of vacation time for a few days
- Pacific City - right on the coast. Phoebe and
Nancy rented a house right on the beach with all
the kids, so we got a place nearby to play for a few

days.

We do love that ocean! It was relatively low-key - as a time at the beach should be. The babies, of course, were perfect - as was the rest of the company, the weather, and even the ride down and back. **Tim** has developed an aversion to being a front seat passenger, so we're working on it... Stay Tuned... there probably will be a good story later in the missive...



JULY



n Birthday News, it was **Tim's 73rd**...

Really - Seventy-Three years on this planet annoying people. He's doing all the things his Doctors tell him to do so he'll be around to annoy more for many more years to come - starting with the current administration and their lackeys.

To celebrate, we took the **Mount Hood Wine Train** with **Phoebe and Nancy** for a bit of scenic fun. And fun, it was! It was a slow climb up the mountain to a lovely winery, along with several tastings and then a few bottles to bring home.

f course, that wasn't the end of the celebrating!

On the actual date, we were off, again - this time to dinner at a great Italian Restaurant in nearby **Lake Oswego**.

We lead a rough life, indeed!







he senile [*insert expletive here*] in Washington is getting worse. It's been six months since his cesspool of an administration arrived to destroy our democracy. It seems like several lifetimes.

But... we keep going gayly forward... Our next step forward was to see **Anything Goes** at **Broadway Rose!** OMG! It had to be one of the best shows we've seen in a

while - and we've seen a lot over the years! The singing, dancing, staging, and costumes were perfection. We had a blast - and it was quite obvious the cast did, as well! It is so much fun to see such amazing talent just a few miles from home!



Our Season Tickets are totally affordable and our seats are great! Next show is in September!

And then - out of nowhere - Tim caught the Summer Cold From Hell - a hacking

cough, headachy, non-stop runny nose from hell cold.

Quick action got two Doctor appointments changed to video and our Friday dinner with Phoebe and Nancy postponed.

We kept the appointments with the charity group picking up stuff from the shed and the carpet cleaning service, but Tim was scarce during the visits.

Our horrid government may no longer believe in communicable diseases, but we do. He tested twice for Covid but, fortunately, it was just a cold - a really nasty fill the bin with Kleenex cold. UGH!

And while we're at it... How does one GAIN WEIGHT while being sick?!?

It's just not fair.





But fair or not, one can wallow in despair and self-pity or do something. **Tim** decided to actually do something - after he wallowed in despair and self-pity - and that something was to organize the shed before the electrician arrived to install electricity!

Yes, after almost 5 years, we finally decided we needed a plug on the front patio and - as long as he was here - to install a plug in the shed. The plug became a plug and overhead lights - and a shut-off switch because code requires one. And since we had electricity, we needed to get a freezer... you know how these things go...

And then Victor caught the Cold From Hell.

We really were trying to be careful.

The colds finally passed and we got some quality baby time with "The Boys" - Uncle Tim with Oliver and Uncle Victor with Logan.

And while we were all enjoying a fun 'no-reason' family dinner, their 4 year old cousin, **Elise**, announced that her **Auntie Katie was pregnant!**Out of the mouths of babes, indeed!

Our newest family member is due in April! And that news was a lot more exciting than getting a new freezer!

On the last day of the month, we went to Art in the Pearl - a three-day outdoor art event showcasing scores of incredible artists - painters, sculptors, metal workers, wood workers, glass, textile, and ceramic artists...

While we have zero unfilled wall or horizontal surfaces - nor could we really afford much of the high-end showings - we did come back with a few unique handcrafted items...

Support your local artists, boys and girls! It's important!



September

September 1st. He's still alive. Shit.

Like the Fall TV Season of our youth, September was the month of returning shows on our streaming services. We've been canceling as they capitulate. Fortunately, **Britbox** and **PBS** are holding strong! It was great fun to see **Disney** melt and burn after their suspension of Jimmy Kimmel. You can't appease a dictator and get away with it for long.



September 13th brought us into **Portland** for the **AIDS WALK NORTHWEST**. It was especially poignant as we are now living in a country run by megalomaniacs who really

do want to cull the herd. It truly is frightening how much has been destroyed in such a short time.

Fortunately - for our mental health and your reading enjoyment - we did have some fun this month. We headed way above **Portland** for dinner with **Phoebe** and **Nancy** at **Portland City Grill** - 30 stories above the city. It was mostly okay, but we probably won't be

heading back soon - a few too many missteps. But, it was all about the company - and the view is pretty good, too!

The following night was back to **Broadway Rose** for **Triangle**. Two interwoven love stories in the same building 100 years apart. It's set against the backdrop of the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York and its modern-day inhabitants What a fabulous show!



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We have lots of holiday shows coming up - retirement is treating us well! Stay Tuned!

September 30th. He's still alive. Shit.

OCT2BEK

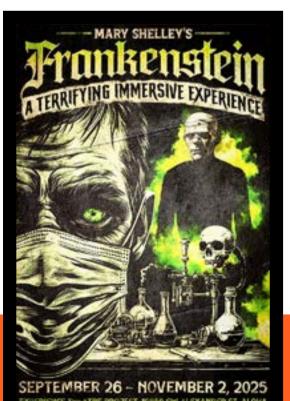
et another reason to hate those [*insert expletives here*] Republicans in Washington... On the first of October - the first day of the Republican shutdown of our government - **Tim**, **Phoebe**, and niece **Nicole** were heading down to San Francisco to see **Judy**. For those who don't already know, **Judy** has **Vascular Dementia**. She's in a great place and where she needs to be

but she's totally miserable. It really sucks. We had booked a 10:30am flight down and a 6:45pm flight back. A quick visit, but there's a lot of medical and other stuff coming up and it will be difficult to get away until after the New Year.

We're on the plane - waiting to leave the gate. And waiting. And waiting...They finally pull away from the gate, but still just sitting. After almost 30 minutes of silence from the crew, the Captain comes on and says SFO is closed to arrivals. No reason, just closed. They hope to be able to leave in 10 minutes. Someone said heavy winds forced the closure. The Weather Channel listed 4mph wind. More waiting.



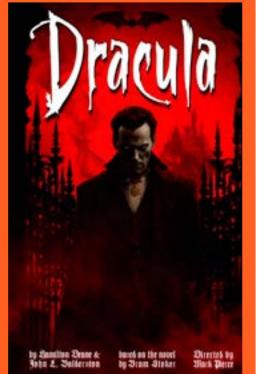
And waiting... It's now noon. We're back at the gate. Phoebe goes up to speak with the flight attendants, explaining our predicament. They said the delay was because of low visibility and Phoebe tells them their app that states Air Traffic Control issues. She also told them we needed to deplane because we no longer had time to fly to SFO, get into the city, see Judy, and make our return flight. After a bit of hemming and hawing, we deplaned. We heard that the flight finally arrived in San Francisco at 3:30pm - more than 3 hours late. Alaska refunded our tickets and we'll fly down when the [insert expletives here] reopen the government.



To distract us from the political theatrics being inflicted upon us, we decided we needed a different sort of theatrical event... October 4th saw us back at Experience Theatre Project to see Frankenstein! What a fabulous experience, indeed! Imaginative doesn't begin to describe it! We were led throughout the show into all of the different scenes one curtain would close as another opened, or one door would lead us down a path to the next part of the show. Brilliant!

The show follows the theme of Mary Shelley's original book and not the old horror movies. It really was excellent!

OCTOBER



Because we just couldn't get enough live theatre and other spooky stuff, the following week we saw **Dracula** at **Lakewood Center for the Arts** in Lake Oswego. Yes, we have found yet *another* local theatre company to fill our Retirement Social Calendar... Another excellent performance and while the entire cast was great, there were a couple of stand-out performances!

The (now) three theatre companies we're patronizing are all very different in style - which makes them fun in their own unique ways. For 20 years we spent a small fortune on **Broadway** shows - we were a mere 100 miles away from Broadway and racked up the Acela points on Amtrak - but it's really great to see exceptional talent for less than a pub dinner with generous tip! (We always tip well!)

That's not to say seeing **Bette Midler** in *Hello Dolly* or **Kelli O'Hara** and **Paolo Szot** in *South Pacific* - **Nathan Lane** and **Matthew Broderick** in *The Producers*, or any of the other fabulous stars and shows we've seen over the years wasn't worth it, but all of this is available within a 10-mile radius of our front door! With free parking!

And then there was The No Kings Protest!

We love **The Pacific Northwest! Beaverton** showed up - as did **Portland** a few miles away. There were at least a dozen huge protests within miles of our front door. All with thousands of people protesting the [*insert expletives here*] Republicans in Washington. It was beautiful to behold. But first...

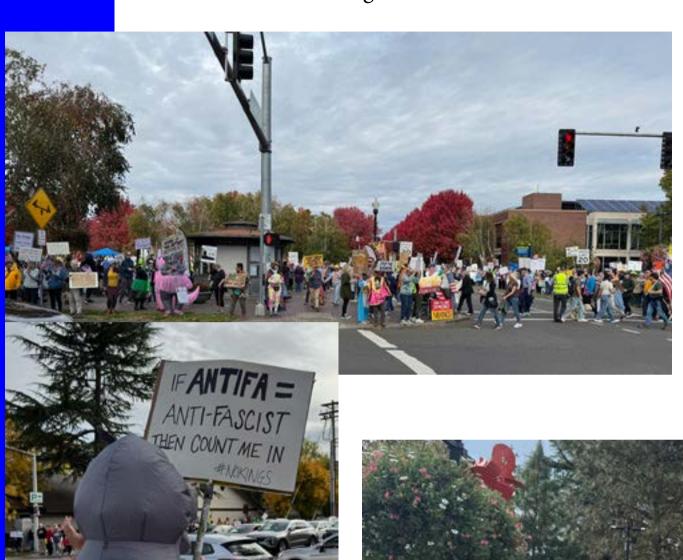
Mike, Debbie, and Katie were a part of this in San Francisco! This is just blocks from where



they all grew up. "Yes on 50" is the prop that would allow temporary gerrymandering in California to offset the chicanery in Texas and elsewhere. The creativity of the protests - the inflatable frogs and other creatures - has shown that The Republicans have lost the narrative based on the actual visuals. They're being mocked - and they just can't handle it!

We arrived early in **Beaverton** and the place was already crowded! The signs were fabulous and the people ranged in age from infants to seniors with walkers and wheelchairs. It was upbeat and fun - and serious about bringing

an end to this fascist regime. It was America at its finest!

















We missed our niece, **Christine** and the kids by mere minutes! They're learning about their Civic Responsibility by example - happy, smiling, and peaceful.

Meanwhile, just a few miles away in **Portland**... Tens of thousands marched in protest against the fascist regime in Washington.

And totally peaceful and non-violent protesters were met with teargas by the ICEholes...

Not a single protest-related arrest was made the entire day.









IT'S STILL OCTOBER!

Y es, it is still October! But time to put politics aside for a moment... We do tend to get carried away...

October was a busy month - especially in the medical end of things! Both of us had our annual visits with our PCPs - which always sets off a test here, a test there... We got our **flu shots** and latest **Covid vaccines** and **dentists** and **eye exams** and all the fine-tuning to keep us around a while longer.

Phoebe had a partial knee replacement that slowed her down a bit - but not that you'd notice! **Grandma and Granny** have babies to play with - the perfect motivation to do your physical therapy and more-or-less follow Doctor's Orders!

Mike went fishing, so **Debbie** came up for a week to play with her grandkids - and visit her own kids - so we had a fun visit with her.

We went out for a fun lunch - just the three of us. And for the record... Day Drinking is not recommended when your over 70...

Then... since we hadn't been to a real live performance in almost three weeks, we saw "Liberace and Liza" at the Reser Center here in Beaverton. It should



have been a fun show. Alas, it wasn't.

Liberace was fabulous and Liza had a wonderful voice. We knew it was going to be camp and a parody, but we didn't expect a Ruth Buzzi interpretation of Liza. It just wasn't funny. The two performers were local and far too many of the audience were friends and just too raucous for the venue. To add insult, the people in front of us were recording the show - totally okay with the theatre - but totally distracting to us. One can only handle a phone blocking

the view of a show for so long... We left at the intermission and walked over to a local restaurant and had an excellent martini.

Yes, we have turned into cranky old men. Now Get Off Our Lawn!

The Toronto Blue Jays lost the World Series. That was sad.

The election saw a complete repudiation of the Republican party. That was NOT sad. Alas, days later - on a winning wave - the **Schumer-Eight** gave it all away. For nothing.



But while the Nation mourned, we went to a PARTY! Nephew Bill threw a Surprise 40th Birthday Party for his lovely wife, Christine - and it was definitely the Social Event of the Season! Cousins Jessica and Justin flew up from California, Christine's Mom, Aunt, and Grandma flew in, as did parent-in-laws Mike and Debbie, along with a score of friends from grade school to college, along with all of the local family! It was fun! And yes, she cried when she walked in! A perfect day, indeed!

The following week, their twins turned FIVE - they were born on our 26th Anniversary so there's not a lot of chance we'll forget

their day! Bowling and pizza and ice cream cake - the perfect day with The Littles!

Mere days later it was **Thanksgiving** - also at **Bill** & **Christine's**. They have been busy this month! Total chaos, crying babies, kids running amok, mountains of fabulous foods and beverages and

fabulous company! A perfect day with a great family! We wouldn't change a thing! And we

didn't take a single picture!



The following day - **Black Friday** - we headed into **Portland** to see James and Jamesy in **O Christmas Tea**. OMFG What a Fun Show! It's **Monty Python** meets two incredibly fun and funny guys! We got a hotel for the night, had a great dinner, did a bit of window shopping, and had a totally grand time!





It was also the annual lighting of the huge Christmas Tree in Pioneer Square - right around the corner from our hotel. Thousands of people were in town for the festivities.

Instead of being our usual **Grinches** eshewing gatherings of the great unwashed masses, we found ourselves actually enjoying the throngs of people, festive lights, and holiday spirit - truly a **Christmas Miracle**!

We didn't get to see the actual tree lighting as we were at the theatre, but coming back we were able to partake in the music. It was fun to be a part of it all!

After a good night's sleep and an easy drive home, **Tim** set up the outdoor lights. Of course everything is digital, Alexa-controlled, programmed to turn on and off at set times... totally climate-friendly LED lights... We may be wasteful Boomers, but we have joined the 21st Century!

It's nowhere near a Griswold display, but it works for us!

And then, after an early dinner, it was off to yet another theatre outing - back to **Broadway Rose** for "**Christmas in Door County**".

Our final subscription show of the 2025 Season. We will heve to wait until late January for our next live performance...

The suffering we do for The Arts...



