

7 Harbor Road
Morganville, NJ 07751-2622
23 December 2013

2013 Seasons Greetings from Suzanne and Rod:

2013 didn't produce great changes in the activity level at the Pease household, at least not at the level Rod hoped. Suzanne apparently continued to be in demand at the local Chamber of Commerce, more the "power behind the throne" now as Immediate Past Chair of the Board. The local bead shop business is thriving. She even felt so sorry for the poor contractors not having enough work after Sandy that she felt it her duty to tear out our kitchen in July just to give them enough work so that their children would not starve.

Suzanne had to visit Washington DC in early February, so Rod tagged along and managed to miss at least one snowstorm this year. It didn't make up for enduring Sandy in 2012, but he enjoyed visiting the Smithsonian and wandering the streets of DC looking for places to eat while Suzanne sat in meetings.

Starvation wasn't on the schedule for either of the two big vacation trips in 2013. Yes two! Experience has taught us that trip planning works best when handled by a single person, so Rod planned 2 weeks in the UK in early summer and Suzanne planned 3 weeks in the fall in Hawaii. That approach seems to have worked well, avoiding most of the screaming and tearing out of hair during the planning process, which Rod appreciates, having little of that commodity remaining, at least on the top of his head. We will plan for a similar division of labor for 2014. So far nothing has been planned outside of a return to Lafayette for Rod's 50 year high school reunion in March.

The UK trip was planned as two weeks of hiking along the coast in Cornwall and Devon, the first week by themselves and the second with a group. Food was excellent, as usual, but the weather was unanticipated. Sunshine instead of the expected damp. Spectacular hiking in Cornwall along the coast. Suzanne was not comfortable with some of the cliff scrambling along the coast path, so Rod had to plan some alternate routes in Cornwall. Because of a late spring, these hikes included hundreds of wildflowers along the hedgerows and lots of photo opportunities. Given that the second week in Devon was with others, and Suzanne's knees were talking to her, she just took off on her own for part of the time, while Rod continued with the group. The bonus for that approach was the same number of photographs, but not so many duplicates of the same scene.



The HI trip was planned to be a bit less active, including as it did a week's cruise to sample 4 of the islands, then spend 10 days working our way by car around the big island. Typical cruise, with the only walking required from the stateroom to the buffet. The land portion on the big island involved 4 different B&Bs and some planned hiking in the Volcano National Park. Unfortunately, the "****censored****" in the legislative



branch of the federal government thought it would be an excellent idea to shut everything down while we were there. Our view of the national park was a sign on the main highway letting us know that the park was closed, in case the barricades at the entrances and the rangers cars blocking the roads were insufficient. It was useful in helping us decide which party to support in future elections.

The HI trip coincided with the annual NAWBO conference, so for the first time in recent memory there was no attempt to combine a vacation with that occasion. Instead she traveled down south to spend some days with a few NAWBO friends out in the backwoods of Tennessee. Apparently it was far enough out of town that no police reports were filed due to their activity.

The jewelry design using beads and cabs continues, but Rod has noticed a trend this year that seems to be accelerating. Suzanne has been interested in beads for a while, but had also purchased a drum in previous years, for "drum circles." This year she has started buying gourds, carving and decorating them. There is a clear tendency toward American Indian culture here, which was only obvious when Rod examined browser history and discovered terms like "tepee" and "backyard sweat lodge". He's been advocating for a move to warmer climates for years, with little success, but now he has renewed hope. Rod hasn't noticed any deer hunting license purchase yet, but there are lots of spools of mono-filament nylon for snares in her "beading supplies".

Rod finally gave up his dumb cell phone in 2013, moving the SIM chip into Suzanne's old smart phone. The combination now can be called a half-smart phone, which is all he needs at his level of senility. He also got tired moving boxes of paperbacks every time he wanted to find anything and bought a Kindle Paperwhite. Suzanne now has one too, so the rate of growth of the stress on the support beams at 7 Harbor Road should be greatly reduced.

We wish you a happy and prosperous 2014. web pages:

Rod's personal home page www.rodpease.com
 Suzanne's jewelry home page www.suzannepease.com
 Suzanne's graphic design site www.ampersandgraphics.com
 Kevin's www.ceruleanstimuli.com or www.cerulean.st

Suzanne and Rod

email:

Rod's email: rodpease@rodpease.com
 Suzanne's email: spease@ampersandgraphics.com
 Kevin's email: kwpease@comcast.net