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2016 Seasons Greetings from Suzanne and Rod:

2016 was a year of discovery. As we both move into our 70th decade, we have discovered many new things. Some of them might not be new, or even positive, but here they be chronicled:

Rod discovered that there was a solution to not having sufficient room in the car for his clothing on a long road trip with Suzanne. It just wasn't the one that he expected. Suzanne discovered that she could put even more of her artwork, beaded jewelry, gourds, etc. in the car for a road trip if she left out one single component entirely. Rod discovered that he was that component as she took her show on the road to TN in the early spring. Rod discovered the up side was not being dropped off part way along the route (see 2015). Suzanne discovered that shorter days were better with a single driver in the car.



Rod discovered that the way to balance things out was to set up a walking holiday in England in late spring. This was a linear walk from Reading to Bath along the Kennet and Avon Canal. Each night was scheduled in a different B&B, inn or hotel along the route, allowing one the leisurely opportunity to see the sights along the canal for the whole 80 miles. Suzanne discovered that maps, both electronic and paper, allowed one to find pubs along the route where one could order up a taxi to take one to the next nights lodging - without actually walking the whole way. Rod discovered the joys of waving goodbye to Suzanne at a pub and plodding onward to that nights

destination. Suzanne discovered the joy of meeting him at that destination, well fed and rested, while he enjoyed cheese and crackers along the canal and a feeling of accomplishment.

Suzanne discovered felting. For the uninitiated, felting requires one to beat on wool that is not on a sheep, or already made into clothing covering your husband. Stomping on it seems also part of the enjoyment, although it apparently takes more prep work than the normal spousal abuse. Rod discovered that the thuds and bangs coming from the kitchen counter next to the sink were just one part of this new art form, as was the smell of vinegar. The final product was sufficiently interesting that Rod was allowed to update Suzanne's web site with a new category and glamour model.



Rod discovered that running Ubuntu 16.04 on his 2004 era PC wasn't going to cut it in 2016, so broke down and bought a new PC for the first time in over a decade. This finally put him at parity with Suzanne on the PC front - almost. He did have to learn enough Windows 10 to download and install a 64 bit Ubuntu 16.04. He has also discovered the entertainment value in being a "senior citizen" and on various lists held by people with foreign accents who call to help him with problems they discovered with Windows on his PC. He has also increased his vocabulary, learning several new terms after the formerly helpful person at the far end of the wire discovers that Rod has been somewhat less than honest about his level of understanding of how to operate the PC. Somehow they are less friendly after guiding him to find the right keys on the keyboard to find out that the "little key with the 4 boxes" doesn't get them where they wanted to go under Ubuntu.

Rod discovered that he could avoid a visit to the tourist mecca of Columbus, OH, for the annual NAWBO convention. Suzanne discovered that the car felt too light without all her sales booth and rocks, so she kidnapped a few people and their luggage to take with her. She apparently felt guilty about it though, and returned them after subjecting them to several days at the convention. Amazingly they were sufficiently exhausted by the experience that they slept through the period for convincingly reporting the crime and failed to file a police report. Rod has discovered that Suzanne has not learned from the experience - no surprise there - and is already planning for the 2017 convention.

In October we both rediscovered the short road trip, this time to Watkins Glen, NY. It had been a few years since a leaf peeping expedition, and we happened to pick a prime time and location. Suzanne discovered that working in molten glass could be struck off the list of future art projects by watching demonstrations at the Corning Museum of Glass. Rod was less interested in viewing the various pieces of "art", but consoled by lower fire insurance premiums on the house. It was only a few days, but we both enjoyed walking through Watkins Glen State Park, Taughannock Falls State Park, and visiting various establishments along Seneca Lake, even if all they were selling was spoiled grape juice.



Throughout the year Suzanne has maintained her NAWBO "eminence grise" position, helping the economic recovery with hours spent on the phone.

Rod discovered Kindle Unlimited and being able to select a book without buyers remorse if it turns out to be junk. He also discovered that he could eliminate walking outside for a newspaper delivery each morning by dropping the local paper subscription and picking up a cheaper electronic paper delivered directly to his Kindle Fire tablet. One less reason to shovel the snow and just wait for global warming to take care of the situation.

Suzanne discovered that sciatica HURTS and takes many weeks of physical therapy to undo the knotted muscles that one second of a nerve pinch creates.

Both Suzanne and Rod maintain that there is no up side for commenting on politics in 2016, although they have discovered that there is much to say.

We wish you a happy and prosperous 2017.

Rod and Suzanne

web pages:

Rod's personal home page at [www.rodpease.com](http://www.rodpease.com)

Suzanne's art home page at [www.suzannepease.com](http://www.suzannepease.com)

Suzanne's graphic design home page at [www.ampersandgraphics.com](http://www.ampersandgraphics.com)

Kevin's business home page at [www.ceruleanstimuli.com](http://www.ceruleanstimuli.com) or [www.cerulean.st](http://www.cerulean.st)

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Rod's email: [rodpease@rodpease.com](mailto:rodpease@rodpease.com)

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