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2019 Seasons Greetings from Suzanne and Rod:

Greetings from New Jersey, USA. Time for another installment in the Pease Family History, perhaps less entertaining than other years for those interested in our travels.

Suzanne continues her involvement with the National Organization of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) in an informal mentoring capacity at a national level. Rod is happy that per-minute charges for what was once known as "long distance calls" are no longer an issue. Timing of the evening meal can be an issue for the chef, when the patron at "Chez Rod" is on the phone with folks in multiple different time zones. Suzanne just makes an offering to the gods of the microwave.

Rod is jealous, however, that Suzanne somehow managed to discover that her presence was needed at some NAWBO function in Arizona in January, leaving him in NJ to shovel snow while she apparently lounged by the pool in Phoenix. At least he was told it was a NAWBO function, but suspects it might have been just a chance to visit somewhere warm.



Rod didn't get his chance to visit somewhere warm until April, when the 55th reunion of his high school class was scheduled in Lafayette, LA. Taxes done, we hit the road on April 1 for a leisurely drive to Louisiana for visits with friends and relatives.

On the technology front, Suzanne is still supporting a few clients of Ampersand Graphics, so decided to work on porting her tools to a new laptop running Windows 10, but is still mostly using the desktop running Windows 7. Rod decided to forgo the expense of a land line phone and purchased his first new smart phone in April, moving the old land line number to the new phone. We now have "his" and "hers" smart phones and are learning to distinguish the different beeps and bongs to determine who has to run across the house to where the phone was last laid down. We are also learning new techniques in call screening and exploring new ways to be rude to telemarketers.

June saw us in Washington D.C., Suzanne to attend NAWBO Public Policy Days, and Rod to see the sights. Rod learned how to use a "selfie stick" on the mall, while Suzanne learned that a convoy of black SUVs is the approved method of transport for the movers and shakers.



In spite of an onset of bursitis in her hip, Suzanne managed another trip in early July, this time to Los Angeles, to consult with NAWBO folks there, visiting LA and Inland Empire chapters.

In July we finally decided to take advantage of the relatively easy access to the cruise terminal in Bayonne, NJ, and took our first cruise to Bermuda. Perhaps our last cruise to Bermuda. It was an easy drive to the port and smooth access to the ship. When we arrived at our stateroom, the door was open and a pleasant breeze was coming through from the opened door to the balcony. At the time we just moved out to the balcony and watched the loading of the ship, thinking little of WHY that door was open. Later we discovered that the reason was an attempt to dry out the carpeting. Only after leaving the harbor did we come back inside and find a distinct odor. We are campers, accustomed to putting on shoes in the tent to visit the latrine at night. We were not expecting to have to do the same to keep dry feet to move from bed to toilet on a cruise. Many hours with a giant blower fan and deodorant powder alleviated the wet and the smell, but not a pleasant start. We did enjoy Bermuda in spite of doing less hiking, but found that the ocean days were somewhat boring. The beaches there are beautiful and the people friendly.



The 2019 NAWBO conference was in Jacksonville, Florida at the Hyatt on the river front, allowing Rod to stretch his legs walking around and searching for BBQ while Suzanne sat at her booth in the hotel selling her scarves and jewelry to adoring fans from all over the country. The weather there was beautiful, which Suzanne got to see through the hotel window. Rod got to take some nice pictures outside while walking from one side of the river to the other.





Suzanne continues with her beaded wearable art this year, selling it through various venues, including the gift shop at The Grounds For Sculpture, a sculpture park and museum located in Hamilton, NJ.

Rod continues to read voraciously, with a lower impact to the family standard of living thanks to Kindle Unlimited. He hasn't given up his amateur status as lumberjack in spite of burning up one chain saw, but has officially terminated his plumbing repairs before the replacement of the water heater in late November. He is still walking a few miles along the adjacent rail trail almost every day, but does tend to skip days with really bad weather.



2020 should see us in the fall in Austin, Texas for Suzanne's 2020 NAWBO Conference.

We wish you a happy and prosperous 2020.

Suzanne and Rod

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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