

7 Harbor Road
Morganville, NJ 07751-2622
22 December 2020

2020 Seasons Greetings from Suzanne & Rod:

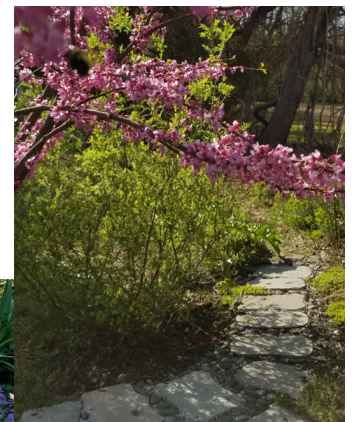
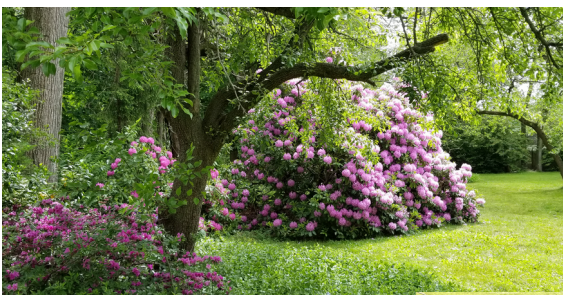
The end of year letter has traditionally been a report on our activities over the year, with emphasis on travel. To respect the "Doctrine of Stare Decisis", of which we have heard more than enough in 2020, we should perhaps give details of the number of times Rod has visited Aldi, Shoprite, Stop & Shop, Walmart, Sam's Club, Costco, That might allow this letter to match the length of previous annual letters, but perhaps would not hold the reader's interest as in previous years.

Suzanne did manage a single trip to Albuquerque New Mexico before the pandemic shut down travel for us entirely. She maintains the trip in February was necessary NAWBO consulting, but Rod had heard that excuse before in 2019. It wasn't believed then. Repeating falsehoods seems to work for the political class, but true scientists know better. Rod assuaged his envy with the prospect of a "guys only" trip to the Azores that was planned for the end of April.

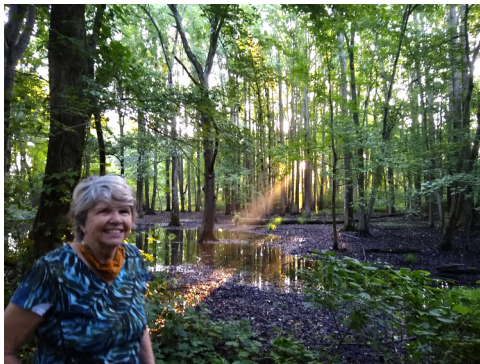


Then came the virus and the world shut down, including air travel via TAP Air Portugal. By mid March it was clear to us that the risk of any outside physical contact outweighed the benefit and we went into isolation mode. No more trips, except for essentials: like to grocery stores (for food) and garden shop (for Suzanne's sanity). We are lucky enough to have a basement with a large chest freezer and shelves for canned goods, so even trips for food became much less frequent. So infrequent that both cars had lost battery charge when Rod attempted to start out one early morning for "senior hours" at the grocery. We have since learned to run the cars occasionally, like to the liquor store for wine (another "essential" in 2020). Note that another example of the craziness of 2020 is the widespread misuse of ethanol, applied to hands instead of internally.

Gardening took up some of the time Suzanne would have otherwise spent sitting in airports. Trip photos for her were from her repeated trips to her garden in the corner of the lot on Harbor Road.



Sanity was also maintained by daily walks on the rail trail and associated old airport runway. Social distancing wasn't always possible on the trail itself, but the runways and taxi ways were wide enough that we didn't feel threatened by breathing exhalations from passing unmasked joggers and bicycle racers. That risk was greatly reduced as the weather produced the first snow of the season in mid December.



Suzanne handled the reduced in-person social contact by becoming a Zoom expert. She even set up two different computers so she could be on two different Zoom calls at the same time. One explanation was that the second one was aimed so that Rod need not appear in the frame if he dared to enter the room during a Zoom session. Apparently his sartorial comments are deemed not conducive to increased sales of her jewelry.

In addition to many Zoom sessions, Suzanne embraced the virtual world by building her first online store to sell her art. Perhaps Rod should not have used the term "embracing the virtual world" in her presence, as her first product for sale was a "virtual hug". (beta test!) Rod was pretty sure that he already had paid for a hug sometime during the previous 52 years of marriage, but as an officially supportive spouse, went ahead and paid good money for another one from the web store. It was only then that he discovered that Suzanne really did understand the meaning of "virtual". A poor review by the first customer caused the product to be pulled from the market.

2020 also brought plenty of natural disasters, but NJ fared better than some other locations. We did lose power here for 3 days after Isaias, discovering that loading a big chest freezer was a mixed blessing if you don't have electricity. Happily hoarder Rod had been saving lots of gallon milk jugs of

water in the freezer, so we didn't actually have to toss any food. Nothing like the issues faced by Suzanne's brother in the Lake Charles area.

A fixture in our annual travel plans, the NAWBO Conference, also went virtual this year. Rod was disappointed, as he had been looking forward to BBQ in Austin, TX. Virtual BBQ just isn't the same. Suzanne was able to use her second PC to talk with folks visiting her virtual booth and thus show off her latest wearable art, while using the first PC to attend the rest of the conference activities. Rod appreciated not having to lug tables from hotel parking garage to the exhibit hall, but no BBQ!

Suzanne is still trying new techniques, pour painting and painting the backs of glass cabochons, but beading is still the main art activity.

2021 might see us in the fall in New Orleans for a 2021 NAWBO meeting, if it is safe to travel by that time.

We wish you a healthy and sane 2021.

Suzanne and Rod



web pages:

Rod's personal home page at www.rodpease.com

Suzanne's web store at <https://suzanne-pease.square.site/>

Suzanne's graphic design home page at
www.ampersandgraphics.com

Kevin's business home page at www.ceruleanstimuli.com or
www.cerulean.st

email:

Rod's email: rodpease@rodpease.com

Suzanne's email: spease@suzannepease.com

Kevin's email: kwpease@comcast.net