

7 Harbor Road
Morganville, NJ 07751
December 2023

2023 Seasons Greetings from Suzanne and Rod:

There have been few changes here from 2022, but at our age - a good thing. We are still dodging pandemic participation, except for immunizations and continued masking in crowded venues.



Suzanne is still interested in wildlife photography, but has finally figured out that there is an ocean to the east of New Jersey, so that a day trip to the rookery at the visitor's center in Ocean City, NJ was sufficient for exercise of her telephoto muscles. Rod went along to observe and take frequent opportunities to mention how much easier it was to drive 2 hours to a photo shoot, rather than multiple days. Suzanne pointed out that no bison were sighted in 2023, so comparisons were invalid.

We are still attempting to keep somewhat in shape by daily walks along our local segment of the Henry Hudson rail trail, but our speed has somewhat decreased. We are hopefully regaining access



to walk the old airport runways as NJ Transits has completed their testing of autonomous vehicles. The trail occasionally offers another opportunity for "wildlife" photography, but usually only with the cell phone camera. You never know what you will find in the woods along the trail. This addition only remained up for a few days...the Parks Department did not approve.



Rod continues his interest in technology, but more in maintenance mode in 2023. He is waiting for 2024 to purchase a replacement for his 2016 PC and a move to Windows 11 and that years long term support version of Ubuntu. His anticipated excitement at getting new hardware is tempered by

his experience upgrading Suzanne's laptop to W11, now operating sufficiently slowly that Suzanne prefers working on her vintage Windows 7 desktop. Both of us now have Amazon Fire 10 tablets and smart phones, so the PC usage for everything is so "last century".

Suzanne's official policy statement on her trip to TN in the spring was "What happens in TN, stays in TN.", so Rod has no pictures of the cauldron in the woods or the dancing in the moonlight for this years holiday letter. Although this fuzzy photo was found on her cell phone (faces blurred to protect the not so innocent).



The Honda CRV also was exercised in the fall for a trip to the 2023 NAWBO Conference in Austin TX. Rod was allowed to go along, even if his services as porter for her booth were not required this time around. The conference venue was more suburban than urban, but he still managed to get a BBQ "fix" on the trip. Routing the auto through Lafayette along the way to the conference helped in raising the trip's culinary variety, along with increasing the waistline. Visiting with relatives there might appear incidental.

Suzanne is still producing her artwork with beads and providing major support for her local bead store. Beading classes at the store have increased and she has been taking on more complicated repair work brought into the store. She also has adopted "Have Beads, Will Travel" approach to teaching her classes, but so far hasn't left the state for that (to Rod's knowledge). While he is able to track her cell phone, she unfortunately knows about how that works and believes it is a bit creepy to get a call questioning her choice of routing.

The claim has been that gardening helped Suzanne stay sane during the pandemic. Rod notes that the plantings in the yard have never looked better, but the bit about sanity is still an open issue. Autumn 2023 finds her receiving multiple shipments of various bulbs which she immediately digs into the ground to keep Rod from reporting here an accurate total number (at least 250 at last count so look forward to tulip pictures in next years post). She appears also to be attempting to raise a contingent of Cajun squirrels by sprinkling hot pepper powder on the bulbs. (It is supposedly a method to confuse their little nasal passages and protect the bulbs.) Rod is keeping quiet about her attempt at providing a south Louisiana atmosphere in NJ when the topic of mental health is raised.

We wish you a healthy and sane 2024.
Suzanne and Rod



BTW sanity is over-rated

web pages:

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

Suzanne's art home page at www.suzannepease.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