



*Poinsettias by Barbara J Willey*

## Merry Christmas 2010

Hard to believe it is already time for a new year. How did 2010 pass so quickly and when are we going to get to last year's resolutions? I guess we'll just have to make new ones!

I suppose part of the reason it passed so fast was the many vacations we took this year. We started with a January trip to Arizona where we visited with friends Betty & Jerry Copeland and John and Nora Ayers. We had a great time together. Sadly it would be our last visit with John, since he was later diagnosed with cancer and recently passed.

After Tucson, we spent some quality time in the Phoenix area with our "Kids" and their three families, including son Ron, his friend Trish, and our grandchildren Sydney & Tayson; daughter Su, her friend Chris, & our granddaughter Lindsay; and daughter Linda, her husband Tim, and grandchildren Kaylee, Kevin and Tyler. We even got to meet Kaylee's friend Daniel, a young artist from Costa Rica studying at ASU whom we really liked. Kaylee is also quite the artist so it seems to be a good match. After graduation, they have both moved to Costa Rica. Linda visited them later this summer, and reports that they are doing quite well.

In April, we were able to get to San Diego to spend time with son John, his wife Marnie and our grandson David. We also had a really nice Sunday Brunch with daughter Beth and her husband Keith, and got to visit with our good friends Don Belter and Rose Snow.

Later in April, we took a productive three-day trip to San Luis Obispo for a wine event at the Mission, some wine club pickups in Paso Robles, and, finally, a stop at the Apple store to buy my newest Mac, a beautiful 15 inch MacBook Pro laptop. Do I need to say how much I love that!

Early in June, we went to Pine Mountain Club for our second year's "Wine in the Pines" event. We convinced friends Bill and Tonya Schultz to join us and we all had a beautiful time. Later in June, we spent our Anniversary at a gorgeous B&B in Atascadero. We attended the Atascadero Wine Festival at the Atascadero zoo, an event we discovered at our first Anniversary trip. It has expanded a great deal since then and covered a huge grassy area. We discovered several new wineries there, which we managed to visit the next day and found two with wine excellent enough to add to our collection of wine clubs. We also saw an advertisement for the Paso Robles Mid-State fair and signed up to return in July to attend concerts for Toby Keith and Keith Urban. Dick again convinced Bill and Tonya to join us. The July trip was lots of fun, too, although we nearly froze to death, since our expectation was for blazingly hot weather, but this was an upside-down year for weather everywhere.

In September, we managed a week in Las Vegas where we got to visit Tom and Lynda Tully. We also visited nearly all the casinos. Though we didn't gamble much, we did manage to catch a couple shows, including Santana and an extra special magician. That trip was one of the highlights of our year, but there were so many highlights! In November, our yearly family Thanksgiving trip to Arizona was perfect as well. We even got to visit with Pam & Paul Maciaz on our way home.

Finally, on this holiday season we are preparing to depart for a two-week Caribbean Cruise with Bill and Tonya. The cruise includes eight stops, including Grand Turk, Dominican Republic, Tortola, Antigua, Barbados, Martinique, St. Barts, and St. Croix – all places we've never been. It should be fun spending the Christmas and New Year's Eve on board.

We hope this year has been good for you as well, and we wish you the best in 2011