



## Happy Holidays, everyone!

Hope you had as wonderful a 2012 as we did and will have an even better 2013. Our year started out somewhat slowly and gradually picked up speed until it ended up in a complete whirlwind in December when Barbara had her second (and last) art show in Paso Robles

We had a nice visit in February from brother Bob & Jo Ann Willey and we saw them again in April at their home in Scottsdale. Turned out they had decided to sell that home, so it was a bit of a nostalgic visit. The home was finally sold in November, so they ended up staying in Rockford IL through the winter, but we hope to see them again if and when they come out in January. Our April visit also included a nice Easter with our family in Chandler. Happily, our friends Betty & Jerry Copeland were also in Chandler at the time, so we had a nice visit with them and planned to join them again in Kona before their big family reunion. So, in May we went over to Kona and stayed at our timeshare with the Copelands. We had a nice visit with Jana & Mack and their newly adopted daughter Alyssa, which culminated with a beautiful Mother's Day brunch at the Sheraton. It was really nice to get to know and love Alyssa, who is now over a year old. Fortunately Jana keeps us in touch with this lovely granddaughter with posts on Facebook.

When we returned from Hawaii, we learned that Dick's cousin from Iowa was visiting her son in Nipomo, and so we were able to set up a Sunday Brunch in Santa Maria to meet with them. What a nice surprise! In June, we celebrated our 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the best wine festival in the area. Over 80 local wineries set up booths in a big park by a beautiful lake in Atascadero. It was our third year there, and it just gets better and better. In July son Johnny came out to participate with his Dad in the Country Club's big Mackie tournament. The Copelands also came out and Jerry partnered with our friend David Vener, with whom we had previously cruised together. We had fun times, which also included David's wife Marcia and our friends Linda & David Zivich and Tonya and Bill Schultz. We got Betty a copy of Tonya's book and Betty even bought one of Tonya's pictures.

In August, Barbara celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in a big way with a trip to Oregon to visit her cousins Shirley and Carole. Turned out their younger brother Bill was also visiting, so we also got to visit with him and meet his wife Pat. Surprisingly, Bill now looks a lot like his Father instead of the jubilant 12-year-old in Barbara's memory. Turned out Barbara had transcribed a video taken in the late 50s when their family visited hers in San Francisco. We all had fun laughing at ourselves that long ago and Pat got to see the Billy Barbara remembers. We spent the first week with Shirley in her home in the woods south of Portland, the second week at a condo in the mountains around Mt. Hood, and the third week at Shirley's condo on the coast at Otter Bay. The cousins treated us royally throughout and we had a great time.

For Dick's birthday in September we took a train to San Diego, where we had a nice weekend with John, Marnie, and grandson David. We stayed at our timeshare on Mission Beach, which is really beautiful. Daughter Beth, her husband Keith and their adopted daughter Abigail (Allyssa's older sister - now about two years old) also came over. Little Abby gets more adorable each time we see her. We also had a short visit with friends Don Belter and Rose Snow. Then, in October, we took a week in Las Vegas where we visited with Dick's great friends Tom and Lynda Tully and where we got to see some wonderful shows, primarily Jersey Boys - fantastic!

November brought a return trip to Arizona for Thanksgiving with all the family there - Ron, Trish, Sydney, Tayson; Linda, Tim, Kevin & Kyler; and Su, Chris and Lindsay. Beth, Keith and Abby came out from San Diego, so we had a real Thanksgiving celebration, Unfortunately, Dick was feeling poorly a good part of the time and Barbara fell and hurt her back so our enthusiasm was somewhat muted, but we loved being with the family nonetheless. When we got back, we had an afternoon with old friends Don Kistler, his friend Rosemary and our longtime friends Pam & Paul Maciaz.

Then came December - the first weekend we were in Paso with Barbara's art teacher and her husband who helped hang Barbara's infamous art show. The second weekend, Su, Chris and Lindsay visited after their trip to Disneyland so that they could see the show. Both weekends were spent in the fabulous "loft" above what is now Eos Winery. Finally, we are expecting Jana, Mack and Ally next week, who want to see the show before they leave to spend Christmas with their Mother and her sister's family. Whew! What a great way to end the year!

**With Much Love,**