



A Photo Review of 2016



The year started with music and friends. On Jan 9, I attended the UUCP choir retreat. I continued our regular lunch with Susan L at Mimi's and on Jan 13 Elizabeth was still home from Scripps and joined us. Then we had supper on the 29th with Wayne McD.



The Arizona Music Festival was held at Valley UU on Jan 30. Smoot had taken the year off from choir to do sound so I went on my own to learn from UU composer Elizabeth Alexander. We got to meet Lew's new lady friend, Jeanne when we visited with them in Sun City on Feb 13. Kristina took our picture at UUCP on Valentine's Day. We celebrated with a visit to Lucienne.



On Feb 24, Carl and Wendy visited us. Wendy enjoyed playing with my lightsaber! We went to the UUCP picnic on Feb 27 and celebrated Heidi's 10th anniversary on Feb 28.



I sang in the combined choir music service at UUCP on March 6. Smoot and I hosted an HoA party on March 10.



We had lunch with Ellie and Bob at the Beatitudes on Mar 26. The next day was Easter. The choir was in bright colors and we had big smiles.



We went to the 50th anniversary Star Trek concert in Mesa on Apr 3. On Apr 5, Ray came by to visit and Tiggle and Rocky said hi. On Apr 7, we joined Ray, Jay and Martha for dinner.



The Dissidents entertained at the choir party on Apr 9 at Duke & Susan's. The UUCP staff thanked us Unicare volunteers on Apr 12.



On Apr 17, we went to the Spring Fling at Lucienne's Pueblo Norte nursing home. This was our final picture of Lucienne who died on June 4th. Ginny brought Joe's nephews and great niece to see my collections on Apr 24. They were amazed, as is everyone who sees them! Lucienne's cousin Darryl chose the pieces of her father, Albert's art from my photo album. Albert's art was stored in my studio.



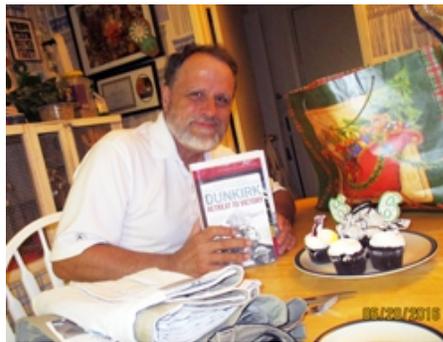
My niece, Becca brought Celia and Greta for a short visit on Apr 27. They got to meet my turtles and some foster kittens. Smoot went to a UU District meeting in Santa Barbara. We hosted the UUCP bridge group on May 20 and met with the local followers of the online blog Balloon Juice on May 22.



We celebrated Katherine's high school graduation on May 25. We went to Phoenix Comicon and sat with fellow Playtrekker Ivy for one of the Star Trek panels on June 3. Our monthly lunch with Julie and Marshal turned into an early birthday celebration for Smoot on June 16.



We celebrated again with Susan and Elizabeth on June 17. That day we also met with Darryl and Robert to begin handling Lucienne's estate. Darryl came to our house on the 18th to begin going through the many boxes of her remaining property that we were storing.



We had still another early bday celebration with church friends on June 19 then the official one on June 20. Then on July 3 we joined a late celebration of Richard's birthday.



We had our July 4th milkshakes late, on the 5th and introduced Julie & Marshal to Red Robin's adult versions. Yum! We had a bittersweet going away lunch with Elizabeth, Susan and Katherine on July 14. I gave them a photo and card review of our decade long friendship. They gave me early bday gifts.



We got to see Heidi's new home on July 31. We joined Jency for the 50th anniversary Star Trek convention in Las Vegas on Aug 3. She treated us to dinner for our 43rd anniversary on Aug 4.



I did my usual freebies for my birthday, free Denny's breakfast, free Arby's sandwich, free 5&Diner sundae which left little room for cake. I treated myself to some Star Wars Itty Bittys at Hallmark and Star Trek 50th stuff. Kathleen and her friend Mary visited us on Sept 23.



A partially blurry panorama showing part of Lucienne's exhibit at UUCP. It was on display from mid Sept to mid Nov. As a beneficiary, Smoot chose to give away her paintings to people who wanted one.



There was a fundraiser for Rev Susan's candidacy for UUA president on Sept 25. The summer choir birthday folks celebrated on Sept 28. We went boating & had lunch with Dan, Scott and Kim on Oct 1.



Uli organized a birthday lunch for Connie at the Beatitudes on Oct 12. We went to an exhibit of Rudolf's photography in Fountain Hills on Oct 14. We attended Kristina & Benjie's wedding on Oct 22.



We dressed up for the choir practice before Halloween. Lucienne's memorial service was on Oct 29. Rev Susan officiated and Ellie A was the coordinator. We got to meet Darryl's wife Pat.



On Oct 30 Lucienne's beneficiaries, Mira, Smoot, Dominique & Daniel and Darryl met with estate attorney Robert to settle estate issues. To decide who got what paintings we drew lots then cards. Smoot's cousins, Maline and Marion came by on Nov 2 to bring us Uncle Forrest's violin. On Nov 8, Judith and Marko spent the day appraising Lucienne's fine jewelry. That afternoon Smoot and I voted in what we thought was going to be a ground breaking election. Instead it turned out to be a disaster at the national level and we fear for the future. It was hard to get in the holiday spirit after that.



On Nov 11 we had photos taken for UUCP's pictorial directory. I splurged and got the CD of all the poses and created a collage including the silly, some say cute, smoochy one. Smoot smoked a 21 pound turkey for the UUCP potluck Thanksgiving. Emrys brought one too and they had a turkey carving. Mira & Jeff came by on Nov 30 to pick up the paintings she'd inherited and marveled at my collections.



Smoot was recognized at the Democratic Party District 23 holiday party on Dec 2 for having hosted the mailing list on his computer for longer than any other district's. We went to the McCormick Ranch holiday gathering on Dec 3 where Smoot talked to the people doing the community's new landscaping plan. Joanne and Ginny sang in the Scottsdale Community Choir concert on Dec 5.



Connie and Richard sang and Connie played in the Arizona Masterworks Chorale concert on Dec 9. Caroling was on Dec 10. Smoot had a meeting but joined us at the Beatitudes later.



During our monthly lunch with the Smarts on Dec 13, Smoot broke a piece off the gingerbread house at the Hyatt! We got to be part of Martha's surprise 70th birthday celebration on Dec 14. Smoot spoke at Larry Agle's memorial on Dec 17, showing the decorated cane Larry gave Smoot for his 60th birthday and we went to see Star Wars Rogue One on Dec 18.



On Dec 19 I went caroling with Carolyn and her Threshold choir at The Terraces. On the 21st we went to the party at Duke & Susan's celebrating Katie's marriage to Wayland. We sang in the choir on Christmas eve.



Benjie and Emrys led the service on Christmas Day. It was full of singing and fun. Then afterward we enjoyed the potluck. Then it was back home to open presents. We went to the choir party on Dec 28 at Duke and Susan's. The choir sang to Kristina and Benjie the song that Jerry wrote for their wedding.

Our Pets, Fosters and Wildlife



Our cats, Bagheera aka Gheer, Rocky and Jack. Poor Gheer was diagnosed with the fatal cat disease FIP in March but with regular doses of Prednisone, he has survived. Rocky is our most curious cat, always anxious to meet any fosters that come in the house. Our big, buff boy Jack has gotten his weight down to 17 pounds and likes to play with papa's shoes.



We've had Cici, our Cockatiel since we adopted her from one of Smoot's colleagues who was moving. He's probably pushing 30 years old and is starting to look a bit scruffy but he still likes to look out the kitchen screendoor. I've had Mr. Turtle since 1995 making him 21 years old. I got Lady Turtle in 1998. They've had many offspring. I've got two daughters in the outside pond. The photos above show the old

pond and on the right, the new, larger one that finally got installed in July, after 2 years of waiting.



There are five young turtles in our big bathtub. Our fish tank is full of Mollies with a couple of cichlids for cleaning. Hank from Finding Dory joined the decorations.



Now to our fosters. Tiggie is our long term foster. We got her in Aug 2015. She's now 21 years old, has a throat tumor and a hernia, weighs only 5+ pounds but doesn't let any of our much bigger male cats push her around. She's the diva of the household. We got beautiful Arabella at the end of 2015 but had her until Jan 5, 2016. I only had her for six days then got Ellie and her five kittens. I gave them Star Wars names – Chewie, Han, Luke, Rey and Finn in honor of The Force Awakens.



In Apr I got a mother cat and her four kittens. I named her Kaya which means pure in Japanese and since her kittens were mostly white I named them Blanco, Coconut, Cotton and Popcorn. On June 3, I got tabby Cannoli and Siamese mix Shortcake. Cannoli was an expert hider.



On June 18 I got three black kittens, Chocolate, Espresso and Coffee. They were so identical I had to use different colors of fingernail polish on the ears of two of them to tell them apart. On June 18, I got a mom, Mindy and her five kittens. In the photo from bottom left, that's calico female Maddie, male Georgy, black male Fuzzy, calico female Tazzie and male Star. On July 27, I got Dali and Shalimar,

above right and below left, CrackerJack and fuzzy Organza.



On Mon, Aug 8, the day after we returned from the Star Trek convention in Las Vegas, I got a mother cat, Snowball and her five kittens, Cinnamon, Nutmeg, Pepper, Tigger/Pumpkin and VanillaBean. On Sept 9 I got another mom, Damia and her kittens Cash, Coco, Peanut and Stache.



On Dec 9 I got two adults that had been surrendered, Copper, an Ocicat, and Scooter.



As for our wildlife, we got visited by a group of very colorful Peach-faced Lovebirds in July and a large fluffy cat appeared in our front yard in Dec. Lee and I are trying to figure out if he's an owned pet or an abandoned stray. She's named him Bobby and he enjoys eating at both our houses! On Dec 16, I got a photo of the black cat that Lee said she had seen and started feeding.