



A Photo Review of 2018



We went to the party the UU Foundation hosted for their Chalice Keepers on Jan 7 for those who have UUCP in their wills. We splurged and got matching frames for the paintings by and of our artist friend, Lucienne Collaer Rusconi. On Jan 20, we attended the memorial service for Joe DeMarco. Ginny got the service she wanted. Joe would have enjoyed it. His family is a fun bunch.



Benjie had t-shirts made for his sound techs. Smoot wore his on Jan 28 when he used the iPad and stand he'd purchased that makes it possible to control sound at UUCP from anywhere in the sanctuary. On Jan 31 there was a blue moon lunar eclipse. I was pleased with how my photo turned out. On Feb 2, Smoot rode his bike to the Phoenix Open and along with thousands of others saw former local son and famous golfer, Phil Mickelson.



We gave a tour of my collection studio on Feb 9 to friends Sheryl and Gary of our Canadian neighbor Lee. They played with my lightsaber and were impressed of course! We got together at Bob W's that same evening with Genevieve and Charles to talk about HoA stuff. Smoot is president of our organization. On Feb 23 we attended the dinner that Rev. Margret cooked. We'd purchased tickets for the event at the UUCP auction the previous year.



Choir member Greg produced a musical tribute to Broadway on Mar 3. We took neighbors Bob and Lee to the show. We drove down to Sierra Vista over the weekend of Mar 10 and 11 to visit with Linda and Gary. We had dinner with Gary's sister, Robyn on Saturday night.



On Sun, Mar 11, we went to Linda and Gary's Shadow Rock UU church in SV before her upcoming retirement as minister. We had paid for three paintings by UUCP member, Tish Gauntt to be given to the church in honor of the three years Linda served the congregation. We were honored at the service for our donation. On Mar 17 we attended the Unicare breakfast at UUCP. Belinda and Vicki made it happen.



The choirs from UUCP and Valley UU joined voices to sing a very moving work, Street Requiem. The photo shows the group at UUCP on Mar 18. Carolyn organized a community dance at UUCP on Mar 24.



On Mar 25 we went to the stewardship party that Duke and Susan hosted. Rev. Margret talked about plans for the new program year at UUCP and D&S provided entertainment. Smoot and I hosted the church bridge group on Mar 30.



At the beginning of our stewardship drive at UUCP, this year on Apr 1 which was also Easter, we have a congregational photo taken. What a colorful lot! We're behind the seated lady in the yellow hat.



We had Easter lunch with Joan and Eric then showed them our virtual reality set-up. It looks awkward but it's fun. On Apr 5 we took part in the Seder dinner on the patio at UUCP.



Smoot gave a stewardship talk on Apr 8 encouraging people to make a pledge to the congregation. That same day we gave another performance of Street Requiem for the community at 1st United Methodist Church sponsored by the Tempe Interfaith Fellowship. The photo above right shows our kitchen in 2013. We renovated it in 2018 with new appliances and flooring, re-painted cabinets with pulls.



Smoot did all the work himself, laying the Lifeproof vinyl plank flooring, painting the cabinets and installing the pulls. He built a box for the microwave and re-wired it. A bar table replaced the bird cage.



Bill and Joan tried out our VR on Apr 21. Joan did a space walk and almost survived! On Apr 23 UUCP hosted the Rev. Willam Barber. He was in town to speak to Native Americans as part of his Poor People's Campaign. I helped provide food for the lunch we served. George and Shirley Karas treated us to dinner and a tour of Sagewood, their retirement community on Apr 26.



Smoot attended the Pacific Western Region conference of the UU Association and on Apr 27 got to see our former minister, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, now the president of the national UUA. Emrys Staton, director of pastoral care and justice ministries at UUCP, celebrated his final service with us on Apr 29. On May 4 we went to the Arizona Science Center to see the amazing Pompeii exhibit with Jim & Josh.



On May 5 we went to see Avengers Infinity War with Simon and Toni. Sheesh, what a disturbing ending. That evening we went to John and Jenny's 60th bday party. Dale and Bunny were there too.



On Mother's Day, May 13, we had lunch with Eric, Joan, Brian, Karin and Rosemary. Linda and Gary were back in town on May 17 so we had supper with them, Benjie, Kristina and Eric. We went to see Solo with Bill and Joan on May 25. I thought it was okay but critics panned it.



Eric and Joan came over on May 28 for some cat cuddle time. I still had a foster kitten, Duffy that they played with. On May 30 the end of the program year choir party was a fun karaoke night. Smoot did sound.



Smoot celebrated his 68th birthday on June 20. As part of his celebration, on June 23, we went to see William Shatner at the Orpheum Theatre after a viewing of The Wrath of Khan. Shatner was funny. Once again we celebrated July 4th with Julie and Marshal. Dale joined us. Julie wore a maple leaf to honor Canada, the more humane and well-led country in North America!



We flew to Austin on July 13 and had supper with Jency. The next day we attended Leonard Johnson's memorial service and saw lots of friends from St. Michael's. We also met with Glenda Summers, our Austin-based financial adviser. She said we were doing okay!



The next day, July 15 we had a tasty barbecue lunch with Austin political friends, John, Ann, Alfred, Kathy and Jett. On July 26 we went to a Democratic Party party, wearing blue, of course! We celebrated our 45th anniversary at the Mitchell Family Reunion in WA that cousin Marti hosted.



Aug 4 was our 45th anniversary which was the day of the reunion. There was family from WA, CA, UT and us from AZ who attended. On Aug 7 Dale's grandkids toured my collection studio. My lightsaber is always a big hit! On Aug 8 Jency came to visit after delivering and interring Leonard's ashes in San Diego. Luckily she seemed okay with our slow, quiet lifestyle.



Smoot had to fly to Los Angeles for the UUA Pacific Southwest District board retreat Aug 10-12. On the 10th Jency and I had a spicy Indian lunch with her friend Janet. Smoot was to return Sun afternoon but a terrible storm delayed him. It also dropped a huge Eucalyptus limb on my studio punching holes in the roof and smashing the parapet and skylight. I took pictures of the damage on Aug 13. Because of a snafu with USAA repairs got delayed.



Smoot and I had both planned to attend our nephew Sean's wedding on Aug 18 but I had to stay home to meet with the contractor about my damaged roof. Smoot attended and got to see his sister Suzanne's family and then they drove to Virginia Beach to see their brother Rick. No group photo was taken so I made a montage of the three siblings. On Aug 25 I took gifts to the SWCC, the Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center in Scottsdale in honor of my birthday. We enjoyed an amazing tour.



My 68th birthday on 8/ 26. Choir shepherds & Benjie on 9/19. A Democratic Party fundraiser on 9/29.



We had another storm in early October that leaked into my collection studio. Had the roof been fixed in a timely fashion, this additional damage wouldn't have happened. Wayne and Eileen were in town so we had supper with them on Oct 6.



Smoot's sister Suzanne and cousin Marti came to town after a visit to family in Utah and viewing the Grand Canyon. Marti's fellow grandmother, Patty joined us for lunch on Nov 3. We had another fun lunch with Billye, Sandy, Ellie, Julie and Marshal at the Beatitudes on Nov 11 after a good election. Smoot smoked another turkey for the Thanksgiving potluck at UUCP on Nov 22.



We flew to Orlando Dec 8-12 to go to Universal's Wizarding World of Harry Potter. It was great fun as was the rest of Universal Studios. We got to see my Star Wars buddy, Sharon. Then on to New Orleans Dec 12-15 where we got to see our niece Holly and her school and the moving WWII Museum.



Smoot got to have brunch with Linda & Gary and Joan & Eric on the 16th. I was sick but recovered enough to enjoy our fun monthly lunch with Julie & Marshal on the 17th, with Xmas decoration. On the 18th we went to the Paw Placement holiday party with Exec Dir Megan and Cat Director Tommie.



On the 19th we went to Paula & Stan's holiday party, two days after the sad death of her uncle and our minister emeritus Ray Manker. That evening we thanked our choir director, Benjie, Heather our interim pianist replacing our regular accompanist Mary, and Susan our music librarian for their hard work to make our UUCP choir as good as we can be. On the 21st we had holiday fun with Bob & Lee.



Twenty five folks from UUCP went caroling on Dec 22. That evening we went to a party at Vince and Kathleen's. I took a picture of her with Lucienne's painting that we had given them. We started the year with pictures of Lucienne and her art and have another at the end. Smoot and I sang with our impressive choir and orchestra at the late Christmas eve service at UUCP on Dec 24.



We had a low-key Christmas. My major gift was a new Roomba, to arrive later. Smoot got WWII books and a new windbreaker. I only put up a small tree with changing color led lights.



My Roomba arrived on Fri, Dec 28 and immediately got the cats' attention. That evening we went to the choir holiday party at Bill & Joan's. Brad and Smoot spent the evening in deep conversation! On Sun, Dec 30 I finally got to see Linda & Gary after missing them for three Sundays.

Our Pets and Fosters in 2018



We still have our four cats, buff Jack, Maine Coon Bobbie, orange Rocky and black Bagheera. Bobbie has changed the hierarchy since he's bigger and tougher than Jack, the former top cat. Little by little Bobbie has laid claim to the best spots including sleeping on our bed! On Dec 24 the cats got a new tree. Rocky was the first to lay claim to it. I took pictures of our cats and current foster, Layla in their holiday collars on the 25th. They didn't like it but it made for a cute montage.



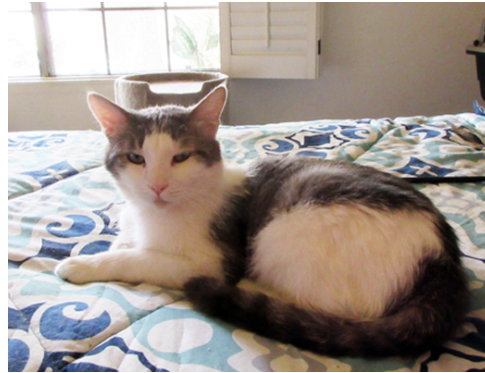
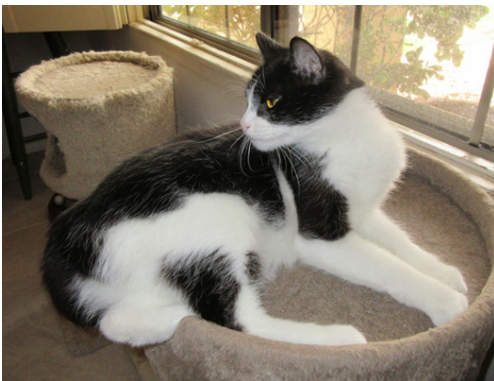
I have seven Red-eared Slider turtles in my outdoor pond. I'm down to two babies in my indoor pond, aka bathtub. And after my Mollies died I'm down to only two catfish in my fish tank.



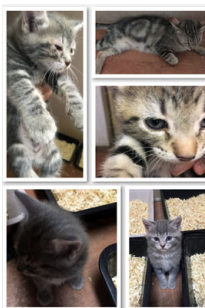
I started the year with Paw Placement foster Simone. She was found in a cemetery. I had her for a little over a month. I got Kiki on Feb 10. She was unusual because I was really more cat-sitting her, waiting for her owner, a previous PP volunteer, to come back from overseas. I had Kiki for over two months. I had beautiful white Portia for only a few days. She was able to be with Kiki.



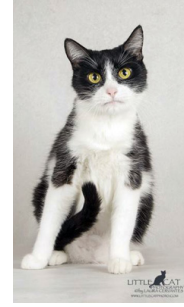
Petey was my shortest foster, less than 24 hours in Mar. I got pregnant Holly on Mar 6, rescued from an Outback restaurant. She was wild and scared, jumping onto the top of the medicine cabinet, shower stall and into the sink. She started giving birth in the sink but I moved her to her birthing box. She had six kittens, Cody, Cricket with cerebellar hypoplasia, Duffy, Frankie, Tinker and Taylor.



Lee had been fostering Layla for several months but I took her when Lee had to fly back to Canada. I had Layla from Apr 24 to May 19 when she went to the center and was later adopted. On the same day, May 19, I got Elmo, a very athletic, playful and solid kitty who was a bit of a challenge. I did another round of cat-sitting when the Quinns needed someone to care for their kitty LucyLu while they moved. I had her from July 18-21. They had adopted her in 2012 from PP.



I got Rose and her four kittens, Dumpling, Ember, Pudding and Strudel and a non-related kitten, Raisin and had them from Jun 12 to July 8. I got orange and white Axl later renamed Waffles on Aug 16. He was with Jacey and Eric, founders of the rescue group HART (Homeless Animal Rescue Group). I got his buddy, Freddy on Aug 20 and took them both into PP's adoption center on Aug 25.



I got regal kitty Celine on Sept 3. She had been dumped at a lady's house who had a lot of dogs. I had her until Oct 16. On Oct 22 I got a returned kitty, Miss Muffet who had been renamed Misty Bleu by her adopter. She was with me until Lee came back from Canada on Nov 14 and took her. On Nov 17, I got Layla back. She too had been returned by a failed adopter. She had been fostered with Lee last year until she left in the spring and now was back again. All but my most recent fosters have gotten homes which I hope will be forever. I hope these will too. They bring my number of fosters since 2010 to 232.