



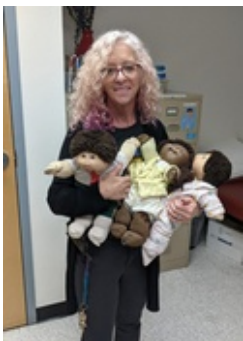
A Photo Review of Our 2025



The year started with bad and good. The bad was that my bronchitis that had started on Christmas eve was lingering and would for several more weeks requiring antibiotics and steroids. The good was the delight that Kenny had on Jan 1 getting the wrapped package of tees Smoot had picked up on the Silverado golf course. On Jan 5 we went to the auction dinner hosted by Jan & Helen. We were to bring 5 photos that represented us and describe them in under 5 minutes. I wrote a script and stayed under the limit.



On Jan 13 we went to see the Screencrush live show at House of Comedy at Desert Ridge. Ryan Arey was funny as was his co-host Colton Ogburn who we met. He's from Corsicana! On Jan 14 we had lunch with Connie & Richard at Spinatos. We went to lunch with Bonnie & Ed on Jan 19 at New York Pizza but had a flat tire on the way. The new HOA board had their annual meeting on Jan 21 at the Scottsdale Senior Center. The revised CC&RS got adopted and people enjoyed the food & visiting.



Smoot delivered several Cabbage Patch dolls donated by Mary Wilber to Maryland School on Jan 23. That same day we had lunch with Julie & Marshal at BJ's. On Jan 24 Eileen dropped by and we showed her my collection studio. She was amazed of course. Feb 1, Smoot got a new golf bag. He got his Navy bag in 2012. Smoot set up his telescope on Feb 3 to see planetary conjunctions. Lee and her friend Pat joined us for the viewing.



On Feb 4 Julie and her niece Ellen, my doppelganger, came by for a tour of my collection studio before the ladies had lunch at Luci's. Smoot & I went to dinner that night with Joan & Eric at the Blue Coyote in Talking Stick. On Feb 8 we took birthday gifts to Ginny before driving her to Jean Lawton's memorial.



Because Jean had been in the choir for so many years we sang at her Feb 8 memorial and Smoot spoke.



Smoot used his garage creeper when he installed new shocks on his truck on Feb 10. On Feb 14 we joined Linda, Joan, & Eric at Butterfield's for breakfast. On Feb 15, we had lunch with Julie & Marshal at the Vig on Bell Road. On Feb 22, we had lunch at the Cheesecake Factory with Linda, Gary, Joan & Eric. Our waitress joined the photo!

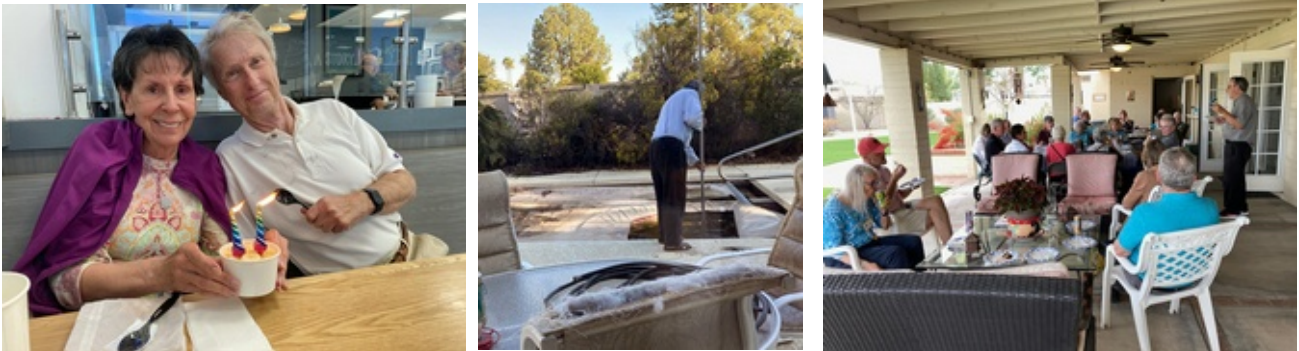


On Feb 23 we attended the major donors event at UUCP. Mike and his team provided the food and Benjie the entertainment. After testing positive for a UTI on Mar 3 I had an appointment with Dr

Crepper for my ongoing cough and got another round of steroids and another antibiotic which I finished on Mar 15. I had an X-ray at Simonmed on Mar 6 but luckily didn't have pneumonia.



On Mar 12 we joined John & Mary Wilber at Westminster for pizza and a tour including the resident Sulcata tortoise Bruno. On Mar 13 we watched the lunar eclipse. Mar 15 we attended Bill & Joan's 26th anniversary party. On Mar 18 we had supper with Joan & Eric at 16th St Babbos. On Mar 20 we got the sad news that Brenda Bickett had died on Mar 10.



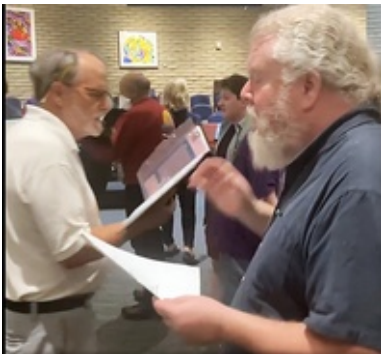
On Mar 20 we had lunch at De Babel with Julie & Marshal to celebrate their two March birthdays. Little did we know this would be my last photo of Marshal. Later on the 20th Smoot started taking apart the long non-working pool cover. On Mar 23 we attended the UFP Chalice Keepers gathering at Bonnie & Ed's. Smoot gave his president's report on the status of the Foundation.



On Mar 25, we had dinner with Lee and Bob, a gourmet meal! On Mar 26th Emrys came by to pick up material relating to the UU camp SAWUURA that had been collected by Audrey Mowson at Friendship Village and ended up with me. We had to show him my collections and let him play with my lightsaber! On Mar 30 we attended Taylisse's concert and helped create the reception for it at UUCP. On Apr 4 we had dinner with Toni and Simon. We got to see the extensive renovations they had made to their house serenaded by a Star Wars soundtrack. Very impressive! On Apr 5, Smoot found a dried out and broken plastron from an adult RES. It must have been one of the daughters who escaped the pond, probably in 2016 and got caught in the pool cover well.



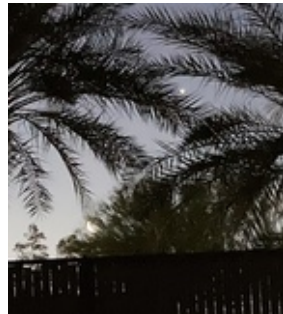
On a happier note, also on Apr 5 we went to the auction adult ice cream social that Joan & Bill hosted. Yummy. On Apr 6 the UU Foundation of Phoenix hosted the annual picnic at UUCP. Smoot and other board members made sure everything went smoothly. On Apr 9 we had lunch at Olive & Ivy with UT development officers Ta-Lung Lin and Dean Curran to talk about our scholarship plans.



Singer/songwriter Joe Jencks was a guest preacher at UUCP on Apr 6 & 13. On Apr 9 he joined us at choir practice and the choir sang with him at the service on Apr 13.



A dramatic moon from our front yard on Apr 14. It was supposed to be pink but looked more white. We had lunch with J&M at Cooper's Hawk on Apr 18. We had Easter brunch at The Parlay Kitchen in Scottsdale with Joan & Eric on Apr 20. We decided to match the Rea's and had Nick and his people put in our landscape lights by the driveway on Apr 22.



I agreed to plant-sit for Lee but they had to go in my collection studio so Griz wouldn't eat them! A planetary conjunction makes what looks like a face in the sky on Apr 25. We attended the service at UUCP on Apr 27. We had no idea that would be the last time we saw Marshal. He died on May 1 at

Mayo. That same day we attended the volunteers reception at Maryland School. Smoot was recognized as both a tutor and a donor of a substantial gift. Photo with teachers Tony Smith & Kalia Kraushaar.



May 3 was Free Comic Book Day. We got to meet Strangers in Paradise artist Terry Moore at Fantastic World Comics. After that we took a Subway lunch to Julie & Bonnie. On May 4 we went to the Orpheus Men's Choir Spring concert with Joan & Eric then went to Cheesecake Factory for supper. On May 11 we had ice cream with Joan & Bill at Sweet Provisions. We sat in Joan's new Hundai Ionic electric car with the AC on!



On May 15 we attended the Maryland School Spring Concert. Some of the students used instruments that our donation had paid to have refurbished. Smoot fixed the water soaked wooden flooring under the fish tank on May 17. He attended the going away party for Danny Doyle on May 18.



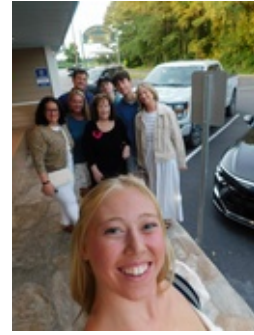
On May 22 we had lunch with Carolyn & Brad at Wildflower. On May 24 we had lunch with Julie at Streets of New York. She tried to use one of Marshal's many gift cards. On May 28 Smoot gave a tour of the architectural model of UUCP's Master Plan to Benjie and his videographer Josh. Josh was to make a video showing and describing the model with Smoot's additional narration. We insisted the model be saved and moved to UUCP's Archive and later moved the large base to our house for safe-keeping. On June 8 Smoot gave the UUFPP report at the UUCP Congregational Meeting. His legitimate concerns and questions about congregational finances got him in trouble with the leadership which led to his resignation as UUFPP president.



On Jun 11 we had supper at Manuel's with Joan & Bill and on Jun 12 we had lunch at the Authentic EthioAfrican Ethiopian restaurant with Julie. On June 13 we packed our 3 cats in the car for their trip to the vet for their annual check-ups. Dr. Remen and his staff are so good with our fur babies. The next day, Jun 14 we took part in the Flag Day/No Kings protest and met Joan & Bill and Gary E there. On the way home from the protest we got a call from Ben telling us that his dad, Billy Beall had died the previous day. Another death of someone close to us. On Jun 17 we had supper with Joan & Eric at Voila French Bistro on Via Linda.



Our nearby Denny's closed so no free breakfast on Smoot's 75th birthday on Jun 20 but he did get his free Red Robin burger for lunch. Later in the afternoon we had a visit from Joan who played with Rocky and Griz and visited. That evening there was cake and gifts. 75 – three quarters of a century!



On a sadder note, also on Jun 20 Billy's funeral was held in Federalsburg, MD. We didn't have our Travel IDs yet so couldn't fly there to take part but Madeline was surrounded by family and friends.



On June 22 Smoot went to the Humanist Society to hear ASU prof Dr. Gary Marchant speak on AI. On Jun 27 Julie and we had a tour of Ginny's home and then went with her and Ger to the English Rose Tea Room in Carefree for High Tea. On the evening of July 2 our AC stopped working. We spent a

warm night sleeping until it got fixed the next morning. We had two offers of places to stay that had AC, from Ann E and Connie. Back when our AC went out before we moved into my collection studio but it's now too full to open the futon. Because of our long connection to LJ Refrigeration someone came out that next morning and fixed the problem, a blown capacitor. On July 4 there were our traditional flags & milkshakes at Red Robin with Bill, Joan, Julie & Dale.



On July 10 Smoot rented a trailer and Mike helped him move the model base from UUCP to our front porch. It was too wide to fit through any of our doors. On July 18 Smoot went to a Democratic Party event with Kate Gallego in Phoenix. On July 22 we had our home health visit from United Healthcare w/ Anthony S. We both had good results even though starting in mid July I had been feeling ill off and on. I had blood tests run but no diagnosis.



Even though I was running a fever and felt weak I insisted on our going to the Scottsdale Philharmonic concert in which Connie and Dennis were playing on July 24 at All Saints Lutheran. David, Karin and Uli were there too. Dennis said he enjoyed my Facebook postings about my turtles! On July 25 we had lunch with Julie at the Parlay Kitchen & afterward expensive ice cream. On July 29 we had dinner with Joan & Eric at Mediterranean Kitchen, 67th Ave, Babbo's was closed for construction. On July 31 Josh Montag interviewed Smoot about the UUCP model.



From July 31 to Aug 2 I worked on Becca's 50th history. Early on the morning of Aug 3 I woke feeling cold and with uncontrollable shivering, like my previous bout of Rigors but worse. It was so bad Smoot insisted that I go to the Emergency Room at HonorHealth Shea, luckily not far from us. The photo shows the nurses using ultrasound trying to find a vein for an IV. They tried both arms. My teeth were chattering so hard that I asked for a plastic straw to bite down on to keep from chipping a tooth. They gave me Ativan which calmed my shivering but they couldn't figure out what was happening. In the ER a male nurse said you don't look like someone experiencing withdrawal from alcohol or drugs. I

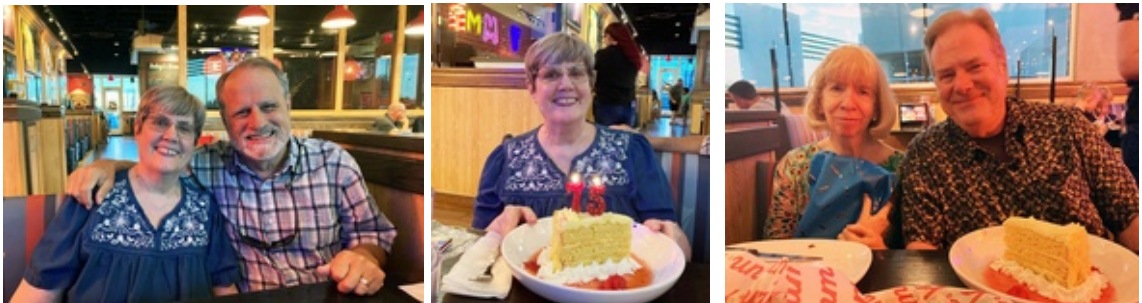
told him I was not! They did an X-ray to see if it was pneumonia. They did blood work to see if I had a UTI. I was admitted to the hospital, had a CAT scan and that confirmed a diagnosis, another and worse bout of diverticulitis. I'd hoped to be released the next day, Aug 4, our 52nd anniversary, but my blood tests results weren't yet right. On Monday, Smoot brought me roses as he usually does for our anniversary. Smoot had meals with me and stayed all day but went home in the evening to feed the cats and sleep. It was not a restful time for me with a tube in my arm and a gown that seemed velcroed to the bed sheets making it hard to move. But the staff were very kind and helpful. I had to call for them when I had to go to the bathroom or an alarm would sound that could wake the dead. Seemingly that's because of fear of falling. I was released on Tues, Aug 5 and glad to be home and in my own bed. I had been filled with antibiotics but still had 10 days of pills when I got home. At an after-hospital visit with Dr. Crever he said I might have gotten dehydrated working on my project and that precipitated the attack. I'm now much better at drinking water if not the full two liters a day he recommended.



On Aug 13 there was a conjunction of Venus and Jupiter. I got a photo from our backyard. I got an early birthday present when Mary from Fry's called to ask if I wanted the Star Wars Coca-Cola display I'd put my name in for. Even though I've had to stop collecting I couldn't pass it up and got it on Aug 21. Later that day we had a chicken soup lunch with Julie at her house. She had a birthday cake for me! I got still another early birthday present when the cat stroller I'd asked for arrived and Smoot put together for me.



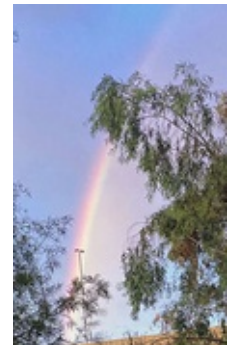
My celebrating continued on Aug 24 with lunch with Bill & Joan at Bootleggers. I had a piece of butter cake but they didn't have any candles. On Aug 25 a Haboob hit the Valley but luckily not us.



On my actual 75th birthday, Aug 26 there was no free Denny's breakfast or Schlotzsky's lunch but I did get my free burger at Red Robin with Joan & Eric. But first I had them take a picture of us as a much delayed 52nd anniversary photo. Then it was time for burger and cake.



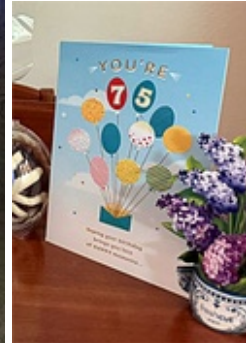
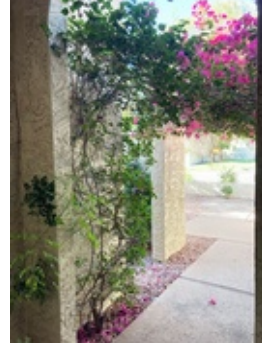
The came over to our place afterward to continue our visit and play with our cats. After they left it was time for my traditional photo with gifts and cards.



On Aug 27 I brought cake to our first choir practice of the fall to celebrate the summer birthdays. On Aug 28 we had lunch with Carolyn & Brad at Wildflower. On Sept 1 there was a beautiful rainbow visible from our back yard.



It was a double rainbow! And on Sept 7 and 10 there was an impressive moon.



On Sept 11 our landscaper Nick and his son got to see my studio. Our bougainvilleas in full bloom on the 13th. We helped Jency celebrate her 75th on Sept 18 with a stick-on number card and paper flowers.



On Oct 1 we saw engineer comedian Don McMillan with Joan & Bill at Stand Up Live in Phoenix. It was fun but noisy and hard to hear and see him. Members of the choir, past and present sang at Ellie Murphy's memorial service on Oct 11.



Joanne, Charlotte and Ginny lined up like we used to be in choir. I had found a lot of photos of Ellie for her video. We had suggested there be a reception and brought a fruit tray for it.



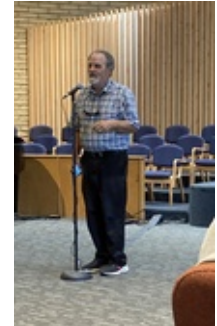
On Oct 12 we attended Dale W's retirement party and afterward saw Smoot's flooded golf course after all our rain.



Smoot changed our pool filter from 500 pounds of sand to bags of fluff balls.



On Oct 17 we had lunch with Julie at the General Store. On Oct 18 we attended the No Kings Protest on Camelback with Bill and that evening had a Mexican supper with John and Mary



Oct 24 Nick and sons came to clean up back yard which had gotten really overgrown. On Oct 25 we attended Marshal's very moving and well attended memorial service. Smoot was one of the speakers.



On Oct 26 I had a display at UUCP's Shared Ministry Day representing the Archive and History. Our backyard after the landscapers finished cleaning it up.



Choir members came in costume at the practice on Oct 29. We had a delicious dinner at Mike and Cindy's on Oct 30. As part of our backyard clean-up, Smoot discovered on Nov 3 that we had stepping stones leading back to our swimming pool machinery. We hadn't realize all of them were there. On Nov 4 we had dinner at the north Babbo's with Joan & Eric.



On Nov 5 we got cuttings from Lee & Bob and later planted them in our newly cleaned up back yard.



On Nov 7 we had dinner at Olive & Ivy with Julie and then went to the Scottsdale Canal Convergence where Benjie's Bad Cactus Brass Band was playing. There were amazing displays.



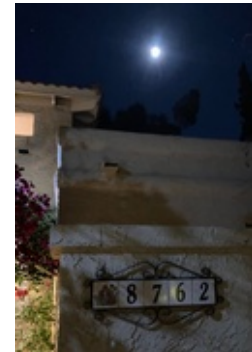
On Nov 17 the Truly Nolan guys came by and I showed the new guy my collections. On Nov 21 we went to Tish Gauntt's memorial. I had found the photos of her for her video. After the service we went to dinner with Bill & Joan at Blanco's at the former PV Mall. Our bougainvillea was even fluffier.



On Nov 23 I attended the Mayflower Society meeting/luncheon with Janet and her sister Barb. The speaker gave an interesting talk on several of the Mayflower passengers, none of my 12 ancestors. There was a beautiful centerpiece. We met John Knox with Humana on Nov 26.



We had a delicious Thanksgiving feast with Joan & Eric at her place on Nov 27. In addition to plants Bob & Lee gave us their used bench. On Nov 28 we discovered the cushion they'd given us years ago fit it and then we went to see Zootopia 2 at Harkins forgetting it was Black Friday. It was a fun movie but chaos at the mall.



On Dec 3 we had breakfast with To-Lung Lin and Dean Curran from UT. We talked about what was going on on campus and whether UT was giving in to Trump's ultimatum. On Dec 4 Smoot went on the Maryland School field trip to the Science Museum. The kids he tutors asked him to come. That night was the last supermoon of the year.



On Dec 5 we put up and turned on our holiday lights. They're pretty but minimalist compared to our Canadian neighbors! On Dec 6 we went to the Orpheus Holiday Concert with Julie and were surprised to see Simon had joined the chorus. Then we had a fancy dinner at Italiano's.





We had gotten an invitation to attend Governor Katie Hobbs' Holiday Party on Dec 11. We got our picture taken with the governor in our holiday finery. We were in different holiday attire for caroling at UUCP on Dec 13.



At my suggestion Benjie set up a Zoom call for those members we couldn't visit in person. Nineteen people gathered to go visiting and singing using the caroling books I'd made 19 years ago. Smoot and I were especially moved when 102 year old Elaine Warner asked specifically to see Smoot.



Elaine called me over too and remembered that I was a collector like she is. On Dec 14 we had brunch with Joan & Bill. We started work on the stockings for Maryland School on Dec 15.



We finished them on the 17th. We had our holiday get-together with Lee & Bob on Dec 18. On Dec 19 we delivered the 120 stockings to the two 4th grade & two 5th grade classes he tutors for at Maryland School, a majority minority school in Phoenix. There are 22 languages spoken there.

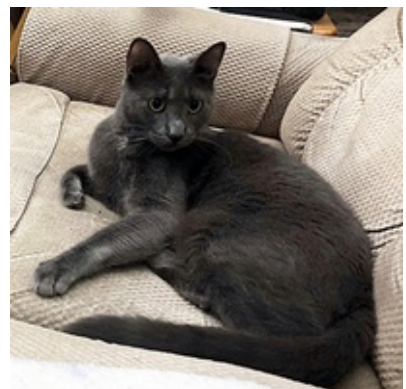
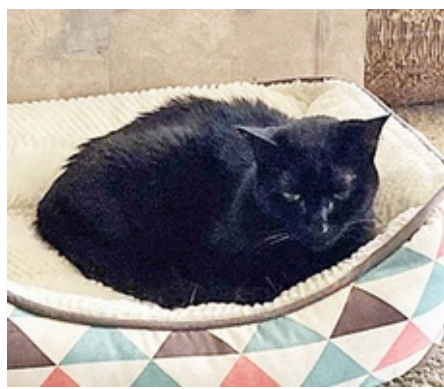


I sang in our UUCP choir on Christmas eve. Our members/friends orchestra was made up of players aged 8-80!



On Christmas we wore our colorful holiday sweaters that Catherine & Gayle gave us years ago but we had to take them off after the picture because they were too hot. We had unusually warm weather in Dec. We went to Christmas brunch at a Jewish delicatessen with Joan & Bill. On New Year's Eve we went to the last minute gathering at UUCP. Rachel & Asher had a table full of goodies. We brought cookies. A nice way to end a crazy year.

Our Pets and Foster



Orange and white Rocky and black Shadow were both born in 2011 so are 14 years old. We fostered and adopted them, Rocky in May 2011 and Shadow in June 2020. Gray Griz was estimated to be 1 ½ years old when we fostered him in 2021 so was born in 2019 making him now 5 ½ years old. We fostered him twice and adopted him in May 2022.



Our neighbors, Bob & Lee left to return to Canada on Apr 24. Little did we know we'd end up with their cat Gracie 2.0 originally Paw Placement's Meadow. She refused to go in the airplane-approved carrier the day they were to leave. When Lee came to our door bleeding and bitten, we said we'd take the kitty to foster. We have had her since that day. She is the 322nd cat I've fostered for Paw Placement since 2010. After Lady Turtle's tragic death in 2024 we were left with four Red Eared Sliders, Mr. Turtle and three of his daughters, Shelly, Flipper and DG for Daddy's Girl.



Our fish tank developed what we thought was a leak in May so we took it apart to check, clean and fix. It turned out the filter was overflowing but our hard work made the tank look a lot better. We also discovered that in addition to the two Gold Fish we had a tiny Plecostomus, Smoot named Squirt!