

Dear Friends and Loved Ones,

It's letter time, and because we have mostly completed our move, we actually have time to write. Writing has become increasingly important to keep in touch with friends, at least those who are still with us. The trouble with being healthy is outlasting friends and loved ones. Then there is the alternative...unhealthy?

We're doing our best to stay out of the hospital and the cemetery. Dave had both knees replaced early this year as out-patient procedures, and he has just finished 39 radiation treatments for prostate cancer, so pretty soon now we can return to healthy living and hiking. We are noticing, however, that the older we get, the more we must exercise just to stay even. Dave walks 3 times a week, and does knee rehab while Judy recently increased ballet to 3 days a week plus 2 pointe classes a week, plus 3-5 Jazzercise classes with Dave. She's giving yoga a pass, and contemplating Pilates. Docenting halted with the knee operations. We're looking forward to leading Earthquake Walks and Trail Patrol next year.

Dave is fascinated with a couple of consulting projects plus his own research. Judy still does Critical Incident Response to nearby companies, if it doesn't interfere with ballet, sees the occasional client in office, and volunteers with the Red Cross on local disasters (no national disasters these days). We journeyed to Seattle so that Dave could receive the Reid medal, the highest award of the Seismological Society of America. Retirement doesn't seem to have "taken" for either of us.

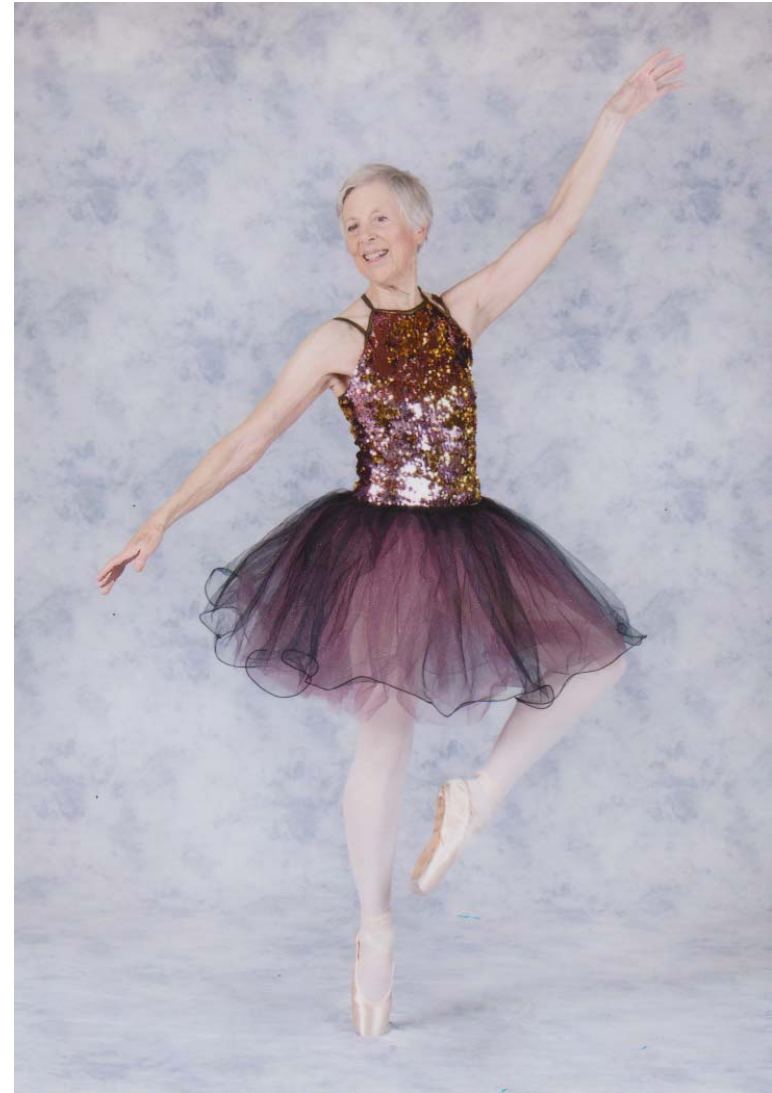
The backyard cottage, which took more than 4 years to realize, is now our home, and we are enjoying it immensely. It is light and airy, and has a similar but separate studio for activities and guests. We spent 6 weeks camping on the patio of the main house, to the delight of the grandkids who liked to come out in the mornings and climb in bed with us. We especially like being close to kids (son Jeff and Victoria) and grandsons (ages 5, 3 and 3). School is a block away, so we assist with transportation occasionally as well as all the little emergencies, birthdays and holidays. Dropping in for a chat with Jeff and Victoria is now doable and enjoyable especially now that we need to coordinate herding the kids. Daughter Stacy and Sal have just acquired a new house in San Diego, so we recently made the first of, hopefully, many trips to assist with remodeling. We have been unsuccessful at persuading them to move north.

We see friends in the monthly Supper Club and Book Group, the biweekly Wednesday Group and the any-other-excuse group. We have taken to seeing live ballet in The City and Bolshoi movie productions locally, not to mention Judy dancing in cancer fund-raisers and her school recital. Few trips except one Dave took to Idaho for work. Dave still plays the guitar, but less frequently as arthritis has demanded he re-finger chords. Some pieces simply are not re-workable. We're crowding more trees into less yard, anticipating building owl boxes (Screech and Barn Owls), and hoping the quail will find new nesting grounds in the remaining bushes. Coyotes visit as do racoons and possums. Haven't smelled any skunks in a long while, but the bunnies and gophers are having a population explosion. Where are the hawks when we need them? The wise mountain lions stay hidden. I hope to grow sweet peas and a rose on a trellis hiding the new compost bin, but I fear the bunnies will nix that. If not the bunnies, then the crows. Something has already sliced the rose in half.

We are blessed with a 54 year marriage that still enriches us daily. May you all be so wealthy. And may we enjoy your company in the near future.



Dave, Judy, and Stacy starting up “Granite Peak” across the creek from our cabin (pic was taken a few years ago, but we have no other recent pictures of Stacy).



Judy in a costume for one of her dances at this years recitals (note that she is en pointe!)



Jeff with the twins (Andrew and Julian) outside Jeff's workplace (Electronic Arts). The twins were intimidated by the stormtroopers when this picture was taken, but soon after they said "bye bye stormtroopers!" And waved. That made everyone around chuckle, even the stormtroopers.



Dave and Judy with Dave's colleague Gail Atkinson at the awards luncheon in Seattle (Gail wrote and read the citation for Dave's Reid Medal)



View toward the studio from the kitchen area in our new cottage