

Greetings, all!

It's been a rich year for Julia and me, and we hope it has been for you as well.

Early in the year, we got a new sofa. This was a big thing for us, to lay out money like that. But the old one, which we'd dubbed the BSS (*butt sucking sofa*), was starting to spring wires in odd places. The new one is quite comfy.

Our next big adventure was a trip to Phoenix for a regional Mensa gathering. As I wrote in my journal:

'The trip that I didn't know I needed to take', that's what this was. I wasn't even excited about it. I'd looked up the museums in Phoenix, read the schedule of events at the Mensa gathering, and felt 'ho-hum'. However, pretty early on, I got the idea this trip is what I really needed, for lots of reasons.

The visit to the Phoenix Art Museum touched places of an old memory. As Julia and I looked at the tiny, but exquisitely detailed Thorne miniature rooms, I remembered the time Laura took me to see these rooms twenty years ago. A different 'me' saw those rooms, for this time I was more attentive to all the details.

Not only did I enjoy looking at art, I created lots of art this year, some of which I like a lot:

New Sofa:



Artwork:



In August, I bought a new camera:

Canon Powershot S2 IS:



Orlando!



Why the new camera? Besides frustrations with only 640x480 size, I wanted to better capture the sights in Orlando. In August, Julia and I went to the International Mensa gathering there. (*I'm not a member, but am pleased to enjoy the activities with Julia, who is.*) That was an amazing experience, so many stimulating things, and not just intellectual things. For of course, we saw Disney World.

One of my favorite pictures from that trip is this one of Julia in the Animal Kingdom, having fun on a bongo drum:



Later, I got to see some of the sights in Seattle, including that famous Space Needle. I even went up in it, which was exhilarating. So exhilarating, those in my group heard me howl during the elevator's rapid ascent!



Looking upwards, balloons in Yuma...

Our group also went on a tour of Pioneer Square and the Underground areas. Our tour guide spiced it up with much humor. We all laughed often, enjoying ourselves tremendously.

But Julia and I don't always have to go far away to find adventure. Sometimes there's interesting things to do right here in Yuma. The sixteenth Annual Colorado River Balloon Crossing proved a photo opportunity, as well. I try to give that camera a good workout.

The following picture was taken at Julia's employee Christmas dinner last year. Again, she received honors this year, this time for "demonstrating outstanding service and exemplary performance". She just humbly says, "*I do what I do.*"



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We wish you good luck and much happiness in the year to come!