

## Christmas 2018

I retired! June 30, 2018 was my last day. After a few weeks at home, I left by train going north to Washington DC and then west to Seattle Washington!



In St Paul, Minnesota I got off the train for two weeks spent seeing friends, relatives and doing genealogy research! I had a wonderful overnight trip to Duluth, MN with my nieces, Candy and Stacey; they rock!



My nephew, Scott, helped me surprise his mom, Annie, in Washington State! I spent a few days with Annie, my two nephews and their families and we made some wonderful memories together! I'll be back! I was gone from home almost a month and it was a wonderful trip, I met lots of people, learned lots of new things and it was a great way to start my retirement.

In 2019, I am planning several shorter trips for genealogy research to places like Taunton, MA, Grand Isle, VT and Salt Lake City, UT. I also intend to see my nieces and nephew I didn't get to see this past year and to spend some time with my brothers, aunts/uncles and my cousins. I may need to get another lavender fix also....

I didn't send out a 2017 newsletter. In May 2017, my mother, Ethel, died. She was 89 years old. The following November, my brother, Reagan died after a long hard illness.



I had some losses with my pets also. My b/g macaw, Seymour Butts, died unexpectedly while I was in Minnesota seeing my mother in the nursing home. Seymour was 19 years old. I still have my other two parrots, Scarlett and Skye Walker Jones. My dog, Emma, I had for five years, was rehomed by me when it was obvious, she could not live in the same house with Sissy. Sissy would not have survived being rehomed or living with Emma. Emma is now living in Palm Coast, FL with a senior male German Shepherd twice her weight. She keeps him in line and he loves her. We go to Palm Coast to visit Emma and Nicki. Emma handled being rehomed well and I don't cry about it anymore (not much anyhow).

### Back to 2018!

Belle, our handicapped Black/Tan German Shepherd, was featured in a social media video promoting "Pets for Patriots" by Stainmaster! The piece was filmed in our home, released in time for July 4th and it was quite the experience! You can view the video on my website: [SuzanneReinhardtJones.com](http://SuzanneReinhardtJones.com) Have a tissue handy!



Sissy, our Australian Shepherd, has been with us two years now and she has finally realized this is her forever home (she is 9 yrs. old)! Sissy knows we are her people! She has come a long way and is being a more normal, loving dog! She had spent her previous life locked in a cage producing puppies. Sissy had major dental work done last week resolving painful mouth issues that started when she was 2 years old. She will now have a pain free mouth for the rest of her life. How sweet is that! We love the wiggle she has in her walk! It is so darn cute!

Carl called his cat, Cat. I called her Kitty. This year she got her wings. Cat was about 12 years old and she was Belle's best buddy. No one leaves cat fur in my shower anymore or steals my rubber bands. Carl misses her a lot.



We celebrated our wedding anniversary and Carl's 71<sup>st</sup> birthday in Apalachicola, FL at the end of August at a cabin with Carl's best friend, Ed, and his wife, Carol. During Carl's military service, he had been stationed in this area for a time. It was fun for him to visit places from his past and tell us stories. We ate wonderful seafood all week! We had a great time together! Not long after we went home, the area was hit hard by Hurricane Michael and many places we visited were destroyed. It was very personal to us to hear what that area went through and the aftermath.



This year we had a Christmas celebration with several members of our family! We ate taco's, drank margaritas, opened gifts and laughed a lot! The adult table was reserved for people over 50 to eat their taco's. Jamie, our daughter, had to sit at the kids table. Next year, she will be old enough to make the 50 and over cut! We feel very blessed to have spent this time together with our 3 generations of kids, Rick and Terri (Carl's brother) and our friend, Jeannie!

The retired life is very busy for me! I am not sure how I had fit working into my life. Carl and I enjoy being home together and I am working on improving my skills for loading the dishwasher correctly! It is not always smooth sailing, but we are thankful to have had all these bonus years together and this time now when I am retired! Carl is a long way past his expected expiration date! His doctor calls Carl his miracle and hugs him when he comes in for appointments! Carl's transplanted kidney is expected to outlast him. It has been such a wonderful gift of life! Carl is doing okay overall but his age and medical history are slowing him down. He continues to enjoy talking to people and telling stories and he loves spending time with our great grandson, Tyler (9 yrs.). He loves our dogs and they make him happy!

I am working on my family tree and loving it! I have many landscaping projects in process also. I stay in contact with my work family and have lunch dates with them. Life is good!

Blessings! Suzanne & Carl