



The Taylor Times



The Newsletter with "Schmaltz"

Email: myoozik@aol.com
www.artsounds.com

Holiday 2022

Volume 28, Issue 1
Seattle, Washington

WHAT LIES AHEAD?



Found this outside a lavender farm near Lynden

ONE MORE TIME

This is finally (I think, I hope) the last year. The culmination of a long series of days, months and years of sticking it out in the engineering business. For an inordinately long time you've heard my kvetching about it, longing for it, and predicting it. The arrival of the end of a job and the beginning of a career, after only 51 years. To be sure, I've only hated engineering for the last 50 of

them. So what now? Well, it's probably not completely over. With a shortage of designers and several large projects facing deadlines I will probably continue to work on contract part-time for Elcon until we manage to bring these to a close, but at least the official retirement is upon us.

Heard enough about it? Yeah, me too. Let's move on.



Mt Shuksan from the slopes of Mt. Baker

In music, the Ambrosia Fantasy for Piano and Orchestra finally received its debut in May, with John Lee and the Eastside Symphony. Despite the limitations of covid, some perhaps under-preparation, and a few unintended improvisations, the piece came off well. A new orchestral fanfare "From the Ashes" was completed early in the year, but since it was intended to signal the emergence from the covid pandemic that never happened, it sat until fall when it was at least read in rehearsal. This actually turned into something of a celebration for the resistance by Ukrainian fighters in their struggle for survival against the Russian bear, so at least it has a purpose. Scheduled performance remains to be seen. Also completed early in 2022, and also a result of the war in Ukraine, is the Elegy (for the victims of war), another piece for orchestra. Balance of Power, an overture for concert band, has also been declared complete and will soon be looking for a performance. And the first movement of a Piano Sonata was completed before I found myself having to put all my concentration into editing and formatting music for performance and publishing. I have a large pile that still needs a lot of work.

While we did manage to take one pleasant trip to Birch Bay this summer, Worldmark timeshare has become something of a headache. I knew a couple years ago that we really had too many points and not enough time to use them, but deceptive sales people hoodwinked me and I got stuck with them anyway. In late spring I started looking at the burden of points we had and the time in which we had to use them. I scheduled vacations, now without major concern for a lack of vacation time, and put together a string that included another visit to Long Beach, WA (where I cannot un-think what happened to us there last year), and three more to locales in Washington and Oregon. But there are still some points remaining that will have to be assigned by June.

For Donna this year has proven to be a huge struggle. After losing her father early in 2021 she learned in September, of the death of her nephew who was only 39, followed by her mother's passing just before her 90th birthday in October. Between the emotional and legal battles there does not seem to be much time to relax. She's also had a couple of falls this year that have been keeping her in pain



Birch Bay at low tide

and under scrutiny of the MRI machine. We're looking forward to some relief from that as well.

Despite all, we try to remain positive, difficult as it may be, and look forward to a new year with new stories.



Some cool fridge magnets we found in a Birch Bay shop



As stories would have it, aloe vera rarely flowers when grown indoors. A number of years ago I put LED shop lights on the frame where we have quite a few plants. The aloe is among them. The plants love them. It totally blew us away when this baby started stretching across the frame. Don't know if it will happen again but it was quite the sight to behold.



Sunset over Birch Bay

Doonesbury by Garry Trudeau



Keep having those healthy, **HAPPY NEW YEARS!**

Jeff and Donna