



Dear friends and family,

As another year approaches, I send greetings and this look back at my year, since I'm such a poor correspondent.

One of the highlights of my year was a spur-of-the-moment Labor Day weekend trip to the Bay Area with my friend Ken to visit mutual Seattle friend Daniel (in San Jose on an internship). We had a terrific time, with Daniel putting many miles on his car, literally speeding us around so we could get to do all our favorite things.

In San Francisco, we trekked around Golden Gate Park; visited Grace Cathedral; attended a cadaver exhibit; took in "Beach Blanket Babylon"; absorbed the view from Coit Tower; and hung out in the Castro with my friend Michael. A glorious, slower day was spent at San Gregorio Beach with Sephy, a Seattle friend now living in Santa Cruz, where we adjourned to for a Mexican dinner. Our last day was spent in Marin County: after lunch in lovely Sausalito, we enjoyed the breathtaking view of the Bay and the City from the top of Mt. Tam, and a heart-stopping drive along narrow, twisting, scenic forest and coastal roads.



Another highlight was hosting an hour-long radio show spotlighting contemporary Israeli music, produced by a friend at a community radio station, and broadcast on Mother's Day. I had a great time choosing and researching the songs, and writing and recording the script. If you're interested, the show can be heard (in 5 segments) at www.putfile.com/risaac, or downloaded at www.tinyurl.com/ajgz6 (one segment). I hope to do another show in the coming year; the iBook I got in October should make it much easier to choose from among the 2500 songs I have loaded into iTunes.



In August, my friend Blair and I took a brief but full trip to one of my favorite cities, Vancouver. We spent an afternoon at Wreck Beach; ate and shopped in Chinatown; attended the gay film festival; rode bikes around the perimeter of Stanley Park (a beautiful rainforest on the edge of downtown with views of the city,



mountains and ocean); and made a final stop at a gelato store featuring 208 flavors (from balsamic vinegar to garlic to lavender to blackberry jalapeño)! In addition, I was took some other day trips: Snoqualmie Pass (February) to hike in the snow; Bloedel Reserve (August), a 150-acre private wildlife sanctuary with woods, meadows and gardens; the Scottish Highland Games (July), a cultural festival in the shadow of Mt. Rainier; and a few trips to the gay campground in North Cascades.



Mom, who turns 81 in December, has been doing pretty well, except for a terribly difficult October, which included her getting dentures and shortly thereafter landing in the hospital for a few days due to low sodium. It took weeks for her to recover much of her former strength, and to adjust to the dentures, but lately she's much improved and in good spirits. John, a family friend who works for Mom five afternoons a week, continues to be a godsend, both a helpmeet and companion. Mom is also fond of a number of her homecare workers. She continues to attend her Crones discussion group on occasion, and is tackling a Harry Potter book, despite her poor eyesight. In the spring, we had a nice outing to see the vast tulip fields north of Seattle, and she's been giving some thought to a tropical vacation.



As usual, I volunteered for both the Seattle International Film Festival (May) and the Lesbian & Gay Film Festival (October), mostly doing copy editing and proofreading. For writing film blurbs for SIFF, I received a contributing writer credit, and for my work for SLGFF, I was given a full pass, which I made good use of by seeing 14 films in 10 days. A fun part SLGFF was being an extra in the festival trailer (look for me in the background of the pool hall and bar scenes at www.seattlequeerfilm.com/05/trailer.html). Also, I attended three Israeli concerts and one by a Gnawa singer from Morocco, and went to the annual Indian Powwow in Seattle. My friends' Halloween bash was an opportunity to dress up...



Many summer weekends were taken up with bike riding, mostly with my friend Malka (who lives in Israel but spends each summer here) and other friends. We enjoyed exploring some new trails in the countryside. I also joined the gay biking club but only went on two rides with them – they have a different idea than I do of what a leisurely ride is!

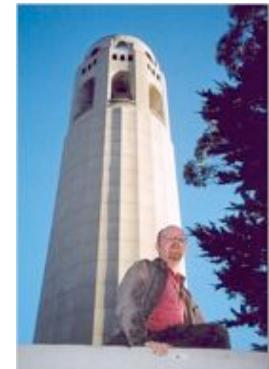


I've completed my eighth year on the board of SEAMEC (www.seamec.org) and am in my second year on the board of Lambert House (www.lamberthouse.org), which is directed by my good friend Ken. I also marked my 15th anniversary at my job at Bastyr University Library.

A year and a half has passed since I moved into my condo. The remodeling is long over, but I did make some new additions to the household – two goldfish.

Now, as the year draws to a close, so does this letter. I wish you all the best for a healthy and happy 2006!

Rich (rmissaac@eskimo.com)



San Gregorio Beach



with Blair in Vancouver



at the Scottish Games



Halloween





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from Rich

