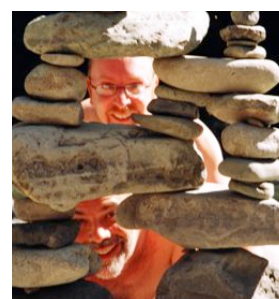




Greetings – Once again, we've reached the time of year when we pause to look back before setting foot in a new year. I've found this year's letter a bittersweet effort, but it also reminds me of the good the year has brought and the promise of the one to come.

The foremost feature of my 2006 was my relationship of over a year with J. Todd, who I met around my birthday last year. You'll see pictures of some of the fun times we had this year: a day trip to the tulip fields in Mt. Vernon, WA; attending a wedding; dressing as conjoined twins for Halloween; camping in the North Cascades... We broke up this month; time will tell how our friendship might develop.

I traveled with Mom (82 as of 12/14) to Pittsburgh for a weekend this month to visit her elder brother Morris, my aunt Jenny, and my cousin Susan (who came from Connecticut to meet us there). Mom and Morris hadn't seen each other for nearly 25 years! It was a nice reunion, but the trip took a lot out of her. In Seattle, Mom continues to have home care, including family friend John, a wonderful support who works for her 5 afternoons a week. While not as active as before, she does have her better days and we still have dinner out each Friday night. She's had a few tumbles this year and she's now in the hospital with bad back/hip pain.



Also this year, I took three weekend trips to beautiful Vancouver, BC: in chilly March with Daniel (who has since moved to the Bay Area); in July for Ken's birthday; and in September with Kent, Cody and Daniel (back for a visit). Best of all were: a bike ride around the perimeter of Stanley Park; Shakespeare in an open-air theatre on the bay; and meandering around Granville Island's art studios, shops and farmer's market.

In September, I collaborated on another hour-long radio show, this one on songs of war and peace from Israel and Lebanon. There is a streaming, non-pausable, non-downloadable file of the show at www.tinyurl.com/y3h76m or you can find audio files (in 13 parts, pausable but non-downloadable) at www.putfile.com/risaac/media (my 2005 show on Israeli music is there too, in 5 parts). I'm happy to provide a CD or a temporary link to a downloadable single file of the show on request.

Other highlights for me this year included: snowshoeing with friends in the Cascades; seeing Jewish reggae star Matisyahu in concert, and Cirque du Soleil (in both Seattle and Vancouver); a summer day trip with Daniel to Bloedel Reserve (www.bloedelreserve.org); Malka's annual summer escape from Israel to Seattle (just a few days after the war started); treating myself to tickets to the touring display of the Dead Sea Scrolls; my first iPod; weekly *Project Runway* viewing parties; attending the monthly Seattle Spelling Bee (for grown-ups), placing 4th of 20 in one; and my friend Julie's recovery from a serious illness. Likewise, I was buoyant about various political developments this year: foremost, the midterm election results, but also the passage of a civil rights law barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment and housing in Washington State (after 29 years of trying).

Work (www.bastyr.edu/library) is OK, but after 16 years, I'm getting more interested in what else is out there. My co-worker Sandra was unfortunately forced out after most of a year of drama related to boss-generated staffing issues. Starting this past quarter, the remaining staff has had to work one evening a week. On the "lighter side," I was forced to spend the night on a couch at work recently when the area was hit by a

snowstorm and icy roads (following a month of record rains). The many others stranded there gave the school a bit of a party atmosphere that night.

Various job applications resulted in my first interview in 16 years, which I thought went well, but I may try to look into other work, such as copy editing, if I can bring myself to make the effort. In the meantime, I've taken on some part-time work keywording stock photographs for www.queerstock.com, which is proving interesting and providing a little supplemental income.

I continue my involvement on the boards of SEAMEC (www.seamec.org) and Lambert House (www.lamberthouse.org) but in a more limited role. I also continue to volunteer for the Seattle International Film Festival and the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, mostly writing and copy editing blurbs, thus earning a full pass to the latter festival (and the referral to the aforementioned keywording job).

There you have it. As always, I welcome your news. You can write me at rmisaac@eskimo.com or rmisaac@gmail.com. I wish you and yours much health

and happiness for the new year, and hope it brings all of us peace.

Rich



**Best Wishes for a
Happy and Healthy 2007!**



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from
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