



2007 has been a year of change for me. First and foremost, [my mother Sylvia](#) passed away on January 7, at 82, after a month in the hospital. It was a great blow, and I miss her.

My **cousin Susan** came from Connecticut, providing invaluable help with the estate (as did friends John and Ken): what to keep, sell, consign, donate, or discard. She and I hosted a [memorial luncheon](#) at one of Mom's favorite restaurants on Elliott Bay in April, attended by friends of the family, Mom's doctors, and her home-care workers, all of whom shared their memories of Mom; the room was decorated with pictures of her over the years and many of her favorite items.

❖ In happier news, I quite enjoyed the first two of my night classes in a [certificate program in editing](#) (words, not film) at the

University of Washington, which will run until early June. I hope that this will give me the credentials to make the switch from my job of 17 years (!) at the Bastyr library into a career in editing—something I've actually been doing on the side for a long time and genuinely enjoy. (Another big change—and long overdue: in September, I finally gave up tobacco, after a love-hate relationship of 27 years. So far, it's going fine, better than I had expected.)

❖ As it turned out, Susan stayed in Seattle until the end of August.

(A selection of pictures from 2007 is [here](#).) We had a chance to **travel** around the area, including a trip to the Museum of Glass in Tacoma with our friend Aaron, and a day trip to Hurricane Ridge and Dungeness Spit on the [Olympic Peninsula](#) with Ken. And it was lucky she was here to help when our friend **John** had a heart attack in July. (He's just fine now: they took a weekend trip in the North Cascades in August.) Alas, my only uncle, Susan's dad, passed away in November—but she was there to help her family, too.

❖ I was able to travel even farther a few times. In November, my friend

Patrick and I went on a whirlwind tour of China, visiting **Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou and Hangzhou**. We were kept busy from dawn to (after) dusk, and we covered a lot of ground, following this pattern: sightsee, shop, eat, repeat. The highlights for me were the **Great Wall** and the Lingyin Temples in Hangzhou (if you see a Buddha on the stamp on this letter, it is a picture I took there). It's an amazing country: booming, bustling, modern, capitalist. It is very apparently an increasingly large force in the world. (My narrated (captioned) photos are at [here \(part 1: Beijing/Great Wall\)](#) and [here \(part 2: Shanghai/Suzhou/](#)

[Hangzhou](#)); my videos are [here](#); my travelogue is [here](#). Enjoy!

❖ In April, I went to **San Francisco** to visit my friend Daniel; we drove down the [California coast](#), stopping along the way to see a friend Sephy in Santa Cruz and to visit the Hearst Castle. In **Los Angeles**, we spent a few days sightseeing (Hollywood, Venice, Rodeo Drive, the Six Feet Under house, and Donut Man!) and visiting with friends; we also took a day trip to San Diego. Driving up the coast again on our return to San Francisco, we lunched on the beach at Santa Barbara, and caught a beautiful Pacific sunset.

❖ In July, Blair and I went camping at the gay **campground** in the North Cascades, where Sephy was living for a month. In late August, I took a weekend jaunt to [Portland](#); I was pleased to discover several interesting neighborhoods and to meet my friends Kent and Cody at Kent's family's property in a wooded suburb. Over Labor Day weekend, I returned to [San Francisco](#) for a long

weekend with Daniel, including a walk over the Golden Gate Bridge—starting out enshrouded in fog and ending in brilliant sunshine. In October, Daniel returned the visit; we had a fun weekend excursion to [Vancouver](#) with Ken, Kent, and Cody.

❖ I resigned from the board of [SEAMEC](#) after an even ten years. I continue to be on the board of [Lambert House](#), which Ken directs. I've done all right at a few monthly **spelling bees** at a local bar, reaching the finals once—but it's really just for the fun of it. I continued my volunteering for the international and gay/lesbian **film festivals**, earning passes for copy editing, blurb writing, data entry, and film

dubbing. In the process, I met **Kevin**, who works for the lesbian/gay film festival (and also is a freelance technical editor), and have been enjoying spending time with him.

❖ I hope, as always, that this finds you and yours well. Do let me know if you come to Seattle. Best wishes for a happy and healthy **2008!**

with Susan



with Susan, Ken
Olympic Mts.



L.A.



Santa Barbara



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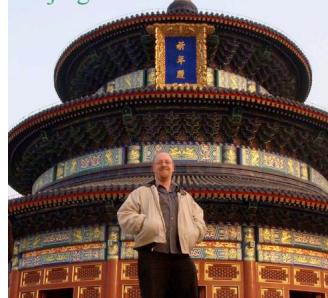
with Patrick in China



Great Wall



Beijing



with Daniel



S.F.

