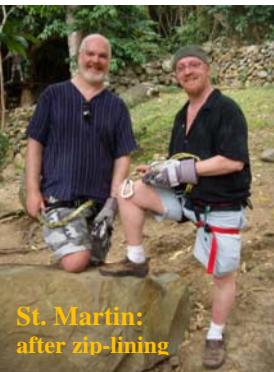
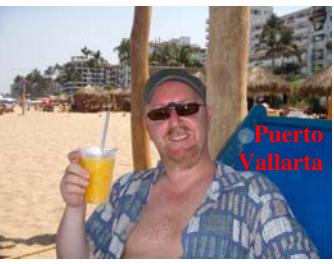




St. Martin: yacht racing



Boston



2008

has been a year of travel and transition. In June I earned my certificate in [editing](#) from the University of Washington, part of a plan to change careers and pursue my lifelong interest in language. Consequently, I resigned this summer from my job of nearly 18 years at Bastyr University library, a difficult and momentous but necessary step. Since then, I've been working part-time, mostly at home, lately including editing. Pursuing contract work may allow for some travel between contracts; I might also explore staff positions (and would appreciate any leads!). I've taken the leap—time will tell where I land.

❖ One of the most satisfying parts of this year has been my relationship with [Kevin](#). (Note: boldface links lead to my pictures.) I count myself very lucky to have him in my life. Now over a year together, we've had a lot of fun traveling, socializing with friends, and movie-going. As Kevin is a freelance technical editor, he's also been a great resource and steady support for me during my job transition.

❖ This year I had the good fortune to travel near and far. Kevin and I went island-hopping in March—first to [Manhattan](#): three days full of sightseeing, Broadway plays, and visiting friends and family. We fashioned our own “Project Runway” tour, ate at [Shopsin's](#) and Les Halles, ascended to the pinnacle of the Empire State Building, wandered the Whitney and Central Park, took in “Xanadu” and “Wicked,” Times Square, the Lower East Side, and the Brooklyn Bridge. Then we flew to the French-Dutch Caribbean island of [St. Martin](#), where we stayed at a lovely [villa](#) with a commanding view from the island's highest point (each ascent a six-minute adventure). During our week in paradise, we explored a few of the many exquisite beaches and well-regarded restaurants; our adventures included a very demanding [zip-line tour](#) in the lush hills; and serving as crew in an exciting [yacht race](#) on the stunningly turquoise water.

❖ Another new destination for me: fabulous [Las Vegas](#) (joining Kevin at work there) in November. I was fascinated by the sheer excess of the Strip: the colors and lights, the outlandish, fantastical hotels, and the smoky, buzzing casinos. Other highlights: amazing shopping in “ancient Rome” and modern “Venice”; the cute Liberace Museum; the MGM lions, Treasure Island pirate show, and Bellagio fountains. (I took a pass when Kevin rode the NYNY rollercoaster.) We caught Kathy Griffin in concert; gambled a (very) little; soaked in the dazzling neon and sound-and-light show of Fremont St.; and escaped the glitz with a cleansing drive through beautiful Red Rock Canyon.

❖ One of the year's highlights was my first trip “home” in 15 years—to [Boston and Worcester](#)—for two weeks in late September, a very personal trip that's hard to describe or summarize. Worcester tapped a powerful wellspring of fond memories of so many familiar faces and places: my old neighborhood and childhood home (my neighbors arranged for me to get to go inside); the familiar winding streets and old haunts; the characteristic architecture; and the rolling countryside with its stone walls, orchards, church steeples, and brilliant foliage. I was also reminded of why I love and miss Boston by visiting the North End and the USS Constitution; the Public Gardens and Prudential Center; the Museum of Science and the [Mapparium](#); Comm Ave. and Newbury St.; Fenway Park's [Bleacher Bar](#) and Harvard Sq.; Brookline and Salem. A special treat: a clear, sunny day trip to Provincetown, allowing my friend Richard and me to see all of Cape Cod (and even distant Boston) from atop the Pilgrims' Monument. The leisurely drive back, including a stop at Nauset Beach, sent me back to childhood summers on the Cape with my parents. Best of all, I got to reconnect with many dear friends and neighbors from my younger days, over meals or drinks or jazz, or during drives or a game of [candlepin bowling](#). In all, a warm and satisfying drive down memory lane.

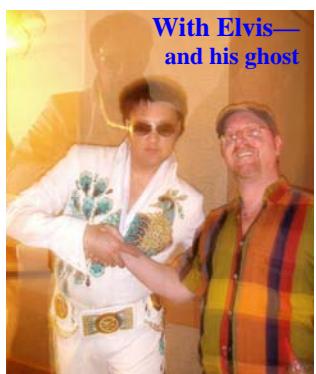
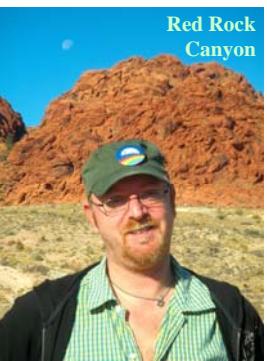
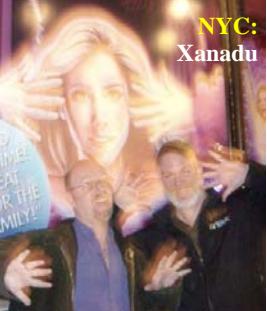
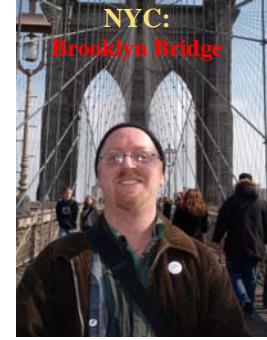
❖ I returned in May with friend John to one of my favorite places, [Puerto Vallarta](#): we enjoyed drinks under palapas on the beach, exploring the town, and shopping, punctuated by good eating, beautiful sunsets, and fireworks over the boardwalk, not to mention an excursion to the lush [Botanical Gardens](#) in the hills.

❖ In June, Kevin and I spent a weekend in [LA](#) for his brother's wedding, where I met 4 of his 5 siblings; we also visited with my college friend Natalie and went to the Santa Monica Pier and Manhattan Beach. Closer to home, we went twice to [Portland](#) to see operas (also visiting the [Classical Chinese Gardens](#) and the Saturday Market). Also twice to [Eastern Washington](#): in July we went to a Police-Elvis Costello concert at the Columbia River [Gorge](#) (a panoramic outdoor setting) and the Yakima Folk Festival; and in August my friend Klaus hosted us at his family's property in Ellensburg for a relaxing weekend—even if it was 100 degrees! In November, we went with Kevin's visiting friend Susan to the [Olympic Peninsula](#), including Port Townsend, a foggy Dungeness Spit, and Crescent Lake.

❖ Many of the usual [activities](#) occupy my free time: monthly spelling bees (I placed 2nd in the finals in April); bike rides through scenic summer Seattle; the weekly “Project Runway” gang; a few day trips to the [gay campground](#) in the Cascades; and our friends' Halloween bash, where Kevin's coffin, um, costume, was a big hit. Special events included meeting Lily Tomlin after her show in Olympia; [Balkan Beat Box](#) and [Subliminal](#) concerts; and the Cirque du Soleil. Not to mention summer visits with friends Sefi and Daniel (from CA), Zorana & Kenny (from AZ), and Malka & family (from Israel). I continue to serve on the boards of [Lambert House](#) and my condo association. Of course, the international and the lesbian-gay film festivals kept both Kevin and me occupied, not only with films: I volunteered for both festivals, mostly doing program book editing, blurb writing, and office work; Kevin works part-time for the [SLGFF](#) as the volunteer coordinator.

❖ [Election night](#) was terrifically exciting. After watching the results at a local indie movie theatre with friends, we happened upon huge joyous street celebrations which swept us up into a raucous march downtown amid screaming, honking, dancing and drumming—then another march back up the hill—for a historic, transcendent night I'll not soon forget.

❖ I carry the campaign's themes of Hope and Change into the new year: I hope for the best from the changes in my life, in yours, and the nation's. More than ever, in this moment of new beginnings and possibilities, I wish you health, happiness, and hope.



Peach