



Dear Friends, Family, Pets, Alter Egos, Unwanted Guests.....

I am fortunate to be busy, so I'll summarize quickly. The good/great things that happened:

I am a figure skating judge in the UK now. I did the work. You'd expect it would involve learning how to judge, sure there was that. Then there was making myself charming and pleasant in front of people I have never met before. OK-ish. Tone down any American propensity I might have for being a know-it-all. Uncomfortable. Travel to Edinburgh, Sheffield, Romford, Slough... Every seat occupied, electronic gates that my app doesn't reliably work on, train stations some way from where I need to be so I lurch on to the bus, hefting a pile of cold weather gear and take up 2 seats. Even that's not enough because the rink in Sheffield is arctic. Bracing. Breakfast all you can eat, barf, no thanks. Dinner all you can eat buffet. Expensive because pricing is means tested at someone twice my size. So, I go on a long walk to the mall and only realize once I get there that I forgot my wallet. Argh.

What else? In my own personal journey to be an athlete (snort): Making progress on the long-distance road cycling. I'm with a cycling group in upstate NY. Proud to keep up with these long-time committed cyclists. Ride distance averages around 37 miles. In Surrey, some improvement, no longer red lining on my pain threshold every time I go out. Still proceeding with ice dance. Working on some tricky stuff. Tricky in the sense that I am supposed to make it look easy. Well, it isn't.

My family, who you will no doubt hear from in their own right have made real progress. I have a granddaughter who turned 1. My nephew got married in grand style. So, I have two stellar nieces-in-law. Mom turned 99, also stylishly. My UK niece and nephew are killing it in engineering at university.

Not so great situation. I have finally been awarded an eviction, all the rental arrears and legal costs, against a tenant who didn't think the NY courts would actually do such a thing. Well sir, your insistence (laced with threats and personal attacks) on living in my apartment rent free for a year and ½ didn't go down all that well with the judge. It took a year, but got there in the end. I can start the new year with a rejuvenated sense of purpose.

Happy Holidays    Amy and John

