

Christmas, 2005

My dear friends:

Here we are again, at the close of another year...getting older, wiser...well, older anyway...

Mom and Art were married on Valentine's Day, so he claims to have made "...an honest woman out of her..." It was a small civil ceremony at the courthouse, and in the pouring rain they said their "I Do"s, then we all went to lunch at a fancy restaurant to celebrate. You may remember stories about the rain the first part of the year that was simply torrential...well, those were the rains that came on their wedding day. These two people love each other so deeply, and they are always making each other laugh at something. Art will be 84 in April, Mom will be 85 in June...so its just great that at their ages they are still around to enjoy the life they so richly deserve.

I am doing well health wise. No major complications as I have suffered in the past, although the diabetes still wants to take over, I just won't let it. October of 2006 will commemorate 50 years of this disease, and I feel grateful that I have a team of doctors who work with me to help control it. My doctors tell me that it's not them, but it is ME who manages the disease. And while this may be true, they are the kind of doctors who I enjoy seeing, that make me want to come back. It's a win-win situation, I think. I will never be free of this disease, but as long as it remembers who the boss is, we'll get along just fine.

Carlos and I have 7 years together, and each day I remind myself how lucky we both are to have each other. We haven't taken many trips this year; one to Lincoln Nebraska for his work, and over Thanksgiving we went to San Diego on the train. We spent 4 days there, just relaxing and enjoying a little time away. At 62, he is giving thought to retiring, but we don't know for sure yet.

My children (if you want to call them that....) are doing very well. Scott will be 28 in March, and is engaged to a very sweet girl. Liz is about 8 years younger, and it's great to see them together. They live in Bakersfield with their Yorkshire terrier, "Jack" and their rabbit "Fuzz". Katie and Lelan are doing well, as is Kristina. Kristy is 7, and growing so fast, it's incredible. I remember when I used to write about Katie at that age and how it was her who caused my gray hair ☺...

Mom and Art still participate in the Pearl Harbor Survivor's Association and the City of Hope...and are absolute whizzes at the computer!! Both are in good health, and enjoy their golden years. Now if they can only tear themselves away from their computers....No wait...now that they're married, they might get into trouble...

I guess that's about it for 2005. A good year, for sure, and looking for a wonderful 2006. I wish you the warmth of the season and the love we have shared as friends for more years than I can count.

Michael