

MARLA & CODY'S 2017 HOLIDAY LETTER



2017 has certainly been a trying year for almost everyone, and that includes The Capital Couple. While we are doing our best not to dwell on the horrors of the past, it has certainly not been easy to want to square our shoulders and face 2018. Still, with the help of our friends and family, we have managed to cross the finish line of this year without too much more emotional baggage weighing us down, and for that, we want to thank all of you who made it possible for us to make it through.

In terms of fun things we did, we managed to squeeze in a fair number of vacations amid all the work and insanity. In addition to a handful of camping trips and a visit to see the *Star Trek* exhibit at the Museum of Pop Culture (what they renamed the EMP), Cody took a number of trips all over Oregon to watch and play music, and in a few cases, even went to Washington & California. To offset this, Marla took in her fair share of drag shows, and we spent a number of evenings going out locally and, more often than not, just staying home.

Cody is still working as an artist, this year performing a number of music shows, and well as continuing in podcasts and radio. He's been writing more, and worked for the *Salem Weekly* briefly, before moving on to publishing his own material. He also works part time at *The Space*, where he runs sound for the Open Mic nights and helps out when they need it. Marla continues to work the same jobs she did before. We moved from our previous house into a home her parents owned, where we live now. Lots of big changes for us, including two robberies between our two homes in less than a year! We are trying not to let it get us down too much, and a new security system has managed to ease the concerns regarding future problems. Still, we are happy to have the drama behind us, so we can move on. Feyd is the same as she ever was, and that makes us incredibly happy.

We did suffer some losses this year, and we have spent some time recovering. Marla's grandfather George died in February, and while he had certainly lived a full life at 90, it was terrible to see him go. Cody spent much of 2016 as George's caretaker, and it was a big loss to both of us. On top of that, our friend Skip passed as well, from cancer, and at a far too early an age. I'm sure there are many others that I'm not mentioning. There has been a lot of loss recently, and we are doing our best not to dwell on it. But it is hard not to think of those who are not with us this time of year, and the best we can do is remember them when they are gone, and enjoy the time we had with them. Both George and Skip would have wanted us to enjoy ourselves, so that's what we'll do.

Cody has been developing some skills around the house, and his cooking has improved so much that we are almost ready to let real people eat the meals he prepares. Since we moved into Marla's parent's house, we have also taken on the hobby of home improvement, and it has almost taken us a full year to unpack, as well. Taking care of the yard is nearly a full time job, and between one plumbing disaster, two heating catastrophes, removing wasps nests, sealing up the crawl space, and replacing a broken window (in addition to installing a security system and motion sensor lights), we've have a lot of experience working on our home this year, most of it unexpected! We're looking forward to doing some of the actual improvements we planned for this year in the coming year, so we can't wait to tell you about why that didn't happen in our next holiday letter.

Most importantly, we have made it through two years of marriage, and that really feels like an accomplishment, given everything that's happened to us this year. While it never seemed like it was in any danger, when you have to face challenges, it can be difficult to see what is good in your life. For us, it has always been easy. No matter how shitty things got, we always had each other, and that makes any bad year great.

Happy Holidays, and may 2018 be a much better year.

— Marla & Cody Rich

