

Happy Holidays,

I really was planning on getting my cards out early this year, and not in 2011. I had my stocks of paper and envelopes ready, and if not all new, my printer cartridges were sufficiently full so that I wouldn't have to go out in the middle of the night in search of a Staples for more supplies. Alas, although my hardware is fairly new and up to date, I found that my address database was antiquated, no longer supported, and definitely on its last legs. I don't remember getting old, when did it? (Apologies to the musical.) Even my newer photo processing software, even after being updated, firmly refused to print. I found that I had partially betrayed the software by trying to tidy up my photo files; it could no longer find them. I also managed to delete the first draft of this text.

The year started off with my ski season being cut short by bursitis in both shoulders. This renewed the relationship I had started with the physical therapists who had helped me recuperate from my knee surgery last year. I am learning that after a certain age you no longer work out, you do physical therapy. I recovered sufficiently so that by the spring I was ready for new adventures. It being a little slow at work, I decided to take a mini-sabbatical and work on the unpacking I had started a half year before. I spent a month moving boxes around, rediscovering lost treasures and candidates for Goodwill, but mainly I sorted slides and prints from the pre-digital age. Along the way I realized that I was missing perhaps a thousand slides. They probably amused someone at Goodwill. Fortunately these were ones I had scanned by Costco, so they weren't completely lost, and I no longer have to store them, except on disc.

The sabbatical strengthened me to the point where I felt up to taking a month long motorcycle trip across the continent, making good on my mistake in 1980 of having bypassed Cape Breton when I visited Nova Scotia. The motorcycle I had ridden to Alaska two years ago I was thinking of selling, but the recession saved it. The bike provided trouble free service to Green Gables, which is on Prince Edward Island, not Cape Breton although I also made it there. For my report on the trip you can check out my blog at <http://dkikemi.wordpress.com/category/travel/> which also has links to the many pictures I took. I will report here that after traveling through the interior of the U.S. on a motorcycle, you have no choice but to believe in wind power.

Some of my other travels are documented in my blog, but pictures of other places I visited and events I witnessed are in my photo galleries at <http://ikemi.info/mytravel.html>. I still walk my 2 dogs that I inherited in the morning and evening. Induction cooking is my latest craze, and I have to teach myself to bake sugar free cakes so I can taste a cake again. Splenda is good.

Best Wishes for the New Year,