

Happy Holidays!

Our big news for 2018 is that we finally moved in to our new condo in downtown Greenville. It was a long wait (about 18 months overdue!) and the building is not completely finished. However, almost everyone in the 36 units has moved in. We closed in mid-May and actually moved in early June. Due to all of the delays we had decided not to put our home on the market until after we closed on the condo. We got lucky, getting a full price, all cash, no inspection contract in 4 days! We closed eight days later. We are totally enjoying being able to walk to restaurants, theaters, and baseball games. We get out daily to walk through Greenville's beautiful downtown or on the Swamp Rabbit Trail. We face Fluor Field where the Greenville Drive play baseball and get to watch Friday night fireworks from our 5th floor balcony.



The quick sale and closing were fortuitous as we had planned a Danube river cruise with Viking in early July. We extended the trip at each end, arriving for a few extra days in beautiful Budapest (at right) and ending up with three days in Prague (lower right). Along the way we spend a day in Venice, Salzburg (The Sound of Music), and Nuremberg as well as stops in several quaint towns along



the Wachau Valley on the Danube (left). We saw too many castles, abbeys, and cathedrals to remember them all.

Unfortunately, the lack of rain in Europe caused the Danube to be very low and the ship was unable to navigate past Passau. It became our floating hotel and we were bused to Nuremberg. Viking comped us for the inconvenience and we've already made reservations to go to France next year. We met great people on the cruise and plan to go on a Rhine cruise with two of the other couples in 2020.



For Jane's birthday in early April we headed for a long weekend on Hilton Head. It had been years since we'd been there. We had a fun time walking on the beach and the numerous trails.

Our annual early September week on Sanibel Island also ran into "water" problems as Florida continues to grapple with a serious outbreak of red tide. We considered not going at all but decided to take a chance. It wasn't too bad while we were there although we did get a bit congested. The City of Sanibel was out several times a day cleaning up any dead marine life from the beach. As of the beginning of September they had removed 400 tons of dead creatures including manatees and sea turtles. Very sad.

We left Sanibel a day early and drove for two days to Alexandria, VA to attend the wedding of our niece, Kim, to Mike. Alexandria has a wonderful downtown and the rain held off until after the outdoor ceremony. The reception in Arlington was at the Top of the Town with great views of DC.

We took another long weekend in early October, this time in Charleston, to celebrate our anniversary. Charleston is a great place to visit with all of its historical interest. Plus, it's a wonderful place to just walk around, shop, and eat at many fine restaurants. We visited Magnolia Plantation, which has beautiful gardens and tours of the original house and grounds.

We continue to take classes with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program at Furman University. OLLI @ Furman is celebrating its 25th anniversary all year. One of the celebration activities was at a Greenville Drive game in April. As "Volunteer of the Year" John got to call "Play Ball!" before the game. (Fun fact: sixteen alumni of the Greenville Drive, a Boston Red Sox farm team, played on the current World Champion Red Sox at some point in the 2018 season.)

John has completed his first year on the board of Greenville Chautauqua (historycomesalive.org). Jane has joined Greenville Women Giving (greenvillewomensgiving.org) and will be on the team that evaluates grant requests.

The remnants of hurricanes Florence and Michael went through Greenville but unlike the destruction caused in other parts of the Carolinas, FL, and GA we saw only a couple inches of rain. The Reedy River Falls (right) were really flowing. (We live a block away from the falls.) We are now about 15" above normal rainfall. Wish we could send some out to CA.



The Broadway musical Hamilton arrives in Greenville on Dec. 4th for a two-week run. At one point there was a ticket queue of about 40,000! We are season ticket holders so we're all set. We even had a great fall OLLI class, "Hamilton: The Man and the Musical" in preparation for the show.

We wish you and your family health and happiness for 2019. Have a great holiday season!

Jane & John



Chihuly Exhibit at the Biltmore

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