

Community Comment
December 18, 2015
Sam Pennisi

A Christmas Card

If it were left up to me, I probably would send very few, if any, Christmas Cards, I'ts hard to explain that we see those that we are close to often so sending a card just because it's Christmas seems unnecessary. And cards with pre-printed greetings seem tacky to me. I would have to add a personal note to make it seem worthwhile. Thankfully, Sharon has long distant friends that have evolved into our friends. She likes to write a little note and include a picture of our family. As grandchildren have come along, their growth is nicely noted for those who don't see them so often.

But as I've grown older, and lost some family and friends, this annual contact makes more sense to me. It's those closest to us that make life special and staying in touch allows this to happen.

So I've decided to send you all my 2015 Christmas card.

Merry Christmas and season's greetings.

It's been quite a year for us. Our most important news has to do with how we spend our time these days. At our age, how we spend our time becomes more precious than ever before. We spend Monday through Friday from about 8:30 until 5 taking care of our youngest grandchild. To be sure, Sharon does the lion's share but this defines our days and weeks. Anything else has to be worked around his care including running our home business. Since there are two of us, it mostly works out. However, it has made us realize some things. We know why we had our kids when we were younger; at the end of the day we are done in. We also see how good it works to have many people involved in the raising of these children. We are more patient than we were with ours and we observe more than we did then. In the end, we realize it's a gift. It's a gift to our children to be able to help them while they are building careers and it's a gift to us to have them in our lives.

To our friends and family, we want you to know that we feel loved and supported by you. We have full and rich lives mostly because of you. The simple act of sharing dinner or going to a movie always lends itself to interesting conversations. We enjoy hearing about how your kids are doing and about your grandchildren. Some of yours live locally and we see them often. Others live a continent or more away and we enjoy hearing about their adventures. Their activities remind us of our younger days. We also share in the sad times and try to be as supportive as possible. That is, after all, a part of living.

To this community I want to say thanks. Arcata and Humboldt County continues to be a real community which makes for an especially rich life if one is willing to contribute. I always seem to get more back than I feel that I give.

Christmas is a Christian celebration but the holiday is inclusive and secular. We can all share in this special time of year. That's something that is not special to Humboldt County. That's a very American way to celebrate our abundance.

To quote Elton John: I hope you don't mind that I put down in words, how wonderful life is with you in this world

Merry Christmas, from Sam Pennisi