



December 2022

Dear family, friends, and all,

Big news this year is that we're moving. After thirty-some years in Waukesha, we're moving to Oshkosh. Moving day is December 27th.

It came about quickly, and feels like 'meant-to-be,' as far as pieces falling into place. The value of friends, connections, and referrals is priceless. We are grateful. There is much we're looking forward to there. As we're packing and surrounded by boxes, there's a lot of life sorting—what gets kept and comes with us; what gets released or donated because we're no longer attached to it, we've outgrown it, or haven't needed it or worn it in years; and what gets recycled. A lot of files—even before we knew we were moving—went to brother Dan's burning barrel last summer. I'm still going through files...a teacher-writer's wheelhouse. Really looking forward to having a home office; Michael will have a music/movie room; and downstairs will be a library.

With a new move and a new year, in a college town where Michael's an alum, and closer to friends and family, it's a new chapter of *transformations* for us.

- Michael's been playing Saturday morning coffee shop jams about fifteen years now—where he will be sincerely missed. He's looking forward to finding—or starting—one in Oshkosh.
- He's also interested in maybe auditing classes at UW-O and getting involved with the Times Cinema. And then there are movie nights and gatherings at Donn's that will be a lot easier to schedule.
- Anne's been traveling and collaborating with author-linguist Vivian Probst since 2011. This move will make it much easier and even more fun to be together physically during read-throughs and final edits, and book projects and soul sister friend stuff, too.
- Which dove-tails into that teacher-writer sage-women-circle calling of supporting and sharing life's work, paying it forward. Mine is woven in with others; kindred spirits. In sorting through files and resources, there are feel-good wellness circles I want to offer, and a virtual writing group I want to continue.
- In the backdrop of this is an upcoming 50-year class reunion. I've offered my classmates an invitation to write a chapter of their life story at 50 years of being an adult, so it can be part of an eBook for classmates. I'm mindful of my own to write.
- I'll miss my humane society gig. EBHS is a good place with great people. I've made friends there and enjoy cat socializing and the volunteer group page on Facebook. I'll be scoping out possibilities.

Other highlights this year:

- Robi-clan pizza parties, and Meghan and family (Florida natives) moved to Ripon.
- Annual music weekend in Door County. Went early to take a road trip around the peninsula.
- Backyard birthdays (mine and Michael's, Donn's, his sister's, and his brother's) party in Oshkosh.
- Overnights at Donn's cabin near Tigerton, and then going up to the UP together. Mike's from Crystal Falls, so he played off-the-beaten-path tour guide there; Donn's from Iron River, and he showed us some off-the-beaten-path places there. On the way, we're listening to music. Only one cd in the van, by the Seekers. We're commenting on how all of the band members are still alive. Next morning, we learned Judith Durham of the Seekers had passed the day before...as we were just talking about her.
- Mom Days—Thursdays. Still precious and priceless to spend this time with her.

I know there's more. For another time, though.

Happiest of holidays, Merry Christmas, and wonderful New Year! – Anne and Mike

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