



Warm winter greetings as another year is almost complete.

We hope this note finds you safe, warm, and well.

2025 Notes

- **Cats.** Last December, Sebastian joined our family. He's become an affectionate little cat. Still skittish around visitors; enjoys lap time, and attention with Mike and I, though. In November, we said goodbye to Simba. Never easy, even when it's the only and best option for him. He was such a great love. On December 19th, we adopted 'Cat Damon' (still needs a family name; leaning toward 'Teddy' / 'Theodore' / 'Theo') and hope he and Sebastian will eventually be good buds together. New cat is quite affectionate, especially snuggles up with Michael.



- **Cars.** Mike's 2004 black Grand Am got donated to Rawhide after it died in a Winter Farmers Market parking lot. We got a blue-gray 2022 Corolla in its place. Anne's car got attention this year, too, including needed maintenance, part replacements, and detailing (because she likes some features that our new car doesn't have). We appreciate our mechanics and AAA, a lot.
- **Community.** Still love this place and being here! Great neighbors and neighborhood. Anne walks, often with Mary D. and or Diane K. Mary D. again hosted a backyard music evening that Michael and her brothers entertained. Brian, another neighbor and Michael share some movie and music interests. And cat-family neighbors check in on our cats if we're out of town, and vice versa. It's good being here. Neighbors help each other, and we enjoy seeing them. Mary D., especially, is a connector. She knows ALL the kids and dogs and most of the people. She walks with dog treats in her pocket... 😊



- Our friend Donn is another connector, graciously hosting potlucks, birthday parties, and movie nights. It's pretty amazing and appreciated.
- **In the extended community,** Oshkosh Public Library gets used a lot, including a 1st Saturday music jam held there that Mike's part of. Recently a couple music makers expressed interest in jamming more often, Mike suggested our place, since it's something he has wanted also. So, Sunday afternoon jams at our

place it is. (I'm open to visitors while they jam...) Mike and I are still Y members; lazy river for him, Zumba class for me. Anne also got back into volunteering at the Humane Society this year. Some new friends there, too. It's a good place.

- **Travel / Road Trips.** Columbus and Stevens Point have huge **art and antique malls**. Stevens Point has shops (including a book shop) Anne likes visit while Mike explores the antique mall. And Columbus experience has three floors! Only got through one our first time there; had to go back. Coffee Garage in Columbus is a delicious coffee and lunch spot we went back to. **International Crane Foundation** in Baraboo was another day trip. Enjoyed seeing live cranes from around the world and learning about all the international collaborations to restore ecosystems and populations. Beautiful place, paved walkways, displays, and rest areas; also unpaved nature trails for hiking / walking. In May, Anne and Mike's sister Cathy attended the **Annual Chequamegon Bay Birding & Nature Festival** in Ashland, WI (<https://www.birdandnaturefest.com/>). Lots of hikes, learning, and beauty. I would go again, though I admit, it's much easier seeing birds close up at a bird feeder. Except loons; those were awesome to see so close.
- An impromptu road trip to **Door County**, just for fun, in September. And again, in October for the annual Door County Music Weekend at Dave and Becky's 'Shack' in Sturgeon Bay. So good to be this close. Music weekend is always a treasured treat and reunion. Once again, we were able to meet up with Anne's cousin Don Thimm, who's retired, but fills in during Summers up there. In December, we toured the EAA Museum here in Oshkosh. So much to see.
- **Entertainment.** We took in some more **Oshkosh Grand** events again this year: a Cher tribute, Haunted Grand Halloween backstage tour, and **TedX-Oshkosh-2025**. We already have tickets for a Monkeys tribute and a Fleetwood Mac tribute and Eagle tribute in 2026. There will be more. Highly recommend, if you prefer a smaller-city experience in a historic venue, with parking across the street. (<https://thegrandoshkosh.org/>) Easy stop at their box office to get tickets, also.
- **TEDX-Oshkosh 2025.** Two speakers stood out, and one was only 17! Videos will be posted in early 2026. (<https://www.tedxoshkosh.com/>)
- **Mom Days continue.**
 - usually on Thursdays. Most Mom Days include lunch in a park, St. Vinny's, and a library stop. Other days, there are medical appointments, and sometimes special treats. In February, for example, Mom turned 90; Aunt Ceil turned 91. Once again, Cousin Sue and I coordinated an afternoon to celebrate and share cake with these two and Uncle Joe.



- Mike's brother Bryon and Jimmy (from AZ) finally moved into their new home in Ripon (almost a year later than expected) in November. All of Michael's siblings are now nearby. It's great! With his new place all decorated, and knowing my mom loves Christmas decorations, Bryon invited her over to see

them (one of our Mom Days). A few weeks later (another Mom Day), Bryon asked Michael to do a holiday concert. Logistically impossible before this; now a treat.



- **Cooking and Making Stuff.** Still mostly following a vegan and gluten-free functional nutrition path. Found a great recipe for Vegan Egg(less) Salad this year, that's easy and delish. (<https://createmindfully.com/tofu-salad/>)

Happy Holidays, Winter Solstice, Christmas, and New Year. Wishing you love, health, and happiness always.

– Anne and Michael

Our 2025 letter and links are at: <https://annewondra.com/notepad/>