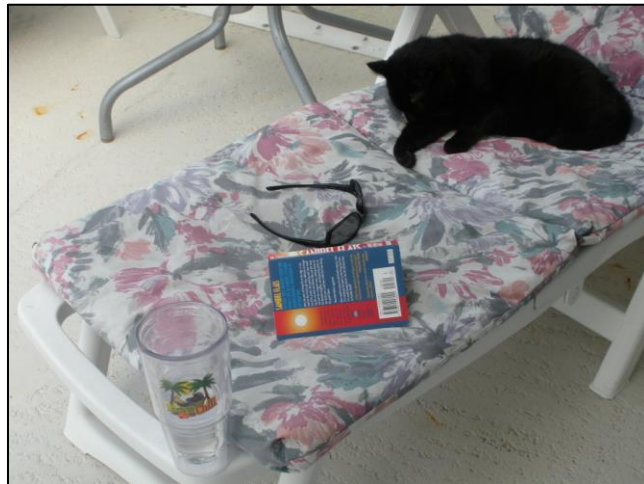


Merry Christmas from the Spargurs!

We're just back from Hawaii where we enjoyed two weeks of sunshine and warmth! We saw the volcanoes and black sand beaches of the Big Island, flew over Kauai's Waimea Canyon by helicopter, and climbed Diamond Head on Oahu, where we stayed at a lovely B&B hosted by a couple from Ohio. We haven't had time to upload the trip photos yet, but hope you'll enjoy the others in this letter.

This was the second year we took the cats to Punta Gorda, Fl. for their February vacation and they love it, as the photo of Erbi lounging on the lanai proves. Lolibop is more interested in running around trying to catch one of the small lizards that crawl up and down the screens but luckily she hasn't been successful! Our month there is busy as one of Ginnie's good bridge buddies lives nearby, a cousin is in Tampa, and two Cincinnati couples we know also rent in Florida in February.



Erbi dozing, wishing for lemonade.

In early May we took a terrific cruise on a small (600 passenger) ship to the Holy Land and Egypt – and our wonderful tablemates were also from – Florida! We were so glad to have taken the opportunity to see this part of the world before a Muslim government was elected in Egypt and renewed violence erupted in Israel. In addition we spent a few days in Venice, one of our favorite cities, and visited beautiful Dubrovnik in Croatia.



Women at the Wailing Wall.

Dick's annual Burroughs Bibliophiles meeting was held in LA in August where this year's Guest of Honor was famed primatologist Jane Goodall. So, besides seeing many good friends from that organization, Ginnie got to reconnect with 3 gals from LA County Medical Center, her first social work job in the seventies. After



The Temple Mount in Jerusalem



Ginnie on the Oregon coast.

the conference we visited Dick's cousins, Marcia and David, near SF and then drove up the scenic Oregon coast to Portland. Taking the train back from there is always an adventure: the scenery was spectacular but we were 5 hours late getting into Chicago. So we had an unplanned overnight in the Windy City but fortunately it was covered by our travel insurance.

Ginnie also made 2 trips to NJ this year – a happy one in July for the Heckmann's surprise 50th anniversary dinner but a very sad one 11/18 to attend a memorial service for Marge Rice, best friend from

college at SJU. It seems we are at the age now when we are losing our contemporaries. On a more positive note, we were blessed by visits to Dayton by several folks throughout the year: Ginnie's brother Joe in May, cousins Barbara and Jean in September, and high school friend Elaine and her husband Tom came in from Denver in October.

We look forward to hearing from you about your year and hope it's been a healthy and happy one for you. Best wishes for 2013 as well!

Love,
Dick, Ginnie, Erbi, and LolliBop



Dick and Ginnie at the Pyramids of Giza.