

2024 In Review

We are sorry to be so late in publishing our annual Christmas Letter. We have a good excuse. BJ's computer died before Thanksgiving. She took it to 3 different repair places hoping they could resurrect it, but we learned just before Christmas that it was unrepairable, so she has been busy trying to reconstruct missing programs and data. Not to worry though, she has just about reached the end of the mourning period and things are looking up for 2025! Her resolution is to make more frequent backups of important data.

Here's a brief recap of our year:

Santorini is still standing at a little over 5 years old. We were ill-prepared for living on the beach. We had no idea how much could go wrong in a salty, sandy, windy environment. We've already had to replace the generator, repair an outdoor A/C unit, repaint the dome, replace one of the water heaters, repair the elevator, repair the refrigerator, repair the oven twice and repair the window hardware. The new bar stools we bought last year are already rusting away. Even the handles on the cabinets are rusting. The good news is that despite the difficulties, we still LOVE living on the beach!



We have had lots of **visitors** this year. We love sharing our quaint little island town with friends and family. The vacant lot next door is no longer vacant. The new neighbor hasn't moved in yet, but the house is beautiful.



There are lots of **volunteer** opportunities here. BJ is on the board of directors for the Newcomers Club and the Petanque club. We became part of the Fernandina Pirates Club, which is a fun way to engage with the community and support charitable causes. Arrr! Tony decided to run for City Council but dropped out before the election (according to him, the reason he dropped out was that he sobered up 😊)

Traveling is still our passion! This year, our international travel took us to St. Kitts, Switzerland and Costa Rica. We took an Alaska Cruise and a Sunset Bioluminescence Kayaking Tour and BJ went on a girls tour of Utah National Parks as well as a trip to Salt Lake City & a few trips to Atlanta.



There's always a reason to **celebrate** here! We start the year with a Polar Plunge Party, then there's the Full Moon Party, the Solar Eclipse Party, the Right Whale Festival, the Sugar Creek Music Festival, Shrimpfest, Pajama Day, the Dickens Festival and the New Year's Eve Shrimp Drop, to name a few.

We love to **play** games too! In addition to several Petanque tournaments, Bingo and Card Games, BJ has been playing Mahjong.



In addition to weekly YMCA **exercise** classes and bicycle riding, BJ decided to try Ariel Yoga and Bungee Fitness.

We added 2 new **relatives** this year! Great nephew Arthur was born on BJ's birthday (much to her dismay... she doesn't like to share!) and we added another German "granddaughter" Finja from Hamburg who came to visit in September.

We replaced the old rust-bucket Honda Odyssey with a "new-to-us" **Chrysler Pacifica**. BJ is loving the new technology, especially the self-parking feature!



That about sums up our year! Hope you had a wonderful 2024 and we wish you a 2025 so bright you have to wear shades!

BJ, Tony and Lucy Morris