

Allysyn Kiplinger's

My Story - 2018

(with a little bit from 2016 & 2017 for catch-up)

This year pictures will help tell my story. But first, here are a few things pictures cannot tell. The long term destruction & suffering that our cultural pattern imposes upon Earth & the Earth Community is disturbing, heart breaking & ever with me. Those in the Executive Branch are disturbing on so many levels. My intellectual & cosmological life lies fallow. I live a small, simple life, one day at a time. Not many highs or lows & I'm OK with that. This is year 9 of living in the basement. Finances are modest but easier than in years past. Very few dizzy spells from my Meniere's Disease. Arthritis in knees and hips is challenging, painful, & hard on my mental health & ability to plan a future, although I do appreciate all the amazing places my healthy knees and hips took me! Walking my dogs is very unpleasant. Swimming 4+ times a week seems to be great pain relief medicine. I'm 99% retired from Artha Soaps. I'm wondering what to do with myself, where I fit in. Despite all this I still have a life & had many great experiences this year.

2016 Highlights

♥ Fate, and my dog Terra, led me to a job walking dogs which I did for almost 2 years (2016 & 2017). I felt like a high school kid when I got my first pay check! It was important



"therapy" to get me out into the world again after so many years of my wings being clipped by Meniere's Disease.

♥ Sadly, Terra died at 17 years old in March.

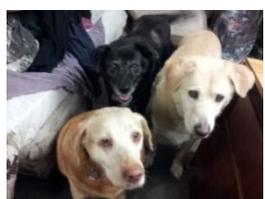
She was a party girl! She was so much fun!



♥ My other dog George was lonely without Terra so in September I adopted Emma the Dog, 9 yrs old, from Muttville (they rescue old dogs) seen here in the driver's seat. Emma weighed 110 lbs when I adopted her. Now, in 2018, she is a svelte 70 lbs. She has a happy, playful

Labrador disposition. George likes her OK and uses her as his guide dog, of sorts.

2017 Highlights



♥ In July I adopted Maggie, an old sick dog (again, from Muttville). So then I had 3 big, OLD dogs! (What was I thinking?!) Sadly Maggie only lived for 49 days. She ate a chew toy that got

horribly lodged. Then I was back to 2 dogs:

George, 14 yrs (yellow), and Emma, 11 yrs (red).

♥ I AirBnB'ed my main floor flat for just over a year (2017-2018). This is the cover photo for that



web page. It was intense & fun setting it up. Running it was exhausting. I closed it in Sept 2018 & went back to regular renting. I'm so happy I did. But I have to say it was nice spending time in "my" house between guests.

♥ Mom's 1991

Honda Civic died. I'd been driving it exclusively for about 10 years. I leased a Honda Fit, my first new car since 1987.



2018 Animal Companions



♥ This is Emma. She likes to stick her head out the window of the car. So cute!

♥ George and I at Nick's house by the ocean in Fort Bragg, CA. I don't think George likes me anymore. He is very aloof and sleeps a lot.



♥ Willow is my feral domestic (!) cat (left pic).



♥ Mr Fluffy (far right), one of my ferals, is best friends with Rex,



the domestic cat from next door. They are BFFs!

Lots of Travel in 2018

Fort Bragg, CA - March, May, July

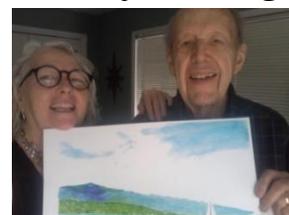


♥ I went with the dogs to see Nick 3 times this year. He turned 87 in March. He and my mom taught kindergarten together in the 1960s and were good friends. He is fun and easy to be with. And he LOVES DOGS!!!

Portland, OR - March



♥ I visited with Mary, a friend from Oakland, who lives in Portland when I went to a family wedding.



♥ Here I am with Uncle Roy (dad's side), 88, at the family wedding (a reunion of sorts) with one of his beautiful paintings. It was so fun to see EVERYONE! Thank you cousin Cheryl and Bill for everything you did to make it all happen!

The East Coast – all of June

A Darrow family reunion (mom's side) in June motivated me to spend the whole month of June on the east coast. I loved it. I had a blast! I LOVE and miss east coast summers. It turns out that I have (at least) 9 batches of family or friends every 150 miles all over New York, Vermont, and Massachusetts. I feel like I belong there!



♥ NY state made so much more sense to me after seeing this geological map.

Rochester, NY - June



♥ I flew to Rochester, NY where I rented a car for the month and saw my old college friend and roommate, Cathy (OY!).



Auburn, NY - June

♥ From Rochester I drove to Auburn, NY. It was my base camp. It's where my grandmother (mom's mom) was raised and



married, at 18 (now 20) Orchard St., the white house in the picture. My mom spent summers there as a girl. I did family research at the

county records office and discovered, amongst other amazing things, that my great, great grandmother, a Rockefeller, owned the white house as a single woman in about 1868! The Kelloggs, my family, also owned and lived in the yellow house next door. I never knew. It was so, so interesting! I want to go back and do more research and just hangout. I really liked Auburn perhaps because my family history is so strong there. I was deeply comforted to walk where my ancestors had walked and lived and loved.



♥ I located, visited, and tended the graves of my great grandparents, the Chapmans, and my great, great Chapman and Kellogg grandparents.



The gravestones in one graveyard, in Scipio Center, NY, just down the road from Auburn, were littered with the names of people that mom talked about from her childhood – cousins, old family friends, etc. My people!



♥ Nicole, the night desk woman, at the hotel I stayed at in Auburn was super cool. We are texting buddies now. Making new friends is a good thing.

♥ OK, so, **the thing about Auburn** I learned is that it was one of the cultural, spiritual and political hotbeds of American values – like Berkeley, or Cambridge, or Austin of today – with reform movements like abolition and women's rights birthing "a more perfect union" in the 19th century, when my ancestors lived there. And they were part of it! *I always wondered why my mother's side of the family was so ahead of the curve when it came to women's equality and education.* Christian values were sincerely embraced and actualized, so much so that historians called Auburn and central New York the "burn zone" for its spiritual zeal.

♥ For example, Harriet Tubman of the Underground Railroad lived and *owned property* in Auburn in the second part of her life. Remember that *she was owned as*



property for the first part of her life. Auburn was a major stop on the Underground Railroad. Tubman's grave, seen here, is near the Chapmans and Kelloggs in Ft. Hill Cemetery in Auburn.

Ithaca, NY - June



♥ Jim, a cosmological friend I met in Oakland, now lives in Ithaca at the Eco Village near Cornell (where my grandparents met). This picture is taken at Skaneateles Lake, NY (pronounced *skinny atlas*) (I think that is soooo funny! *skinny atlas!*) near Auburn, NY.

South Newfane & Putney, VT & The Darrow Family Reunion -

June



♥ This is my beloved Aunt Ellen in South Newfane, VT. She's my mother's brother's wife. I spent 4 lovely days with her (again). If I had a bunch of money I'd buy a little house near her & spend my summers there. (She knows this.) She is a

famous potter, artist and gardener and is loads of fun. We correspond a few times a week. She loves dogs and cats! And she just got a PUPPY!!!

♥ The Darrow family reunion (mom's side), the "real" reason for my journey east, was a blast. It was populated with second cousins, lots of kids & dogs & old family houses. "The world must be peopled!" as Shakespeare said. I didn't know many people but it was a wonderful gathering!

Burlington, VT & the ferry across Lake Champlain - June



♥ In Burlington, VT I spent a few relaxing days with my second cousin Bill (mom's side) and his wife Mary. Bill's the genealogist of the Darrow family. Anwyn (far left) is my first-cousin-once-removed and the granddaughter of Aunt Ellen (got that?).

♥ Looking for things to do that didn't require a lot of walking I decided that a ferry trip across Lake Champlain was the perfect mini adventure. And it was!



Winchester, MA (near Boston) - June



♥ Then it was on to see cousin Ann and her husband Ian and their family (and beautiful house)

near Boston for 3 days. Get this: Ann's a cousin on my dad's side and her daughter's professor, Jim, is one of my maternal second cousins. Small world!

Phillipsport, NY (in the Catskills) - June



♥ I met PaigeAparna in high school & she was my first spiritual friend. We've recently reconnected. Her beautiful brick house was built in 1840. She was a Vedanta nun for 30 years.

It's **great** having her in my life again!

Schuylerville, NY - June



♥ This is another second cousin (mom's side), Nate, at his commercial apple orchard Saratoga Apple. He's a 5th generation apple grower & hosted the Darrow family reunion. Our great, great, great, great grandparents planted one of New York's first apple orchards in Hebron, NY in the 1780s.

Seneca Falls, NY - June



♥ The 1st US women's rights convention was organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1848 out of her house, pictured here.

♥ This is Karolyn Grimes who played "Zuzu" in *It's a Wonderful Life!* Bedford Falls (in the movie) is based on Seneca Falls, NY. There they have a museum dedicated to the movie and "Zuzu" was signing autographs the day I visited.



Southern California - August



♥ In **Van Nuys** - Randy's an old friend who's painted my houses, helped set up the AirBnB last year, looked after my dogs, etc., etc., etc.

♥ In **Glendora** - Mary Helen grew up next door to my mom and knew all my aunts, uncles, grandparents.



♥ In **Hemet**, my cousin Jennifer (dad's side). We get goofy together.

♥ In **Ramona/Julian**, cousin Dave and his wife Vickie (dad's side). Great house! I'm jealous.



♥ And last but not least, in **Temecula**,



Jeff, a spiritual friend and friend-of-a-friend who I hadn't seen for 28 years. Seeing him before he moved to Nevada at the end of the summer was the whole excuse for the trip to SoCal.

♥ It was a whirlwind trip: 5 cities in 5 days and about 1200 miles of driving.

Topeka, KS - October

♥ Emma's Bat Mitzvah was the excuse to go see Leora (Emma's mom) and Robin (Emma's grandma), friends from Berkeley I've known for 28 years. I felt like I was home! I miss them. Mazel tov, Emma!



Friends



♥ Mary Ellen (left) and Tom, me, and Betty. We are cosmology friends. Tom randomly met PaigeAparna in India.



♥ Dennis is a spiritual and intellectual friend and also my computer and web guy. Dennis's first wife was in the same convent as PaigeAparna.



♥ Bonnie and me in front of SF city hall at the Climate rally in September.



♥ Sheila (left) (who taught with mom and Nick), and her husband Mike and daughter Gila.



Alchemy & Pain Management



♥ Calling upon the alchemical skills I used to invent the recipe for and make my soap, I've learned to make medical marijuana lotions and liniments.

I'm a DAR! (?!)

In 2017 I joined *Daughters of the American Revolution* through my mom's line. My great, great, great, great, great grandfather, Daniel Wheadon of New York, served in the American Revolution. I discovered at least 6 other ancestors on mom's side who served in the Revolution and probably one on dad's. I've been doing various kinds of ancestor work for a number of years. It is important to me *as an act of self-knowledge* to know about my ancestors. It's also been good for me to reclaim my lineage as a progressive patriot through DAR. Plus, I *love* doing the genealogical research.

More Cousins on Dad's side



♥ Cousin Jim and his wife Suzie visited for the first time. Nice to have you! Come back!

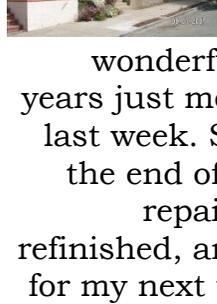
♥ Cousin Mary (Jim's sister) from the Philippines visited overnight. I think this her 5th visit over the years!



Houses



♥ My rental at 3781 Leighton Street, aka, The Little House Across the Street.



♥ My wonderful tenant of 7.5 years just moved from 3781 last week. So I'm spending the end of 2018 having it repainted, the floors refinished, and it deep cleaned as I search for my next tenant. Wish me good luck! It is such a great house!



♥ My house, 3772 Leighton Street, also a great house.

♥ Double Delight roses in my front garden.



Send me your news and pictures.
I wish you to realize that you are a geological and evolutionary force.
The world is fragile, complex, beautiful.
Renewal is a choice.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and will have a Happy New Year!

Love always,
Allsyn

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