

PURRS SINGS

#2

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Purrsonal Mewsings is intended to be a frequent newszine published by R-Laurraine Tutihasi, PO Box 5323, Oracle, AZ 85623-5323; 520-275-6511, Lorraine@mac.com, <http://www.weasner.com/>. It is distributed to friends and family. A slightly modified version may be placed on the web after paper publication; please let me know if you prefer just to read the electronic version. I can also e-mail this in Word or rtf format. Kattesminite Press #449. ©2014 R-Laurraine Tutihasi. Permission is granted to reprint or forward any part or all of this newsletter created by the editor provided that it carries the following statement: "Copyright 2015 by R-Laurraine Tutihasi. Originally published in *Purrsonal Mewsings* #2, <http://www.weasner.com/laurraine/Felinemewsings/index.html>."

As you can see, reader Alexis Gilliland stepped up to the challenge and came up with a nice title header. Thank you, Alexis!

I had intended to publish this monthly, but it's obvious that didn't happen. Partly that was because I was still trying to catch up from delays of late last year and early this. Barring further unexpected complications, I should be getting this out more frequently if not monthly. I dropped out of the church choir after the Christmas Eve service except for special events, and I hope this helps.

This issue of is intended to cover events since February last year.

My dental misadventures continue. The second implant that I discussed last issue had to be taken out, because it was found to be loose. In the meantime I lost two other teeth. One was the tooth involved in the abscess incident of late year before last and early last year. I lost another tooth, because it was cracked and couldn't be saved. In early October I got three implants, one to replace the earlier one that had to be taken out. The three implants have had healing caps screwed in, and soon I should be getting crowns for them.

In mid-March we saw the play *Around the World in Eighty Days*. We saw another version of the play back at the Colony in Burbank. This version was better mostly because of the set design. The stage in Tucson is larger, so there is room for a more elaborate set.

Later in March we had another visit to Kitt Peak. We saw a variety of Messier objects and Mars and Jupiter. We also went on a butterfly walk in Sabino Canyon, which is a beautiful place, as can be seen in the photo at right.

In May I bought myself a new iPad, because I had filled up the memory in the older one. We also bought a new printer, a colour inkjet this time. It has the same features as our old one and can do automatic duplex printing. The colours are much brighter than our old laser printer, which had deteriorated quite a bit since it was new. That and it had started having frequent communication glitches with our network, probably because it was outdated. We keep updating our software, but at some point problems start popping up.

We had a good egg hatching season. The Says phoebe couple



and a house finch couple successfully raised two broods. The Says phoebes had a bit of trouble. Their second batch of eggs ended up all dead, so they laid a third set of eggs.

In mid-July we drove up to Henderson, NV, for a house party. I wanted to see the new house where the hosts lived. It had been designed by the host's previous wife, who died shortly after its completion. I had seen the blue prints and wanted to see how it had all turned out. We couldn't attend the previous party, but we were able to get to this one. It is a lovely house.

In late July and early August we drove to Albuquerque for a convention and sightseeing. Albuquerque and Santa Fe were enjoying an early monsoon. Ours didn't start really until August. The trip report will be in the next *Feline Journal*.

We had a dry winter and spring, but our monsoon season that goes from mid-July through September gave us more rain than we've seen before. We had one day when we were virtually landlocked due to flooding in low spots on all the roads that lead out of our neighbourhood. That wasn't too bad really, considering that Phoenix had three such incidents. Lives were lost, though I don't recall the numbers. In the Tucson area, two lives were lost when drivers drove into flooded areas and then got out of their cars. Our winter started out quite wet, and we had snow on New Year's Eve. The photo below shows a nice panoramic shot Mike took facing west.



In October we saw three plays. The first was *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* by Christopher Durang. Durang uses the plays of Anton Chekhov as a jumping off point for his play. As you can see, the characters are mostly named after people in Chekhov's plays. The play is basically about siblings who haven't always got along as well as they might hope. During the course of the play, secrets are brought out and aired, and eventually the siblings come to an understanding. It is a comedy and hilarious in parts.

The second play was *Wait until Dark*. I saw the movie when it came out ages ago, but now I'm curious to see it again. For those of you not familiar with the story, it's a sort of noir murder suspense story about a blind woman alone at home whose husband had inadvertently brought home an object desired by some not so nice people. I think it's much harder to handle this type of story on stage than in film, but it was very well done.

The third was *Beetle Juiced*, a sort of takeoff on *Beetlejuice*. It was basically the same story but with song and dance and a lot of tongue in cheek. This was shown at a dinner theatre only about twenty minutes driving distance from us that opened about a year ago. It was fun. This was our realtors' annual event. They buy the tickets; we buy the food.

November saw us going to see the movie *Interstellar*. I really liked it a lot but can't put in words why. If you haven't seen it, it's about a mission to find new planets to settle. Earth seems to be in a really bad way. I thought it was very well done.

Also in November we went to LA for a week to attend Loscon and visit with various friends. A detailed write-up will be in the next issue of *Feline Journal*.

Finally in December we



saw a two-man play called *Murder for Two*. It was a murder mystery done with music. The performers play the piano on stage. One of the actors plays the police investigator, and the other one plays all the other parts. It was enjoyable but not great.

We decided back in November that it was probably time to replace our 2002 Prius. It was on its second battery and starting to show its age in small ways. We looked at the Honda Civic Hybrid when we were in LA. In December we test drove the new Toyota Prius but were not pleased. We visited the Honda dealer in Tucson and test drove an Accord and a Civic. We got our new Civic Hybrid early in January. See photo on previous page.

2014 was a pretty good year for Mike's astronomy hobby. In addition to doing his own observations and photography, he was instrumental in having Oracle State Park names as an International Dark-Sky Park. The International Dark-Sky Association is headquartered in Tucson. Here's a montage of Mike's activities for 2014.



Art and Photo Credits

Title header—Alexis Gilliland
Photos—Mike Weasner

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