



— A time for reflection and hope —

2019 - A year during which we said goodbye to family patriarch Joe Barreca, explored west Texas and Carlsbad country, drove the backroads into Central Oregon to NW Nevada, and were visited by a fox.



Joseph A. Barreca Sr. 1922-2019

On November 15th, surrounded by a few family members, a chaplain, a guitar-player and a hospice caregiver, Jeannette's dad slipped away. His bone marrow had stopped producing red blood cells and his heart stopped beating. He was 97. Jeannette's sister Anita wrote his obituary, and her brother Joe wrote his eulogy. Our extended family, including Dad, did have a wonderful gathering at Ovenell's Heritage Inn in NW WA in late June. Photos here. We're grateful he was part of our lives for so many years, but we will miss him.

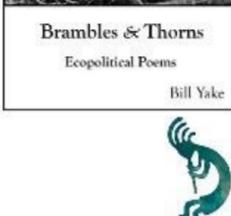


Carlsbad Caverns, Guadalupe Mountains and Big Bend National Parks

In late April, we traveled with friends Gale Blomstrom and Greg Sorlie to west Texas and SE New Mexico. We appreciated nature and pictographs in various state and national parks, including Hueco Tanks, Guadalupe Mountains, Carlsbad Caverns, Big Bend and Davis Mountains. We participated in a night-time "star party" at McDonald Observatory. And we experienced a wonderful electrical storm from the comfort of our motel balcony in Whites City. Photos here.



In response to the darkness of the times Bill published a short collection of poems. One of those poems came out of the Texas trip.



How We Mend
In Santa Elena Canyon where the Rio Grande runs slow in summer we found a Vietnam survivor, a vet playing the penny whistle. "There's nothing," he said, "like the acoustics between these great walls." The tune was plaintive as the free thinking of Kokopelli's flute. In a raven wind, a raven called and all the while hikers waded that muddy river to touch the sheer and singing face of Mexico.

Enjoying nature while the days are long

We tried to make the most of spring, summer and early fall with excursions throughout the Pacific Northwest, including trips with "the Merry Hikesters," visits to northern Washington and Paradise, Mount Rainier. In September, we hit the road, visiting Portland, Malheur OR, Hart Mountain OR, the Black Rock Desert in NW Nevada, Modoc CA, Summer Lake OR and Maryhill WA. We had a variety of adventures en route and back home.



The Importance of Family & Friends



We lost our long-time friend, Nigel Blakley (left) this year.

Grandma & Otto

Otto & Matthew

Liza

Loretta the baker with Grandpa



For more photos, see <https://www.flickr.com/>