

Holiday time is a very busy season for Margie's eBay business, and Barry has lots of singing gigs this time of year. There just isn't time to write a Christmas letter this year. Luckily, artificial intelligence can do the job for us! We put some data into the program, and it generated the text below for us.

The year 2023, which is the year before a leap year and therefore contains 365 days, was a good one for us. A new dog, Amos, joined the household. He is a medium-stature, tawny, 60-pound dog who suffers from ailurophobia, also known as a fear of cats. Since the household contains three cats, Amos demonstrates significant anxiety. Anxiety is a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease, typically about an imminent event or something with an uncertain outcome. We hope that you have an impressive holiday season that includes holly and overpriced gifts for people you don't like. It is our sincere wish that new year's festivities do not bring participation in a court-ordered traffic school program.

Maybe ChatGPT doesn't write Christmas letters so well. We'd better stick with the old way for now.

In January, Margie took a trip to Vietnam and Cambodia with her sister-in-law Kathy and her family. The group was treated to fine cuisine throughout the tour. She is itching to do another river cruise now. Maybe the LA River? Okay, maybe Europe.

Margie's eBay business continues to grow though her inventory is shrinking. She broke her ankle, which slowed her buying trips for a while. Don't worry, she is back to full speed and scouring estate sales and thrift shops for only the coolest items. Her eBay store is Waite's Treasures. If you send her a lowball offer, she will not only turn it down but will have her goons come to your house and rearrange your cupboards so you can't find anything. Reasonable offers are welcome of course.

Barry served as mayor of Lomita for the year. During his reign of terror, he enjoyed the power of important decisions like selecting the model of pen the city purchased as giveaways. Sadly, he found that being mayor does not provide diplomatic immunity in other cities. He has a year remaining on his city council term. He's still running the Carson chamber of commerce along with teaching at USC. Oh yeah, he co-authored a textbook. If you think teaching pays too well, try writing a book.

In other news, he won a barbershop quartet singing contest in Phoenix because he was the only baritone who showed up and was thus in every quartet that competed. It is curious that all the other baritones thought the contest was in Tucson. Maybe they had sent Margie lowball offers.

It rained so much in Lomita this year we thought of ripping out our drought tolerant landscaping and replacing it with rice and water lilies. Margie felt like she was living in Seattle again. At the cabin, that rain fell as snow – a LOT of snow. One storm dropped nine feet of snow, and there were several storms. The deck collapsed, among other things, but insurance took care of it after only nine months. Speedy!

Amidst all that, we finally made it to Hawaii! We went with Margie's sister and brother-in-law, and it was as amazing as we hoped. It helped to have local friends as our guides (thank you to Bob, Matt and Dante). If only it wasn't such a long drive to get there.

Alex and Alise adopted one kitten to their family, as did David and Elena. Barry's folks found five kittens, two of which went to Brian. Add in all of the adult cats including our trio, and you have 14 total (we will not admit how long it took to do the math on that). No wonder poor Amos is nervous.

We hope all is well with you. Please stay in touch! Email us at waite@earthlink.net. Operators are standing by!



Margie and Kathy at Angkor Wat



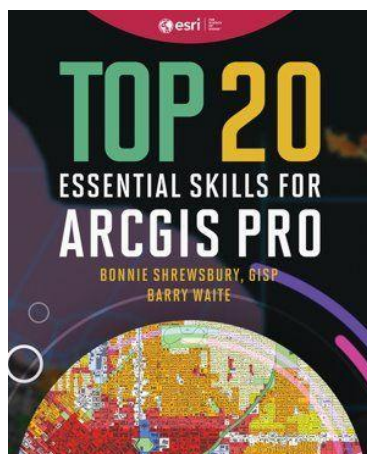
Welcome to Waikiki Beach!



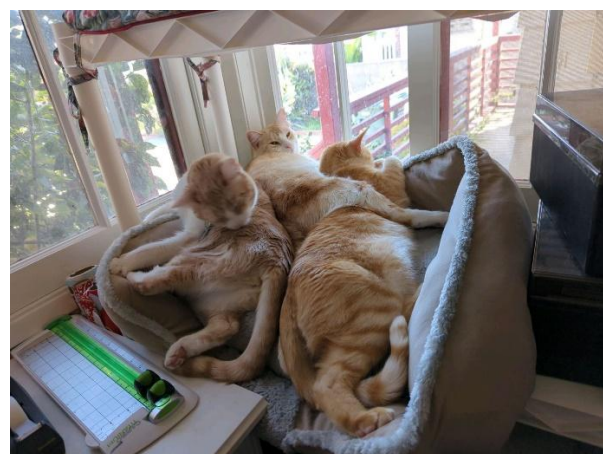
A LOT of snow on the treehouse at the cabin



Amos hanging out in his cat-free yard



Barry co-authored a textbook.
A real page turner!



The cats relaxing in a pile Margie's office