



Hello!

Hello friends and family, we hope this finds you well!

Our big trip this year was another [Camino](#). We walked the first half of the [Camino del Norte](#), from San Sebastian, along the north coast of Spain. 250 miles in 30 days, our usual leisurely average of eight miles a day. The Norte is very hilly, more steep up and down than any of our previous walks. With the Atlantic ocean on the right and lush green mountains on the left, we could not have asked for a more beautiful walk. Lots of good food, friendly people, and *sidra*. This was our fifth pilgrimage; we are addicted! This spring we hope to finish the Norte on to Santiago, or so we thought until we got an idea from [someone else's blog](#), and now we think that, instead of heading inland, we might continue going along the coast for another 100 miles. We love the coast and the charming coastal towns.

We have exciting news to share about Logan. Last summer, he and his partner Steve moved from Washington, DC, to Oberlin, Ohio, where Steve is teaching math at Oberlin College. Logan left his great job taking care of children at the Smithsonian daycare and is now thinking about what career path he wants to take. They bought a house in Oberlin and fixed it up. And, in October, they got married! They are in the process of doing all the complicated paperwork in order to adopt a baby. We are pleased that Steve is part of our family.



Logan and Steve

We like to travel (looking forward to visiting Oberlin!) but we are pretty much home-bodies. Some things we like to do at home:



Doing sudokus with Logan

We order green coffee beans from Sweet Maria's and roast it with a small roaster. We then grind it and stuff it into pods which we then brew in our little Nespresso coffee maker. Yum. It sounds complicated but it really isn't and we get the beans we like.

We recently started doing the New York Times crossword puzzle. So far we can do Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday pretty well, but are not so good at Thursday through Sunday. (They get harder as the week progresses.) For now we are concentrating on the early-in-the-week puzzles till we build up our crossword muscles. Luckily there are jillions of old puzzles available through the NYT archives. We also enjoy doing sudokus occasionally.



Ristras and tomatoes at the market

Wynette continues to study Spanish daily and looks forward to having little conversations with the locals when we are in Spain. Here are some of the [great resources for learning Spanish](#) that she has discovered.

We enjoy an outing to the downtown farmer's market most Saturdays during the summer and fall.

Charlie made it to his 70th birthday in early November. Logan came to visit to help us celebrate. The month before, during Balloon Fiesta, we enjoyed a visit from Charlie's sister, Pat, and her husband, John. Earlier in the summer, we had a lot of fun when Charlie's 13 year old nephew Noah stayed with us a few days.

Charlie walks four miles nearly every morning carrying either a 20 pound backpack (full of old sheets and towels) or a weighted vest. When he wears the vest he looks like he's wearing a bullet-proof vest. He's a legend in our part of town by now. People stop and ask him what he's carrying. Wynette walks to the gym (YMCA) carrying her exercise mat in a small backpack and doing Spanish audio lessons. She's pretty sure people think she is a homeless person talking to herself.

Despite being an old guy, Charlie continues to do some contract programming. He is working with a speech therapist on an iPad app (tinyurl.com/charlie-pt-app) to replace the decks of cards they use. You can see a web app version at <https://st-pro-accounts.firebaseio.com>. (Click on *Sign in Anonymously*.) He just started a new, related app.



We see lots of roadrunners on our morning walks

Wynette is active with the county Master Composters organization and continues to do their [website](#).



Thanksgiving at Christy & Jon's

We enjoy holiday parties with our friends. The parties have become traditions.

We will be with Wynette's family in Carlsbad to celebrate Christmas in late December. Especially looking forward to seeing all of Wynette's nieces and nephews.



Rebecca at her & Terry's 25th high tea and stamping party



Wynette's brothers and parents

Wynette's dad is turning 97 this month. He moves slowly these days, but is still in good health. Wynette's Mom has had some heart problems which concern us but she is doing well now and is very active. For example: Lots of high quality pecans fall from the trees in the retirement village where they live. Each fall Mom picks up many many gallons of the pecans for herself and Dad and all us kids and grandkids. (Luckily there is a place in Carlsbad that will shell them for a reasonable price.) Wynette helped her mom pick up pecans last fall and then sort them and clean them. She learned firsthand how much work her mom had been doing all the years and was amazed how much work it was. Mom said she wasn't going to pick up pecans this year but ... guess what ... she ended up picking up huge quantities (and sorting them and cleaning them.) We sure do enjoy having the pecans, and now appreciate them even more.

If you'd like, you can go to wynchar.com/2018. There you'll find a link to an album with large versions of these photos and a few others with captions, as well as trip blog, etc. We hope you have a Merry Christmas, (belated) Happy Hanukkah, and a great New Year. Please stay in touch and come visit. You can reach us at 809 Madison St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110, 505-255-5226, wynrich@gmail.com, cpcrowley@gmail.com.