

41. Annual Report

One Year Ago

I was still teaching, staying up late every night grading papers and wondering why I was still doing it after so many years. I was tired and uninspired. I was very satisfied, however, with my weight loss and cosmetic surgery. It really felt like I was in the best shape of my life, at peace with how I look, and as good as I am gonna get. I was hoping to find interests to take the place of teaching and to revitalize and energize me the way teaching used to. I was also hoping to get more involved politically, to develop more as a consultant, to be more active, and to travel more. A girl can dream.

A year later, I am working part-time at Belle Isle Library, where I was before unretired the first time and started at Bishop McGuinness. A tech again. Most of the same co-workers; all of the same library groupies. It's a good reason to get out of the flannel PJs and flipflops and escape the local Walmart. One thing I do love about working at the library is the intelligence and versatility of my co-workers. Nothing like the close-mindedness of lifelong private school teachers! Trust me on this one. One thing I hate are the library groupies – boring, needy, lurkers with bad attitudes who feel entitled to special treatment. Aaaargh!

Now

I'm still satisfied with my appearance and more physically fit. I have become an aging gym rat. Who knew I was going to love yoga and pilates a year ago? I have tried every YMCA class and these two kinds of exercise satisfy me physically and mentally in ways I never suspected were possible. I've actually bought my own yoga equipment – mat, blocks, belt, you know, I could become an addict (but that's a good thing). At 80, they're gonna have to drag me off my yoga mat on the way to the nursing home! I'm almost as surprised about how much I've been enjoying getting politically involved. I may yet run for a real office!

My web presence has expanded so much that I even have a PayPal donate button on my teacher website and have developed an entirely separate website on weight loss and all that. Though smaller in scope, the personal is more satisfying than the professional. Some how the 400 hits on *An Informed Journey* mean more to me than the 90,000+ on *MsEffie's LifeSavers*.

I have become very involved in the College Board program and they treat me right. The Mentor Program meets in Las Vegas every year! I've done several APSIs and have offers for more. I'm also developing new presentation certifications so I can do more in the future.

OK, no travel yet. But...

This last year has shown me that I can make progress, though not as fast or as strong as I had hoped. I do have the innate "laidbackness" of the newly retired. One task accomplished a day feels like hard work.

Plans for the Future

I'm actually a precinct delegate and running for the Secretary of the Cleveland County Democratic Party. Hey, I've got a key to the county office!

I plan on taking more intensive private yoga classes. Seriously.

I've got five workshops scheduled for this summer (and, yes, that may mean I'll have to leave the library. Again. We'll see.)

I'm just beginning to develop a very personal blog - *2Words4U* - a domain I have owned for years and neglected. This may encourage me to write about more diverse topics, even if just for me.

I have become FaceBook Fan, reconnecting with students over my whole career. I find the sense of community surprising and love the serendipity of how things connect in unexpected ways. More will come.

Just today, I made a down payment on a trip to Venice in a year. Ciao, baby!