

Kalunamoo (*Kä-luna-moo*) n. 1. The name of a festive day celebrating the fortunes that can be achieved by embracing opposing viewpoints. 2. from lost South Seas folk tales embracing opposite ideas 3. Literally, sun moon and sea.



Yearly News Aboard **Kalunamoo**

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Lat. 18°19.1N, Long. 64°37.0W



Escape Velocity: the minimum speed required for a particle or other body to be released permanently from the attractive force of another particle or body's gravity.

The escape velocity for a particle on earth is about seven miles per second. It is not that easy to calculate the escape velocity for other things.

What speed is needed to escape the fear mongers of life; the news that hijacks your mind and lays waste to civilized discourse; the daily grind that seems beyond your control; the not so pleasant people that inhabit the same planet? Speed, of course is distance divided by time. I wonder if we have crossed over that escape velocity while cruising.

We are into our fifth year of cruising and traveled over 10,000 nautical miles. That's about 5 miles a day under our keel. At that speed and distance we have escaped the daily land based pressures. Of course they have been replaced with other pressures and issues. Also, you can never escape health and personal issues or all outside influences, nor would one want to, but I think we have entered another sphere of being while cruising. "Home" does seem centered on a tiny floating vessel and not a specific place. The wind (with the help of some diesel fuel) propels us to places we enjoy, with people that are friendly and helpful, and in short, to a blue planet that is amazing.

What is missing, of course, are our daughters and their growing families and our immediate family, including my father. "Home" in that sense is when we are with them. Love is the attractive force that binds us and we are not released from that.

This year started early on the first day of January. The morning after New Year's Eve is always quiet and as the city slept in, we slipped away over the clouds and flew from JFK to St. Thomas to rejoin *Kalunamoo*. The remainder of winter and spring was spent sailing south, stopping off on various East Caribbean islands enjoying the many different island styles — from the very touristy Virgins, to the French islands of St. Martin, Guadeloupe, and Martinique, to the



ex-British island of Antigua, to the "nature" island of Dominica, to the small islands of the Grenadines and finally to Grenada and Trinidad. For those who follow our blog, we will not repeat what we wrote during that period but each island was a joy to visit and experience.

We did have to fly back to Miami for a week from Guadeloupe when Maureen's brother, Michael, unexpectedly passed away. It was a sudden and sad realization that life takes turns when least expected, some of them not so pleasant.

In May, *Kalunamoo* was put on the hard, in Trinidad, for major boat work and in June, we flew to NYC to attend our niece's wedding and to get medical checkups. Another unexpected turn in life, and the rest of the summer was spent with medical issues and a few trips between Trinidad and New York to keep *Kalunamoo's* work on schedule. Both turned out ok. The medical issue, possible return of kidney cancer was nerve racking and the boat work went slowly. The result was that we spent more time in New York with family and friends then in Trinidad, where we enjoyed that island's attractions with other cruisers.

Our three daughters and families are doing fine. Melanic and Dave's son Corey, our oldest grandson started college! He is going to Oswego, just like his parents did. His brother Shane graduates high school next year! Laura and Drew's son Michael is doing very well playing team ice hockey, baseball and school while the twins, Timothy and Ryan, also doing well in school are active in baseball. Liz and Sean are kept busy with Caleigh, now in first grade, and James, who is catching up to her sister in height and has surpassed her in weight, has started preschool. They also have a German Shepherd, Hanna, to keep them busy. They all are growing up so fast! Maureen and I appreciate the sight of a new generation unfolding and spreading their wings, even from afar. They are in our thoughts more than they know. The family photo (above) was taken when we all got together for Christmas this year.

And so we wonder. Did we exceed the escape velocity of our land based life style? In some ways, yes. That strong attractive force may not be strong enough to pull *Kalunamoo* north next summer. We will, however, be in New York for much of the summer to be with family and friends but our vehicle of choice may lie in the warm waters of the Caribbean for another year, out of a hurricane's reach. Our "take away" from reaching escape velocity? Released from the grip of uncontrollable forces enhanced an appreciation of what is best in life and denied the dark clouds of fear to obscure the sun.

**Have a Joyous Christmas
and a Healthy New Year.**

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