



Yearly News Aboard

Kalunamoo

December 2018
Lat. 17°04.5N, Long. 61°53.7W



Ever faster, we sped through the year again. Along the way we heard the happy news of newborns, the sad news of those who passed, the crazy news of political shenanigans, the proud news of personal achievements and of course, the certification of my 70th year here on earth. All this while Maureen and I spent most of our time in the Eastern Caribbean Islands. A good deal of that in Antigua, Guadeloupe and the summer in Trinidad, although long trips to New York during the summer broke that up. No need to review all that! It is well documented in the Blog.



Our family is doing well, with our oldest grandchild, Corey, graduating from college next year and our youngest, James, now in 1st grade. My Dad, at 97, is well and still misses mom and fishing. We'll all get together for Christmas. It is an opportunity to be in touch with living family members spanning almost a 200-year period.

How is that possible? My dad was born in 1921 and our youngest grandson will likely be alive in the 22nd

century. In my father's eyes, the detailed past can be seen; all is alive and fills his memories which he shares with us. We see the causal relationships in that continuum that lead us to the present. In James's eyes, we see events, which we can only speculate about, but will unfold in due time. He is the future part of the continuum that we encounter now. Of course, everyone can only be present in the now, but touching others that reach back nearly 100 years or ahead nearly the same, links us to that continuum of time.



That brings a question to mind: what changes have and will take place during this continuum? And from that, it is understandable to think that it is our duty and responsibility to carry our knowledge and experience forward, that what we know will smooth the waters for future generations, i.e. progress. A faith forms around the need to construct a future, safe from the errors of our past and to erect supports of that desired future.

The evidence seems overwhelming for this idea. The foundation of Knowledge is inherited from the past. Progress seems to be as real as the arrow of time; it points in one direction only and with family a major cornerstone for future progress. Certainly, we see dynastic families, their offspring leading very successful and influential lives. The competitive drive to succeed, and the inheritance of Knowledge motivates us forward. Believing life a competitive adventure itself is motivational.

We certainly have the appearance of progress to support the above idea. Clever machines proliferate. But we can only act in the now. We can remember, and we can plan; we can envision, and we can explain. But we can't alter yesterday or guarantee tomorrow, and our clever machines will not alter that. On top of this, many important lessons "learned" from past generations seem to be ignored. Human nature seems immutable while clever machines supplant our desire and worse, our need, for intellectual or moral progress.



And so, the year passed. I can only hope that we lived up to the expectations of those who went before us and a testimonial to those who will follow. Progress? Maybe it is only an illusion of clever machines. We will always be the future to our parents and the past to our children. How we live today must honor both while others determine if that is progress.

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

Bill & Maureen

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wanderings.**

