

**Season's Greetings, Merry Christmas, Wesolych Swiat, Bozego Narodzenia, Craciun Fericit, Feliz Navidad, Srozhdestvom Kristovym, and Happy New Year**

We extend our best wishes for a festive holiday season, continued good health, and prosperity in the coming year. May you be surrounded by family and friends that celebrate this season with you ... that you rejoice in their company and companionship. On balance, year 2010 was good to us. With luck and careful management, illness and pain was kept at bay ... although the aging process is unrelenting. Both of us strive to maintain a healthy lifestyle, but it seems the many temptations of "living hard and fast" make it difficult. It just seems that the many enjoyments of our youth are no longer agreeable to either of us. The full dinner plate is getting smaller ... sweets and snacks "verboten" ... the typical evening cocktail a thing of the past, and desserts ... well, some things are really impossible to give up. But we try, for good genes run in both of our families and a long and healthy life is our goal. To that end, Ed continues his gym regimen, although at a reduced intensity and only in one club (he dropped his El Paso membership) ... and Dolores maintains her busy schedule of line dancing, tai-chi, and visiting most every store between home and destination. The vagaries of the current economy have not dampened or curtailed our standard of living here in the desert, but it has become a challenge on how best to live frugally and unpretentious, without sacrificing comfort. Yes, 11 years in the desert for us ... it's been that long. The Southwest is agreeable to us ... warm weather year 'round, no unusual or harsh weather to contend with, a moderate cost of living, and close enough to outdoor adventures. Although our wanderings have somewhat subsided, there is that that yearn to "go out there" and "do things". With all those positive attributes, one would believe that family or friends from "up North" would clamor to visit us. True, we are considered to live at the edge of the civilized world, but New Mexico is no longer "The Wild West", we have indoor "privies", our water is safe to drink, and our streets are paved and lacking horse poop. By any American standard, we are considered "paradise". So, let this be an invitation to one and all, family or friend, come visit us ... "mi casa es su casa". On that last note, some have taken advantage of this offer. Ed's nephew from Illinois (Andy) paid us a visit in mid-February for a few days. A welcome visit, one we enjoyed immensely, for it gave us the opportunity to extend the best of our hospitality. Not to just sit at home, we took Andy to a few of our favorite (and nearby) attractions: (l to r) Gila Indian Cliffs, Carlsbad Caverns, White Sands, and the Sacramento Mountains (from the warmth of the desert to the chill of snow-capped mountains). Dolores' friends from Illinois

(the Sharp family) also paid a visit and were our house guests in late-July. Again, being the good hosts, we extended the best of hospitality and entertained as best we could. We visited (again) Gila Cliffs and then a tour of Silver City, NM. So unless anyone doubts it, we graciously welcome family and friends to our house.



Isolated in the desert, and with no contact with our extended family spread all over the States, we busy ourselves with a myriad of engaging activities: Dolores with her hectic schedule and forays into exotic cooking and Ed with his love of books (he reads at least 3 a week), his photography, and maintaining the family web site which hosts the family genealogy news as well as the sojourns of travel to local and distant destinations. Life is good ... for you make do with what life and circumstances provides.

Wanderlust came Ed's way again ... he traveled to **Romania** in September for 3 weeks. As Dolores is not fond of long-distance traveling, Ed traveled alone. He spent time with cousin Laurentiu and family in Bucharest. Being adventuresome, Ed and Laurentiu spent 10 days x-border, in **Bulgaria**, eco-exploring, by car, this small EU country with its Thracian culture, historic sites, Black Sea coast, nature parks, mountains, Roman/Bulgar/Ottoman ruins, and Orthodox Christian monasteries. Itinerary was ambitious & non-stop, more educational than playful. Traveling was difficult as language is Slavic with Cyrillic script. English was common enough to ease dining and touring. Laurentiu was a great traveling companion, driver, and guide. Afterwards, both spend a few days visiting Romanian attractions that few tourists manage to explore. In all, a tiring but satisfying visit. As these international trips are becoming more costly and even more tiring, who knows, this may be the last trip to Europe. So ... what did we see and do ... in **Bulgaria** (a short list) ... (l to r) ... (1<sup>st</sup> row) Ancient City of Nessebar (Black Sea), Rila Monastery, Ancient Roman Theatre in Plovdiv, (2<sup>nd</sup> row) Sofia's Church, Rock Churches, and enjoyed Bulgarian Shopska Salad. In **Romania** ... (3<sup>rd</sup> row) Dracula's Castle at Poenari, Fortified Churches in Viscri, and City of Sibiu (among others). Each site visited left a lasting impression as to European history.



As to not accuse Ed of being travel selfish, in November it was Dolores' turn to travel. We spend 5

days away from Las Cruces exploring new sights in Northern New Mexico. Time away always makes one appreciate what one has back home ... PLUS, a chance to learn more about our adopted home of New Mexico. We visited historic National Parks and National Monuments, visited Santa Fe Churches, explored Spanish Missions, toured notable small towns on the "Turquoise Trail", hiked ghost towns and ghost mining camps ... plus an enjoyable stay at several historic hotels. At times a better trip than Europe, because we spend time "at home". See our videos of all sites mentioned in this newsletter ... go to [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com), do a "search" for "rozylowicz1", and travel with us to all of our destinations. In closing, we extend the best of holiday wishes to all who received this update of our doings. **MERRY CHRISTMAS.**