Remembering Friends This Christmas

By Rande Davis

Christmas is the time when family and friends are foremost in our thoughts. The cards we send that help us keep in touch even (or I could say especially) if it is only once a year are much more than a tradition, they have become a lifeline to friendships of long ago. I especially like getting and sending Hanukkah cards, something that has come to me late in life. I like that so much better than sending Holiday or Seasons Greetings cards. I am definitely a Christmas card kind of guy.

Just as Christmas cards can be politically incorrect in some quarters, so too has the Nativity display on public land. Living on Whalen Commons, I get a special thrill putting our Jesus manger scene up knowing that if I moved it about twelve feet further, it might start an uproar. I know, I know, that’s not the best Christmas spirit to have. I must also admit I got the same thrill a couple of years ago when I first put up my homemade Menorah. Frankly, my Jewish friends have really appreciated it. The primary reason it is there is that a couple of years ago we had a great little fellow join our family. His name is Alexander Frishman, the son of my new son-in-law, Craig. Craig is Jewish and my daughter is Christian, and we had a fabulous joint wedding ceremony at St. Peter’s honoring both traditions. When the first Christmas after the wedding came along, I realized my front yard and heart were missing something. As an Opa (grandpa in Dutch), my decorating the outside is dedicated to the grandkids, and I wasn’t about to leave Alexander out of the fun.

So, to all my friends, Christian and non-Christian alike, I say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, hoping you understand that my heartfelt best wishes are for you to experience the joy, the love, and the peace that I hold for you year ’round.