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My 51 year old Christmas Tree is still in the box

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

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It should be standing in my sunroom now like it did last year on a patchwork skirt that I made from our children's baby clothes and my maternity dresses. Circumstances this year required a different choice.



I appreciate looking at the pictures posted by Sparkers of their holiday decorations. I admire them vicariously and imagine the joy they are bringing to your house. Thank you for sharing them.

My tree reflects 50 years of good times and bad.

It began in 1969 when my Dad and I bought it at Sears for \$30. Joe was in Vietnam and I sent him a photo with 3 month old baby Jeannie under the tree. So sometimes a photo is enough to bring cheer. The picture will be enough for both of us this year. The tree may not physically be in the room but the memories are alive in our minds.

Joe is 75 now and I didn't want to guilt him into the effort of constructing that big tree, stringing lights etc. We will be alone and that's OK. Knowing our children and grandchildren are safe in their own homes is enough. Internet visits will suffice for us until the world is safe again.

Note: I truly understand the situation of those missing young grandchildren and those for whom a visit with a loved one may be the last time. Our grandchildren are 19 -26. They do not change much month to month or even year to year. Waiting to visit is easier for us.

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It was different when they were little. We had 2 grandchildren when my Dad died just before Christmas. It was a sad time. He was in intensive care for 10 days beginning Dec 10th. Still, the house was decorated and the tree was in place. It was comforting since many of the ornaments were from my childhood and a memory of Dad.

This is our tree this year.

It's tiny but it was made for us by a dear lady who is now in assisted living.

I think of her when I look at it



I had to make other careful choices this year. Retrieving decorations always raises dust. Not a good idea for us right now. We don't need allergy symptoms mimicking something worse.

My choices may be small but they hold big memories.

This is the cardboard manger I bought in 1957 with my own money. It was 99 cents
The figures are chalk and still have the price written on the bottom – 5 or 10 cents each.
I didn't have enough money for the Wise Men. They were added the following year



The table covering was a gift from my relatives in Slovakia. There had been no contact between the families for over 70 years before I found them in 2008. The memories of our many visits since then bring me joy and hope that there will be more.

A choir of angels stands above the creche, gathered from various countries in our travels.
I have hope that their numbers will eventually grow.

Finally and most important – A gold Christmas Bell.



My Dad bought this for me in 1962, a Christmas when our family life was very unsettled. There was no tree that year. He bought it for \$2 from a guy with a stand on a Brooklyn street. We bought the little bell on the right on a trip to Lithuania, the country where Dad's parents were born

Dad's bell plays Silent Night. Dad told me that next Christmas would be better. I will listen to the bell this year and hope for the future just as I did in 1962

Whatever or however you celebrate (or not), decorate (or not), I wish you joy and hope that 2021 will bring a safer and better year for all of us

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Member Comments About This Blog Post



NANANANA

Treasures to be enjoyed. May we travel again soon.
168 days ago

[v](#)



GINA180847

I love your blog. Memories are so wonderful. My good ones are front and center and the bad ones are ragged and faded. We don't celebrate Xmas but may as well as so many loved ones

include us Bahais.
170 days ago



[v](#)



ANDEC1

Your memories brought tears to my eyes - yes indeed this is a very different Christmas!
170 days ago

[v](#)



GRAMPIAN

And the same to you.
171 days ago



[v](#)



JULIJULINN

171 days ago

[v](#)

CATE195

Wishing you a joyous holiday too.



[v](#)



171 days ago

Comment edited on: 12/18/2020 7:04:47 AM



BKNOCK

v

Such beautiful memories!

171 days ago



SPARKPEOPLE1951

v

I loved your story, thanks for sharing. Memories you just can't put a price on them. Have a

great day and enjoy the Holidays. Just think next year at this time will be so great.

171 days ago



PAMBACH

v

Thank you for sharing this very personal story. It brought tears to my eyes. The true meaning of Christmas.

171 days ago



MCJULIEO

v

Oh, in joyed this blog, s it brought back many special sweet memories..... I, too, don't have a Christmas tree up, but I strung lights on the silk ficus tree on the front porch. And hung greenery with lights over the front door, and I am enjoying it just as much without all the dread of taking it all down again on a deadline.

I WILL get to be with grandchildren for a camping trip together soon, so we can still be close without being TOO close.... brrrrrrrrrr...

One day at a time! Merry Christmas!

171 days ago



CHERRYZMB60

v

I am 70yrs old and thought about not getting a tree this year but said I was not going to let Covid change Christmas for me. I live with Bella my cat and I am waiting for my tree branches to drop so I can decorate it. YES IT IS A LIVE TREE!!!! I am lucky my oldest daughter and grandson live 8mins from me. I don't see them every week. I do open door say HI wave close door and leave when I'm up that way something

171 days ago



ROCKYCPA

v

What wonderful memories - thanks for sharing!

172 days ago



MEKAYB

v

Your sweet blog and these comments have brought me to tears --- this Christmas and all the holy-days of this season are sure to be different and we can all celebrate or commemorate each in our own way. It really is true that our loved ones are always in our heart. Thank you, everyone!

172 days ago



WILDKAT781

v



172 days ago



KAREN_EDMONDS

v

So many great memories to help you get through the holidays. I am putting up my scraggly little pre-lit tree I got years ago at the Bon Marche before it became Macy's. The lights were cut off a couple of years ago but I have some that I can add.

Merry Christmas and let's hope 2021 will be a better year.

172 days ago



MORAVIANSTAR

v

Such a sweet blog. I love your patchwork tree skirt! We have our Moravian star on the porch and candles in the windows plus a few of our favorite things out in the house and Christmas cards on the mantle. It seems peaceful and just enough for this year. Happy, different Christmas/Hanukkah!

172 days ago



DEE797

v

Beautiful blog! Loved reading about your traditions and gathering ornaments when you travel. Thanks so much for sharing and reminding us all of hope a brighter future.

172 days ago



NANHBH

Beautiful blog! I think you speak for so many of us.

Well Said!

172 days ago

v



4DOGNIGHT

I so enjoyed reading that. I have tiny 1" porcelain bells that came from my mother. She has been gone 40 years but I think of her whenever I hang them on the tree. We have a scraggly charlie Brown tree from Big Lots with lots of holes. But I filled them with large ornaments and it looks pretty good. Lots of my ornaments with shared with my kids a few years back. Thank you for sharing.

172 days ago

v



STRIVERONE

That was poignant. It got me thinking of a few ornaments my dad and I picked out more than 60 years ago.

172 days ago

v



ALIHIKES

Love your blog and the photos and memories. This year I am only putting up the nativity. I will be staying home and zooming with my friends and family. It's a very different year.

172 days ago

v



ELSCO55

2020 is so different. It will be especially hard for me as I lost my 93 year old mom on my birthday Monday.

172 days ago

v



JAMER123

OH my goodness! Did your blog bring back memories of my dad. Dad died on this date in 1993 at age 70. IT was a sudden death. Burial was on the winter solace, cold snowing, windy and the sun suddenly appeared while at the cemetery. And now, my SIL's brother died this morning (the 16th) from Covid. Many memories are floating in my head. Thank you for the memories.

(From Eileen to Eileen)



172 days ago

v



SWEETNEEY

Lovely thoughtful and poignant thoughts

172 days ago

v



DGRIFITH51

This is definitely a different Christmas for a lot of us. We chose not to decorate this year because I had foot surgery and I am using a wheel chair to get around, can't walk until January. We live in the country so we get very few visitors anyway.

We hope you enjoy your scaled down Christmas, not as much work to put away after Christmas.



172 days ago

v



MANGO1960



Thank you for sharing.

172 days ago

v



MARTHA324

We are all making difficult choices this year to stay healthy (and alive!) and we hope that next year we can go back to those important traditions.

We light the Hanukkah candles tonight and are supposed to let them burn down, but we both forgot to buy new ones! So I snuffed them out and will re-use the next two nights along with some tea lights. Different is not always bad.



172 days ago

v

THINCPL2004

Great Christmas 🎄 memories!

172 days ago

v



MAWMAW101

I put up our tree just for us because I needed the reminder that the reason for Christmas is still here. Actually it helps.



172 days ago



Jericho1991

Good Christmas memories. Thanks for sharing.
172 days ago



JPPERSELL

I put up my tree and decorated it this year. I am not in the Christmas mood but I am going through the motions. I bought Christmas gifts for my grown sons like I do every year. I spoil them. I wish I could see them more often but I know with covid it isn't safe so I pray that they will all get the vaccine so I can see them. It makes me kind of sad that I can't get up the energy to decorate but it will be just my husband and I for Christmas so why bother
172 days ago



RACHNACH



172 days ago



KURTZIE1998

Memories are priceless and can never be taken away from us no matter what. Have a great holiday season. Hugs
173 days ago



BECOMINGDI

What a lovely blog- and bringing your memories into the house even if the tree sits outside. We also are alone this year- no grandkids but my boys are grown and living their lives- we will stay as safe as we can because I care for my mother, who is 84. Blessing to you this Christmas.
173 days ago



THOMS1

Love your small tree and anyway that you celebrate. We have gone through many trees and I think we are on our last one. It's no problem to put up. It is a pull up tree that is pre lit and pre decorated. We gave our children all of the decorations from old that they wanted and we get along



fine with what we have. I cannot believe that in 9 days it will be Christmas. How time flies.



173 days ago



THROOPER62



post
173 days ago



DONNALEE-53

The manger is the one I grew up with. I remember my mom putting our every year since I was a child. I have no idea what happened to it. Thanks for the memory. Your tree is beautiful.



173 days ago



NOTALOSER1

Thank you for sharing and much respect to Joe for his service to our country. In 1961, I lost my dad at the age of 8 due to injuries sustained during the Battle of the Bulge. Two weeks before Christmas. As I got older, it became a time of reflection and thanks for all those who were there for me when I needed them and as an opportunity to give back in some small way. The tree has devolved into a 3.5 ft. table model. Like you, my daughter and 11 year old granddaughter are 1200 miles away and we can't wait for the vaccine so we might make a visit home. I'm in Florida so it



might be a bit longer for me to trust them coming down. BTW..... you made me laugh when referencing the fact you couldn't afford the wise men! You sound like me.... my work life started at 9 by sweeping hair in a barber shop for dimes. However, having my own money led to a severe Pepsi addiction which I just stopped in March. So, if not for Pepsi, we may have never met. Have a great Christmas and God Bless!
173 days ago



GODSBEST

Nice story.

173 days ago



PATTYSPENCER

I'm pretty much a bah humbug at Christmas but this year I did put up an 8" ceramic tree that I made - was made to sell but since the consignment shop I'm in has temporarily closed I thought I'd use it as I can always sell it later. This was the 1st tree I've put up since my son was 15 (he didn't care either much about Christmas) and he's 36 now and still doesn't care about putting up a tree.

173 days ago



MPQUINNY

Beautiful blog, beautiful memories, even the sad ones.
Thank you.

173 days ago



SUSANYOUNGER



Such a great post.

173 days ago



UPTOIT59

Luckily I live with a man who adores Christmas and all the trimmings- me? I could easily see me scaling back, especially this year but as long as he is able we will have a tree and lights and



Carols on the radio. I guess we all stay true to ourselves - I am just reaping the benefits.

173 days ago



OLDSKOOL556

Thanks! For sharing! Beautiful Blog

173 days ago



DIANNEMT

Thank you. What a blessing this is to read.

173 days ago



WATERMELLEN

Our Christmas too will be "just the two of us" plus Zoom or phone contact with our kids and other family. I don't have the heart for Christmas decorating but that's OK: better times are coming, and I'm grateful for all the efforts to distribute the vaccine and all the people who're continuing to wear masks and social distance while we wait.

173 days ago



CHERYLHURT

Beautiful

173 days ago



ETHELMERZ

Thanks for your memories..

173 days ago



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