



Leap Year Evening at the Del Alma

HOW I FIRST MET JEAN

**Leap year lets the girl invite for a
for a date and this girl asked *me*
to the “Last Chance Dance”
sponsored by our youth group.**

**I came to the group to be able to play
church league sports...
not to attend church
or get into group activities.**

**I had attended Sunday School
from Jr department years...
Jean was there too...
boys and grades separated
so I had never noticed her.**

**So I am with my guy friends...
here comes this girl...
her friends urging her on...
right up to me.**

**Would I go with her...
to the Last Chance Dance...?
“No...I can’t dance.”**

**One of my lifelong sad memories
has been seeing her long walk
to report to her friends.**

**I didn’t go to that dance...
but she had my attention
she has had it ever since...
I have not said no to her again.**

**So we celebrated our Leap Year...
when we first met in 1948...
and the life we’ve had together
in a marriage of 68 years now.**
Art Morgan, Leap Year 2020

HOW TO BE SAFE

Here’s what I found people really concerned about this week. And it wasn’t Lent.

One concern was the coronavirus (ie. Covid-19) which has taken 14 lives near Seattle and afflicted many more. Two on my lists live in nearby assisted living homes. Many others live in and around Seattle. One works in a hospital with a whole floor set aside for suspected cases.

This Tuesday a Safeway clerk we know sat by me at Starbucks. His wife is an assistant manager at Safeway. She wears a Burka so I presume they are Muslim. His mother lives in Amman, Jordan. He is a full-time Oregon State straight A student who also works a shift at Safeway to help raise his family. He’s trying to do it all.

That same day I had a haircut with my long-time barber. He’s facing chemotherapy beginning next week for inoperable cancer. He knows what he’s up against.

Late that afternoon I picked up my car from the mechanic. He took time to tell me how his weekly Bible study is his life-line in his living beyond alcoholism. One day at a time.

So I have spent two weeks trying to say something profound and relevant about what the early evangelists wrote about Jesus last days. They wrote decades after Jesus was long gone. I finally realized how few care.

As I write this page today I know that some on my lists are trying to make it through this day. Some are in early stages of dealing with deep grief. And some I know are preparing themselves for news they don’t want to hear. Most are juggling demands of work, home, errands, doctor’s appointments, shopping. None I know of had Lent on their list.

Every day is a holy day and every week a holy week. No season is more important than another. Life is today.

Finally, I read where some churches and synagogues and mosques are closed due to the corona-virus. My advice? If you really want to avoid a crowd go to a mid-week Lenten service. In my years of leading such services there has never been a crowd to worry about.

Be safe out there!

Art Morgan, 10th Day of Lent, 2020

EXTRA!

One more report from this week! A photo-text from Portland on Thursday shows grandson Kyle with a tiny bundle in his big hands. Our 7th great-grandchild. A girl. Big brother and her mom are happy.