

August 8, 2019

“DECOUPLING:” SO LONG, CLEVELAND

My break from contributing here was partially a conscious decision and partially enforced by the process of “de-coupling” from all my Cleveland activities... and a ton of time packing! I found myself marking my last shift as a Head Usher at Playhouse Square, my last PHS Tour, my last shift as a Starter at Big Me Golf Course, my last Saturday’s with my golf team, and my last Trivia events with 2 different teams.

The other mission I had to accomplish before leaving town was to help niece Jenne (Moose’s daughter) and her husband Joseph get a staged reading of their show “Winesday... A Musical Wine Tasting” produced in Cleveland. We had 2 nights and she was able to make connections with good people and a number of theaters. Still this was one of the toughest endeavors to leave behind.

It’s really interesting to me how I felt so strongly about my “last” events. After all I’m not dying (as far as I know)! And I already have a lot of scheduled re-visits for events in Cleveland. But this is a huge change in my life, and I will truly miss my Cleveland Teams!

Also interesting... everything I mentioned above involved Teams! I didn’t even mention my Substitute Teaching teams, but they were very supportive in every case... or I didn’t go back to those schools! I guess the important things to know about me is that I am a very social creature. I enjoy the give and take, the shared experience and even (perhaps especially) the good-natured teasing. This was particularly evident in the party that Daughter Erin and boyfriend Ed had for me on my 68th birthday a week before I moved. So grateful for the family and friends that showed their love and support.

The other thing all these “lasts” say about me is how I need to be needed. This is a tough thing to accept without acknowledging being “needy”, which I don’t think I am. My best work and my best times in my relationships were when I was needed. My last girl-friend Carol and I were great at working together... and our relationship failed when she stopped needing me and I stopped cherishing her. Sad.

A large chunk of the appeal of the House Director Challenge is that “need to be needed” part of me. My hope is to be a valued part of the college experience and personal growth of these young men... my nightmare is to be insignificant. We used to say about the Bear (my Dad, a classic “bull of the woods”) that no one was ever indifferent about him... they might love him or hate him, but they could not ignore him. In that way I guess I want to be like the Bear.