

THANKSGIVING FOLLIES

NOVEMBER 25, 2005

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Hey

November 28, 2004

I told you I would send you a shot of the sidewalk. Here it is. Isn't it quaint! And all along it on both sides are the neatest houses and gardens you have ever seen. The big yellow house on the right recently sold for, well, I'll just say very, very close to seven figures. The people that own it only live there on the weekend! They have another large home they live in during the week. Can you imagine?



I have just been going and doing round the clock and am still getting organized. Lots of friends just "pop" in now, too, which I love. Busy at work and trying to make myself "slow down" a bit when I get home. So far, so good. I am finally getting into a routine which makes everything easier. Things I don't get finished at home just have to wait a day or two.

I am really looking forward to Thanksgiving this year. Jessica has a new friend (I adore him!) and she and Matt will be joining me for Thanksgiving along with very dear friends from NYC and a couple of others from here in Virginia Beach.

I LOVE THANKSGIVING! I even enjoy all of the preparation. But, of course, my favorite, like everyone else, is “grazing” all afternoon and evening and watching football. Plus the turkey sandwiches. What a neat holiday.

The Kitchen

I wish Jeremy could be here this year, but he will be home for Christmas. He called me tonight and it was so funny. He was “somewhere” in northern California and he was lost. He wanted me to check out the small route he was following and tell him where he was headed. He was going through the Sierra Nevadas and there were no towns or store to stop and ask. Well, Map quest doesn't do you much good when you aren't sure what you are looking for, so I remembered an

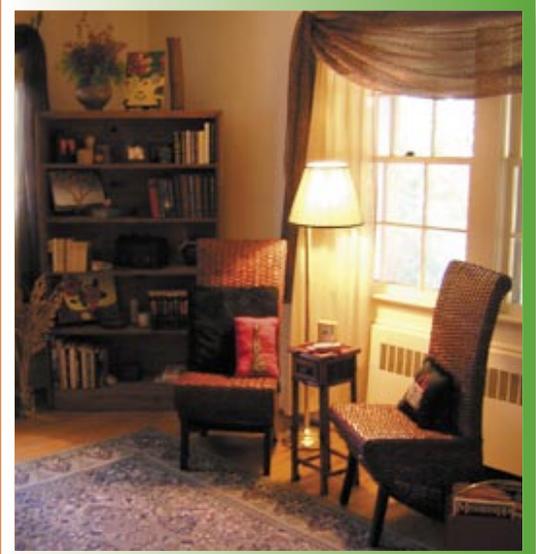
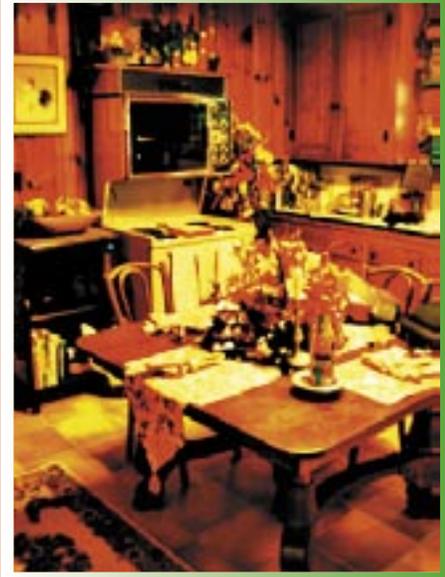
old Atlas I had. I ran and pulled that out and traced his route. He had been in Lake Tahoe securing a place to live for the next three months. (His company is paying for him to work there for three months during Sunriver, Oregon's off-season. Tough life, eh?) Anyway, I found the little spot where he was and his instincts were right.

He was about 30 miles off track, headed in the right direction, but on a different, smaller route through the

mountains that was going to take him a much longer time. He had only gone about twenty miles when he called, so that was good, but he was tired, and bummed, and ready to get home to Oregon.

I sat there for the longest time after we hung up and just studied at the map and smiled. I remember my days in California at his age. What a wonderful experience. I know he is having the time of his life, too. I'll let you know when he starts working in Tahoe - probably January. Any of you traveling out that way will have to look him up. He is doing so well.

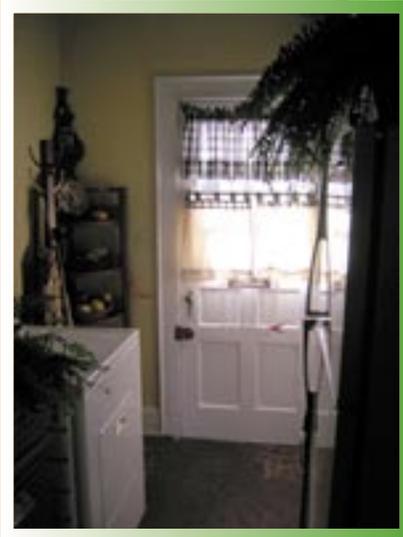
I wish my brother and sister could be here, too, but my sister has twenty kids and grand kids descending upon her for Turkey Day, and my brother and his whole family are traveling to Ft. Benning, Georgia to be with Andy, his youngest son, who is in training to be a Ranger there.



*Two chairs I picked up for a “song!”
Aren't they great!*

Man, we all get scattered over the course of the years, don't we.

I remember when I lived in California and only saw my mom and dad once a year. I didn't think that much about it then, but now that I am the mother waiting to see her son - well - once a year is hardly enough. I have been checking into taking a train trip out there when he gets back to Oregon. From Chicago to Portland is only 48 hours - HaHa! - but man, the country you go through is supposed to be unreal...all of the northwestern states I have not seen. I would love to do that at least one way. We will see.



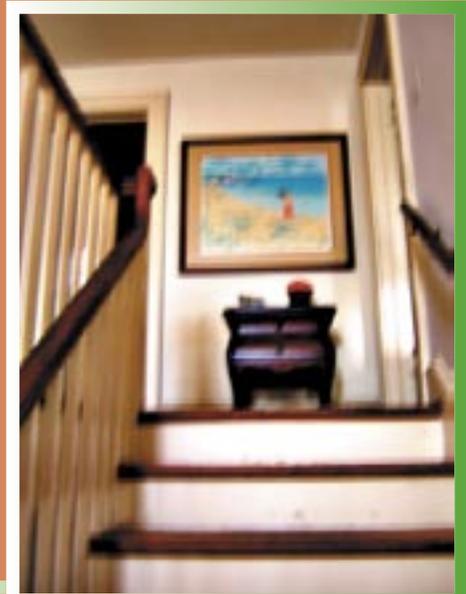
Painting the laundry room, and the landing at the top of the stairs.

This Thanksgiving is also a bit sad for me because last Thanksgiving was the last time I really had any "quality time" with my mom. She was always so ill after that, that trips home just were not the same at all. Wonderful memories, though. That's what you have to hang on to.

OK, those of you in this area - I am so excited!!!

One of my favorite students, discovered "late in life" (during her college years....) that she is an incredible singer! Courtney Totushek has been singing now in the D.C. and NYC area for several years, and has a huge following! She and her band are coming to the Virginia Beach to play at the Hilltop Brewery on Laskin Road Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 27. They start, typically, at 10:00 p.m.

(I know that seems late to start, but I promise you, it will be worth it!) She has a hard time getting the word out down here since she does not live here anymore - so I told her we would help her "stir the pot." Please, finish your left-over turkey sandwiches and join me in welcoming Courtney next Saturday night. I can promise, you won't be disappointed.



If you would like to hear some of Courtney's work, go to her website and check it out. Superb!

(Hey, Chuck and Jenna, why don't you have her on your morning show sometime? She's a very quick wit!)

<http://www.totushek.com/>

Here is a recent review from the Washington Post...

Described as "refreshing and soulful" by George Washington University students and as having "a touch of Ani DiFranco" by Washington Post writer Marianne Meyer, folk singer/song-writer Courtney Totushek has established a solid following in the nation's capital with her moving music and powerful stage presence.

Originally from Virginia Beach, Va., Totushek now lives in Alexandria, Va. and plays regularly in the DC Metro area, combining cover songs by popular artists with her original music. "Her music is full of life...her lyrics connect really well with the audience," explains Jen Heitel, President and Spokeswoman of The George Washington University chapter of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, a group who has brought Totushek onto campus for multiple shows.

Totushek's original song "And Time Realized" is featured on "From the Underground: Volume 2", a recent collection of acoustic tracks by DC and Virginia based artists. Prior to being released on CD, the song was downloaded hundreds of times from The Washington Post's mp3 site. During its first week online, "And Time Realized" finished at #2 on the site's Top 50 chart of the most downloaded songs. Totushek is currently in the studio recording several original tracks, with plans to release a CD later this year. As she moves forward with the recording process, Totushek continues to tour the Mid-Atlantic.

Good luck, Courtney! We will see you Saturday night!

I will leave you this week with some shots of the things I am very thankful for this season.
Love to you all.

