

Holidays after Retirement

by Susan Butt Nelson

I haven't taken any cruises or European trips in a couple of years, and feel pretty jealous of those who have. So, to combat my feelings of poor me, I have been trying to be aware of the small moments of joy around me here at home. The holidays are over and the joy from this past season came from:

- 1) Not going to any mall during November and December
- 2) Cooking Christmas dinner for family and friends
- 3) Setting the table with linens, crystal, silverware, and china that were either wedding presents or belonged to my mom-- making it all taste good and look beautiful
- 4) Having someone else clean it all up (daughters are wonderful)
- 5) Looking at my decorated tree and way too many other decorations and taking a trip down memory lane, having my own little Hallmark moment
- 6) Having all the Christmas stuff taken down, cleaned up, and stored away by someone else (grandsons are wonderful)
- 7) Going to movies during Christmas and New Year's every day-- the best movie being Avatar in 3-D, which I saw with my youngest grandson who astounded me when I asked him what the moral of the story was and he said "greed"! I couldn't have been prouder!
- 8) Of course, the best small moment came the morning Christmas break was over and I didn't have to go back to school (retirement is wonderful)