

# de Stolfe Journal Candid

*Happy New Year!*  
*New Year 2015*

2015



## Happy New Year!

Now in the last few hours of the year 2014, once again in our annual tradition, we reflect upon the past year. This year, I give you a dedicated mini issue for reflecting on my year, good and bad. Here are a few major events of note. May to October was my temporary job at a museum in Leadville. In July, I drove to Lubbock to teach classes for the Summer Youth Classes, Dad's cat Panda died in August, and I flew to Florida in November. The rest of the year was disturbingly quiet, especially during the first third of the year and the last nearly two months. With all hope as I've stated before, I am expecting to have positive rebuilding through various opportunities early in 2015.

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## Word for Life

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

## Our Boarding House, January 1, 1927



## Our Boarding House, January 1, 1934



# 2014 Facebook Review

*This is a short, edited list of my Facebook posts I made throughout 2014.*

**January 1, 2014, 12:00**  
Happy New Year!



**January 31**

Upon general reflection, I do have one positive thing I can say. I am undeniably blessed in that I am single, never married, and have no kids! For that, I am eternally grateful! For what I've dealt with over the past decade and longer (and certainly other people have had much worse than me), I am glad that no wife or child has had to endure that crap with me!! For that I am eternally blessed!

**February 2**

Well, Super Bowl 2014 came and went. Since I really don't care about football specifically, I dvr'd it and watched it in two parts. And I did the reverse of what I usually do with watching recordings and sped through the game and watched the commercials and halftime show! ...

**February 6** · Colorado Springs, CO  
Well, that's probably the coldest it's been here in many years!



**February 15** · Colorado Springs, CO  
Compared to a few days ago, this is crazy!



**February 15** · Colorado Springs, CO  
Round and round I go

**April 20** · Colorado Springs, CO  
He is risen!  
[Resurrection Sunday]

**May 5**  
Great news on the RG front! I can officially announce that I was offered and have accepted a temporary summer job! This job is at a restored building in Leadville, Colorado. The historic building is called Temple Israel and is the oldest synagogue west of the Mississippi River built in 1884. ... I was just hired to work this summer as a docent and to help redo their website along with other museum tasks. I start at the end of May.

**May 27**  
On the road! [Relocating to Leadville]

**June 14**  
Weird weather! This morning, it was clear, sunny, and warm, probably in the 60s. Late this afternoon, it is mid 40s and very cloudy, windy, with rain AND snow at the same time! Weird!

**June 21**  
Today is the first day of summer! Today is also the longest day of the year (the one day out of the year that has the most daylight).

**June 27**  
At Temple Israel this weekend, they are having the annual cemetery cleanup. Now, in Judiasm, upkeep of a cemetery is more important than the building of worship ... Anyway, tonight starts Shabbat. On Saturday, there will be a Shachrit service followed by an oneg (the serving of Kosher dairy, heavy snacks)... On Sunday, the cleanup will be at the Hebrew Cemetery followed by a memorial service and a Kosher nondairy lunch...

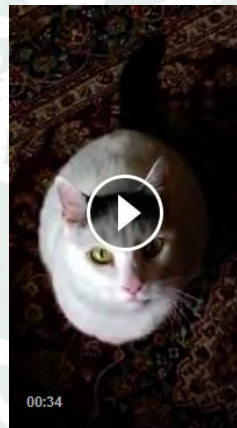
**June 28**  
Temple Israel Leadville  
We finished with the Shachrit service and the oneg and everyone is going about their day refreshed and in good spirits!  
Rg de Stolfe: It was amazing how much similarity the Jewish service was as compared to Christianity!

**July 4**  
The Fourth of July parade in Leadville started about 10:00 AM and finished about 10:30 AM. The parade only had to go down about 7 blocks, which is the primary extent of the main road. The next street over to the west, which is Pine Street, the street where the museum is, was the street most of the parade participants used to get back to the starting point. ... I didn't get to see the actual parade because I had to have the museum open\*, but the small town participants included the usual police and fire department, along with local groups and the usual small town charm of "floats" and other groups. ...  
\*I decided to have the museum open since there will be lots of people to watch the parade.

**July 12** · Amarillo, TX  
More clues. [I was at Whataburger in Amarillo on Hollywood Street. This was part of a series of short videos I made while travelling to Lubbock.]

**July 17**  
(Various people posting) Happy birthday RG, have a great and bless day.

**July 20** · Lubbock, TX  
Well, this year in Lubbock was much more fun than last year! Thank you to all those who helped make it a great week!



# 2014 Facebook Review

**July 20**

What a place!  
— at The Big Texan Steak Ranch.

**July 20**

The owner of this died not too long ago.  
— at Cadillac Ranch.

**July 21** · Leadville, CO

Well, I'm now back in Leadville. I've returned the car and now back to the summer routine like before. The past 11 days have been great and have no doubt that some sort of option will come available to visit again before another full year passes.

**August 1**

Today through Sunday is Leadville's biggest event called Boom Days, as in the silver boom. There are already more food vendors than Leadville has in restaurants! The weekend is full of activities, contests, vendors and all of the typical charm you'd expect to find in the West and of a mining town! These types of things are better than a carnival!

**August 6**

Some relatively sad news today. Dad called ... that his cat named Panda had died sometime in the past 12 hours. Dad got her about three years ago and we don't know her age, but I think she was probably around 6 or 7. The cause of death is completely unknown. RIP Panda 8.6.2014.



**August 23**

Now waiting for the performance to start!  
Irish music and dancing!  
— at Historic Tabor Opera House.

**August 23** · Leadville, CO

Went to the Tabor opera house tonight to see their last performance of the season. The performance was of Irish music and dancing and singing. The bulk of the evening was the orchestra consisting of a violinist, two violists, a cellist, a bassist (acoustic and electric), a pianist, and an awesome percussionist. .... Awesome and wonderful evening with a steak dinner beforehand and the entertainment afterward! (The dinner was elsewhere.)

**August 27**

The night is clear in Leadville, and you can see more stars here than where most people live. You can even see the Milky Way! ...

**September 19**

Aaaaarrrrr! Ye mateys better talk like a pirate or off the edge of de plank ye go! [National Talk Like A Pirate Day.]

**September 20** · Leadville, CO

... The train ride was awesome and the aspens were nice and golden! Photos AND videos to be posted ... [Go to the September issue of the Journal to see many photos taken on this day.]

**September 23**

Happy first day of Fall! (Rather late this year.)

**September 30**

Leadville has snow dusted mountains and hills all around. (Plus it's quite cold compared to how it's been.)

**October 5**

Had something very cool today at the museum. I had a couple who moved to Israel from the US who were back in the US to visit family and friends come to the museum to look around. Before they left, they asked out of the blue if they could pray a blessing over me! Of course, I did not refuse! They are Christian but are now living in Israel.

**October 28** · Leadville, CO

Goodbye Leadville! It's been a very good summer! [On the way to Colorado Springs.]

**November 4**

Almost about to board.  
— traveling to Jacksonville, Florida from Denver International Airport.

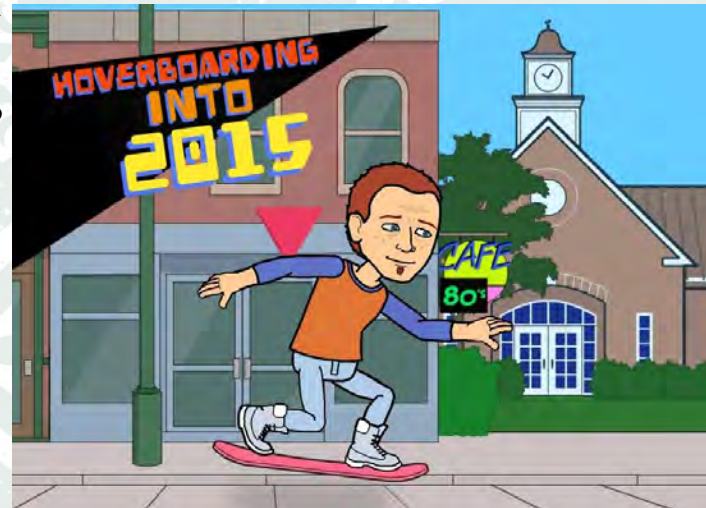


**November 28**

On the first day after Thanksgiving, my favorite meal will be.... another full meal of Thanksgiving turkey!

**December 31** · Colorado Springs, CO

Coldest low here since January! (There was a low then that was -16)



# 2014 Restaurant Posts

**January 3** · GoRecommend

If you've never been to Smashburger ... Best burger around, hands down! And they have a great grilled chicken sandwich too! You have to try their rosemary and olive oil fries (they call them Smashfries), they are the best! (Colorado Springs)



**smash. sizzle. savor.™**

**February 19**

Haven't been here in a while!  
— at Culver's (Falcon).



**February 25**

At an Adobe seminar. Now this is a breakfast!  
— at DoubleTree Colorado Springs.

**April 9**

It's been a while since I've been here.  
— at Cracker Barrel Old Country Store (Colorado Springs).



**Old Country Store**

**May 13**

Yum!  
— at Dickey's (Colorado Springs).



**June 8**

A rare breakfast.  
— at City on a Hill Coffee & Espresso (Leadville).



**July 12** ·

Amarillo, TX  
More clues. [At Whataburger.]



**July 13** · Lubbock, TX

Three guesses where I am and what I'm having!  
[Having chocolate cake at Rosa's Cafe on Milwaukee Avenue.]



**July 15** · Lubbock, TX

Finally! A taco Tuesday!  
— at Rosa's Cafe & Tortilla Factory.

**July 19**

Last chance Rosa's!  
— at Rosa's Cafe & Tortilla Factory (Lubbock).

**July 20**

Last Whataburger before leaving Texas.  
— at Whataburger (Amarillo).

**July 26**

Thought I'd try the sirloin tonight.  
— at Quincys Family Steakhouse (Leadville).

**August 15**

Time for some steak!  
— at Quincys Family Steakhouse (Leadville).



**August 25**

Well, tonight I had some hot chocolate with dinner. It was nice and hot and tasted really good! Is that a good sign or a bad sign? [I was at Wild Bill's Hamburgers & Ice Cream and had the powdered hot chocolate.] (Leadville)

**September 13**

Yummy sirloin dinner!  
— at Quincys Family Steakhouse (Leadville).

**November 1**

Been a while since I've been here! Yummy!  
— at Culver's (Falcon).

**November 4**

Rest stop for a couple of hours. [Ate in the food court at Quizno's.]  
— traveling to Jacksonville, Florida from Nashville International Airport.

**November 11**

Went here a lot in high school and community college.  
— at The Loop Pizza Grill (Jacksonville).



**November 15**

Florida BBQ! Yummy!  
— at Sonny's BBQ (Jacksonville).



# 2014 Culinary Quests!



January—Homemade egg noodles



February—Sour cream coffee cake



February—Chocolate biscotti



April—Sopapilla cheesecake



June—Oatmeal muffins



June—Box chocolate cake (10k feet)



September—Giardiniera



July—Rosa's Café Taco Tuesday and chocolate cake! (not homemade, of course)



December—Chocolate Truffles



December—Coffee cookies



December—Chocolate almond biscotti



December—Chocolate chip shortbread cookies



December—Pumpkin cream cheese pie

# Pumpkin Cream Cheese Pie



*This particular pie is thin because I used a 12" cake pan. But if you use a regular 9" or 10" pie pan, it will be much thicker.*

## Crust

1½ cups	Chocolate graham crackers
¼ cup	Sugar
6 tablespoons	Butter
½ teaspoons	Cinnamon

- Take the chocolate graham crackers and crush them to a fine crumb. A very easy way to do this is to put them in a zip bag and just use your hand to smash them until fine.
- Melt the butter.
- Mix all the ingredients together until well mixed.
- If you use a pie pan, use one that is 9" or 10" and fairly deep. Put the crumbs in the bottom and smooth and compress until compacted and perhaps about ⅛" to ¼" thick. A one cup measure works great to compact the crumbs.

Source: <http://allrecipes.com/recipe/graham-cracker-crust-i/>

*I made this pie for Christmas this year, and it was really good!*

## Filling

1 8 oz package	Cream cheese
¼ cup	Sugar
1 teaspoon	Cinnamon
½ teaspoon	Cloves
½ teaspoon	Ginger
½ teaspoon	Nutmeg
½ teaspoon	Salt
3	Eggs
1 16 oz can	Pumpkin
1 teaspoon	Vanilla

- Best with a stand or hand mixer, beat cream cheese until fluffy.
- Then add the sugar and spices.
- Add the eggs and beat well.
- Beat in the pumpkin and vanilla.
- Pour into the pie shell and bake in the oven at 350 degrees for about 40 minutes or until set (check with toothpick).
- Refrigerate, best even overnight to get really cold.
- Serve with whipped cream and coffee or hot chocolate.

Source: <http://cooks.com/1n5ad6ft>

# Favorite Bitstrips of 2014



Bird cake is for birds, not for squirrels!



Brrrrrrrrrr...

