

Mertz Peters Michaels

Notes from MPM

February 11, 2013

I am often asked to send individuals autographed photos of me either as “Elizabeth Peters” or “Barbara Michaels.” This just seems too Hollywood to me and therefore I’ve never done it. Any offers of other signed photos for sale on the Web (or any place else) are **FAKES**. Caveat emptor!

Well, well it’s February again. The only redeeming feature about this gloomiest of months is that it is short. Think Daffodils. Think March. Think March brings Daffodils (depending, or course, on where you live).

A report on cats is due. There are still five of them: Sethos, the big black guy who turned up twelve years ago and refused to leave; Joe, the tuxedo cat Maine Coon, who is getting old & even grouchier, but who is holding his own thanks to Heather, our wonderful Vet; Smoke, a Maine Coon who is weird but gorgeously colored (smokey, to be precise); Vicki, who resembles those Victorian tabbies often featured on needle point pillows; and Peanut, (formal name Watson) a red tabby who goes zipping back and forth at top speed. Fortunately he’s a coward about cars, bugs, birds, and other dangerous objects and runs for cover when one appears.



The big event of recent months, from my selfish point of view, was my 85th birthday party. When we party, we go all out. Friends came from clear across the country. We had a hookah, belly dancers, a boa constrictor, and star of the show – a lovely little camel named Aladdin, who kept nuzzling people asking to be petted. Most people obliged; he was as cute and friendly as a big puppy.

The food came from Frederick's very own Athens Restaurant and it was superb. The theatrical show titled "The Return of the Master Criminal", written by and starring Phil & Kathe Gust, featured performances by Aaron Elkins as the Announcer; Parnell Hall as Radcliffe Emerson; Barbara Rosenblat as Amelia Peabody Emerson; Phil Gust as Cyrus Vandergelt; Kristen Whitbread as Bastet (the cat); David Moyer (with dual roles) as the Evil Minion and Herr Baehler; Kathe Gust as Sarah King; and Dominick Abel as Sir Guy Willard.



A good time was had by all, especially me. If I didn't thank each of you in person, I apologize. The thought was there, perfuming the ambient air. Joan Hess, famous mystery writer, was in charge of the entire affair. She may have thought no one recognized her in her burka, but she was wrong. Joan is unmistakable in any garb. Blessings be upon her.

And now back to work.

Barbara