

How to Turn 90

Last month, my mom, Helen, turned 90, much to her own astonishment (although in truth she'd been bragging about how she was going to do this since she turned 89). She never thought she'd make it this long.

When you turn 90, a series of celebrations is better than trying to do everything in one day. So really, when you turn 90, my Mom and I recommend that this begin a year-long set of celebrations.

My mom and I began with a [Tom Lehrer](#) review a couple of weeks before her birthday (the show ended before her birthday). Mom and Dad had all of Tom Lehrer's records, so going to see "Tom Foolery" was a dream choice for her. We had front-row seats in the cabaret set-up for the small regional theater (Cinnabar Theater in Petaluma, CA). It was very fun, and all the cult fans were out in force. We even sang in the parking lot afterwards some of the songs that didn't make the cut -- how completely nerdy is that? Here's a taste by another production:

The family celebration was not as large as I had hoped - schedules were difficult for some of our family and friends, but that doesn't mean that we didn't have a great time. I know I look completely drunk in one of the photos, but that was not the case. My cousin, Marie (mom's niece), her husband, Dennis, and one of her daughters, Rachel, joined in the celebration. We missed seeing Allison and her partner Eban, because Allison got sick.



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We had very chocolate vegan cake (with the vegan's in the family, it made it a bit healthier), and the candles had flames in the colors of the candles - very fancy!

All in all, a good time was had, as we looked at family photos, and found the really embarrassing ones. No, I am not posting them here!

Then, on the day itself, Mom had a party with her friends at Drake Terrace, including dancing, and party favors and cake that I supplied. You'll see below that both the staff and residents have some moves!

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But as I said, the partying will continue. Some family friends from Southern California want to make it up to visit, and Marie has promised to take Mom to a show, so there is definitely more to come.

And when, hopefully in the distant future, my Mom goes into the next dimension, she wants us to play this song, sung here by Tom Lehrer himself: