

The one truly universal constant is change and once again I have had life changes.

I retired in November, 2012 for several reasons but ultimately I was just plain tired of trying to hold onto a minimum wage position. I enjoyed the work and the customers, but my income since leaving Massachusetts has been on an essentially steady decline. On my last day of work I was still making less than a third of my previous income in the electronics industry back there.

There have been compensations, however. I actually have more disposable income on Social Security than as an employee AND I don't have to pay taxes on it. I closed out my retirement plan funds which allowed me to stay afloat while waiting for Social Security to kick in and, just this week, received an unexpected additional income from that source.

The single most important change, however, has been that I can now be Rosaliy ALL the time. No more removing makeup and going to work in male mode. The savings in fuel alone are tremendous. My car, which failed to start back in September after packing at home after work, was finally towed to the shop to see why it would not start, and lo and behold it started. Why I have no clue but at least it cost nothing to repair.

My social life is still almost nonexistent since funds are still tight. Budgeting monthly payments instead of bi-weekly payments makes cash flow interesting but things are working out well enough so sis and I still get out from time to time and we do have a little 'play money' to use for non-essentials.

And just this past week (Monday the 11th) I passed another milestone. My drivers license was due for renewal and it was necessary to go to the DMV in person to do this. Naturally, I went as Rosaliy and had a great experience at DMV. Evidently, as long as the data remains 'legal', they don't care how you are dressed when you show up for your picture so, finally, I can get Rosaliy on my license replacing that old guy who has been there from the beginning. I should have my new license by the 21st. It just made sense to me to have my photo match my real appearance.

Last month I had another interesting experience. The local GOODWILL store moved to a new location and had a grand re-opening sale. They mailed out \$5.00 coupons to encourage people checking out the sale at the new place. I got 3 new tops, 2 nice white full skirts and as I was getting in the checkout line, I chanced across the dresses. Naturally I looked them over but only saw one to my liking. I had been looking for one for a long time but mostly found this in size 7 or 8, way too small for me. What did I find? Glad you asked because I finally found a wedding dress in my size and I bought it. Way too cool.

So this Halloween, I can be any kind of bride I wish to be. A few interesting add ons can make me a bride of Frankenstein, a Ghost Bride, a Witch Bride, or who knows what kind of bride. A little green makeup and I can be Princess Fiona, Shrek's bride.

. Life is, after all, what you make it and mine is FABulous.

Ps: this is what my license pic will be like but with the usual plain background.

