

THE 2014 WITTMANN FAMILY CHRISTMAS LETTER



Palmerston North Garden



Mount Egmont - Taranaki



New Zealand Fern



Daphne

Dawson Fall



In Egmont National Park, NZ



Syrah Daphne Anna



They will live in Anne Street



View from Anne Street



Dietmar's Mother, 97 years



Brigitte und Günter from Graz



Walter Moik, Dietmars Cousin



Heidi enjoys her granddaughters



Milou



Thanksgiving 2014



The Cottage and Heidi's Art Sisters



2 brothers are having a good time



Manawatu Standard



Reinhold und Liane at the Pacific



Sunset at our house



Ute und Elfie at our beach

The year 2014 started for Dietmar in New Zealand which became the dominant topic for us this year. After some memorable weeks with Anna, Syrah, Daphne and John in Palmerston North and Mount Egmont (Taranaki in Maori) Anna took her father to Wellington to start house hunting. Anna had accepted a top position at Capital and Coast Health Systems in Wellington and John became more politically active and took a leading position in his party. They ended up buying a house very close downtown with sufficient space and exciting views. Supported by the Internet, we were part of the purchasing process lasting until November. During this time Anna completed her habilitation/dissertation for PhD and Professor of Neurology. The experts seem to have enjoyed and praised her thesis which was accepted without the need for a rigorosum to defend the work. All this happened while she took Syrah to an extended vacation in Hamburg and Istanbul, where she presented her research results during a Neurologist's meeting.

Because Heidi could not join Dietmar in New Zealand she took the chance to meet Anna during a medical meeting in San Diego in February. This was another intense mother-daughter event and we cherished every minute and every glass of wine together. Afterwards Heidi enjoyed the hospitality at Liane, Reinhold and Martin, who, like always, spoiled her not only with gourmet food and wine but also with excursions to the botanical garden and the Pacific coast where they watched orcas. Always very exciting!

In May Heidi and Dietmar traveled to Europe partly together and partly on separate itineraries. Heidi met with her class mates in Bernried near Munich and took the chance to visit the Buchheim Museum of Art and in Munich the "Blaue Reiter" collection in the Lenbach Haus. One week later she visited with her friend Gisa the Heckel exhibition in Hamburg. To see so many

exceptional works of art in such a short time was quite exciting. Back in Hamburg she joint with Dietmar where they had a good time friends and family.

Dietmar travelled to Vienna where he became honorary member of the European Surgical Infection Society, then to Graz to visit his Austrian family and beautiful Styria. Afterwards he flew to Hamburg to see his 97 years old mother (see picture), went for a side step to Den Hague to come back via Essen at his nephew Nils' field of activity and promotion to Hamburg where he joined with Heidi and the entire family to celebrate his brother's 70th birthday. They also enjoyed a wonderful evening in Nienstedten together with their old friends of their dancing circle exchanging treasured and cherished memories. The whole visit was quite exhausting particularly for Dietmar and we became more aware of our age related physical limits.

Nevertheless, Dietmar went on another long voyage to Argentina. He was invited by the Argentinean Society of Surgery to participate in their annual congress in Buenos Aires to deliver three lectures and share official discussions. This congress was quite an experience and he was very impressed by the inaugural speech of the President Juan Pecol bridging very elegantly traditional Surgery with the challenges of information age professional structure. Dietmar felt quite comfortable after a day flight of 11 hours south. His host Dr. Alejandro de Garcia's touching care made this trip unforgettable. Dietmar had an incredible view from his room at the 14th floor of the Sheraton Hotel towards the Rio de la Plata bay, he enjoyed the side seeing tours and last but not least the incredible Tango Show. Only caveat was that his I-phone disappeared for ever on the transport belt at airport security when flying home. So all his memory pictures are gone

Once again Heidi drove with two friends to the 1140 km distant Wildacres Retreat in South Carolina's Appalachian mountains to meet her nature printing peers for a whole week of classes to work on new techniques and to refresh what she learned many years ago.

During the summer she and three of her nature printer friends together with six other local artists took great pride in inaugurating and running an art co-op in Nokomis. They call themselves "Artists in Cahoots" and run their own gallery seven days a week. That means Heidi has now a home for her art work and Thursdays she works there for several hours. The Cottage is on the way to become a local art market.

In 2014 we also enjoyed hosting a number of old friends and family from Europe. We appreciated very much the visit of Dietmar's brother and his wife in springtime. They joined Dietmar on his Oskar Scherer State park explorations with Struppi and Milou and also our white beach. Gerald Stein, a surgeon colleague from Dietmar's time at Altona General hospital came twice, The first time in April and then a second time with his wife and two daughters. They had rented a house on Anna Maria Island which is two keys north of our island Casey Key.

In May and June Walter, Ute and Elfie Dietmar's cousins and they came also European trip. In the week before and a good time in our home, on our island

In July Helge and Franzi came to spend filled with exciting discussions about teachers at Heidi's old Max Brauer

In August Dietmar's niece Marie-Louise his family. Marie-Louise is the latest is diligently absorbing medical know-Last year, Dietmar hat accompanied her Dietmar listened to physiology exactly

Two week before Dietmar went to us during a trip through Florida. They every single day at the beach Ringling and Dali Museum going to attractions.

Last but not least let us say some words about Mark and his family. They were with us the day after Thanksgiving (see picture). It was good to experience their positive attitude and talk about all their activities in sport and music. Our thoughts are quite often with them. Professionally Mark is extremely successful and highly respected by his peers at the hospital and at Florida State University where he teaches as Associate Professor. We are proud of both of our children and wished we could all be together more often.



came from Neumünster. Walter and Elfie are to take care of Milou and Struppi during our after our European excursion, all five of us had and in Florida.

a wonderful time with us for an intense week politics, religion and philosophy. Both are School in Hamburg.

and her friend Tim visited us and also Mark and addition to the medical squad in our family She ledge at Hamburg University Medical School. to the physiology lecture at the same place 50 years ago!!

Argentina, Günter and Brigitte from Graz visited tremendously enjoyed the Gulf Coast and spent jeopardizing our plans such as visiting the Myakka park, downtown Sarasota and other

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year 2015. *Dietmar and Heidi*