

## The Wittmann Family: Christmas 2015 and New Year 2016

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The waters of the Gulf this morning, in the 2nd week of Advent, are again crystal clear - turquoise, although tons of rain spilled into rivers and bayous to jetty into the sea a brown gravy containing organic particles. This year brought us considerably more rain than the years before. Still, there was plenty of sun that warmed us relentlessly to help resurfacing our old joy of life.

Once again, a lot has happened, but with some unexpected twists. Our relationship with Mark and his family is on the way to return to normal. Annemarei and Mark seem to yield to their old sibling love and we are very happy about it. The lawsuits have ended in a settlement. The best of all is that peace starts returning in our daily life. That Heidi already decorated the Christmas tree and adornments so much in advance may be proof of normalization. After the holidays, we want to fly to New Zealand and visit Annemarei's family, which has now happily conquered their new home in Wellington.

This year's pinnacle was Syrah and Daphne. They all had a good time at our of our beautiful Casey celebrated John's parent's sary in Lexington Park, rately by car the 1740 KM America in the summer the highway 95 median Virginia. The distance Mary's is almost exactly Hamburg to Rome.



the visit of Anna, John, came to our island, and we house and on the beaches Key. Subsequently they golden wedding anniver-Maryland. We drove sepa-(or 1081 mi) and enjoyed and the seas of flowers on strip in South Carolina and from Nokomis to Saint the same distance as from

The idyllic countryside of Lexington Park and St. Mary's City with its historical sites fascinated both of us. Similarly did we enjoy the Navy museum in Lexington Park, with its exhibited ships, aircrafts and space shuttles. There was a lot to see including the first aircraft carrier in 1911!! (See picture). That and a trip in April to Madison to Joe Leone and Mukwonago to our friends Don and Diane complete our travel list this year. Heidi alone went for two weeks to Hamburg to participate in her 50th graduation ceremony of her evening college, and to meet

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friends and also visited exhibitions. In contrast, others visited us frequently: our family and friends, including Don and Diane of Wisconsin, Dietmar's brother Volker and Jutta, their son Nils, and his cousin Walter with his Ute from Neumünster.

Main topic, of course, was the Syrian refugees' situation. We felt the reactions of the Germans, including that of Chancellor Angela Merkel was not only a humanitarian act of excellence but also a political breakthrough, and for the first time in his life Dietmar was very proud of his native land. This comes as a relief after all the years of guilt over the atrocities of the Nazis, who were at the time elected by a majority. The first German democracy was a total devastating failure, which shows how delicate the political game "democracy" can be. Germany has learned its lesson and accomplished the big hit with its new, much better constitution of 1949 that is impeccable for current times.

The extraordinary accomplishment of the German Constitution becomes for those of us who live in the US progressively self-evident, given the miserable state of the US democracy with its pseudo justice that favors the fittest with each passing day in an unreflective Wild-West style behavior disregarding ethical values and aiming rampant quantitative growth instead to reflect more profoundly on quality improvement to lead us all into a good future.

The American Constitution urgently needs to be renewed in order to master this century. The desire, however, remains probably a dream, since the Constitution was written very narrow-mindedly by inhibiting adjustments. In reality it deprives itself of potential for renewal and we are stuck. So a change will have to come from outside, but this perhaps may even be more problematic.

Unfortunately the biggest critic of Dietmar's Christmas notes, his old friend Prof. Dr. Robert Condon, passed away early 2015. Dietmar missed him and his criticisms.

Heidi will also be 75 years old in the coming year, and we look forward to the last quarter of our lives and hope for many more beautiful days. We wish all our friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New 2016 Love - Dietmar and Heidi

### Pictures of 2015



Mark with the kids at Anna's in Wellington - almost all girls



In June we had a family reunion in our house on Casey Key

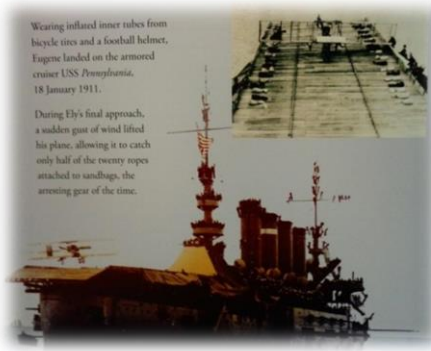


Dietmar loves this Photo of Marks camera as it symbolises a memorable past

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John's parents are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary with us, as Heidi shows



Lexington Park Navy Museum: the first aircraft carrier ever in 1911



The golden wedding cake is distributed by their children



Syrah's 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday at our home



The mother is awarded with the highest academic honors



Volker and Jutta's beloved son at one of his favorite places: Sharky's



The beautiful log home of Don and Diane induces circular grass growth



Diane and Don, our friends in Wisconsin



An image of our beloved dogs had to be included with this page



Casey Key, "our" island and the west coast of Florida with stunning cloud formations and rainbows

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Fritzi



Sabine



Meike



Syrah



Daphne



The Gulf of Mexico

Those were moments of our 2015. With a picture of our beach with Anna, John, Syrah and Daphne (left, barely visible) in blue-turquoise Gulf, we want to say goodbye and wish all our friends a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2016



Prosit Neujahr 2016

*Dietmar und Heidi*

Sunset in the Gulf of Mexico from our roof garden in front of the solar panels

