

## The Wittmann Family: Christmas 2016 and New Year 2017



This current year 2016 contrasts to 2015, the year of humanity with its unprecedented welcome culture of physicist Dr. rer. nat. Angela Merkel and about 80% supporting Germans. That helped us to put the sinister history of a beaten country far behind us.

1916 became a nightmare year particularly for the US. Speechless did we see the proliferation of despicable political mass articulations facilitated by our new cyber world. This new political tornado took us by surprise before even attempting to defend and fight back. An unprecedented activation of evil by the new digital networks that spreads directly like a bad infection is used by demagogues for their purposes. Just as the predecessor Adolf Hitler proclaimed in his outrageous book "Mein Kampf" 1933 before he was duly elected: „The broad masses are more amenable to the appeal of rhetoric than to any other force“. Have we completely forgotten his villainous treachery and the horrors of the world war? America's founders such as Thomas Jefferson were also concerned. They did not fully trust democracy and preferred the republic. As a last resort to prevent disaster they introduced the "Electoral College". On 19 December, the electors can fulfill their duty and save the American Republic as the last supervisory body to prevent an extremely volatile man as a possible despot and protect the world from a catastrophe! –OR– decide that the US Constitution is strong enough to keep the irrational under control. A good thing, however, is associated with these ludicrous events. We are forced to wake up and recognize, analyze, scrutinize, and hopefully neutralize the problem of cyber mass seduction by the Internet.

This year, our thoughts are especially with our grandchildren. They must endure possible consequences of today's political mistakes. It is already apparent that the job-seeker for the highest office disaffirms environmental problems completely including damages already done to our hometown planet. He follows George Bush who fired 90% of the EPA scientist to prevent truth. On the contrary, Trump wants to catalyze the human destructive greed that will inevitably lead to catastrophe.

Our five granddaughters Fritzi, Sabine, Meike, Syrah and Daphne are joined by two more grand-children, Jade and Gabriel as an appendix to family had voted for Trump, mutual respect were taking celebration at Mark's house.

2016 was also turbulent in the a visit from Walter, Ute and terriers, Struppi and Milou, and family in their new house Many breathtaking breaks surroundings and Wellington minutes' walk away. On the



grandpa proudly her pavilion style school, which is hidden in the in the hilly area. The way to get there was tedious – as were all the other excursions and we were motivated to reduce weight. A spectacular view from the TRIG point in top of the mountain 300 m above Anna's house exposed the entire bay, which we explored later during a ferry boat crusades. The whole trip to NZ was like a dream including a 3 day flight excursion to Queenstown and the Milford Sound with the beauty of its immaculate nature. Back in Wade Town we enjoyed family life including many games with Syrah and Daphne. Syrah still wants to beat the Grandpa at the Mühlespiel. Dietmar also enjoyed a dinner talking to the Capital and Coast Surgeons in the Dockside Restaurant preceding next day Presentation about the Planned Open Abdomen at the University of Otago.

To honor Heidi's 75th birthday, we had a fine meal at Rössler's. In June at Sabine's Middle School Graduation we also met her mother. Sabine is obviously very organized and is good at school as well as with mastering

Mark's girlfriend Sarah. Sarah's and fiery discussions albeit in place during Thanksgiving

personal sphere and started with Elfie, who then guarded our two while we visited our daughter in very mountainous Wellington. marked walks in the beautiful itself, whose center is about 20 first day Daphne showed her

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violin, guitar, drums and saxophone. We keep ongoing contact with Meike because we drive her from school home to her mother's or her father's house. She develops into a self-confident young lady and thrives. Our beloved Terrier Struppi died before July, when Heidi's former school colleagues Helge and Franzi came to visit us. Many nice hours with them drinking red and white wine with intense discussions helped to better understand political topics such as Brexit, Le Pen, AFD, Putin and also Trump. Heidi's full occupation with the art of nature printing was also acknowledged. She works with other artists the permanent art exhibition "The Cottage" here in Nokomis and is successful.

Before traveling to France, Dietmar and his ninety-nine-year-old mother traveled to Berlin to the french embassy to have her passport extended, as we were planning to take her to Florida. Berlin, albeit briefly visited, was an experience for Dietmar. Everything, the modern government buildings, the huge Holocaust memorial, the Reichstag and the Brandenburg Gate are very impressive and not intrusive.

In the beginning of September, Dietmar and Volker were finally ready to start their planned tour of France. The first stages were La Petite Pierre in Alsace, where they spent some childhood holidays, Colmar, Riquewiher and then Mulhouse, always along the wine route. Vineyards at the foot of the Vosges were a special experience. After Mulhouse they went through the beautiful French Jura over Besançon and Valserine to Annecy with the picturesque, turquoise lake to the Olympic village of the Val d'Isère. The next day they drove to Chamonix and through the Mont Blanc tunnel to Italy to the Col Petit-Saint-Bernard. The view of the fascinating landscapes in the high Alps accompanied us down to Gap in the Bases Alps. Also the scenes of the now sloping Alps on the way to Maussanne over Avignon and Saint-Remy-de-Provence will be remembered. In Maussanne, Hugues had prepared everything for detailed tours, which we had to limit because of Dietmar's ankle injury (syndesmosis rupture). What remained was an impressive visit to Arles and the now beautiful Marseille and the view of the picturesque and unique village Les Baux-de-Provence on top of a mountain. Andree ensured good French cuisine and we lived the days there like God in France, which was also continued in Bordeaux with Volker's friends Pierre and Sophie Lamour. On the way we saw the completely different landscape of the Midi in the southern Massif Central. Two experiences on this section will be remembered forever: 1. The "repas" in an unpretentious, very simple restaurant, which offered only one very tasty menu, but with red wine, cheese and dessert. 2. A monument to the last days of World War II, where named nazis had murdered listed members of the French Résistance, including children.

In Bordeaux, Volker's friends Pierre and Sophie were our hosts. He exposed us not only to detailed historical information about the testimonies and misdeeds of the British (St-Michel-de-Montaigne), but also took us to the German footprints as the fortresses in Soulac-sur-Mer at the mouth of the Gironde into the Atlantic. Also interesting were the visits of the world famous Chateaux in Margaux, Saint-Julien, Puisseux, Saint-Estephe, Medoc and the next day in Saint-Emilion and Pomerol, We could not get enough. However, the time was short and we had to do without the rest of the planned trip through Brittany and Normandy and drove directly on a day from Izon - Libourne to Hamburg.

Heidi flew for 10 days before Christmas to Hamburg. She needed a little Hamburg Christmas comfort and enjoyed the reunion with many friends including Wiltrud Berger in cold but sunny weather. Shortly before her departure, Dietmar's cousin died. We mourn with Walter.

Heidi's 75th birthday marks the beginning of the last quarter of our century, which we are looking forward to with some anxiety because of the political situation.



These were moments from our year 2016. With a picture of our beach at the blue turquoise Gulf and a symbolic sunset, we want to say good-bye to all our friends and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017  
Dietmar and Heidi



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## Pictures of 2016



Heidi wi Anna, John, Daphne und Syrah boating in Wellington port



Lake Wakatipu in Queentown, in front of our Hotel



Dietmar und Anna interact on Mount Victoria



View from Stellan Memorial Peak (better Peak Daphe or Peak Syrah)



Syrah and Daphne on top of their mountain Anne Street Trig



What a strange bird of New Zealand! A Kiwi



Sur le pont d'Avignon: Aus Volkers fahrendem Auto fofografiert



Da Maison del la famille Kleiser



Le petit déjeuner avec Andrée et Hugues



Hugo et Dietmar a Marseille



Devant la persécution, toute personne a le droit et de bénéficier de l'asile en autre pays.



Marseille Port moderne

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Pierre Lamour avec Herr Major et Monsieur Péritonite



Sophie Lamour



Volker a acheté six douzaines de cet Saint-Émilion Grand Cru



Nous avons bu cette bouteille 1965



Château Cheval Blanc



Bordeaux muss 5 Jahre im Fass lagern



Heidi bei der Patience



Helge und Franzi



Dietmars Mutter mit 99 Jahren



Helgas Kinder nehmen Abschied



Thanksgiving with the extended Family discussing the T. Menace



Marks drei Mädchen Meike, Fritzi und Sabine mit Trevor, Thanksgiving day



Wie einst im Mai – unser Tanzkreis ohne Heidi



Holger, Liliane, Jutta und Volker essen – was? Kartoffelsalat und Würstchen!

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Sonnenuntergang im Golf von Mexico von unserem Balkon  
Sunset in 2016 from the first floor of our house on Casey Key

