



Today, at the beginning of the 3rd decade of the 21st century, it is pretty much gone! The positive spirit of optimism that we expressed in our 1999/2000 letter at the turn of the century. We are currently trapped by feelings about rather uncertain bleak future. Many have forgotten how to seek, respect and appreciate truth. Dishonesty seems to prevail. but is not the good basis for progress. Dishonesty, however, is the focal point, the principle of populism to which an alarming number is falling worldwide. How so? Some believe many feel excluded and hope in populism. Democrats (not the political party) are confused and stunned, solutions are obscure. On the other hand we are also seeing more and more extensive protests, a revolt against populism, so to speak, as David Brooks aptly wrote on November 22, 2019 in the NYT in an essay on "The Revolt Against Populism". The intensity of this revolt also shows that populism is not perceived as a good answer to the distortions in democracies.

Should we abandon pursuing liberal globalization and contribute to repeating history of the last century? Or shall we still take the chance to turn the tide with more honesty? Can a new social contract pacify the educated elites as well as protect the many disadvantaged and democratic freedoms in an ethnically diverse. pluralistic societies? "The populism supporters need an alternative to thrive in the modern economy and to get the feeling that they are significantly involved in building the project of an international union of values. If this social feat succeeds, we will have won the future.

2019 was the year of our golden wedding. Mark and Annemarei got out of their way to highlight



the special features of this festival and to mark the celebration as a great moment of our togetherness. They had invited many friends to a kind of gala in Sharky's festival pavilion on the beach in Venice including a meaningful sunset. We sat in the middle of the table among and pictures of the different places on earth that we explored together over the 50 (+) years

These include Grabau Castle where we met, Hamburg, the beach at Platja Sant Pere Pescador south of Roses, Paris, Hamburg, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Corsica, Hennesstrand in Denmark, Galltür in Tyrol, Annaba in Algeria, the island of Kos, La Punt and Zermatt in Switzerland, Torremolinos in Spain, Elba and Florence and many more in Europe. In 1988 our second big leap was made to the USA, first to Wisconsin and then to Florida on the island of Casey Key, where we have been living for almost 20 years now, the longest time ever, where we lived continuously in one place.



As you all know, Casey Key is a little paradise and probably the reason why we have so many visitors. It was the same this year, even though we were both convalescents after operations. Heidi fully recovered from a hip replacement surgery and she is doing better today than before the operation. Dietmar is also recovering, albeit slowly. Today, e.g., he walked

on the beach with Milou full distance all the way to the H-stone, as he did in the past 19 years.



Our first visitor in 2019 was Dietmar's cousin Walter Moik from Neumünster. However, he came more as a helper, because he wanted to assist the handicapped Dietmar with the daily "home-work", ie repairs, etc., which he did very well, thank you for the time. He even helped with Mark's garden railroad.

The 50th anniversary turned out to be quite an event. The children took pictures. Annemarei had come from New Zealand with the whole family. Together with Mark and his daughters, they had a lot to do with the organization. Everyone enjoyed the slides from the lives of parents and

grandparents that Dietmar had prepared. Parts of these pictures were then shown after the wedding dinner at Sharky's and all invited guests got a little insight into our lives. We enjoyed the content of our guests' speeches. Who says something critical on such an occasion. Here we want to thank our children once again for making this unforgettable 50th anniversary possible. Immediately after Easter, Helge and Franzi from Hamburg visit us and we enjoyed the many political discussions and excursions.



In early May we had to go to Miami to legalize Heidi's passport at the embassy. We are making a discovery tour out of the Miami trip. Here is a view of the harbor from the YVE Hotel.

In June Don and Diane from Wisconsin visited us. It has been almost 20 years since we left this state, a decision that we never regretted.

A good friend, Linda, who looks after people in need here with her mother, introduced us to the mineral springs, 30 km south of here. Bathing in the brine of the thermal baths was exhausting.



We had another new experience with Tom and Ute, good friends from the neighborhood, whom we accompanied virtually (with the help of Google Photos) on their journey through southern France. Among others, they also visited Hugo and Andree in Maussanne. Too bad we still can't travel .



In the summer we had an entirely new experience. Good friends, she dentist from Germany, he businessman from Hollywood married in Venice. The celebration as part of her and some of our friends in the Venice Yacht Club was an experience in contrast to our own wedding.



The picture shows Volker and Nils at Sharky's in October. It is always nice to have my brother and nephew and a piece of old home here with us.

We then celebrated in our new home on Thanksgiving Day with Mark's new family. Two different worlds came together to celebrate the most typical American festival of thanks and experienced good will on both sides.



We would like to end this letter by including a copy of the simple and therefore extremely expressive Christmas card that Dietmar's father sent to his parents while a prisoner of war in Russia in 1947. He drew the card because he was not allowed to write to his loved ones. Russians understandably retaliated escalating brutality and suffering that was brought about by unleashing vile populists in the early 20th century. Are we currently on a similar track and silencing the never again outcry? We sincerely hope that the lessons of the beaten generations are forever and will prevail!

you a peaceful year 2020

.Dietmar and Heide-Marie

In this sense, all the best to our friends for Christmas and we wish