

December 2011

Dear Friends and Family,

It's been quite a year! (David writing again this year, while Sharon is keeping up with many of you—and many others—on Facebook.) The high point for Sharon and me was a week spent at a cottage in Pentwater in late June, together with Michael, our nephew Justin and his mother Sue, our daughter Lexy and her husband John, our son Phil and his wife Monica, and the three grandkids. (Fortunately, it was a large cottage!) We had a big family dinner celebrating our golden anniversary (June 1) and my birthday. A week mixed with sadness, though, because it included the interment of the ashes of my youngest brother Bob, who died earlier in the year.



Our LA family had quite a year, too. The high point, of course, was the wedding of Phil and Monica in a lovely outdoor ceremony on May 14. It was a festive gathering of family and friends. Phil and his business partner Adam continue to work on event planning, while Monica teaches yoga. Morgan (3rd grade) and Santi (pre-kindergarten) are now both attending Hollywood Schoolhouse. Morgan continues to be an avid reader as well as top athlete at his school and Santi is beginning to read, and also to write. We went down to join the family on November 4th for Morgan's 9th birthday and will go back down for Santi's 5th birthday on the 30th.



John is still Registrar at the GTU and is helping Sharon on her books, while Lexy continues to travel the country with her debate team from College Prep. Her team even won a belt at the Meadows tournament in Las Vegas! And one of her teams won the national Lincoln-Douglas debate. Johnny, now 17, is a junior at Orinda

Academy, and is now thinking seriously about college plans. He'd like to do a combined major in photojournalism (he's been taking some really terrific pictures, including a series at the Occupy Oakland site) and ecology. (See Johnny's photos below; more at <http://jsealphotography.tumblr.com/post/12870882126>) As you can tell, we're immensely proud of him.



Sharon continues in her role as English Country Dance teacher, organizer, and dancer. She had her second year as program director for English Week at Pinewoods, and has been cultivating dance ties in Texas as well as leading a weekend workshop in Oklahoma, a homeschoolers ball in Missouri, and almost monthly dances for the San Diego dance group. Her dance schedule (and related dance information) is on the household web site: [greenerywest.net](http://greenerywest.net), as well as on her Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sharon-Green-English-country-dance-teacher/148302568558055>. And of course the work of revising her test preparation books is never done.



I have been doing much better since I took Sharon's advice and began walking with two canes—it chased away my back pains as though by magic. Now I just need to build up to walking longer distances. One result of my improved mobility was that I went back to Pinewoods for English Week, with Sharon as programmer. And then at the end of August I went to Bishop's Ranch, the lovely new site for the Bay Area Country Dance Society's English Week. No dancing for me, I'm afraid, but I enjoy the music and socializing. (And I'm *still* translating *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart*; I'm in volume 12, the penultimate volume.)

Michael is enjoying being officially retired, and spends much of his time cooking really wonderful meals. He continues playing for and dancing with Ring of Cold Steel (longsword) and Goat Hill Morris, as well as serving as our household dance photographer, webmaster, and guide to all things Mac. In September he enjoyed a two-week trip to Turkey; pictures are on the Greenery web site above.

This comes to you with all our love and best wishes for the coming year.

David

Sharon

Michael