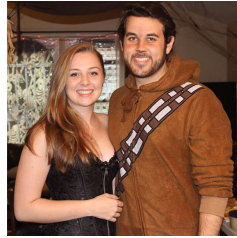


December, 2015

Dear Family and Friends,

A short holiday letter this year, since I'm hoping to share one of my newest dances, *A Child's Christmas in Berkeley*, with you on the back of this page.

First, the grandchildren. Santi at age nine is following in big brother Morgan's footsteps, playing basketball at Hoopstown; he's also started teaching me origami via FaceTime. Morgan, now in his first year at King Magnet School, is already on the basketball team there while continuing to play for Hoopstown's Travel Team. Oldest grandson Johnny continues to do well at Willamette College; he and his girlfriend Lauren Gretsch just celebrated the anniversary of their first date.



Phil and Lexy and their spouses Monica and John also continue to (1) hike and run; (2) inspire debaters; (3) teach yoga; (4) review films; (5) promote artists; (6) seek out excellent restaurants; (7) haunt farmers' markets; (8) organize events. (Can you match the person to the activity? There's some overlap.) They are busy, but they somehow make time to visit us, fetch us treats from local markets, and keep us apprised of the grandchildren's activities.



David divides his work day between Brill's Encyclopaedia of the Middle Ages and Brill's Encyclopaedia of the Early Modern Age, finding great pleasure while translating in picking up arcane bits of information with which to regale his 1,500+ FaceBook friends. I cannot go to a dance anywhere without having two or three people come up to me to say how much they enjoy his posts.

Michael for his part continues to pursue his favorite pursuits: music, photography, and travel. This year's major trip took him to Southeast Asia, revisiting places he had known back in his Peace Corps days. Next year he plans to travel to Germany, visiting places his family came from and exploring museums and historic sites.

For me, it's been a busy year of book revising. The changes to the PSAT and SAT have required me to revise just about every test-prep book I've ever written. Major revisions, too, not just *pro forma* ones. Work has seriously cut into my dancing. In April I did manage a trip to England, attending two dance weekends led by Andrew Shaw and having a great visit in Dorset with our friends Steve and Rosemary Hunt.

It's been a year of work, and a year of losses, both national and personal. On November 8th we learned that our son-in-law John's mother, Mamie Seal, had died in her sleep the night before at her home in the Cotswolds, aged 89. We hope Mamie's husband John will choose to move to the US to be closer to Lexy and John and Johnny; even with FaceTime and Skype, it's hard to be far from family.

It's hard to be far from family, especially at this time of year and in this fragmented world. Here's hoping for peace at home and abroad; for justice for all; for healing and health; for rewarding work, and refreshing play; and for many more times with our far-flung family and friends. Love you all.

David Shaw Michael

A Child's Christmas in Berkeley



Artwork by Jody A. Lee

Musical notation for the song "A Child's Christmas in Berkeley". The notation is in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 6/8 time. It consists of three staves of music with corresponding chord symbols above them.

Staff 1: Chords D, Dm7, G, D. Measures 1-4.

Staff 2: Chords C, Am7, D, G. Measures 5-8. Includes a repeat sign at the end of the staff.

Staff 3: Chords G, Em, A, D7, G, D, G, A, D. Measures 9-12. Includes a repeat sign at the end of the staff.

Tune: A Child's Christmas in Berkeley by Rebecca King ©2014

Choreography: Sharon Green ©2014/Revised 2015

- A1 1-8 Ones chase figure 8 down through the Twos, M1 in the lead
 [M1 dances down the middle and up the outside around M2, then crosses diagonally down around W2 and up the outside to cross back home *while* W1 balances back and then crosses diagonally down into a whole figure 8]
- A2 1-8 Twos chase figure 8 up through the Ones, M2 in the lead [M2 dances up the middle and down the outside around M1, then crosses diagonally up around W1 and down the outside to cross back home *while* W2 balances back and then crosses diagonally up into a whole figure 8] *flowing into*
- B1 1-4 All four, circle left
 5-8 Circle right back *flowing into*
- B2 1-4 Partners, ½ poussette counter-clockwise, W1 moving forward
 5-8 Partners, set and turn single right

Note: This version is intended as an exuberant, joyful romp, much in the spirit of Dylan Thomas's "A Child's Christmas in Wales." Please consider slipping rings, strong setting steps forward, connected poussettes that cover ground.

For a more sedate variant, I suggest the following ending:

- B1 1-4 All four, circle left single file
 5-8 L-hand star back home *flowing into*
- B2 1-4 Partners, ½ poussette counter-clockwise, W1 moving forward
 5-8 Partners, R-shoulder gypsy

Happy Holidays from The Greenery