

A New Year

2008

Greeting From Marilyn & Guy

<http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/gcherry/family.html>

December 2007

Happy Holidays from all of us!

The year 2007 marked the 50th anniversary of our (**Marilyn & Guy**) wedding, on 26 January. Fortunately, we enjoyed good health, with only routine visits to physicians, dentists, ophthalmologists, etc., and could mark the year with some special activities. We began with a trip by Amtrak to New York to take in some Broadway musicals and an opera at the Met; Amtrak was selected to minimize any possible weather-induced delay that might have occurred via air travel. We stayed at a Marriott on Times Square, which made it convenient to



At the Parthenon in Athens.

walk to the musicals: we saw *Mary Poppins*, and the *Lion King* on Broadway, followed by an evening for a new (and well received) production of *La Boheme* at the Met, our first to that venue. The trip included enough time for a little sight-seeing in NY, including a trip to the (rather cold and windy) viewing floor atop the Empire State Building, and our first visit to the Frick Collection of Art (in the former mansion of Henry Frick), with some friends who live in NY. We were lucky with the weather in NY, moderately cold, but no snow or rain, all-in-all, a very enjoyable trip. After some celebrations with the family in Pittsburgh, we added another trip in October, following a conference in Greece: a few days in Athens, on Crete and on Santorini Island, starting out with a night in NY before leaving

for Greece, with another evening at the Met, that time for *Lucia di Lammermoor*. The hotel in Athens gave us a special suite on the top floor on our first night there (on our way to Crete). We enjoyed a visit to Knossos, the ancient (2700 to 1450 BC) site of a Minoan palace. The visit to Santorini turned out to be particularly enjoyable, with great weather and beautiful scenery, including world-class sunset views. Santorini is an island in the shape of a "C", opening to the west, overlooking the volcanic cauldron, marking an eruption that may have been involved in the end of the Minoan civilization. Santorini has become a major tourist destination following new construction of transportation, hotels, etc., after a major earthquake in the '50s. We were there in the "off-season", with just enough activity to keep things going, but not enough to be over crowded. We stayed in a new hotel outside the capital city of the island, with a western view overlooking the cauldron (hence the sunset views). A good trip, despite the appalling dollar to euro ratio! Finally, in November, we drove to Chicago (with Kaitlyn) to take part in the 50th birthday party for Carmon, see below, and then by air to St. Louis in December for Christmas with the Colangelo family. Following some disappointments at the nearby Presbyterian Church in which she had enjoyed a 20+ year membership, Marilyn has switched to a large, independent church, located about 8 mi from our house. Guy continues as a consultant to the President and Provost of CMU, and co-editor of a scientific journal. All in all, an eventful year.

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Sandra & Neil had their usual (very) active year with their family of five. Sandra continues the follow-ups from her surgery of last year, with no evidence that the cancer has recurred, but with an episode in Dec 2006 that required surgical intervention to re-

move scar tissue on her intestines. She now works full-time as a mid-wife, with Neil continuing his practice as a private investigator. Late in the



The Mauro farm house.

year they purchased a horse-farm that came on the market, completing the arrangement and moving within the space of a few weeks in October and November; now to sell the house in Forest Hills! The farm, about 25 mi SE from our home, is an 11-12 acre remnant of a very large and old farm, with the larger portion of the house about 150 yr old, updated a few years ago with a three-story addition. The barn contains 13 stalls, but Sandra doesn't believe that the pasture would support that many horses; she hopes to develop a horse-riding teaching program. After finishing two years at Penn State, **Kimberlee** has moved to Austin Texas to be with her fiancée, Jonathan Grier, who is working for Hewlett-Packard in Austin; Kim is working teaching her riding students at the stable where she has her horse. She is taking courses at a junior college this term, and will enroll in the Univ. Texas, Austin in Jan. 2008. **Kaitlyn (16)** has continued her activity in the Oakland Girls Choir, including concerts in Pittsburgh and a tour



Kaitlyn in a concert (2nd from left, back row).

in the eastern US, along with preparations for a tour to Europe next summer. She enjoyed a role in the high school production of *Le Misérables* this year. **Kevin (13 3/4)** has enjoyed the move from the (rather rough) middle school in Forest Hills to the (seemingly more sedate) school near the farm. He has earned his Brown Belt in Karate, and remained active in Boy Scouts, with monthly weekend outings throughout the year, preparing for a trip New Mexico next year. **Colleen (10)** and **Cassandra (8)** have continued piano lessons, riding horses and home-schooling. Colleen took first prize for Best-of-Year in her riding program, and Casey took a first-place trophy in her cheer leading competition. Both are happy to be on a farm with their horses, despite the prospect of daily chores to keep them fit and clean!

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Scott and **Cheryl** both work, full time for Scott and part-time for Cheryl; Marilyn has been helping with the children. **Hanna (12)** enjoys, and is doing very well, in school; she made High-Honors in school this fall. Her activities include piano lessons, dance class and swimming in competitions at the Y; she finished first among all competitors in a recent competition (most older than she). **Chloe (5)**, in preschool, is

following in Hanna's footsteps as fast as she can, and is taking tap dancing and ballet lessons. Scott continues to play drums with a group that performs in the local area. Cheryl is active in events for their church, managing ticket sales and other school fund raising projects. Scott built a large deck next to their swimming pool, including a custom beverage bar of his own design, an ideal place for parties in the summer, or just for family relaxation.

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Susan and **Carmon** have enjoyed their first full year St. Louis, where Carmon is the first Dean of the newly formed *Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts* at Washington University in St. Louis; the position has him on the road frequently, meeting Alums, raising funds, etc. **Jessica** is in her fourth year at Rice University in Houston, TX, working toward a Bachelors in architecture this June, to be followed by a year of internship and a final year of studies at Rice. She and her friend Charles came in second in a Texas-wide competition to design a park in Austin; the winners were professional architects. **Ashley (19)** is in her second year in the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, enjoying her studies and Chicago very much. **Chelsea (14)** has continued her interest in horse riding; her parents bought Kimberlee's horse Zack for her to allow her to expand that

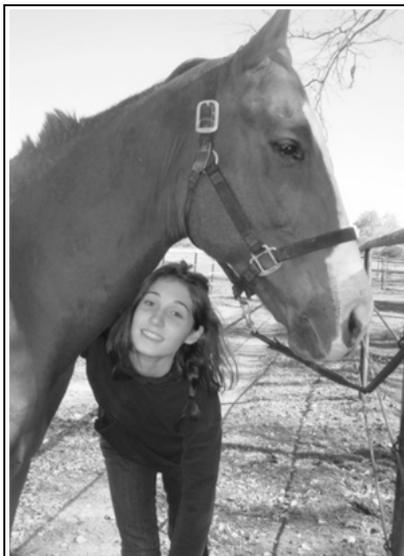
experience. She rides daily at a stable a few miles from her home and takes good care of Zack. Susan arranged a very nice family party in Chicago to celebrate Carmon's 50th, attended by his mother **Correen** and brother **Joe**, both from Canada, along with Jessica and her friend Charles from Texas, Ashley and us, with Kaitlyn, along with a few additional family friends from St. Louis and Athens, GA. The trip afforded us the chance to see a bit of Chicago, and stop with Kaitlyn at the Univ. of Notre Dame on the return to Pittsburgh.



Colleen (L) & Casey (R) with trophies.

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Guy's mother **Wilma (92)** is living with Sandra and her family (3 yrs now), moving with them to their new farm. She visits our home weekly to spend the day, and a care center for elders daily on week days. The latter visits seem to give a boost to her spirits, if not her memory, and they are needed in view of the shift of Sandra to work as a midwife. Wilma's cognitive abilities continue to decline on average, with, as Sandra says, a few, unpredictable good days and bad. Otherwise, although frail, her health is generally good.



Chelsea with Zack.

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

Marilyn
&
Guy



Chloe and Hanna at the beach.