

December 2008

Happy Holidays from all of us!

Well!!! 2008 has proved to be an unusual year, replete with both depressing and hopeful events on the national and world-wide stage: on the down side, violent fanatics bent on imposing their myopic world-view on humanity, global warming and a world-wide economic downturn, perhaps largely spawned by ill-considered actions in the US on the financial and diplomatic scenes; and, hopefully on the upside, a new National Administration and Congress with new ideas and motivations. It appears that the damage inflicted over the past several years has been so pervasive and deep that it will take some time to return to a more happy condition, but we can hope! On the personal side, after settling the WFB estate, we, **Marilyn & Guy**, had a relatively quiet year, with a trip to Texas in May, a meeting trip to exciting Wilmington DE in June, a high point of which was the opportunity to visit the home of the parents of Kimberlee's fiancée in a nearby community, and a quick trip to MI after Thanksgiving to attend a wedding. The trip to TX allowed us to attend Jessica's graduation from Rice, and visit Kimberlee and Jon in Austin. The trip to MI afforded the chance to visit Marilyn's brother Jack and his wife Jean along with their daughters Alexandra and Barbara and her husband Lanny; the wedding was for their son, Patrick. Marilyn became a political-junky during the national primary and election months, abetted by a new MAC laptop when her DELL went "belly-up". She supported Obama during the primaries, when Guy was hopeful that Hillary might pull it off, but both of us are happy with the final election outcome. Marilyn has re-

turned to her interest in Japanese flower arranging, both presenting arrangements in shows, and teaching the art to her Pittsburgh granddaughters; Kaitlyn presented an arrangement along side Marilyn's at a recent show. Since our four youngest granddaughters spend time with her each week in our home, she has used the opportunity for the flower lessons, has them knitting again, and "allowing" them to earn a bit of money by helping with household chores (including the laundry). Guy continues as a consultant to the President and Provost of CMU, and co-editor of a scientific journal. All in all, perhaps a too eventful year.



Kaitlyn, Colleen, Cassandra and Nana.

Sandra & Neil had another year of each working full-time, keeping their horse-ranch running, transporting the four of their family still at home to their various activities, and otherwise "relaxing"! In addition, Sandra has been giving lessons in riding every week, probably because she has too much time on her hands! **Kaitlyn (17)** has continued her activity in the Oakland Girls Choir, including concerts in Pittsburgh and a tour to Europe this past summer, visiting sites and presenting concerts in Germany, Holland and Austria. She enjoyed a role in the high school production of *Jo-*

A New Year

2009

Greeting From Marilyn & Guy

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

seph's Coat of Many Colors this year. She likes to be in Pittsburgh on weekends to visit with her friend Christopher; imagine that!; anyway we see her more often than we did when she lived in Forest Hills, as she often is with us on the weekend. Ninth grader **Kevin (14 3/4)** is doing well in his new school, and he has earned his Life badge in the Boy Scouts--next stop: Eagle? He is on the rifle team at school, and has acquired a (used) motorized "dirt-bike" this summer, with plenty of opportunity to ride near the family horse ranch. **Colleen (11)** and **Cassandra (9)** have both joined the junior ensembles of the Oakland Girls Choir, participating in the OGL concerts in Pittsburgh. They both have been very active in horse shows this year, with Casey winning the 4-H Championship (and jacket) for earning the most points in the English Pony class. Both earned enough points in 4-H to earn a place in the state competition in Harrisburg; where they both came away with ribbons! **Kimberlee** has completed her first semester in the Nursing School of the Univ. Texas, Austin, earning top grades. She and her fiancée, Jonathan Grier, who is working for Hewlett-Packard in Austin, have a nice house, near the HP site, but a bit of a distance from UT.



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

Scott & Cheryl both work, with Scott making the change to Union membership, with an immediate job working up high on the addition of upper stories on a building in downtown Pittsburgh. Both **Hanna (13)** and **Chloe (6)** visit Nana B. after school when Mom and Dad are working in the late afternoon. Hanna, who continues to do well in school, attaining the Honors List, will present a science project in a local Science Fair, and is expanding her activities in competitive swimming; she is doing very well and seems to enjoy the experience. She has created some nice Japanese flower arrangements under the tutelage of her Nana B. Chloe is in kindergarten and thanks to her pre-school experience is able to "help teacher" in special ways. She is getting along well in learning to read and proud to show off her new skills (Yes! They learn to read in kindergarten now!).

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Susan & Carmon have had a full year. In addition to transporting Chelsea to see her horse Zack on most days among her other motherly duties, Susan has been volunteering and acting as a hostess for university-related activities; her volunteerism included work for the Obama campaign. Carmon has maintained his responsibilities as Dean, while developing his own art. His latest exhibit opened in December at a gallery in St. Louis. In his words, "the exhibition explores ideas



Chelsea takes Zack around

about the creation of the universe and man-made changes in the environment." Both **Jessica** and her friend Charles accepted 1-year intern positions in Boston MA following their graduations in architecture from Rice in June, as a normal part of their education. By all reports, they are working long, hard hours as interns and missing the Texas sunshine! It seems that **Ashley (20)** is becoming a Chicago devotee as she is in her third year in the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, enjoying her studies and Chicago very much. She is focusing more and more on printmaking and will co-create a print for a print conference in Chicago with Carmon over Christmas break. Both girls seemed happy to visit St. Louis over Thanksgiving, and happy to return to their "normal" lives afterward. **Chelsea (15)**, now in the

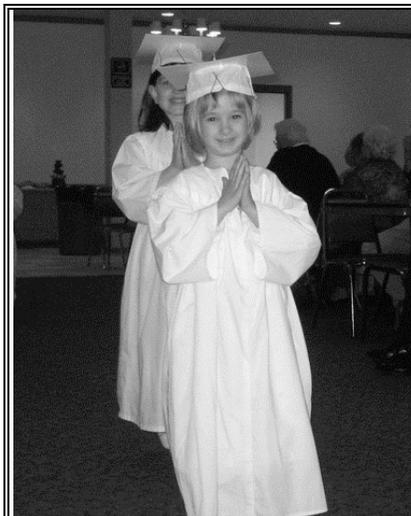
ninth grade, has continued her interest in horse riding, expanding to participate in horse-show competitions. She also volunteers to help disabled children enjoy therapeutic horse riding at a local stable.

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Guy's mother **Wilma** suffered a stroke and died on 14 January 2008 without regaining consciousness, 21 days shy of her 93rd birthday. She had been living in Pittsburgh, with Sandra, Neil and their family since Thanksgiving 2004. They enjoyed some pleasant times with her during the first three years, but these became increasingly rare as her memory and physical stamina suffered, particularly over the past year. The traits of her personality seen in her great-grandchildren present (6 in number) were noted during a memorial service. Internment is next to husband Charles, in the Pittsburgh area.



*Wilma Frances Wickes Berry
5 February 1915--14 January 2008*



Chloe Preschool graduation.

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

*Marilyn
&
Guy*



*Jessica on graduation from Rice,
with parents Susan and Carmon.*