

A New Year 2010 Greeting From Marilyn & Guy

December 2009

Happy Holidays from all of us!

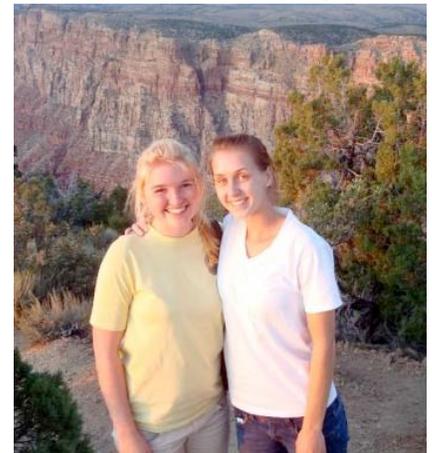
Unlike the events on the national and international scene, life at 633 has been relatively quiet in 2009; hey, as of this writing, no visits to the hospital for us or our autos this year! We made a trip to St. Louis via a visit to the University of Indiana to give Kaitlyn the opportunity to visit that campus, along with Wash U and other schools in St. Louis. While in St. Louis, we had the opportunity to participate in the social whirl stirred by Susan and Carmon, with three events in three days! (OK, maybe it was a bit active, even for them.) One of Kaitlyn's goals was fulfilled: the elevator ride to the top of the St. Louis Arch, something we had done with our three the year the Arch opened. This time, the small elevator car evoked a claustrophobic reaction in gcb and his exit before the doors closed, so Kaitlyn and Carmon made the ride to the top as a duo. Later in the year, we took a short trip to Harrisburg, PA, to attend the 4H-PA Statewide Horse Championships, as described below. Marilyn has continued her revived interest in Japanese flower arranging. She and Kaitlyn placed arrangements in two Ikebana shows this year, and we attended the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Ikebana International in Pittsburgh, held at the Phipps Conservatory; Marilyn is a past President of that group. Since the site had served as a venue for the G20 in Pittsburgh a week earlier for a meeting with President Obama and other world leaders, it was in tip-top shape! We have enjoyed attending the performances of the NY Met Opera transmitted live by satellite, in addition to the live performances to which we subscribe: the opera, symphony, brass band, light opera and

public theater. Marilyn has persevered in her 'political junky' ways, enjoying, though oft dismayed by, close attention to current events. Guy continues to go to the office on weekdays, with a 3 mile walk starting each weekday, and to serve as a consultant to the President and Provost of CMU, and co-editor of a scientific journal;. A scientific convention in Pittsburgh this year provided the opportunity to present and get some reaction to a paper in preparation for publication. It has now been accepted for publication in a journal, possibly the final from gcb, 50 years after the first, published in 1959. All in all, perhaps a reasonably eventful year at that.

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Sandra had another year working full-time as a midwife, keeping her horse-stable running, transporting the teens and preteens still at home to their various activities, with help from Neil, and otherwise "relaxing"! In addition, she gives lessons in riding every week, probably because she has too much time on her hands! **Kimberlee** is in her final year of study for a degree in nursing from the Univ, Texas Austin, anticipating graduation and marriage in June 2010. She and Jon plan to be married in the Heinz Chapel in Pittsburgh, the same venue where Susan & Carmon were married 25 years ago last October. **Kaitlyn (18)** is taken her senior year in the

PA Cyber School combined with courses at a junior college. She has been accepted by the University of Indiana, and Pitt and will hear from other schools early next year. She was awarded a trip to Washington DC with her mother in a Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation essay contest to attend a JDRF conference to help carry the JDRF message to



L to R: Kaitlyn and Kimberlee at the 'Big Ditch'.

Congress and the President. Kimberlee and Kaitlyn enjoyed a 3,500 mile round-trip to visit several National Parks and other points of interest including the Grand Canyon, White Sands, Sequoia and Yosemite. Tenth grader **Kevin (15 3/4)** went on a trip to the Czech Republic and Italy with gcb in June; Marilyn had decided not to make the excursion. Following a three day conference for gcb, followed by a couple of days in Prague, the trip went on to Florence by overnight train, with visits to the major (and some minor) sights there. Then another train ride to the mountains of northeast Italy (Bolzano), with a couple of days to walk about the town and in the nearby mountains. **Colleen (12)** and **Cassandra (10)** have been very active in horse shows again this year, earning enough points in 4-H to earn trips to the state competition in Harrisburg, where they



R to L: Colleen, Cassandra and Mom in NYC.



Chloe (L) & Hanna (R) with Checkers.

both came away with ribbons! They had a trip to New York City (and the big American Girl Doll store) to celebrate Casey's 10th birthday. Both continue their home schooling, and both were in the Oakland Girls Choir Spring concert. Casey played the role of the little girl who stamps on the foot of the cruel head mistress of the girls' home in the musical *Annie* in a production by Home School students.

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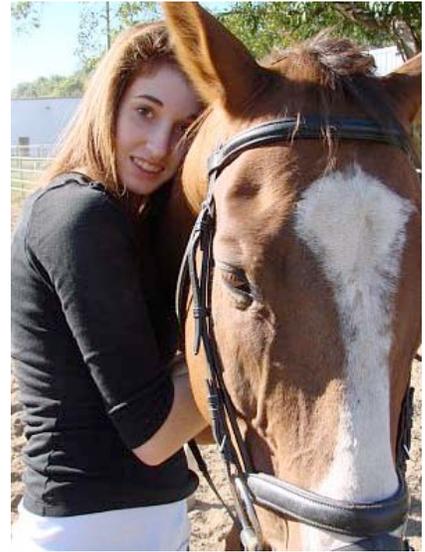
Scott & Cheryl both work, with Scott experiencing the volatile nature of work in construction. Both **Hanna (14)** and **Chloe (7)** visit Nana B. after school when Mom and Dad are working in the late afternoon. Hanna, continues to do well in school, attaining the Honors List in the 8th grade, and serving as the Treasurer on the Student Council at her Jr High. She has continued in swimming competitions, winning ribbons in the 100 m butterfly and 200 m backstroke. She expects to present a science project in a local

Science Fair. Chloe is in first grade, and is following in her sister's wake in joining a swim team. But never fear, she has her own very vibrant personality, with definite likes and dislikes! Cheryl continues to work in fund raising for the school attended by her girls, arranging a Fashion Show, and Scott enjoys his role as the drummer in a group that performs at local venues. The family enjoys vacations at a cabin in the PA woods owned by Cheryl's family, and summer trips to Hilton Head.

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Susan & Carmon have had their usual full year. Susan marked her big *Five-Oh* birthday in January, and they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in October with trips to Florida and Los Angeles. Susan has become very active in volunteer activities involving women's groups associated with Washington University (WashU). She works with the WashU Women's Club, working to increase membership, especially among the younger set, and expanding the range of activities. This is the Centennial Year for the Club, and she has been chairing a committee on special activities to make it a year to be remembered.

Among his activities this year, Carmon hosted a conference at WashU in which separate professional organizations for academic administrators of programs in art and architecture from across the US met jointly for a 4-day conference, the first time they have held a joint conference in place of their individual annual meetings. **Chelsea (16)**, now in the tenth grade, has become a volunteer in Zoo ALIVE with the St. Louis Zoo (ALIVE stands for Active Leaders in



Chelsea gives Zack a hug

Volunteer Education). To quote the ALIVE website: "We are seeking mature, responsible teens with an aptitude for leadership. Applicants should enjoy working with children, and should have interests in animal biology or conservation, music, outdoor recreation, drama, and/or crafts. Zoo ALIVE volunteers must also feel comfortable speaking or demonstrating activities to groups of children and Zoo visitors. Enthusiasm, confidence and a positive attitude are required!" A great opportunity for Chelsea, and one she is enjoying very much, along with spending time with her boyfriend Josh and her continued horseback riding with Zack. **Jessica** will be in Paris, with boyfriend Charles, to complete the final semester of studies for their Bachelor of Architecture degrees from Rice University, following the BArt degrees they earned last year. The Spring will also bring graduation for **Ashley**, from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; seems like a very fast four years! She plans to stay in Chicago with her boyfriend Eric and hopes to work in an art related job.



Kaitlyn in Washington, DC.

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

Marilyn
&
Guy



Kevin and GCB on a (very civilized) trail in the mountains near Bolzano, Italy.

A comment on New Year Letters:



Ian and Shawn exchange their yearly Christmas letters.