



# Holiday Newsletter 2014

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## Dear Friends

We are pleased to report another year of relatively good health and no major crises. The fires in North County in May were a bit scary and we were concerned we would be evacuated again but this time we were spared. We held our breath every time there was a wildfire after that but we managed to get through another fire season unscathed. Some people worry about earthquakes in California but the real danger is the wildfires.

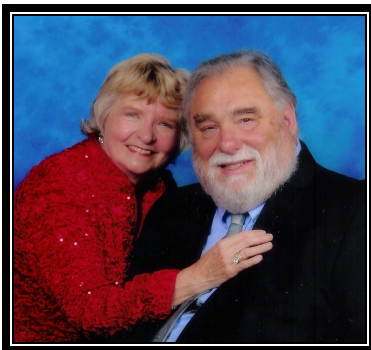
Marguerite continues to be active with the UCSD Retirement Association but much of her time is now filled with the joys of the grandchildren and going back and forth to Orange County (75 miles each way) to be with them. In early October we celebrated Grace's birthday at LegoLand. Marguerite ("EE" to the grandkids) rented the Panda Cabana and the family invited several of Grace's friends and their families to join us for a day at the LegoLand Water Park. This is the third year we have had Grace's birthday at LegoLand and we plan to have a late birthday celebration for Crawford there in the Spring. The children are always thrilled when they are tall enough to move on to the next set of rides!

In early November Marguerite took care of Grace and Crawford for a weekend so that Gar and Chandi could go to Palm Springs -- the first vacation they have had together alone since their Honeymoon!



This is easier to read on-line at:  
<http://georgeandmarguerite.net/xmasnewsletter.htm>

## Panama Canal Cruise



A long time ago we decided when we got old we would do a Panama Canal Cruise. Well in 2014 the government decided we were old and needed to take IRA Minimum Required Distributions. So we did and used some of the money for the obligatory old person's Panama Canal Cruise. Prior to the cruise we visited some Florida tourist spots and saw Marguerite's sister Betsy and husband Brent. George was hot and miserable for most of the trip but he did like the fact we only had to fly one way. He liked the cruise through the canal part but the stops along the way were hot and not too interesting. Marguerite loved the culinary experiences and participated in three very elegant gourmet dinners and wine pairings. George watched CNN and ate at the Food Court. Marguerite also attended all of the culinary demos and several of the wine tastings too. For a complete description of the trip see: <http://georgeandmarguerite.net/panamacanal.htm>.

In 2015 our vacation will be to England and Iceland and Norway. The cruise to Iceland is only offered during peak summer months so we are expecting bad crowds in England. We plan on visiting some of the large estates like Chatsworth and possibly the filming site for Downton Abbey, one of our favorite TV shows. <http://www.chatsworth.org/>.

## George's 70th Birthday

Eight months after Marguerite's 70th birthday it was George's turn. We invited family friends and their children. If he had to have a birthday party he wanted 70 candles on his cake. No symbolism for George. Grandpa George gave the assignment to Grace to put 70 candles on the cake and she was just thrilled. Lighting so many candles scared most of the children but they finally had fun blowing them out. You can see a movie of the candle lighting, happy birthday singing, and candle blowing on our website at: <http://georgeandmarguerite.net/gdbd.htm>. We continue to enjoy our back yard and the Jacuzzi, and it is a pleasant place for informal parties. No remodels or major home improvements were done this year -- just routine maintenance that seems to be forever ongoing.



## Dreyfus Died

Our dog Dreyfus had to be put to sleep at 12 years old. He had dysplasia and could not walk well. We got Dreyfus when he was 3 and a half. He was owned by a friend of Gar's and they wanted to get rid of him because of a new baby. Poor dog was stuck in a cage all day so when we got him he was wild and not well behaved. We went through some carpets because of him. The first carpet damage was when Grace was a baby and he was jealous! After repairing the carpet several times, we finally just installed a new one -- in variegated cranberry red that would not show stains! Even with the bad behavior he was basically a nice dog, but it is too hard to put dogs out of their misery so this is probably our last dog. We still babysit dogs of friends so we will have dog exposure.

To view our past dogs see: <http://georgeandmarguerite.net/family.htm>



## Baltic/Russia Trip

This year's "girls' trip" was to The Baltic and Russia. Marguerite travels most years with her college friend, Gretchen Turner, from Atlanta, and several other women from Atlanta and elsewhere. This year there were 7 of us including Renee Walter (the mother of Gar's long-time friend Rob Walter), Veronica Thighe from Denver, and others from Atlanta. Photo at right is Veronica, Marguerite, Renee, and Gretchen. We were joined by 5 other people we got to know well and also a terrific Lithuanian trip leader. The trip gave us a real appreciation for the struggle for freedom that the people in the Baltic (Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia) experienced while under Soviet rule for 50 years (1940-1991). The resilience and strength of the people was wonderful to see and all three Baltic countries seem quite prosperous now. We then went to St Petersburg and experienced all the splendor of the rule of the Tsars -- more gold on some of the walls than in state treasuries! Not hard to see why there was a revolution in 1917! Our final visit was to Moscow where we spent a day at the Kremlin and learned a lot more about how Russia operates now. This was Marguerite's fourth Overseas Adventure Travel tour. Next year's girls' trip is to Japan. 2014 marked the 50th anniversary of Marguerite and Gretchen traveling together. Their first trip was "Europe on \$5 a day" after graduation from Vanderbilt in 1964. We visited 13 countries in 8 weeks and spent about \$1000 each. Those were the days when we traveled on EuroRail passes, stayed at B&Bs, and sometimes slept on the train! For more info see: <http://georgeandmarguerite.net/baltic.htm>



## Sister Visits

Marguerite and her sister, Betsy, had two good visits this year. In February Betsy came to California to help put together a personal album for Gar similar to the Heritage Albums we had put together in 2013. The album covers Gar's life from birth through the birth of his children and used some of the things from the bins in the attic that Marguerite had been saving for years! During the same visit we spent time with the grandkids and did a little sightseeing.

In late September Marguerite flew to Orlando to help Betsy with a party for a friend's son who was getting married, then drove together to Betsy and Brent's cabin in Wolf Laurel, North Carolina in the mountains near Asheville. While there we made 8 Halloween costumes for grandchildren and also heard two professional storytellers in Jonesborough, Tennessee where there is an International Storytelling Festival each October. Next year we plan to include the Festival in our costume-making visit!



## Berkeley Trip

In October Marguerite had a meeting in Berkeley, CA. The meeting was for the Council of University of California Retirement Associations (CUCRA) at which she represents UCSD. This year George decided to go with Marguerite and make it a mini-vacation.

We visited George's good friend John Warner and they had a mini-IBM SAGE reunion. These guys had not seen each other since 1971. We also toured San Francisco again and visited Universal Studios in Los Angeles and also visited Santa Monica where the IBMers joined each other on the SAGE project in the 1960s. A highlight of the trip for Marguerite was eating Cioppino on Fisherman's Wharf with her Stanford-graduate mentee, Hong Van Pham.

For more information see: <http://georgeandmarguerite.net/berkeley.htm>



## Grandchildren

The grandchildren continue to be an absolute delight. Grace was 5 on October 23 and is enjoying being a student at Monarch Bay Montessori Academy in Dana Point. Although it is 20 miles from their house, the education the children are getting is well worth it. MBMA is a traditional Montessori school and a training school for Montessori teachers.

Grace's big event at school this year was to wear her super duper Elsa costume (made by EE, of course) to "share day" -- the dress has a 6 foot train and is made just like the one in the movie! She also knows all the words to *Let it Go* and sang it for her class and the other classes that morning. She was indeed the star for the day! For Halloween she was Ariel -- complete with a purple bra, sea foam green tail, and long red wig! Crawford will be 3 on January 2, 2015, and started attending MBMA in September. He is enjoying being a "big boy" going to school every day and learning lots. He was a "green Ninja LEGO guy" in an EE-made costume for Halloween. Crawford is talking fluently and is a delightful, happy child.

Grace and Crawford were both in a family wedding in July on Long Island. Grace was flower girl (in a dress made by EE) and Crawford was ring bearer. They did a very good job and were full participants in the reception until way past their bedtime!! The family spent several weeks in New York during the year visiting with Oma and Opa and their cousins. Gar also had business meetings in NYC coincident with the visits and does much of his work on the phone and computer so he is able to work from there too. Grace came home an excellent swimmer and Crawford is also learning to swim. For latest photos and movies of grandkids see: <http://georgeandmarguerite.net/grandchildrenphotos.htm>

