



## Holiday Newsletter 2007

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Dear Friends,

This has been a very full and busy year. First and foremost, we are grateful that our home survived the California Wildfires that devastated much of Southern California in October. We were evacuated for 3 days and the fire came within 60 feet of our backyard (see photo at right), but nothing was damaged. Although only 8 homes were lost in our neighborhood of over 350 residences, the neighborhood next to us lost 16 of about 40 custom homes on large lots. Choosing what to take with us when we evacuated got down to the dogs, a few family pictures, passports and tax records, the laptop, good jewelry, and the sterling silver! Most other things could have been replaced, with difficulty. Now that we weathered that storm, we have decided the big project for 2008 will be a major remodel of our home – new kitchen, updated bathrooms, new flooring and paint, and 6 months of chaos!



Marguerite continues to enjoy her part-time job at the UCSD School of Medicine, and the NIH project she administers is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> and final year. They have developed lots of useful teaching materials about tuberculosis and have a very comprehensive website (<http://ntcc.ucsd.edu>). Tony Catanzaro and Marguerite are working on additional funding for another year or two. With the help of many friends, family, and a small CDC contract, Marguerite has fully funded her *UCSD Marguerite Jackson Award for Professional Nursing Excellence*. As an endowed fund, the award can be given in perpetuity. Recipients can be seen at <http://members.cox.net/jacksonconsulting/>.

George had an uneventful year and did not go with Marguerite on any major trips. He is no longer with the Homeowner's Association and is totally not bored. Per agreement with his friend Craig Tyndall he went to the San Diego Marathon but at 375 pounds could not run the marathon or even walk very well. So with the encouragement of Dr. Nick, Craig, and United Airlines (can't fit on planes) he has started yet another diet/weight loss program. As a graduate of Kaiser, Sharp, Atkins, South Beach, et al. diets, he has the expertise but lacks motivation (his brain tumor is now fixed so does not crave bad food). He has invented the "massage diet" and has so far lost 50+ pounds with the aid of his masseuse, Misty Dawn. In the Dill Family, massage is counted as exercise. His objective is to be 180 pounds before the National Debt is paid off. Misty is also fixing various parts that have gone to the dogs for lack of proper use or being over stressed. He has started climbing mountains again with Craig and goes to the dog park every day.



**Misty Dawn**

Gar continues as Senior Director of Investor Relations for Pacific

Sunwear (PacSun) in Anaheim, CA, and is in a serious relationship with a lovely woman, Chandi Neubauer, who is a financial analyst. They recently rented a cottage in Corona del Mar (4 blocks from the beach) and we see them often. All of us just returned from Christmas in New York. Chandi grew up in Westhampton Beach, Long Island, and this was our opportunity to meet Karen and Ralph, Chandi's parents, and also enjoy the sights and shows of NYC (Radio City Rockettes, Grease, Legally Blonde, many museums, Central Park, etc.). The wife of Marguerite's nephew, Neville, also has family homes in Westhampton Beach

and they invited all of us for a very Merry Christmas.



**Gar & Chandi**



**Marguerite in Times Square**



In February, Marguerite, her sister Betsy, their cousin Peggy, and “The Twins”, Jessica and Marga, took a 3 week trip/cruise to New Zealand and Australia. We enjoyed the sights, accommodations on the Holland America Statendam, the shows on board and the port towns. We spent three days in Sydney at the end of the cruise.



In June, Marguerite and George went to San Jose for several days while Marguerite attended her professional meeting for APIC. We visited with our friends John & Barbara Warner and Carmen Patia and enjoyed nights at the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo and the Marriott San Jose. Above is George, by a rented Prius, at the Madonna Inn.



July was the annual trip to Gar’s cabin in Port Angeles, WA for Marguerite, Gar, and Betsy, followed by the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Milestones Dinner in the tradition of the Pacific Southwest for Gar, Chandi, and 16 of their friends. The 8 “waitpersons extraordinaire” out did themselves again this year!



For most of August, Marguerite and Betsy about had heat strokes in the 100+degree heat of Gainesville, Florida while helping relocate their 86-year-old mother,



In September, Marguerite and her college friend, Gretchen Turner, spent three weeks on a RoadScholar Tour of China. This was one of the best trips ever – lots of interesting

Jessica, to a retirement community. Marguerite was very glad to get back to the cool of California! A second trip was required after Thanksgiving, but at least it was not hot!

sights, a cruise down the Yangtze River, and excellent tour guides. There were only 23 people on the trip so we got lots of personal attention.



In mid-September, George’s mother died of cancer and old age (91). Her name was Florence Bonaccorso Dill Merendino. She lived in Boise, Idaho, near her daughter Marie Merendino Bonaminio and Marie’s husband Gus. The funeral and burial were in California. She was born in Baltimore in 1916 and the photo at left shows Florence, George’s Grandmother Catherine, and George’s Aunt Katie who died in an automobile accident in 1944. George’s Uncle Nuchie was not born when the photo was taken.



**In the above photo, taken about 10 years ago, are Sister Leona, George’s Mother Florence, Sister Marie and George.**

*Marguerite, George, Apollo, and Dreyfus*