



Holiday Newsletter 2009

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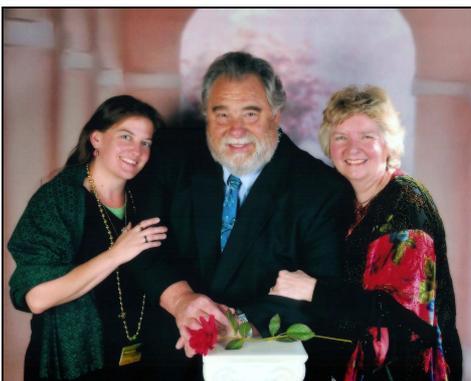
Dear Friends,

The highlight of Marguerite's year was the birth of her first grandchild. On October 23, 2009, a daughter was born to Gar (Marguerite's Son) and Chandi Neubauer Jackson. She was born at 11:38 PM at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center in Laguna Hills, California. She was 7 pounds, 12 ounces, 20 inches in length, and has lots of very blonde hair and big blue eyes. Her name is **Grace Eloise Jackson**. According to Grandma Marguerite, Grace is the cutest, prettiest, smartest, and most wonderful little girl in the whole world – and her Grandma is already madly in love with her!

Chandi's family from New York, including Grace's two cousins, Griffin (5) and Miriam (3), are spending Christmas in California this year. We are joining them for Christmas Eve and Christmas in Orange County.

Marguerite has been sewing to her heart's content for baby Grace and the Jackson 3 – a special quilt with sailboats and very soft minky fabric; several sleep sacks; tiny bows for her hair to attach with velcro; and Christmas stockings for all of them. For Gar's birthday (11-11) she made a lap quilt from several of his Dad's shirts and soft flannel. Marguerite now has FIVE sewing machines and usually uses at least three of them at the same time! She spends many hours each week in her custom-made sewing room. Chandi keeps telling her she should go into business with her sewing – maybe a new venture for the future?? More photos of Gar, Chandi and Grace can be seen at:

<http://members.cox.net/dill-jac/2009.htm>



Dr. Nick's Cruise:

Our good friend Dr. Nick Yphantides has a group of people he is helping lose weight. His group is called Health Stewards and has a very good website at <http://www.healthstewards.com/>. His group decided to do a Carnival Cruise, out of San Diego, down to Cabo San Lucas, Baja Mexico, which we were invited to join. Because of high fuel prices the cruise got cancelled and we ended up going on a cruise to Ensenada, Mexico instead, which is only 100 miles from our home, but the transportation was good.

We decided to take our friend, and George's masseuse, Misty Dawn, with us because we all know one should never be too far from one's masseuse. Dr. Nick's sister was entertainment director and a wild and crazy time was had by all.

Since this was a relatively inexpensive short cruise we decided to get the Veranda Suite accommodation, which gave us our own private balcony. Because of this cruise Marguerite got the urge to go on another cruise so this May we will be going on a Mediterranean cruise from Venice, Italy to Croatia to Greece to Turkey and back to Venice. We will also spend a few days on the French Riviera prior to the cruise to see the sights.

More photos of the cruise and all our new friends is on our website at: <http://members.cox.net/dill-jac/2009.htm>

Marguerite will go to Turkey again in Sept. on an Overseas Adventure Tour (OAT).with her travel buddy, Gretchen Turner of Atlanta, and Renee Walter, Rob's Mom (Rob is Gar's friend who went to Australia with MJ & Gar in 1991!)



Betsy and Marguerite's Trip to Scotland:

In 2003, George and Marguerite visited the British Isles. George did some research on the internet and found the homeland of the MacMillan clan in Scotland (McMillan can be spelled many different ways). Marguerite's father was a McMillan. It is located about 150 miles due west of Glasgow, Scotland, in the major boondocks. So we had to rent a car to drive to that location. You can see photos on our website at <http://members.cox.net/dill-jac/2003.htm> .

Marguerite wanted to go back to Scotland, only this time with her sister, to see the homeland from the perspective of their family heritage. Since Betsy nor Marguerite are good navigators we decided to go on the internet and find a tour guide to take the ladies to McMillan-land and then take a standard commercial tour of greater Scotland. This worked out well and the ladies got to see the greater highlands of Scotland in addition to the Orkney Islands.



In the upper photo to the left you can see Marguerite and Betsy with the MacMillan Cross. We found this little chapel in MacMillan-land almost by accident in 2003; it has many MacMillan relics. The bottom photo shows the ladies with Nigel, their private tour guide.

You can view highlights of the trip, with more details on our website: <http://members.cox.net/dill-jac/2009.htm> .

Backyard Remodel:

The plan was to remove the old spa with gazebo and replace it with a new full-featured spa and a conversation fire pit area. You can see the progress of the adventure on our website: <http://members.cox.net/dill-jac/remodelby.htm> .

First we decided on a plan. George did not want just a spa in the backyard, he wanted an outside entertainment center appearance so we decided to put in a large stonewall to tie in the spa area and the fire pit area and the grill area. Not an easy task in a small backyard, but we are very happy with the results.

To celebrate the completion of the task we had a grand outdoor Christening Party. At the party we checked out our fire pit and it worked wonderfully. It kept us nice and toasty and did not burn down the house. Also there was room for everyone to sit and enjoy the fine food and wine available to our guests.

We also checked out the spa. We had up to six people in the spa and had room for more. The lighting in the spa is beautiful and can be changed to red or blue or green or a rotation of all the colors. There is also a Disco flashing option that makes most people sick.

Marguerite bought several torches on the web so we have fire all over the place between the torches and the fire pit.

Next Year the plan is for no more remodeling. In addition to our cruise in the Mediterranean Sea we will do a sightseeing tour of Illinois, Ohio, Michigan in conjunction with a speaking engagement Marguerite has in New York next Fall.



The NIH Project:

This project is winding down (the money runs out in April 2010) as we have completed 6 years of effort developing a website for tuberculosis education for health care students. You can view the website for the project at <http://ntcc.ucsd.edu>. This project has been a nice transition between full-time work and full-time retirement. No worries that Marguerite will be bored when it ends, however! She has rapidly filled her calendar with lots of volunteer work and sewing, cooking, and being grandma!



Marguerite, George, Apollo, and Dreyfus