

Myers 1998 Christmas Letter

Froehliche Weihnachton



Merry Christmas
Happy New Year

Erika has graduated from Montessori School and now goes to our local public school, Chestnut Ridge Elementary. She is still going to German school on Saturdays; taking piano lessons (we now have



Erika MC's the Montessori Spring Celebration 1997



Baba, Dido and Erika at her new Piano

a studio piano thanks mostly to the generosity of the Dziuba grandparents); loves skiing; ice skating and inline skating. This past summer she did a soccer camp, took swimming lessons, achieving Red Cross Level 4. She is still in Brownies, just a great kid and proud parent of many Beanie Babies.

We have done our share of traveling this year – near and far. In February we went to Shawnee in the Delaware Water Gap area. Erika did three days of SkiWee Camp and Tom and Mary enjoyed wonderful time alone.



Erika Skiing at Shawnee

We visited the Crayola Museum in Easton, Pa. It



Crayola Factory!

at the Mazzie's with the Myers Clan, seeing the Radio City Musical Hall Christmas Concert and of course Santa once again made a special visit to the Mazzie's.

was really fun for all of us! We met Tom's sister Sandie and she took Erika with her to Newburgh. She and her husband Vinnie continue to be the fairy godparents and took Erika into New York City to skate at Rockefeller Center. We



Skating with Aunt Sandie and Uncle Vin at Rockefeller Center

At Easter we spent three great days at Niagara Falls and saw the Butterfly Conservatory, the Falls in all their glory and just generally enjoyed each other's company. We also got a surprise daredevil show at Table Rock. We were eating lunch when a gymnastics team member climbed up on one of the rock posts and his buddy did a handstand with him. You could hear the whole restaurant gasp!



The Wonders of the Butterfly Conservatory

The summer took Erika and Mary to Germany on their bian- nual family trip. This year they took the train in Germany to visit. Erika was a great traveler managing her luggage and showing the flexibility to be a good guest in many house- holds. We are very grateful to all of our family and dear friends who extended hospitali- ty to us. The Krügers in Hamburg/Harburg and the Neels in Buxtehude; the Zunckes in Kassel (Tante Dida and Onkel Gerd), the von Alten Blaskowitzes in Nürnberg and the Palmes who saw us there; the Zuncke cousins and Tante Hanna in Munich; the Ametsbechler in Oberschleißheim; the



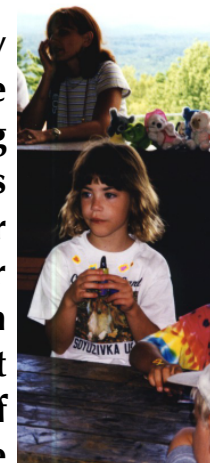
At the Schneider-Zuncke's in Cologne, Germany

Zunckes again in Kassel and their other home in Düsseldorf/Kaiserswerth; the Schneider-Zunckes in Cologne and that was it with a lovely opportunity to see Marysia Kuzlik in Düsseldorf. Erika really got some kilometers on her tush. We also visited a spa and fell in love with the BMWs at the museum in Munich. The trains were a big hit – fast, effi- cient and comfortable. Our family and friends took us places, entertained us in their homes and in other lovely settings – from playgrounds to zoos to restaurants. They were accommodating to a child who has a limited menu and patient with two Americans who went to bed about 10pm and reappeared about 10 am the next morning. Erika's com- prehension of German continued to grow and her comfort level with people was impressive.



Boris, Erika, Paloma and Sabine in Nürnberg

The Myers' Family Reunion was 5 days after Mary and Erika returned from Europe and many of the relatives were there. As usual it was great seeing them all. (Aunt Dolores and Uncle Lloyd Myers celebrated their 50th Anniversary!) The day after the reunion Mary and Erika left again for Souzivka (Chemney Camp) – a private Ukrainian Resort for Erika's bilingual Ukrainian camp. It was lovely being there again and seeing many of our friends from camp last year. It was once again Grandmother Dziuba's treat.

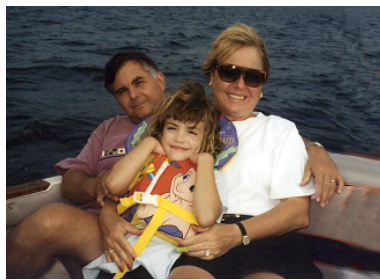


Chemney Camp was lots of fun!

One more special trip to Lake George and Bolton's Landing. Aunt Sandie and Uncle Vinnie Mazzie have purchased a sum- mer home there and the Myers came to break it in. The Girl's built the famous "Five Birch Teepee". In a warm family setting Tom's parents, two sisters with their families and we gathered for a relaxing stay in an idyllic setting. Erika was especially pampered by her Myers' grandparents who took her to the lake early and brought her back sev- eral days after Mary and Tom had to return. She loves being with them and



"Five Birch" Teepee



Crusing Lake George with the Mazzies

enjoyed the special times they helped create for her and her cousins. We also celebrated the Mazzies' 25th Wedding Anniversary last May with a special surprise party for them in Newburgh area. It was Erika's first black tie event.

In October we celebrated Tom's Gram Matthews' 100th birthday. What an event! She is a most amazing woman and talking with her and her friends is always interesting. This year with the 150th Anniversary of the Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, we talked about the women voting in 1930 and other milestone events of her time.



Great Grandma turns 100! 1898-1998

Mary's parents are in Rochester; Her dad has had a tough health year with two surgeries and the diagnoses of Parkinson's and osteo-arthritis in his back. Her mom and he continue much of their socializing with the church and various Ukrainian groups. They travel to conventions and to see their friends. They will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Christmas 1998. Please keep them in your prayers.

Mary continues teaching. This school year it is three classes of German and two classes Of Reading support in the Academic Support Center. The 9th graders are everywhere in her life. She still does some work with the State education Department and professional organizations at different levels. She has helped set the level for permanent certification of German teachers in New York State. Teaching is still a kick and the students of former students are beginning to appear in Mary's classroom. Oh my!



Mom and Erika



Mary, Erika & Tom Myers
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Tom is running ITA, Inc. which has 4 full time employees growing to 8 during the summer months. ITA focuses on Macintosh software development, doing Windows and Unix when there is a Macintosh component involved. This past year showed an increase in work from Xerox. Other clients are Kodak, Catalyst Direct, Language Intelligence and Harvey Research. It's been a good year and especially refreshing to see Apple coming on strong with great hardware products, excellent software and high consumer confidence.



Christmas 97 at Mazzies!



At Radio City Music Hall for the 97 Christmas Show featuring the Rockettes.



Erika & Dad go to the Brownie Father Daughter Dance.