

Merry
Christmas!

iFeliz
Navidad!

Myers Christmas 2009

Happy
Holidays!

Fröhliche
Weihnachten!



Christmas 2008 found our family together in the traditional way with the traditional guests. We are grateful for that blessing and that all were healthy enough to be there. Family is very important to us and it is great to once again spend Christmas with everyone!



Christmas Day 2008 at the Myers

December 2008 also marked Erika's 18th birthday and all of you parents out there know what a milestone that is.



Erika turns 18

After Christmas Vince Mazzie let us crash at his house in Newburgh so that we could go into NYC to see THE tree at Rockefeller Plaza and visit a museum, ride the



At THE Tree

Staten Island Ferry for a view of the Statue of Liberty and walk over the Brooklyn Bridge.

In February we attended the Oscars Party in the George Eastman House and held a bona fide Oscar statuette. Our friends Judy and Ken Livingston attended with us. We always have a good time at this charity event.

Later in February we were able to combine a two day visit with Gabe Hamidian in Las Vegas and a week getting to experience the casino and show culture that is in "Sin City". We did a "casino crawl" every night to people watch, catch the



Bellagio's Chihuly Ceiling



The old Route 66 Truck Stop

free entertainment around town and walk the strip. Each casino was amazing, from the fountains and glass ceiling at the Bellagio to the “inclinator” in the Luxor, from New York, New York to the lions of the MGM Grand, WOW! The “O Cirque du Soleil” was incredible and well worth seeing. We also enjoyed a UNLV basketball game, toured the Hoover Dam, traveled up Route 66, and spent a night at the Grand Canyon in Arizona. We had been there in February of 1991 when Erika was 5 weeks old and had tortured her with the “Don’t you remember being at the Grand Canyon?” drill. So we went again and got up early to catch the sunrise at the rim. In the morning we were greeted with a fresh, pristine snowfall. Magnificent is the word for it.



Grand Canyon Feb 1991



Grand Canyon 2009

In March Erika was nominated by the youth leader at St. Christopher's Church for the “Hands of Christ” award. This award is given to high school seniors who have consistently demonstrated a Christian attitude by word and example, have been actively involved in the parish as well as school or community, and have been a positive role model. She was



Erika receives “Hands of Christ” award from Bishop Clark

presented with the award at a ceremony by Bishop Matthew Clark.

Early May brought a visit from Lauraileen O'Connor and a WIZARD of OZ weekend. Lauraileen and Mary drove to Chittenango the hometown of Frank Baum the author of the book to see what they could see. There was a yellow brick road , but the historic marker is stored away because people steal it. We also went to the gala at the Eastman Theater where a version of the original film was shown. The Philharmonic played the musical score and afterwards there was a display of film artifacts and a dinner at the Eastman House Museum.

Later in May Christine and Mary were able to go to a graduation at St Basil's Seminary College in Stamford, Ct. Two of the Brazilian seminarians we have gotten to know, Carlos Semchechen and Pedro Fulop received their degrees. Later in September we were able to celebrate the consecration of Valter Volochen of Brazil and Taras Chaparin of Ukraine to the



Graduation Day

sub deaconate there too. They have become a part of our extended family and we are proud of their accomplishments.

Erika graduated from Churchville-Chili Senior High School in June and her graduation brought the company of so many dear to us who have been incredibly supportive and loving. She graduated 25th in her class and as a member of the National Honor Society and the Foreign Language Honor Society. Her flute quartet was honored to be one of the select groups to play at graduation. Without missing a step she was



Churchville-Chili Graduation 2009



Life Guarding

off to the beach for the summer to a life guarding position that she loves. There was also a first “cousin’s trip” to the Lake House in Lake George to visit Uncle Vin. Kate and Erika drove up together for the weekend.



Roommates: Sandi & Erika

ful old van (the beast as Erika calls it) took us to Boston. The hardest part for mom was pulling out of the driveway and knowing that when the three of us were in the house again it would be different. Erika would be coming home for a “visit” and returning

to Boston and not coming home to “stay” until May 2010. By then our family would have begun the changes that go with the empty nesting and Erika maturing into an adult, who is used to living in a big city and dealing with issues on her own. WOW!

So Erika loves school, Boston, her roommate, Sandi Elman, and has added ROWING to our lives. She walked onto the Division 1 varsity rowing team and started rowing on the Charles for two hours or more a day. While leaving behind her high school sports was hard for her, she now has new memories of watching sunrises and sunsets on the river while she is doing a sport that “is harder than anything” she has ever done. It has become a learning experience for all of us – new vocabulary and a new culture, learning the ways of regatta watching. We were able

Summer was an exciting time of getting ready for the big trip to college in the fall. We went to orientation at Northeastern University in Boston where Erika has been accepted into the Pharmacy Program. Erika met her roommate, gathered “things” for her room in the freshman hall Stetson West, and packed and repacked the “stuff”. Tom and she hunted for the best prices for books and before we all knew it the BIG day came and the faith-



Moving in



Sandi & Erika’s dorm room

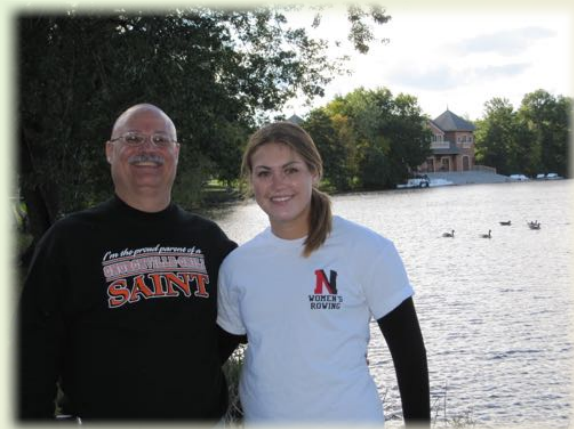


Rowing at Princeton Chase (Erika in bow of boat on the left)

to surprise her in October in Princeton, NJ at the Princeton Chase, a 5K race. It was a golden moment when our daughter, who had been “looking” at us, finally “saw” us and realized we were there. It was a glorious, gorgeous fall day. A day to fall in love with the new sport in our lives! We were also able to re-connect with a friend, John Webb, who teaches and

heads a department

at Princeton University. The spring season will bring shorter "sprint" races which will be head to head competitions on a 2K race course versus the head races in the fall which have a staggered start and are traditionally a 5K. The team will be traveling to Philadelphia, New Jersey, Virginia, and of course the 10 minute trip to the Charles River for their races this year. Erika is excited for the spring season and is in love with her new sport.



Tom & Erika at the Charles River



Erika at NEU Henderson Boathouse

In September Carol and LaVerne celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. The family went out for a nice dinner and shared this wonderful milestone. Later in September Tom's Mom along with Jim Star's Mom and Dad went on the “Honor” tour to the World War II Memorial in Washington DC.



Carol and LaVerne 60th Anniversary



Carol & LaVerne with Lottie & Paul Starowicz

In November St Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church celebrated its 100th Jubilee. There was a grammar school reunion, gala dinner and pontifical liturgy. Mary's eighth grade teacher, Sister Clare SSMI, was at our home for the weekend. She had also visited with us in May during a parish visit. It was a wonderful time to celebrate the beauty and longevity of our



Sister Eliane, Christine, Sister Clare, Mary & Erika

church. Mary's parents were so active there and her mom, Christine still is. It is where we married; Erika was baptized and received First Communion. Sister Clare lives on the SSMI (Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate) estate near NYC and it was our overnight stop on the way to Princeton. It is cool and exceedingly beautiful to stay in the former Alexander Hamilton estate. It is very special to have a connection

to Sister Clare. Mary's aunt in Germany, "Tante D" (as Erika calls her), Dida Zuncke, always says – to collect relationships with interesting people is what is more important than many other things in life. Our connection to Sister Clare is a wonderful example of just such a relationship.



Helping at Ukrainian Festival



Sister Juliette, Pedro and Christine

So the kid is in college and the parents are running amok! We are co-organizers of a German Meetup.com group in the Rochester area. That means we have casual gatherings with others who are interested in the German language and culture. The members are an interesting and diverse group. Besides that we go to art openings, enjoy the Eastman House Museum and The Memorial Art Gallery, the Public Market, the Gannett Lecture series at the Rochester Institute of



Mary & Tom: Meetup at Ocktoberfest

Technology. Tom is an avid fan of the Rhinos and the Bills. We squeezed in a wonderful week in Virginia Beach right after Thanksgiving and just before Mary started teaching a German course at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Then on the way



The Berlin Wall in the Newseum

back we stopped in Washington DC and went to the Newseum with Pedro and Carlos who live at the Seminary there. We then spent the night with Lauraileen. She treated us to a wonderful irish “Dinner Concert” and we had good food, good music and great company.

We attended the first Rochester TEDx. This is a day of lectures by cutting edge people and by video in the realms of science, art and culture. Rochester is rich in offerings on many levels and we are discovering and enjoying them more and more.



Mary and Lauraileen



Thanksgiving at the stars. Tuckers first!

family gatherings and our time together. Their girls continue to be busy with sports and a myriad of social activities. Katherine has her driver’s permit! Woo! Woo!

Mary K, Tom’s sister, her husband, Jim and their girls, Kate, Lauren, Elizabeth along with the new family doggie, Tucker hosted Thanksgiving. It was a beautiful setting, delicious meal and wonderful family gathering. We treasure these

When Erika came home for Thanksgiving break we kept with tradition and made Christmas cookies.



Having fun making Christmas Cookies.

We also remember those who will be celebrating by being present in our hearts rather than at our tables for the first time.



Mary's close friend Haide Shackelford, who loved nature and saw the art in it as only a German soul can.

Aunt Katherine Bruscia, who always had a smile for each of us. Her last story for Erika was about playing basketball at St. Mary's.



Tom's cousin Danny Fliss who always had a smile on his face.

Tom is still doing business specializing in Macintosh software development and IT support. Mary has received an "F" from her retired friends because she is teaching German 102 for Winter Semester at RIT. Erika is an NEU Husky in Boston and so it goes for 2009.

So Ho! Ho! Ho! Off we go into 2010! How did we get to year ten in the new millennium?!?! Blessings and warm wishes!

The Myers

Mary, Erika and Tom



Mary & Peter 1959

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Sandie Christmas 2003
Rejoice!