

Merry
Christmas!



Happy
Holidays!

Myers Family Christmas Letter 2013

iFeliz
Navidad!

Fröhliche
Weihnachten!

Hello to all and the very best of the Holiday Season and the blessings of 2014 to you and yours!



Erika helping Baba Xmas 2012



Traditional Xmas Eve Dinner

Christmas 2012 included a traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve dinner at Mary's Mom's (Christine's) house. The delicious courses of kytia (wheat, honey, walnuts and poppy seed) borscht, a variety of pyrohy/pierogies, and cabbage rolls. Christine continues to be a master magician ethnic cook! On Christmas Day it was our house with the family gathering around the tree and table. Erika and Tom made their traditional cutout cookies.



Christmas 2012

On Jan 19 we saw Erika in Clarks Summit, PA where she had a powerlifting meet.

We surprised Erika by bringing Christine to the meet. Erika did outstanding, receiving several awards including "Best Female Lifter".



Clarks Summit



Squat: 345 lbs Bench: 215 lbs
Dead Lift: 380lbs

March was "Boston busy" with a 2 weekend trips. One for a staycation in a suburb near Malls and shopping opportunities. Due to work and exams it wasn't feasible for Erika to come home for Easter. For the second trip we brought a traditional Ukrainian Easter dinner to her in Boston with Christine (Baba) bringing blessed Ukrainian food. Erika's friend Sophie Veiras joined us. Christine was also able to see the Northeastern University campus, drive around town and walk Harvard Yard.



Easter at in Erika's Boston Apartment

Mid-April we went to The Collegiate Powerlifting Nationals in Killeen, TX. Since it was our second year at Nationals, we were better at understanding how the event worked. We knew students from the Northeastern Powerlifting Team and reconnected with some of the officials and parents from our team and other teams around the country. The weight classes were changed this year which brought together multiple national champions from previous years into Erika's weight class. This made the weight class very competitive. She came in fifth in the nation and the first, second and third medals went to women who had been first in other weight classes the year before. She was pleased and we were very proud of her and happy to have been there.



2012 Collegiate Nationals Killeen Texas
158 lb Class, Squat: 380 lbs
Bench: 209 lbs Dead Lift: 370 lbs

From Killeen, we drove south and visited with Margaret and Bill Neel in San Antonio and took a walk around town. Margaret is a native Texan and made seeing the sights there an authentic experience. Then we drove south to South Padre Island where we had traded our timeshare for a week. It was restful and beautiful. We also spent several days in Corpus Christi, where Tom's dad's WW2 ship, the USS Lexington is a floating museum.



Riverwalk in San Antonio with Neels



Gramp & Erika with USS Lexington Shirts at Dad's



USS Lexington, Corpus Christi Ship my dad served on in the 40's

After taking very stressful exams amid the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings Erika was able to come

home to Rochester for a few days. She is almost done with a 16 month span of grueling studies.



April 29, Erika on Break!

June found the Myers and Star families gathering for the graduation of Lauren Star from Fairport High School. There was family dinner at Trata's, graduation and big multi-graduate picnic at Bushnells Basin Inn. Lauren is pre-law at Villanova in the Philadelphia area, where she has settled in nicely. Older sister, Kate, is at SUNY Geneseo, where she is continuing after a fall 2012 Geneseo semester in their Sienna, Italy program. Liz is keeping everyone busy with her volleyball endeavors. She is an eighth grader in the Fairport Schools.



Lauren Graduates!



Graduation

In June Erika and a college friend, Sophie, were in Rochester for a quick weekend. Both of them were studying in Boston for the summer – Erika with a full semester of pharmacy studies and Soph doing a physical therapy co-op. The girls took a bus to Albany and we drove to the National Women's Rights Museum in Seneca Falls, NY. The highlight of the weekend was everyone's first ride on the Jet Boat in the Niagara River Gorge and a visit to The Falls. The Jet Boats were a blast and we recommend them to everyone!



Seneca Falls - Women's Rights Museum



After riding the Jet Boats at Niagara Falls



A Great friend treated Tom to PGA

In early August Jim Berube, a good friend of Tom's invited him to join him for a practice day at the PGA tournament at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester. It was a great day, Jim & Tom saw most of the big name players including Tiger and Michelson.

In August the whole family volunteered at the St Josaphat's Ukrainian Festival. Christine was the



Erika leaving for Boston after working with Baba at St Josaphat's Ukrainian Festival.

captain of the Sweets Booth and she had made pyrohy/ pierogies for weeks in advance with the kitchen team in preparation. Erika was home to help and was in the booth with Baba everyday. Tom was at the beer tent and Mary was in the counting room. The Festival was a rousing success with good weather, good crowds, and a nice profit for the church.

The visit with Erika included a father daughter bonding day hike in Letchworth State park. Adventuring!



Letchworth State Park



Thanksgiving at the Stars

Thanksgiving was a family gathering at the Star Home with great company and food. Uncle Vince Mazzie drove in as he also did for Lauren's graduation. The gathering also included Jim's family.

The Myers family lost two beloved members this year. Both Aunt Dolores Myers and Aunt Bea Myers were charming and interesting in-laws to LaVerne. Aunt Dolores had worked for the Superintendent of Schools in Lancaster, New York. She was always a gracious and welcoming lady and a regular on her daughter, Jane's front porch for the Fourth of July Parade. Allegany State Park was a touchstone for her, full of family memories.

Aunt Bea was championship bowler. She met Uncle Norm before he went to war in Europe. In August 1945 she took the train to NYC meet and marry him when he returned. He was her guy!



Go Bills!

Mary and Tom went to a Buffalo Bills pre-season game, hoping for a good season. We also traveled to Toronto to see the wonderful Ai Weiwei exhibit at the Art Gallery of Ontario. We stayed with friends who live just outside Toronto.

In September we celebrated Mary's Birthday in Boston. Erika commissioned her roommate, Sarah Bowman, to make a portrait as her gift.



Mary's Birthday Gift

October saw us in Stamford, CT to see the ordination of two Ukrainian seminarians who we got to know when they were at St Josaphat's. It was a beautiful ceremony and it was great celebrating with them.



Taras is ordained a Priest, Pedro ordained a Deacon and Father Roman

We continue to be active in Rochester enjoying all the great things in our area. Here are just a few: The Genesee Brew House, Highland Park, Fringe Festival, Roc Brewing, TEDxRochester, TEDxFlourCity, Jazz Festival, even Toronto is a short 3 hours away.



MacIntyres, our Toronto Friends

Voters, where she is running to be the Secretary and Member of the Board. She contracts to school districts which need assistance with Common Core testing . She also does some German to English translation for the RIT Cary Collection in the library.

Erika is in her third professional year of pharmacy studies, her 5th year at Northeastern University in Boston. She will graduate in May 2014 with a BS in Pharmacy Studies and then will receive her Doctor of Pharmacy in May 2015. She is a passionate powerlifter, a certified USAPL state judge and is Vice-President of the NUPL Women's Powerlifting Team.

Tom is still a Macintosh Specialist with many great clients. Being in an industry that changes so often is stimulating and keeps him very busy and always learning. This year he is also helping organize the TEDxFlourCity talks which will be held in the summer of 2014.

We look forward to a great 2014!



At Genesee Brew House



Highland Park Conservatory in March!

The Myers Mary, Erika and Tom

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TEDxRochester Mural Auction!



In the Fringe Festival Spiegelent!

Mary is active as a docent at the National Susan B Anthony House and Museum, a member of the American Association of University Women – Greater Rochester Area Branch and the League of Women



Sandie Mazzie



Peter Dziuba



Florence Mazzie



Carol Myers