

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Buffalo, 2009-2010

Dear Friends and Family:

I'm again writing this letter on New Year's Day, 2009, celebrating at home, with some fluffy snow and recovering from a wonderful Christmas. We are worried for our cousin Al LaTour, who had a terrible fall from a ladder and is in the hospital in Minneapolis recovering from his injuries. We send Al, Kathy and their kids, and dear Aunt Joan and cousin Michael, our best wishes for a happy and speedy recovery. We know that Al and Kathy's deep friendships and family support will help him get better. I'm picking up Joseph from Toronto Airport, where he has spent a few days with Uncle Dave and Aunt Maria in Edmonton. What a treat for Joseph

to spend some adult time with family, and learn about the authentic Italian wing of the family! We had a quiet and fun Christmas, which was needed, as both kids had a difficult fall with health issues for each of them, hopefully making progress for a good new year.

So, Joseph is now a sophomore in high school, studying chemistry, Shakespeare, and enjoying Boy Scouts and Tae Kwon Do. Claire is 18! And she will graduate from School 84 this year, as the school is reconstructed in a long awaited renovation. Claire and Joe were featured in a great article in the Buffalo News, showing her driving her new power chair down the hall.



Over the year, we enjoyed a good deal of great travels and this year's letter is dedicated to some wonderful trips. Claire and Joe spent Easter in Detroit, with Grandma Anne, Aunt Sarah, Uncle Chris, Uncle Ed and Aunt Robin. While in Detroit, Carol repainted and decorated Claire's room in a nice pink motif and Claire has been working in her room on writing a long story. She works on writing this story with her aides, Michelle and Carla. Melissa continues as Claire's longest serving aide, and all three seem a great part of the family.

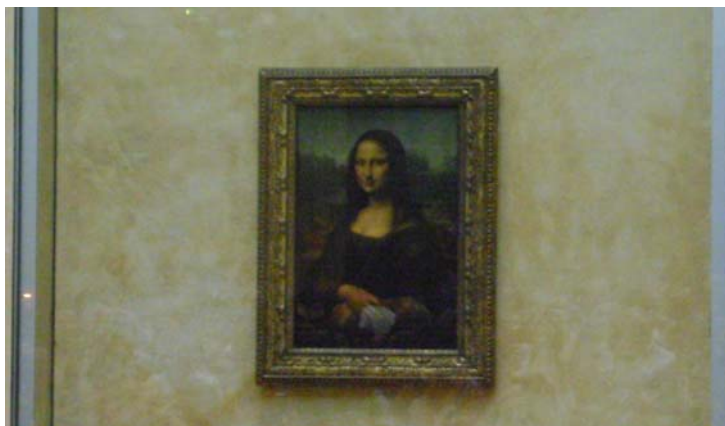
Joe made a trip to Hamburg, Germany for some consulting in April, a beautiful city in springtime. But, our biggest trip was a family vacation to Paris and Normandy, France. We flew with Aunt Sandy to Paris, and toured all the major sites, Joseph and Joe climbing both the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame. We visited the Louvre, where Claire was treated to a close up view of the Mona Lisa. We shopped and toured and visited all through Paris, while staying at a wonderful hotel near the Paris Opera House. We then drove to Normandy for a very memorable tour trip to the beaches and invasion sites of D-Day. With a wonderful tour guide, we visited all the beaches, towns and learned so much about the history of this amazing spot, yet enjoying the great beauty of Normandy. It was very beautiful, and there are more pictures on Joseph and Joe's Facebook pages.



Joe also made another trip to China to visit some friends in China, stopping in Shanghai to visit Professor Limin Sun (Shanghai Jiao Tang University), and flying to Guiyan, to work with Professor Handong Liang, finishing up in Beijing with Professor Liang and Professor Cha Liangzhen, and spending

"I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year":
Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

an evening with Dr. Wenyan Yan, who now works for Stryker. It was great to spend time with Wen Yan and



Límin and see their professional success in their home country!

Professionally, Joe had a huge year in 2009, serving as Conference CoChair for the 17th International Symposium on Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (SIMS XVII) in Toronto in early September. It was a lot of hard work (that is not complete yet), and a chance to host nearly 400 scientists from around the world in an international city. We look forward to the 2011 SIMS XVIII in Italy!!

This was a very big year of transitions in our research group, hosting our dear friend Professor Won Ki Lee and his family from Busan Korea for Won Ki's sabbatical year, along with Professor Liang and his wife, Jing Lei for six months between February and August. Five students completed graduate work this year, our long time family member Dr. Tammy Milillo is now a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Delaware, after 10 years of undergraduate and graduate studies and a long time part of our family. Tammy also was joined by Drs. Sarah Burns, Robyn Goacher and David Wells, Robyn and David celebrated



their wedding this summer. David Makuch completed masters work in August, and soon will be followed by Líming Dong (masters), Jennifer Appawu and Hye Kyoung Moon (Ph.D.) in 2010. We also were happy to welcome Dr. Rachel (Dibbell) Ventura as a postdoc in our research group. Also, Joe was appointed as a Larkin Chair in Chemistry at UB, a wonderful recognition of his work in the Western New York area in environmental science and policy and K-12 education.

I would like to close this letter by noting that each year since 2000, I have wished that the residents of Hickory Woods achieve some settlement of their long term environmental concerns. January 2010 marks 10 years of my work with residents in this neighborhood. I am somewhat relieved that some

financial settlements have finally been made with the residents, but this year saw the passing of one of our closest friends, Diane Radder, who with her husband Russ taught us much about citizen activism. Diane passed in Cleveland Clinic, never achieving her wish to leave the neighborhood to regain her health.

We hope that 2010 brings you peaceful time with family and hope you can visit us in Buffalo.

All our love..... Joe, Carol, Claire and Joseph