

WINTER '19

Dear Friends,

Time again for the Annual Cory Letter. I know, it is a little late, but we've been a bit busy. It started as a rather calm year; we just sat around and relaxed until February 2019 then decided to have the house painted. But it rained until May. We kept the green color (everyone knows it as the Green House on the corner) but added a rust trim around the windows and the fish scales in front. This summer, the shed gets a "do over."

After all that rain, it was time to leave the country. We were invited to a June destination wedding in Tuscany, who could possibly turn that down? Of course, there are no direct flights from Monterey to Milano, but there are flights from Monterey to Dallas, to Heathrow, to Milano. We were a few days early for the wedding, so off to Genoa to see where Chris Colombo sailed off to the West Indies, then Pisa to see if the tower is still leaning. We spent one night at the sea-side resort of Viareggio on the coast of the Tyrrhenian Sea, famous for its Carnival festivities.

While in Tuscany one must visit a winery. In Italy you must make reservations, but at Fattoria Al Dotto in Lucca we were able to join a tour with some Netherlanders and Germans, conducted in English. Their signature wine was a Rosé of Sangiovese.

The wedding, in a villa near Siena, lasted three days. The first night was an out-door Pizza Party with a "single table" seating 75 people. The bride, Colleen Wedding, is from Ventura, CA. She is an Indian Dancer and dance instructor living 6 months each in India and Cyprus. She met the groom, Matthew, born in New York, but brought up in Italy, while he was attending college in London. Needless to say, an interesting event with vegetarian Italian food, a 6-hour dinner, with Indian dancing and music, with a truly international guest list.

After the wedding, it was south to Residence Pietre Rosse in Centola near Vallo di Diano National Park, overlooking the Mediterranean, south of the Amalfi. We spent a week going to the beach, taking a boat tour of the coast, visiting the Greek ruins at Paestum and Roman ruins at Velia. Leaving there, we traveled leisurely north to Rome, Assisi, Perugia, and spent four days in Florence visiting the Uffizi Palace and Gallery and other sites.

Dropping the car off in Milano, we boarded the ICE train for Paris. After going through many long tunnels in the Alps, the train was then able to reach speeds of over 200 mph (330 kmph). In Paris, we stayed with Pablo and Marika to visit our unrelated grand-son Adrian. After Paris, we "trained" through Köln to Düsseldorf where Lilo picked us up and took us to her home in Herdecke. After Herdecke, we "trained" to Berlin to visit Josef and Feltina in Potsdam during a record-breaking heat wave, 40°C (105°F.) (No AC.)

We returned from Europe on July 3 to spend a week at home to do the laundry. On July 10, it was off for the mid-west. The Cory Family Society biennial meeting was held in Des Moines, Iowa. After the meeting, we stayed four nights in Chicago, taking in all the architectural tours and pizza at Lou Malnati's Pizzeria with Jay Mendez and her mother.

Earl, Iva, and Larry and Sherry Sands made side trips around Labor Day to visit their brother/uncle Phil in Georgia. Phil was having health issues and was not doing well. It turns out that all the visits must have rallied him, he seems to be doing fine now.

That put us in the mood for a road trip. In October we spent 3-weeks in the South-West. First stopping in Parker, AZ to visit Diana and Whirl and then in Pinetop, AZ to visit Fred and Bernie Corey. We ended up in Santa Fe, NM for a week and went to Albuquerque to see the Hot Air Balloon Fiesta a few days. While sitting there watching the evening balloon glow, who should walk by but Ray Merced. Ray used to live downstairs in our Wesley house in Oakland. On the way home we stopped to see Taos Pueblo, Monument Valley, Antelope Canyon, Glen Canyon Dam and took old Highway 66 through Oatman (donkey town).

We did make it to Windsor about 6 times to pick up wine from the various Sonoma wineries we belong to and go to their parties. It was sad to see the burned-out Soda Rock Winery.

Chris continues to play tennis at Chamisal Tennis Club as well as running back and forth to Oakland by car, bus or train to visit friends, demonstrate, and play tennis. She continues her college education taking piano lessons.

Update on nieces and nephew: Rachel graduated from High School in June. The party was at our house. Victoria Zuniga (Tori) lived with us while attending MPC. She also graduated in June and the party was held at Cowgirl Winery. Shannon and her boyfriend David moved back to PG to live with Larry and Sherry. Unbeknownst to all, she was pregnant with twins. The twins, Sirena and Leo, were born on Chris' birthday, Dec 6. Bryan continues pursuing his college classes at MPC. He will be transferring to Cal State Monterey next semester. Sherry and Bryan joined the Feast of Lanterns Board last year and Sherry is currently the Vice President. Earl is their webmaster.

Earl continues webmaster for several organizations. He is also the Treasurer and webmaster of the PG Kiwanis Club. His main Kiwanis activity is mixing 5 gallons of batter with an electric drill and paint stirrer at their pancake breakfast fundraisers.

Thanksgiving was at home with neighbors. To finish out the year, we spent 3 weeks in Mexico over Christmas and New Year's. Over 32 people (our Mexican Family) attended the various activities during our visits to Mexico DF, Guadalajara, Puerto Vallarta, Barra de Navidad, Cihuatlán and Lake Chapala. That's it for our 2019 trips.

"What's next?", you might ask. Another trip to Europe of course! At the end of May, we are planning to visit Lisa and Marty in Oxford, attend the Cory Friends meeting in Hereford, visit the Drys in Colchester, visit Lilo and Fahd, and spend a week with Josef and Feltina at Travemünde. (Follow us on Facebook.)

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2019 Events



Rachel Graduates



Tori Graduates



Sirena & Leo



Colleena & Matthew's Wedding



Greek Temple at Paestum



Assisi



Florence



Shopping in Paris



L'Atelier des Lumières, Paris



Monet at Giverny



Fahd & Lilo in Herdecke



Margarita Time in Potsdam



Corys Meet in Des Monies, Iowa



Chicago at Night



Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta



Monument Valley



Our Mexican Family



New Years in Puerto Vallarta