

2015 – Winter Solstice Letter

Picture on the Holiday Card: Son Andy and Suzuna had a baby girl, Melina, on February 17, 2015 in Japan. That birth location gives Melina dual citizenship in Japan and United States. The picture shows Melina at 9 months old. They all came to visit us for the holidays this year.

Travel Summary: Chris and Louis traveled to: **A.** Tahiti and the Society Islands on the Ocean Princess small cruise ship. Before the trip, we stayed several days on Moorea with Tricia and Dennis. We had several wonderful snorkeling adventures. The Aquarium in the middle of the lagoon on Rangiroa was spectacular. The islands of Huahine, Raiatea, and Bora Bora all offered spectacular beaches and views. **B.** Turkey/Greece cruise around the Aegean Sea on the Royal Caribbean - Rhapsody of the Seas. We saw three locations of the ancient 7 Wonders of the World: Temple of Artemis in Ephesus, Mausoleum of Hallicarnassos in Bodrum, and Colossus of Rhodes. In Istanbul, we saw one of the 7 Wonders of the Medieval World, Haga Sophia, as well as the Blue Mosque, and the Topkapi Palace. There are a lot of interesting sights and Muslim culture there. **C.** Ron and Marilyn's LoonAndTick Island along with Katy and her family. We all flew from Los Angeles to Minneapolis, visited Mall of America, and then drove together up to Lake of the Woods in Canada. **D.** Chris went to Nashville, Tennessee, for the annual convention of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), and then **E.** Milwaukee, where Louis joined after collecting \$500 bumping reward from Delta. We visited Chris' mom Jennie, her sister JoAnna, her sister Marilyn and Ron in Mukwonago, and then drove down to Heyworth in Illinois where we saw her brother Gary and Sherrie as well as their daughters Rachel(20) and Sarah(18) on their Rolling G. estate. Sarah was playing in the regional finals high school volleyball game. Some of these trips have selected pictures online with Google+.

People Status: **1.** Chris is working as senior staff at Northrop Grumman Systems in Woodland Hills; she enjoys the varied assignments there. **2.** Louis is unemployed; he applies for local jobs, but does not get any response; he is working on improving an online program to play the board game, Terra Mystica. You can play against (or watch) his Javascript artificial intelligence robots on the web at: lodev.org/tmai **3.** Katy's two children, Seanna (13, a teenager already!) and Kaiden (9) are in school in Carmel. The family came to visit for the holidays. **4.** Andy and family are still living in the guest house in Yokohama, Japan. Andy is working for a United States Navy contractor there. **5.** Emily left her position at the water resources consortium (before the Boston winter) and moved back in with us while looking for a West Coast job. There are now four more bicycles and a large bike rack in the garage. She took over the rooms upstairs. **6.** Joyce moved out on her own to an apartment in Reseda with a friend to be closer to job and social activities. She works with special needs children.

Drought: There are restrictions on water usage. The city restricts sprinkler use to one day a week and no water runoff. The lawn has turned gray and brown. The trees have been converted to drip irrigation. We turn off the shower when soaping up. The orange grove well still has water available in it, and the oranges this year were the best in years. The packing house was changed from Fillmore-Piru Citrus to Villa Park Orchards, which is a Sunkist member. I remember the days when it was possible to go up to the mountains to go sledding on the snow. Maybe this winter it will happen again as the weather people keep promising more precipitation due to El Nino; not much rain so far.

Have some interesting holidays. We hope 2016 is a good year for everyone.