



from Arielle's Aussie Study Trip

Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

Dear friends,

We hope this letter finds you and loved ones in health and joy. 2017 was a transitional year for us, filled with endings, new beginnings and more travel than usual.



Joe decided in early 2016 to take an HP offer for phased retirement, and finally separated from the company in March 2017 after 34 years. It was a fulfilling career where he spent time in different segments of the business, from gritty IT to product R&D, to HP Research Labs. Now, Joe is in 'rediscovery' having retired the label 'retirement'. Rediscovery of life's joys with video courses, volunteering at schools, clubs and theatres. Days evaporate with remodeling and property management, middle of week road biking trips, wood turnings on the new garage lathe. (Yet another way to justify more tools!) We are using Friday happy hour parties as we reconnect more with friends.

Trips this year included Joe's brother's 60 year Bday celebration in Mexico, a sail and biking trip to Italy, reconnecting with Swiss in-laws. We also witnessed Siena's famous "Il Palio" horse race. Joe sponsored his mom on a September Maine Seacoast cruise which featured wonderful hospitality and lots of lobster. She's celebrating her 85th birthday as I write this and I'm feeling really fortunate to be able to enjoy travelling with her. With other family, enjoyed several wonders of Oregon in August: stunning topography, biking and the eclipse. So amazing, thus planning for the 2024 eclipse.



Dorian's update: Riding my bike, rather than driving, has now become a ho-hum routine for me. I



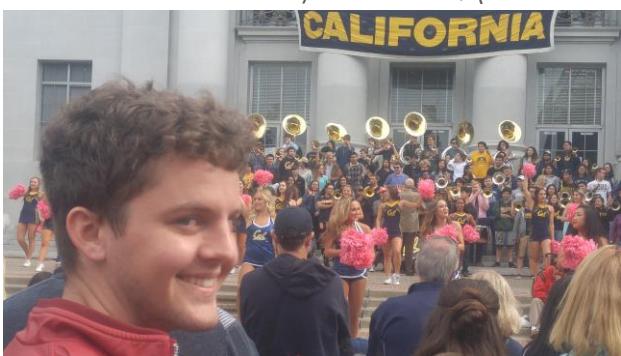
ride the 4 miles to work daily, I buy most of the groceries on my bike, stop at the yoga studio, and find entertainment. Weather included, I rarely drive. I'm working on a < 4 miles: bike campaign. We so easily make driving "common sense". But considering global warming, maybe it's time to consider how we can become better stewards of our planet. 2017 also proved to be a year of yoga, as I made a commitment to 4 classes a week, and, of course, plenty of fiddling. I was in my first jazz concert on stage at the local community college, and, at home, have spent a year developing my Cape Breton repertoire of fiddle tunes. Life is grand.



Arielle is in her third year at UC Santa Barbara studying aquatic biology. Her highlight for the year was her fall study abroad program at University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. The program was focused on marine biology and terrestrial ecology, and involved several trips to national parks and research stations, where she conducted two research experiments; one on pipefish habitat selection, and the other on sea cucumber defense mechanisms. Back at UCSB, she works at the on-campus aquarium (REEF), helping with education, outreach, and animal husbandry.



Peter is in his second year at Cal, (UC Berkeley) studying architecture. He enjoys the creative part of design and drawing. Here is his first 'short' in his design portfolio as director of the Pixar-inspired video process: <https://youtu.be/a6ACmBtZ8fM>



We wish you and your families much health and joy for 2018. If you are in Northern California, the bay area or Tahoe, please take some time to drop by!