

California Martinka Christmas

Hello Dear Friends:

1994 has been a momentous year for us. We are so glad that many of you could celebrate our wedding this August with us. The special day was so memorable: the smiles and laughter, tuxes and dresses, toasts and dancing, friends and lovers, family and neighbors, sailing and skiing buddies, food and sweets, champagne and Ridge wine, dixie-land parade and waltzes, mysterious notes and heartfelt speeches, California hospitality mixed with Nordic and Slovenic personalities, sunshine and love. For those who we missed seeing, let's do another party so that we can celebrate together.



Pre-Wedding Excitement

The year started with a Whale-watching sail on Jan 2nd off the Pacific coast with brisk afternoon winds, but fog settled down when we were positioned to spot spouting whale. No matter... we'll try again. Skiing in "extreme" Jackson Hole in mid-January continues a fraternal tradition of a winter holiday. A romantic dinner-dance on Valentine's Day Eve was when Joe finally got the nerve to propose to Dorian, as an 18-piece Jazz-Swing band played on. The frenetic six month wedding preparations commenced. One of the most crucial was the classic trial of nerves and forbearance: Dorian and Joe wall-papered the kitchen and dining room together and survived. Is there a better good omen for a wedding?

Together, we sailed regularly on San Francisco and Monterey Bays with friends, an exhilarating way to get away from land-bourne stresses. To some relatives' chagrin, we took a pre-wedding honeymoon together in late June (scheduled in 1993 before we knew for sure about marriage). It was a idyllic 10-day sailing cruise of the northern islands of Tonga, Vava'u, in the Southern Pacific. Afterward, we drove through Northern New Zealand for eight days in a little R-V on a memorable getaway.

A week before the wedding, Joe passed the 40th year mark (he has begun to count, "Year One" past 39). Dorian ultra-surprised him with a first lesson soaring in a two-person glider over the golden hills of Northern California! A new hobby may start from this...

Post-Wedding Routine ;-)

Well, not really routine, yet. School starts again, for both of us. Dorian continues to teach at Graham, a Mountain View Middle School, and Joe starts up another part-time degree program at Stanford. Nothing like extracurricular activities to keep out of trouble. Joe faced for the first effects of down-sizing at Hewlett-Packard, where his responsibilities at HP Cupertino site, 3 blocks from our home, were ended as of November 1st. He felt fortunate to secure a great position however at Hewlett-Packard Laboratories in Palo Alto, CA. The commute has changed for the worse, but the expectancy of the challenge there in a more demanding, research-y job keeps him on his toes. Dorian is continuing her Spanish studies since her teaching at Graham is almost totally in Spanish as part of the California bi-lingual education requirements. She satisfies her need for artistic diversion by taking weekend classes on drawing and painting, and designing colorful landscape garden. Slowly, the walls of our home become adorned by her own work instead of framed mall prints.

1995 Goals

Looking forward to our first full married year, we plan a trip to Europe. Joe will finally get to actual projects in the garage woodshop, a pastime that has been neglected over the past few years. Of course, we intend to continue to sail, snow ski, and ballroom dancing. Perhaps Joe might even get over writer's block and finish some long-overdue correspondence to old friends. Finally, there are always some fabulous reasons to simply indulge in sweet and simple domestic pastimes.

Seasons Good Wishes

We both send our warmest greetings for a cheery holiday season and a remarkable 1995 to you.