

Reno, Advent 2022

Dear friends.

Looking back, the year was a good one, with some set back, mostly due to COVID, we were spared so far.

We did not fly to Europe, even though, we would have loved to be at the Spring School in person, at our great nephew's baptism, his parents wedding.

We constrained our travels to car trips no further then 2 easy travel days from home.

So on Washington's Birthday we drove to Pismo Beach, to meet up with the kids, a tradition of days, when the kids went to school.

In March Diether was invited to give a talk in Palm Springs, we also saw a friend we had not seen for many years and met her husband. From there we went on to Phoenix, spent a few days in a nice resort. Friends from Reno, who had relocated to the greater Phoenix area drove in to have dinner with us. To break up the drive back we stayed at the Ranch at Furnace Creek, great natural hot springs fed pool, beautiful grounds, but the restaurants...

And in June back to the Southwest: Diether's birthday, Jutta's favorite pool with a view, 3 top restaurants across the street, at the entrance of Zion. The way back we stayed in Kanab, explored the Colorado River, crossing the bridge, but canceled our stay in Bryce due to a wildfire.

So we detoured through Reno, stayed home for a couple days to drive to Santa Barbara from home. The company in Santa Barbara was great, the pool at the hotel was warm, the Pacific without fog. And on our way back we stopped in San Jose and had dinner with Ben and Ruth.

Next plans got canceled, due to COVID. We wanted to meet up with a friend from Germany, but she came down with it during their vacation, so sad.

After the 4th of July, we tried out an old lodge on Lake Tahoe, great location, great pool, but the Lake... Our clear lake was washed up with algae. Yes, I had read about it, but to see it... very sad.

Later in the month, we went to the Bay Area for a solemn occasion, the memorial for Pam and Noel Warner.

The family had chosen the family home where many friends and colleagues gathered. It was a touching event, a true celebration of their lives,

During that visit, we picked up one of Kerstin's printers, which did not fit in her car for her move to Washington State.

And so we delivered this strategic printer, as Jack calls it, and visited Kerstin in her new house. Great trip, and on the way back, we saw a few friends in Oregon. Jack, sorry we missed you.

For our wedding anniversary we went to McCall again.

And for Jutta's 70th birthday we stayed at The Inn on the Cliff in Saint George, great views from the room, the pool, the restaurant... and minutes to Snow Canyon and Pioneer Park, Red Rocks. We detoured for a visit in Cameron Valley to buy local wine, and on the way home we found a stand with local honey.

We canceled our trip to the SF Bay Area for Thanksgiving because Ben caught Covid.

We visited with friends and hope to see more of each other in the coming year.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a great Year 2023!

Love,



<http://www.recktenwald.com>

Christmas holiday time addition on next page.

Year End addition:

Jutta and Diether had planned a “special” Christmas with our son Ben and his wife in a vacation home in St. George UT to celebrate together and to have some walks in the many red rock parks around the city.

During a stop for a coffee, driving there, Jutta probably contracted the virus, but we did not know yet. We used all day Friday to prepare for Ben and Ruth’s arrival by air to Las Vegas and rental car to St. George in the late evening.

On Saturday, Christmas Eve, we all had lunch in a good restaurant in town, a great walk in the Snow Canyon State Park (no snow there yet as most of the time), followed by a good dinner of Jutta’s meatballs. We had bought groceries for a special dinner on Christmas day. We went to bed at about midnight, and about an hour later I felt that Jutta was very hot. We took her temperature and it was 102.3F (39C). So our travel emergency plan was put into effect to drive back home at the first morning light, if possible.

Diether still felt perfectly fine. We slept through the night and early in the morning we packed, informed Ben and Ruth of our departure, and left St. George at about 7am, driving about 9 hours back to Reno. We made a few mistakes not separating into two bedrooms in the vacation apartment in the night after Jutta had a fever and we drove the car with windows closed most of the time, because it was cold outside. At home, we tested, Jutta was positive for Covid 19, Diether was negative. We separated into 2 bedrooms and Diether was quite concerned about the intensive exposure. He turned symptomatic on Tuesday with an extremely solid test line and other common symptoms.

Ben and Ruth had visited Zion National Park on Sunday, before checking out of the vacation condo, giving abundant food to neighbors. They only experienced a small glitch with Southwest airlines, having the evening flight canceled, and staying in a hotel for a short night, before catching a 5:45am flight to San Jose CA, arriving home on Monday morning,

Ben was positive and symptomatic for Covid 19 on Tuesday, Ruth on Wednesday. It has been Jutta’s and Diether’s first Covid19 infection. Ruth now got her first infection, Ben is having many professional interactions and it is his third, with the second only a month ago in Germany. We all seem to be pretty well, but still positive at yearend.

So we will remember this Christmas time until the end of our days.