

December 2016

Dear Friends.

Diether's mom passed 5 days after her 90th birthday party. We were at her home for her Birthday and the big party with family and friends on the Saturday following her birthday. She was in great shape then. We all share good memories.

Jutta's mother turned 96 and is still living at home, with the help of a live-in caregiver and mother's niece Petra, who has taken over the books during her hospital stay earlier this year. Petra had to cancel her visit with us due to both hers and Jutta's mothers' hospital stays.

Ben and Ruth moved back from England earlier this year, and we enjoy having them close again. We spent a short week with them at Lake Tahoe in April, where Ruth booked a suite of rooms for us, right on the lake, and it happened to be the very same room we stayed in every year for a summer vacation, when Ben was half a year old until he was 8 or so. They drove up for the Labor Day Weekend; we visited them in their apartment at least twice; last time to help pack since they are moving to their house, which is still under construction for a major remodel. We are looking forward to our room with brand new bathroom, and of course the new kitchen and dining-room... But for now, we have our room and board at Navah and Meir's, the parents of the bride, where all of us fed and housed royally. Ben and Ruth will join us for Thanksgiving this year.

During our 3 visits in Germany, we spent time with our families. We saw Petra during 2 of the visits. Johannes came to visit during our stays, so did Arthur and Elke with Sarah and Hannah. And it is always great to see Gundi and Hans and joke around with Veronika, and try not to fall over Kira, the dog.

Manfred and Ursula visited Jutta's mother, so did Dennis and Arina with their children Alexander and Anna, and Family Zeyer stopped in with Michaela and the grandkids. It is always great to see mom's friends and keep track of the babies. They grow so fast.

Christian and Janina invited us to their home and we enjoyed a lovely evening with them and their daughter Mia Luisa. We had dinner with Martin and Maria, whom we had not seen for many years, who did not change a bit, and their sons Simon and Ian.

We had several friend visit us this year. Cindy and Steve with Xena, the pitch black German Shepard, spent a day walking in the desert with us. They also stopped in for a dinner at our house later in the year. I really try to be good and not to spoil the dog. Lu and Wolfgang from Munich added a couple of days to a long cruise ending in Seattle, and flew to Reno. It was great to spend the time with them. Vicky and Bob visited, and it was good to catch up; we had raised our boys together. Missy and Lou were able to join us for a brief visit before their flight, and it was great to reconnect.

On our way from the annual Spring School in Ettal we met in Stuttgart with Ulla and Reinhold, friends from our school days, and Ursula and Peter, friends from college days.

At the end of April we were invited by Paul and Eileen to celebrate their wedding, visit the new house, and toast on the sale of the company. So we drove to Boulder CO. We also met with Russ, a travel mate of 20 years ago, and his wife Lauretta. Driving home, we spent a couple of days in Moab and visited the parks.

In May, before it got hot in Florida, we spent a couple of days on the beach in Melbourne, and the weekend with Kerstin in Miami. The weather was warm, the beaches great

and we had a lovely visit with Kerstin who showed us the insider view of Miami.

We drove down to the Bay Area for Bernie's memorial, or rather a celebration of his life. Bernie was such a brilliant person, and all the people at the memorial shared the respect and love for him. It was good for Edith and all of us.

The annual Cyto Conference was held in Seattle this year, and we met with many colleagues who have long become friends. We had a couple drinks with Jackie and Bob, and it was great catching up. We did see Joe, but he was really busy. We choose to drive and stopped in Salem OR for dinner with Bobby, a friend of Ben and Ruth. And after the conference, we added a couple days and drove all the way to the northern end of WA to visit Jenna and Morgan, and the dog Boomer. We stopped in Eugene OR on our way home to visit with David.

We met with Heike and Frank in Utah, who were travelling the West with their 2 sons, Lucian and Mathis. We guided their RV down to the end of the canyon in Capitol Reef and back safely, and enjoyed a dinner together at our hotel next to the RV park.

We visited Brian in Susanville CA. We stayed over night at Janette's house, being introduced to the fine art of transforming grapefruit into Martinis. We had many thereafter.

We signed up for a Workshop on Humans and Technology, 2 full days of philosophical discussion on the challenges individuals face in today's world of big data. The location is like dream, the Swiss Alps at the foot of the Santis. On the way we stayed in a little town, Sargans, close to Lichtenstein, and had dinner with Ralf, a friend from college. Too bad, his wife was traveling and of course the teen-aged daughter had training of some sort. The kids in Europe have the same stress as ours in the US. Where is Rousseau?

We had to decline the invite for the yearly New York event, due to Mom's birthday party. And then there are business meetings with old and new friends. We even drove to Park City UT for a breakfast meeting. On the way back we had a nice hike in Lamoille Canyon. A couple more business trips are planned for December one to the Bay Area, and one to San Diego, where we'll add a day on the beach.

Now, you may think we neglect our friends at home, but we had dinners or lunches with our friends. Kay and Larry, Peggy and Tommy, Mira and Zbigniew, Ellen and Joe, Sunny, Paige, Reinhart and Stella, and Nathan...

We hope to see many of you in Reno soon. And when we can't see each other in person, let's talk by phone, or via email.

We wish you all a



Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

Diether & Jutta

http://www.recktenwald.com/DietherWebPage_f