



**December 2014**  
**Merry Christmas**  
**and a Happy New Year!!**  
**Phil and Barbara Owens**  
 708 Greenwood Court  
 Georgetown, Texas 78628

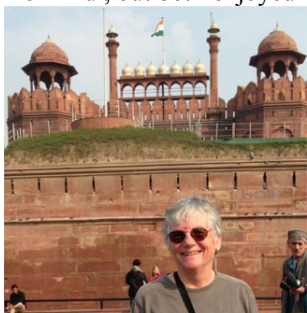
*May the blessings that surround the birth of the Christ Child be with you and your family this holiday season. Join us as we pray for peace on earth.*

We are writing this letter as our first Thanksgiving alone looms ahead. However, we are happily ensconced in our North Georgia Mountain cabin being kept entertained by Susannah's 30-something-year-old turtle and Gwyneth's tailless kitty. We are blessed with good health and still able to enjoy long walks, albeit not quite so long as in our youth!

We began 2014 at the cabin with the Buteras. Barb enjoys going on the annual bird count, but after dropping her off, Phil was confronted by a flat tire and had an incredibly difficult time getting it fixed. Barb was happily oblivious!

Later in January, we flew to Carver, Massachusetts to visit Phil's sister Belle and conduct the annual brush burn behind her house.

One of Barb's friends had moved to India and Barb was invited to give a talk in New Delhi. She got to spend a week staying with her friend and availing herself of her car and driver. The fellow spoke no English and Barb spoke no Hindi, but both enjoyed it.



*Barb at Red fort, Delhi India*

Late in February, three friends from Australia visited us at the cabin before they and Barb went to the annual SIGCSE (computer science education) conference in Atlanta.

In late March, we flew to San Francisco to celebrate Barb's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday with Susannah and Luis. Barb's special

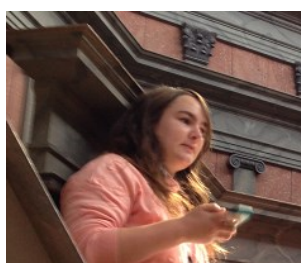
request was to take a boat trip to the Farallon Islands 30 miles out to sea. We went in a small tour boat on which about a third of the folks got seasick. Thankfully our family was spared and the trip was great!

In April after a long hike and a day working in the garden, Phil had a fainting spell that resulted in EMS and an overnight in the hospital. Fortunately, he is better than before now that he keeps himself hydrated! Later in the month, we went to DC for a meeting and then on to Ohio where Barb was inducted in the Wauseon High School Academic Hall of Fame (as her brother Jim was last year). Phil, our daughters Gwyneth and Susannah, and Jim and his wife Marty came to join the celebration! We had a great roots trip with the girls.



*Barb, Phil, Gwyneth and Susannah  
Jim and Marty*

In June Phil held down the fort at the cabin while Barb took granddaughter Camille (then 15) to Sweden. They had a grand time, staying on a retired cruise ship youth hostel in Stockholm and attending a computer conference in Uppsala where Barb had taught many years ago.



*Camille at Uppsala University*

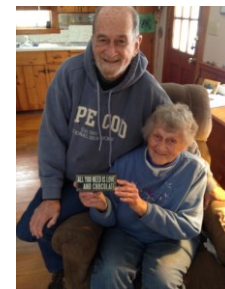
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[www.southwestern.edu/~owensb](http://www.southwestern.edu/~owensb)

We were able to spend Chloe's birthday with her at the cabin.



*Chloe is 12!*

Phil and Barb drove to Massachusetts for Old Home Day in Carver and a great visit with his sister, his niece and nephew and their families. We had one more trip to San Francisco, our 5<sup>th</sup> Labor Day in California with Suze and Luis.



*Phil and sister Belle -- All you need is love and chocolate*

Phil spent a great deal of time working in the Georgetown yard and while Barb flitted about the country from meeting to meeting (another Wauseon, Portland, Phoenix, Chicago and New York – all in Sept. and Oct.).

We both still sing in the choir when we are in Texas. Barb keeps up her water aerobics certification and once a year hauls out the euphonium to play in Tuba Christmas, this time just in Blue Ridge. We hope to fly to San Francisco to be with Suze and Luis for Christmas and drive back from Texas to the cabin for our traditional cabin New Year's Eve with Gwyneth, Rob and their girls.

Hope you have a wonderful Christmas Season and a blessed new year.



## Random Pictures from 2014



July 4<sup>th</sup> -- Phil with Barb, President of the Georgetown Friends of Parks and Recreation. Since one of their goals is for all children in the city to learn to swim, she sometimes appears at events in her Ducky costume!



We like waterfalls, especially coupled with geocaching and hiking. Out hike to Conasauga Falls took us deep in the National Forest near Tellico Plains Tenn. and we saw no people all afternoon!



Barb and Phil

*Farallon Islands Boat Trip*



Susannah and Luis



Insert: Barb, Gwyneth, Jim and Susannah. Man in overalls is only 2nd owner of home built for Barb and Jim's paternal grandparents in Fayette, Ohio. Small building was Granddad's dental office.



We weren't with them, but we needed a picture of our son-in-law Rob Butera with Chloe and Camille. Taken by Gwyneth in NYC during their Thanksgiving trip



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