



December 2015
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!!
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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 on the first day after the Thanksgiving weekend at the cabin where we had a houseful of family.

2015 was a year that both Barb and Phil would agree included a bit too much travel. Barb maintains an active role in her professional organization, the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). This involvement took her to Kansas City and to Chicago in March, to Mumbai and Pune India in April, to San Francisco in both June and August, to Denver in August, and to New York City in both August and November.

Gwyneth accompanied Barb on a short trip to Hilton Head, NC, where Barb attended a meeting of the National Center for Women in Computing.

Phil accompanied Barb to San Francisco for the June trip and then again in September to visit Susannah and Luis and we have planned another trip there right before Christmas.

We made at least 6 car trips to the Blue Ridge Georgia cabin (1000 miles each way) and enjoyed a side trip along the Gulf Coast. We visited Phil's sister in Massachusetts in March and then again in July. Our biggest trip together was a Christmas

gift to ourselves – a very small ship (35 passengers) Inside Passage Alaska cruise in August highlighting the native American culture and spectacular scenery. We enjoyed a short trip to Houston and the gulf coast in October while Barb went to another meeting.



Phil kept the home fires burning when Barb joined Gwyneth and her family on a trip to Ireland where Gwyneth's husband, a prof at Georgia Tech. was teaching a summer course in Galway. She accompanied them on weekend excursions to Northern Ireland and to Dublin.

Phil spends a lot of time on his beautiful native plant garden in Texas and on his computer managing our household, watching the Red Sox and reading the paper on line!

Meanwhile Barb just finished two terms as president of the Georgetown

Friends of Parks and Recreation where she now serves as its vice president. She has been subbing as a water aerobics instructor and was home enough to have her own class October through December! She also played her euphonium for the 7th year in a row at the Blue Ridge Georgia Tuba Christmas performance.

Both Phil and Barb continue to sing in the church choir in Georgetown. They are currently preparing for an extremely difficult (for them) performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria*. Both enjoy finding new places to explore with their geocaching hobby. Sometimes it turns out to be a bit dangerous to wit the dark hole that Barb reached into recently and a snake struck out at her – no bite. We found our 2000th cache this year! We are also pleased to have Phil's grandnephew living in Austin so we were visited for the first time in Texas by Phil's nephew and family.

We look forward to Christmas in Georgetown and New Year's back at the Georgia cabin.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas Season and a blessed new year.



Thanksgiving L to R: Rob, Camille (17) and Chloe(13) Butera, Phil,, Luis and Susannah Rivera, and Gwyneth Butera—photo by Barb





Phil geocaching in Golden Gate Park



Barb finding a geocache in Northern Ireland



Phil behind the cabin in February



Phil celebrating 3-14



Phil's sister Belle in July



Barb selfie in Mumbai India



Barb kissed a salmon in Alaska



Point Reyes Light California



Son-in-law Luis spent Labor Day smoking "baby brisket" for our picnic in San Francisco



Camille, Chloe, Gwyneth, Barb and Phil in Decatur, GA with Phelix the dog!



Glacier Bay National Park

