



Julia at Evergreen House

2009 in Review

**The Sienkewicz Family
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At the Getty Villa in Malibu

We will not be sad to see the rainy year 2009 move into history. The year began with the death of Tom's brother-in-law, Billy San Filipo, at the age of 59 from bone marrow cancer and ends with passing of Anne's mother at the age of 86 just before Thanksgiving. Bill's death was particularly hard since he had fought so nobly against his disease. Anne's mother's death was not easy either, even though she had been in and out of the hospital or a nursing home throughout the year. Her father had worked hard to keep her home as much as possible. Anne herself had major open-abdominal surgery earlier in November because of a suspicion of uterine cancer. While the diagnosis turned out to be true, all indications are that the surgery was totally effective and Anne can now join the fortunate group of cancer survivors. Tom's brother Eddie's back surgery this summer left him on disability for six months in 2009. He is only returning to work as the year wanes.



**Tom Dressed as a Roman Priest
Those Crazy Classicists!**

But enough of bad news! 2009 did bring us some good, too. Most significantly, both Julia and her husband Victor successfully defended their doctoral theses in art history this fall and are now beginning the process of finding academic jobs for 2010-2011. Meanwhile, Julia has a post-doctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. and Victor has been hired by the University of Illinois to teach two courses this spring. During the summer Julia was working for the Dept. of the Interior in Baltimore where she was writing a landscape history of Evergreen House (part of The Johns Hopkins University).

Richard is very much enjoying his second year of law school at Marquette University in Milwaukee. Most of his conversations these days inevitably take a legal turn, but it is pleasing to hear the pleasure in his voice as he pursues an obscure legal point to its ultimate conclusion.

Marie and Kyle are still living in Wauconda in the far north of Illinois. They have adopted yet another cat, this one a pure white totally deaf kitten. In the few hours of her waking life that Marie is not working at the veterinary clinic, she finds time for her garden, which is beginning to show the signs of her green thumb after two years of hard work.

Anne continues to try to help military families and the desperately needy at the Red Cross. It seems sometimes that the line of people needing her assistance is endless, but, at least occasionally, she has the satisfaction of seeing the positive results of her hard work.

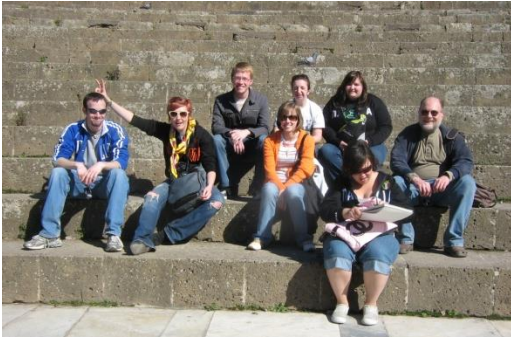
Most of Tom's time, when he is not in the classroom, continues to be consumed by *DISCE!*, the elementary Latin book he is writing. Theoretically, it will be published next year by Prentice Hall. He continues to travel as much as he can. Last March he took a large group of students to Rome where, for the first time, he went to the top of the Vittorio Emanuele Monument (also known as the giant birthday cake) with its spectacular views



Anne and her Colleagues at the Red Cross



**Tom's 1973 Buick Electra Reaches a Landmark.
Who Says You Can't Grow Young Again?**



Tom with some of his students in Ostia, Italy

professional meeting. While in San Francisco, George and Bernie spoiled them rotten with Sunday brunch at the Palace Hotel and with an excellent guided tour down California's spectacular coast to Monterey (with its incredible Aquarium) and the mission at Carmel (featured on our Christmas card). We also stopped in



In Monterey Harbor with George and Bernie

Anne and Tom Sienkewicz



of the city. (He strongly recommends the visit, which is well worth the seven Euro admission charge.) Other academic trips sent him to Santa Fe, Minneapolis, Memphis and New York City, which he hadn't actually visited since before 9-11. It was refreshing to become reacquainted with the City and to use that trip as an opportunity to visit with his sister Toni in New Brunswick and with Eddie down by Atlantic City. Since then Toni has finally moved out of the apartment she began renting four years ago (for only a few months, she said at the time) and has bought a nice townhouse in central Jersey.

We look forward to seeing it sometime soon. Her younger daughter Theresa, in medical school, in Arizona, was engaged in November to her long-term friend Chris Sevitis. A June 2011 wedding is planned.

Tom and Anne did get to Maine for a few weeks this summer and were delighted that Richard was able to join them for at least part of their stay. They also traveled together to California in June, first to San Francisco to visit Anne's Aunt Bernie and her husband George, and then to Los Angeles, where Tom had another professional meeting. While in San Francisco, George and Bernie spoiled them rotten with Sunday brunch at the Palace Hotel and with an excellent guided tour down California's spectacular coast to Monterey (with its incredible Aquarium) and the mission at Carmel (featured on our Christmas card). We also stopped in Castroville (the artichoke capital of the world, yay!) as well as Gilroy (the garlic capital). In LA we saw the spectacular Pompeii exhibit at the LA Co. Museum as well as the Getty Villa in Malibu. Anne also got to fulfill a lifetime yearning to see the La Brea tar pits.

We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas with all the children here in Monmouth and wish you all Happy Holidays and a bright MMX!



Tom with the Giant Artichoke in Castroville, CA



Anne in Chinatown