

# CHRISTMAS 2008

The Sienkewicz Family  
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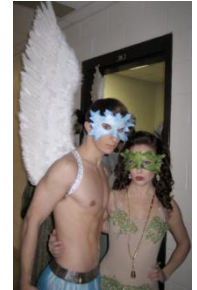
At Billy's Office in Durham

As we welcomed 2008 last January, Tom was still recuperating from his clotted artery and about to begin a well-timed sabbatical. Fortunately he had planned to spend that sabbatical at home anyway to work on an elementary Latin book (*DISCE LATINAM!* "Learn Latin!"). So he was content to sit in the living room with the manuscript in his lap and to watch the birds at the feeder. He will be on blood thinners for "the duration" and has learned how to monitor his own blood at home. (For someone who hates needles, this was no easy task.) He didn't really begin to feel completely himself again physically until this fall, but that did not deter him from resuming his Wanderlust as soon as possible. In February he combined business with pleasure with a professional jaunt to Wake Forest University and a nice visit with his sister Mary Beth and husband Billy in Durham. Anne, who had never been to N.C. before, was able to accompany him and was spoiled by Mary Beth while Tom went off to Wake Forest. While in N.C., we were fortunate enough to see nephew Roy perform in a production of the "Phantom of the Opera" at Elon University, where he is majoring in musical theatre.



Around the Table on Easter Sunday in Waldoboro:  
l. to r. Debbie, Tim, Dorothy, Richard, Carl and Anne  
standing: Nick and Jack

That trip went so well that we made another at Easter with Tom spending a few days in Massachusetts working on *DISCE LATINAM!* with his co-author, Ken Kitchell, and then picking Anne up in Boston and driving up to Waldoboro for the holiday. We had a pleasant visit and Easter dinner with all of Anne's family. We especially enjoyed a visit to Pemaquid Light, where we had the place to ourselves—without the summertime hordes!



Cupid (Roy) and Psyche in "Phantom"

In April a professional meeting sent Tom to Tucson, Arizona. While there, he drove up to Phoenix to visit his cousin Barbara, her husband Joseph, and their teenage son, Mario, who is a budding guitarist. It was great to spend some time with Barbara in her lovely home and to share family memories. While in Phoenix Tom also saw his niece Theresa and her friend Christopher, who are living in Phoenix while Theresa is in medical school.



Anne at Pemaquid Lighthouse

In May Tom was back up in New England, to work on the book and to attend niece Tracy's graduation from Mount Holyoke College. We combined that celebration with a surprise 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary party for Mary Beth and Billy, complete with balloons and a bride on a miniature toy motorcycle, to recall the fact that they drove off into the Utah sunset 25 years ago on a similar



Joseph, Barbara, Theresa, Christopher, Mario in Phoenix

vehicle. Our celebration was so raucous that it even included a false fire alarm which caused us to evacuate the restaurant until the fire department could come.

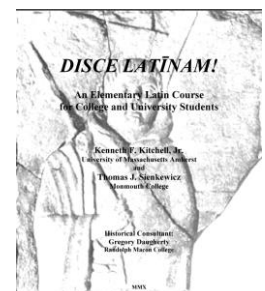
Then, in late June, Tom was back in the East to meet with his publisher in New Jersey. This visit gave him an opportunity to spend some quality time with his siblings. He and his sisters all converged on brother Eddie down at on the Jersey shore, where he fed us royally and took us to the beach.

The book, by the way, is going well. Tom is field testing it at Monmouth and having a great time. If all goes well, it will be published in early 2010.

We did make our traditional summer visit to Maine. Julia drove out with Tom and two dogs. Anne and Julia's husband Victor flew. We were really happy to be able to spend some time in Maine with Julia and Victor. Unfortunately, Marie and her husband



Mary Beth and Billy with cake, motorcycle and balloons



Kyle were not able to come until later in the summer, but this just extended the summer fun for Anne's parents who enjoy family togetherness.

The highlight of our visit to Maine was probably Anne's 40<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. The Waldoboro High School class of 1968 was small to begin with, so a gathering of ten was quite impressive.

Richard did not get to Maine this year. He spent most of the early part of the year applying to law schools and, in August, moved up to Milwaukee to study law at Marquette University. Tom is delighted with his choice of school, because he will finally get some real Jesuit training there.



Waldoboro High School  
Class of 1968



Tom and Guide at Skara Brae

This fall, Tom and his colleague Bill Wallace traveled to northern Scotland, where they scouted off-campus programs at the University of the Highlands and the Islands for Monmouth College. This trip took them to Inverness, Fort William, and the Orkneys, where Tom was thrilled to visit Skara Brae. On the plane back home he watched the latest Indiana Jones film and was thrilled to hear Professor Jones lecturing on that very site. (Don't trust the reviews. This Indiana

Jones film is at least as good as the earlier ones!) Tom hadn't been in Scotland since 1986 and was impressed with the changes which have made Scotland a much more comfortable place to live than it was in the 1980's, with a lot more variety in cuisine.

This fall Julia has a fellowship from Winterthur in Delaware, where she is busily writing her dissertation. Meanwhile, her husband Victor is bravely holding the fort, tending their two dogs and writing his own dissertation in Champaign. This is their first real taste of long-distance academic matrimony, and they are hoping it is their last. They both hope to finish their dissertations this spring.



Future Advocate Richard



Julia, Victor and Redbone



Marie and Kyle

Marie, meanwhile, is working too hard as a vet in northern Illinois. She has adopted another dog, this one a toy poodle named Sabrina. (That makes three dogs and four cats, at least for the moment, but who's counting?) Her husband Kyle works happily at arcane computer programming projects and occasionally rescues his in-laws from cyber distress.

Anne is still working for the Red Cross in Galesburg and is pleased to report that her Chapter has "pledged out" its mortgage, so she can now more confidently set up the check runs. She has the benefit of working with the nicest

people in the world, and occasionally gets the added bonus of directly helping someone in need.

Despite all this traveling we still managed to have a thriving garden. The zucchini, cucumbers and brussel sprouts were especially prolific this year. We did not have a bumper crop of tomatoes, just barely enough to get us by, so Tom actually bought a half bushel at the grocery store to can as back up. Our pear tree produced more fruit than two people could eat and our refrigerator is still full of pears as we approach Christmas. Our peach tree was less generous. We lost our cherry tree in a wind storm this summer and will miss the annual crop it produced. Our pansies were particularly pretty this year.



Christmas 2007

So that's all the news here fit to print here in western Illinois.  
We close with a family photo from Christmas 2007. Happy MMIX!

Anne and Tom SIENKEWICZ

