



Julia, Victor, Richard and Jessica
Christmas, 2013

MMXIV in Review
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Sylvia Making a Funny Face
on New Year's Day

Our 2014 tale really began right after Christmas 2013 when Richard called to tell us he and Jessica Zaiken were engaged. We are thrilled with their news and are looking forward to their wedding on Memorial Day Weekend in 2015, at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul.

On New Year's Day, we took our traditional early morning drive to the Mississippi River to look for eagles, with our friend Lew Gould and Jad Freyha, a Syrian student and our holiday guest. It was a good year for eagle sightings. We saw many flying overhead only feet away from us. Later that day, Anne and Tom headed north, planning a brief Christmas visit with Marie and family in Wauconda and thence to Chicago where Tom had 15 candidates to interview for a new Classics colleague at the last meeting of the American Philological Association. We didn't count on the polar vortex which hit western Illinois suddenly that day. We got as far as the Quad Cities before we began to see snow and a fender bender on the slushy roads soon sent our college car spinning. Since it was New Year's Day and the car was undriveable for any long distance, we left it in the Quad Cities Airport parking lot and rented a car to continue north. An exciting beginning for a memorable winter! The trip to Chicago was successful. Tom and colleague Jim Betts met with a wonderful pool of applicants, eventually leading to a good hire in Bob Simmons, Minnesota native and Iowa graduate. Bob's wife Michelle hails from Green Bay, Wisconsin! They relish returning to the Mid West with four boys between the ages of nine and five.

Travel is still important for us. Tom led a spring break group of students to Rome in March. They spent a lot of time visiting underground sites, some even Tom had not seen before, including the newly-opened late Roman cemetery at the Vatican, the lower level of the Colosseum, the remains of the Stadium of Domitian at the Piazza Navonna, and the Tomb of the Scipios. Anne did not go along to Rome, but Tom is delighted that her retirement allows her to accompany him on more of his professional jaunts. In April they went to Waco, Texas, for the annual CAMWS meeting, which Tom helped organize. Both Julia and Victor gave papers there. Anne spent some of her time visiting the haunts of her father who was stationed in Waco during WWII. The only downside was that Anne had a fall which sent her to the emergency room in an ambulance and which resulted in a few stitches in her head and a dramatic black eye. It could have been a lot worse.

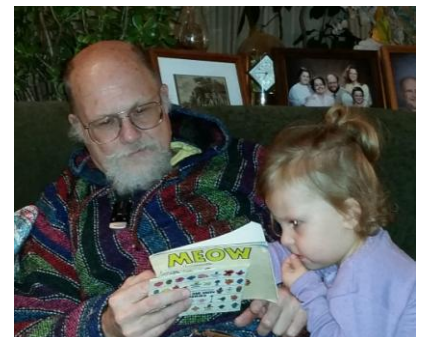
Shortly after Waco, Anne also accompanied Tom to the 100th anniversary convention of Eta Sigma Phi, the national classics honorary society, where Tom was given a lifetime achievement award. We were thrilled that Julia, Richard, fiancée Jessica, Marie, and 3 year old Sylvia (who stole the show), were all present for the occasion. In May Tom also traveled solo up to St. Paul to see Richard and Jessica both admitted to the Minnesota bar.

In early June Anne and Tom went to St. Louis to fulfill one of their long-held desires: to attend a live performance of Prairie Home Companion. The icing on the cake was a Sunday morning visit to the



Julia, Marie, Sylvia, Tom, Anne,
Richard, and Jessica
at Eta Sigma Phi

St. Louis Botanical Garden. Well worth the trip. In late June the compass turned East, first to Durham, North Carolina, to visit Tom's sister MaryBeth and niece Tracy. Then, on to Williamsburg, Virginia, for the American Classical League Summer Institute, where Tom was given an Emeritus Award. MaryBeth and Tom's grade school friend Robert Giovenco and his wife Antoinette delighted him by attending the ceremony. We also enjoyed revisiting Colonial Williamsburg, scene of a family tour in 1984.



Read to me!

Anne did not return home with Tom, but took an overnight bus to Maine, because her father was going through a rough patch. Fortunately, by August he was home and his health had stabilized. Julia was also in Maine, at the camp on Lake Damariscotta, and was busy writing a book on Benjamin Latrobe, architect of the U.S. Capitol. While Anne was in Waldoboro, Tom tried to tend his wild vegetable garden in Monmouth, producing a bumper crop of cucumbers and tomatoes, and a decent crop of beets, celery and celeriac. On his way to Maine, Tom spent some time with his brother Eddie in Atlantic City and his sister Toni in Hillsborough. She took him to Grounds for Sculpture, near Trenton, which he highly recommends to one and all. Tom came to the family cottage for the first two weeks of August. Marie and Sylvia arrived just before Tom and Anne headed home. It was wonderful to have a day or two to frolic with Sylvia in the lake. She is quite a water bug. Even Victor managed a short visit in Maine at the end of the summer.



Richard and Jessica with their Minnesota Bar Certifications



Lincoln Wearing Tom's Farm King Hat at Grounds for Sculpture

Victor is Tom's colleague this year at Monmouth, where he is archaeologist in residence, teaching a number of popular courses, such as the "Archaeology of Food". He is also traveling extensively, giving papers in far-flung places, including Poland, Portugal and Spain. Meanwhile, Julia has been on pre-tenure sabbatical from Duquesne University, spending several weeks as a fellow at Yale and yet more weeks at Winterthur in Delaware. Their big news is that they are expecting their first child sometime in April 2015. More excitement!

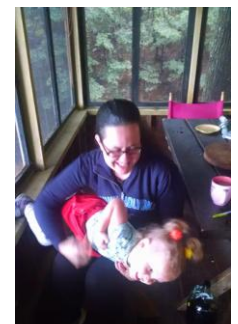
In late September Tom received yet one more lifetime achievement award, from the Illinois Classical Conference. (If all these awards mean it is time to retire, he is ignoring the message!)

Unfortunately, Tom had a bad fall before a lecture in early November and broke his left tibia. Of course, he sat through the lecture! Since then, he has been on crutches and wearing an immobilizer. He couldn't drive for several weeks, so Anne drove all the way to Rochester, Minnesota, for a visit with Jessica's parents, Richard and Jessica, to discuss wedding plans. We all enjoyed the visit, including another Prairie Home Companion performance. Yes, twice in one year! Both Jessica's grandmothers came for Sunday breakfast, a real pleasure for us. You should have seen, or better, tasted the birthday cake which Richard baked from scratch for his mother!

In 2014 Tom said farewell to the 1973 Buick Electra which he adopted in 1999. Anne's brother Jack and his wife Debbie also said farewell to the Waldoboro farmhouse they moved into as newlyweds in 1980 and moved into a new home they have built on the banks of Pitchers Cove. You cannot beat their view through the trees down to the water!

Granddaughter Sylvia turned 4 this November, on Thanksgiving Day. We had a festive holiday in Wauconda, highlighted by lots of balloons and four-year-old frolic. Marie is currently a full-time mother and Sylvia enjoys activities ranging from swimming, tumbling and dancing lessons to Montessori school, library outings and home handcrafts. She is a delight and a full time job and tries to stay a step or two ahead of her parents.

We are looking forward to a quiet Christmas in Monmouth with Julia, Victor, Richard and Jessica and Jad, back for another holiday visit. Marie, Kyle and Sylvia will spend their holiday as a family in Wauconda. We hope that you all enjoy the best of the holiday season and can look forward to a happy 2015.



Julia and Sylvia Frolicking in Maine



Sylvia with her Parents celebrating her 4th Birthday on Thanksgiving Day