

Doug and Claudia at ome
Sarah via Skype
December 16, 2009
(It seems like we've never all been in the same place this year)

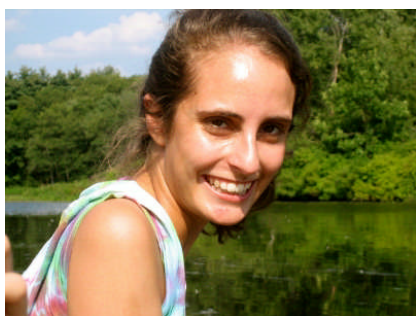


Warm Wishes for the Holiday Season

To Drive the Cold Winter Away
Traditional English song

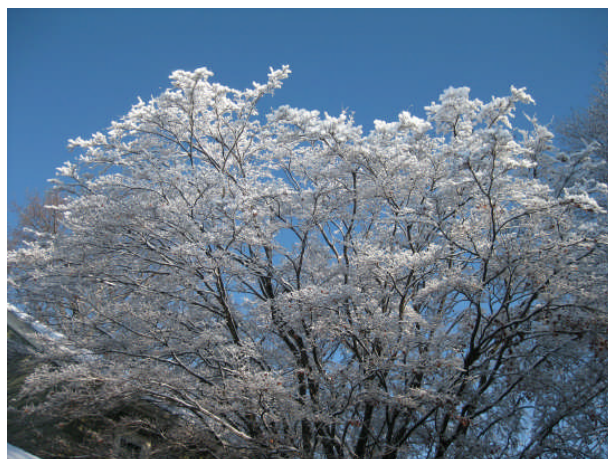
All hail to the days that merit more praise
Than all of the rest of the year,
And welcome the nights that double delights
As well for the poor as the peer!
Good fortune attend each merry man's friend
That doth but the best that he may,
Forgetting old wrongs with carols and songs
To drive the cold winter away.

This time of the year is spent in good cheer,
And neighbours together do meet,
To sit by the fire, with friendly desire,
Each other in love to greet.
Old grudges forgot are put in the pot,
All sorrows aside they lay;
The old and the young doth carol this song,
To drive the cold winter away.



Sarah on the Charles River
August, 2009

Front: First Snowfall
Roslindale, Massachusetts
December 6, 2009



Winter Solstice Greetings

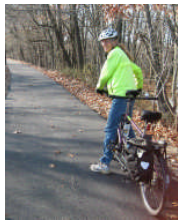
Dear friends and family,

This was definitely a year of some new, some old and some long-awaited-for coming to fruition...



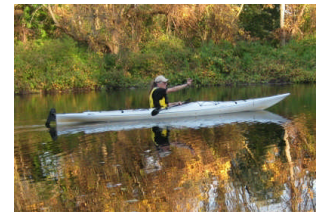
Sarah on the Charles River in August

Sarah has been working hard as a sophomore at Earlham - taking five heavy courses including second year Arabic at 8 a.m. - so she's looking forward to more sleep next semester! She's a Peace and Global Studies major - very much in the tradition of Quaker peacemaking. She's looking for a summer internship, paid or unpaid and anywhere, for her PAGES studies, so if you have any suggestions, please let her know at Sarah.Mink@gmail.com. This past summer she volunteered transcribing interviews with survivors of torture for a documentary film, and interned helping organize an environmental conference for students. For fun she makes potato latkes for potlucks and rides her bike around town. Claudia loves visiting Sarah at her alma mater.



Doug on the new Neponset River Trail

Doug spread his energy widely - no surprise - he celebrated the International Year of Astronomy by taking in two plays about Galileo and stopping in Philadelphia on the way back from driving Sarah to Earlham to see one of Galileo's own telescopes at the Franklin Institute. The upside of the economic downturn has been that miles of bike paths that he's been working towards for over 20 years (all those meetings!) are getting built as they were 'shovel-ready'. His 40th high school reunion in Dundee, Illinois was



Doug kayaking on the Charles River in Dedham

both a reconnection and a reality check on his life stage. Though he gets nervous about keeping his coumadin level steady when he travels, he also trucked off to our old favorite, the Maine coast (where a new discovery, pointed out to us by the owners of a great restaurant, *El El Frijoles*, was a wonderful view of a waterway called Eggmoggin Reach). A month later, we were off to Ireland for the wedding of Claudia's friend Paddy's daughter, Meg. He barely had time to get out in his new kayak.



Doug and Claudia in an ancient fort in Ireland

Claudia organized a 'Third Age' group of women - we met only 4 times - to help each other figure out 'what's next' now that our kids and careers are mostly grown. One Third Age exercise was: "If you could live 5 simultaneous lifetimes, doing something meaningful and enjoyable in each one, what would they be?" When Claudia came up with **8** full time lifetimes and **4** half-time lifetimes, she realized why she



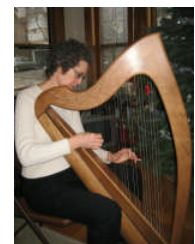
Claudia watching the Eggmoggin Reach

has such a hard time balancing her life!

New this year was joining the folk harp orchestra run by Claudia's Celtic harp teacher, and then getting her own Celtic harp after a one year wait for a particular harp maker. It's an amazing, completely new joy to play music WITH others. Coming to fruition is a many-year effort to identify, scan, copy and distribute the family photos, some over 100 years old. She continues working in spiritual direction with rabbinical students at Hebrew College, as well as in her own spiritual direction (with a Catholic lay-person in her parish house!). New was an intensive pilot training in couples therapy using the Internal Family Systems model that's been exciting and useful for the past several years. Continuing was a Muslim-Jewish dialogue group. A highlight was her 5th trip to Ireland, 22 years after the 4th, which Doug pointed out was the longest time in her life that she



Matt, Meg, Claudia, and Doug on Mt. Brandon in Ireland



Claudia playing her new Celtic harp

hadn't been to Ireland! A wonderful wedding led into hiking (some with the bride and groom) and biking in the Dingle Peninsula - Claudia's favorite place in the whole world.

Please tell us your news and come visit - and we may put these letters on Facebook !