



Dear Family & Friends,

Terry and I send our love to you and yours.

Wow, 2011 went really fast. No big changes in our lives. What we remember are the enjoyable moments spent with friends and family and pursuing our varied passions, together and separately.

We had a great time last spring visiting Britain, starting in Birmingham at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Center participating in a writer's conference sponsored by Quakers Uniting in Publications (QUIP), for which Liz continues to serve as administrative facilitator. What fun to be with good friends – all of us enjoying the beautiful gardens at Woodbrooke and lively workshops and discussions about the ongoing challenges we face doing the ministry of the written word. Then Terry and I stayed at Finchley Meeting House (North London) with our friends Trish and Roland Carn, the wardens there, and toured in and around London including a visit to Jordan's Meeting House, John Milton's Cottage a lovely evening at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, museums, London Zoo (where Terry played with butterflies, photo above) and Trafalgar Square with an early Occupy group in residence.

Terry continues to work full time as a computer consultant, thankfully for a stable company where he enjoys his colleagues. He purchased a new banjo this year, worked hard to develop his skills and now spends much of his free time creating *Terry's Songs*, a web based library of musical sharing, mostly in the folk tradition. You can see and listen at <http://songs.2quakers.net/> where he now has almost 50 songs. Each song has its history posted and most are recorded with tracts of different instruments (banjo, guitar, mandolin, ukulele, harmonica, kazoo and nose whistle) all played by Terry, though usually you see just one instrument being played.

I've had a great year. I finished a short history of South Central Yearly Meeting in the spring, continued to enjoy my work with FCNL, QUIP, SCYM and other Quaker groups, co-facilitated a workshop on Lobbying: Building Relationship Across Difference at the FGC Gathering and hung around with New England family and friends all summer, avoiding the Texas heat and having adventures including the flooding during tropical storm Irene. I continue to write, mostly short pieces, edit and help friends and family with personal history work. And I continue work on "thinning" my life – no success with my waist but progress with my responsibilities and possessions. I attach an article about "thinning" a member of my spiritual support committee brought to our 2011 meeting a few weeks ago. I hope it proves useful to some of you.

Arion, our older son, lived through the extensive floods in Bangkok, Thailand, where he teaches kindergarten and travels when he has a chance. We speak to him often but we miss hugging him and look forward to visiting him, maybe in 2012 or 2013.

Sam's family grows with Cassie (11) and Ari (8) and Brennon (6) all in the same school now. They all got all As on their first semester report cards and all started taking karate lessons. Their pet lovebird Stevie has been joined by bunnies Tiffany and Smog. All, including Sam, Pandora, Aunt Jen and pets, joined us in Vermont again this summer for walking, swimming, berry picking and visiting friends. Many of you heard that Cassie has written a novel she wants to get published. The novel is good but I think the attached poem is really wonderful. Hope you enjoy it. Pandora and Jen graduated their respective graduate programs and both continue to produce works of art, Pandora a beautiful quilt this summer and Jen ongoing sculpture and most recently a very interesting book about her spiritual seekings while getting her Masters of Divinity.

Again this year I find myself profoundly grateful for my life. Even my anger and sadness over our increasingly inhumane world situation has been somewhat alleviated as I watch young people in the Occupy Movement speak their truth. My dream would be that everyone would feel the love and security of friends and family that I enjoy. I continue to work for a more sustainable world with less violence, increasingly aware that means breathing deeply and living life now while seeking to love and care for those that I touch.

We send you blessings for a wonderful 2012 and hope you will come visit us in Austin.

Love, Liz & Terry



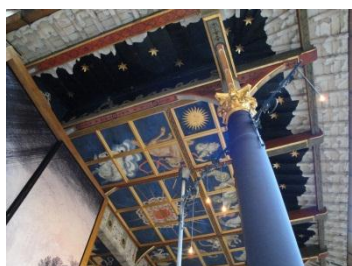
Finchley Meeting



Jordans Meeting



Jordans Meeting inside



Globe stage



Globe audience



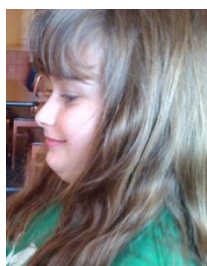
OCCUPY Trafalgar Square



Milton's Cottage fountain and necessarium



butterflies, boats and beautiful butterfly girl at London Zoo



Arianna



Brennon



Cassandra



Bren & Sam discuss paper planes

If you can't see the photos please go to www.2quakers.net to access the letter and attachments.