



Dear Family and Friends,

I'm cheating and using a photo taken on 1/1/2016, our 26th anniversary, to head our 2015 letter. We had a great anniversary celebration with silly songs and nibbles and good friends. But our most exciting news is a new great niece, Elle (SoRelle) Winn, born 2:55am on 1/2/2016 – after 19 hours of labor she finally agreed to come out and meet the world. We have now met her and here is a photo.



Brother Eli & Mother Alida admire Elle

2015 was a year of change for us; we both had lots of adjustments to make to Terry's retirement. At first it was really strange for us to have so much time together at home, sharing an office and many everyday events like lunch. I'm happy to say that time of awkwardness seems to have dissolved into discovering new ways to enjoy life. We've settled into patterns that give each of us the alone time we need while we are free to share unplanned walks and long conversations together, not just on the weekend.

Terry continues to play and record traditional music, worked hard creating and maintaining several websites especially a rewrite for South Central Yearly Meeting's, developed his skills in cooking, and kept up his regular regime of walking and exercise. I joined him on some of those walks, worked on various writing projects, continued to serve QUIP as administrative facilitator and did various activities as part of the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) Steering Circle. We both serve Friends Meeting of Austin in several capacities. We particularly love hanging out with the children and families we've come to know through teaching FDS, providing breakfast and music and just playing with our younger Friends. Our time at South Central Yearly Meeting was a high point in the spring, seeing good Friends and enjoying catching up and making music. Both groups feel more like family all the time.



We did several trips to conferences and meetings, to see family and friends, and just to be together. Our first post retirement road trip was to Savannah for Liz and Mike Dyke's wedding. We ate and visited our way across the gulf, enjoying views of the water and the birds, live and carved in wood. The wedding was a blast with good food, good friends and a wonderful meeting for worship that united Liz and Mike and their families.



We also did trips separately. I flew to Britain in May, exploring London and Cambridge and attending the annual QUIP meeting at Woodbrooke in Birmingham. In London I stayed with longtime friend David and we had a wonderful day together of ships, museums, pub fish&chips and great conversation in Greenwich. In Cambridge I stayed with Trish and Roland, wardens at Jesus Lane Meeting, who treated me to a great time of good food, conversation and tours of the town. I missed having Terry with me but we met up in MA to see Sam's family, attend a science fair at MIT in which granddaughter Cassie (15) took part and have a short visit to friend Kate and family in Vermont. Note the Bernie hats!



Terry, with his brother Chris and great nephew Ezra (9), traveled to East Texas to chase the Caddo Critter. They researched the theory that the critter is aquatic and subsists on a diet of alligators and tourists. The brothers conferred about how to get the critter out of the lake. An exorcism? A critter-cism? But first they had to locate the Critter. They explored the lake by canoe, they followed the trail into the woods, and they traversed the swamp. They never found the Critter but decided the research had been great fun and vowed to return another day.



My trip east this summer started with visits to friends in Arkansas (Marianne) and South



Carolina (Toni, Carlos and Jacob) on my way to the FGC Gathering in the hills of North Carolina where I enjoyed coordinating the Info Desk. Then on to visit an old friend, Terry, in Greensboro NC, and her fun family and dogs, followed by a stop in Media PA with the Burger-Lenz family. I arrived in Mansfield MA to find Sam's family busy with summer activities. Terry flew to join me the next day. We retrieved Ari (12) from girl scout camp and Terry hung with her doing day trips to local nature sites while Brennon (10) went to cub scout camp and Cassie (15) and I went on the road.



Cassie and I traveled by Mega Bus to NYC (NYC apartment digs with Charlotte, Broadway Show, the Metropolitan Art Museum, the Cloisters, and macaron madness ice cream) and DC (fourth floor digs with Marsha and George, Smithsonian Art tour, Ethiopian dinner followed by a tour of the monuments at sunset, the Supreme Court and the Sewall-Belmont Women's History Museum). We walked and walked and agreed we love both NYC and DC! But we both had mixed feelings about the bus experience, especially on the way home when the overnight bus ride from DC to Boston was delayed and we had to sit in the bus shelter for over 2 hours. Next time the train!

Then off to visit to Kate in Vermont with Ari and Brennon. We took Ari to visit a horse farm and Bren on a camping adventure, complete with Ari and Bren building a fire to roast hot dogs and marshmallows for s'mores. At the end we all had a great visit with Gretta and Jacob in Montpelier.



Terry returned to Austin while I went to New England Yearly Meeting with Ari, Bren, and Sam for a wonderful week of worship and fun among Friends. Then on to Maine to visit with my brother Ed and his wife Suzi in their lovely cottage on a lake and to do some personal history work and visit friend Betsy before returning to Sam's. Finally, I was privileged to share with colleagues at the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative's conference at Pendle Hill before driving home.

We feel fortunate to have had almost no health problems this year though on October 3 I was attacked and bitten in the upper arm by a rottweiler while walking in a local park. Frightening but with no residual ill effects on my body or mind after 16 stiches, 5 visits to the ER, and some healing visits to friendly dogs I know. By Halloween I was traveling again to the east coast to attend a Playing in the Light workshop and FCNL Annual Meeting. Landing straight into fall, I got a chance to rake leaves for the first time in years. I learned another way to use stories in FDS and how much fun it can be to lobby with Friends, even with Texas legislators. Coming home to Austin I felt full of the encouragement.



So we started the new year very grateful for increased relaxed time with each other though we still find ourselves busy. We feel called to continue to do all we can to make the world a better place. This world needs a lot of us holding it in the Light. There's a great deal of greed, violence and injustice but there is also a great deal of love.

Isaac Pennington advises, "...it is not the different practice from one another that breaks the peace and unity, but the judging of one another because of different practices." Anne Frank observes, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." **Let us seek to wait not a single moment before acting for peace and justice without judging others, while taking frequent deep breaths and giving hugs to those around us. And come visit us in Austin!**

Love, Liz and Terry