

Happy Holidays – and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

December 2015



This year was just the opposite of last--rather than a traveling year, it was more of a stay at home one. We did make a few trips, going down to Corolla, NC, with Adam and Sarah and their families and even Sarah's in-laws. It was the first time with both grandkids, Isis and Jacob, and it was grand!

We also decided that we had enough with visiting Sarah, Andy and two-year-old Jacob in Minnesota during the depth of the winter (although it looks like this winter would not have been too bad) and traveled there in September when the weather was just right.

Isis, who turned five this fall, finished preschool and started kindergarten. She had been going to the Robert E Simon Children's Center, and when her preschool was forced to move, Karla helped arrange the move and invited all sorts of dignitaries to attend the re-opening. One was the eponymous founder of Reston, **Robert E Simon** himself.



Jeff and Daria both finished a year in their new positions. Daria serves as the Reston Library Branch Manager, and at the preschool celebration was introduced to the then 100-year-old Robert E Simon, who surprised her one day by visiting her in the library to discuss the future of libraries. He has since passed away, but Daria considers herself lucky that she had the opportunity to discuss a topic so close to her heart with him.



Jeff continues to support an effort by the Department of Veteran Affairs to modernize their clinicians'software. He enjoys his work, and compared to the thirty-mile commute he was doing in his previous position supporting the Department of Labor in downtown Washington, his present five-mile commute is a breeze. As the Chairman of the Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission, he decided to partake in the metropolitan region's Bike to Work day in May. He found it took him about an half an hour riding along wide and relatively low traffic roads, and started to commute that way on a regular basis, some weeks on his bike four of the five days of the week. Who would have thought at his age he'd be biking to work!



Although not usually a sports buff, Jeff managed to attend two Syracuse basketball and two football games this year. Adam, Jeff and Jeff's fraternity brother John Litzenberger travelled to Charlottesville to see Syracuse's football team lose to the University of Virginia. Through her employer, Karla got four tickets in the Capital-One suite in the Verizon Center in Washington and so Daria, Jeff, Adam and Karla saw Syracuse lose to Georgetown. A week later, Jeff, John and his son Jack, traveled to New York, meeting with Jeff's friend Alan Gross,

his brother Howard and nephew Louis to see Syracuse lose, this time to St. Johns in Madison Square Garden. The common connector in all this was Jeff's attendance at a game. It was not a good omen for Syracuse for Jeff to be there! In addition, Andy and Sarah flew down to see their UWisc team play Maryland, with Jeff, Adam and Karla along for the ride. UW didn't lose so Jeff must not have the same effect on them as he does on Syracuse



As the temperatures turn to a balmy seventy degrees in late December, we wish you and yours the best of the Holidays and the New Year. If your travels take you to our national's capital, be sure to drop us a line at Jeff@Parnes.net or Daria@parnes.net, or ring us up at 703.904.0131.