

# Diana and Tom Burton

Holiday 2010

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It is becoming a holiday tradition to blame late greetings on the snow and this year's blizzard with 24" of snow is no exception. Or if I keep getting later they may become a Valentine Card. It's been a full year but what 'older' person doesn't say that? We get less and less done and each endeavor seems to take up more and more effort. But we're still able to shovel snow!



**Our view from our living room.** The Koi pond is decadently heated so not to worry about the fish. Worry about me: I'm still trying to save face from claiming I love to shovel snow. The plows have been unable to handle this much snow so I'm shoveling -- with help from big shouldered Tom of course.

Travel remains the year's theme and marathons have been a major driver with the thought that I need to do them while I can. Since becoming unintentionally-unemployed in 2007 (will I ever like the term retired?) I've devoted much time and effort to visiting destination marathons. Tom comes along when I visit somewhere he wants to see too, such as Hawaii in mid-December, but generally I travel alone and meet up with fellow marathoners.

About 30 trip reports (that's just this year - there are more!) are available at [www.LibertyLadies.weebly.com](http://www.LibertyLadies.weebly.com) and/or for photo shows visit Tom's web site [www.tomskoi.com](http://www.tomskoi.com) and click on photo shows. In the last 12 months I've managed touring trips for 24 marathons with Tom accompanying in Tucson AZ, Tampa FL, Cape May NJ, Colorado Springs, Mt Desert Island ME and Honolulu. I went with fellow Liberty Lady Maricar to Jackson MS, Washington DC, Salt Lake City, Anchorage AK, Manchester NH and Overland Park KS. Big deal events for runner friends finishing their 50-state quest were in Annapolis MD (David Williams), Kings Mountain SC (David Reid and Rob Klein), Hartford and Outer Banks NC (Marv Winters.) Waco TX, Austin TX, Capon Springs WV, Boise ID, Pacific Crest Trail OR, and Minneapolis were all meeting up with other friends whereas Rio de Janeiro and Athens Greece (for the 2500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the run by Pheidippedes) were with tour groups. Add a trip to the Berkshires for Kripalu Yoga Retreat, San Francisco, and week-long hikes in the Grand Canyon/Havasupai, Columbia River Gorge and Kenai Peninsula Alaska and that adds up to a lot of airline miles. **Here I am in my laurel wreath in Athens** --maybe the highlight of my 72 completed marathons. Though marathons have been a big part of my life, each one is documented on the website so we'll move on to some of what else has been happening for us.



Yes, Tom and I take trips that are just ours - without marathons! We renewed old haunts in Palm Beach with an add-on of Tampa and historical St Augustine. **Pictures at the top show why I call this the hat trip** - we bought them because it was cold: colder in FL than in NJ. In Colorado we spent time in Rocky Mountain National Park as well as a few days in Boulder, leaving the day before the devastating fires. **Here's Tom picnicking at Garden of the Gods.**

By far the best trip was Paris. Each year we talk about going somewhere other than Paris but somehow manage to sabotage each idea and return to our favorite city. This time we stayed in the Palais Royal area – again, all documented in a trip report and on Tom’s website. This year we added on a few days each in Brugge and Brussels near where we lived in the 70s. You might have noticed that he’s traveling around and doing quite well collecting frequent flyer miles too.



*Here we are in a European café, Tom doing one of his favorite activities and especially smiling when he got two huge chunks of foie gras (how does HIS liver do it?), and me in a new Belgian designer outfit. Tom will do anything to get me out of my marathon shirts and running shoes while touring Europe.*

I said Tom’s doing really well because he did celebrate his 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday this summer. The celebration included the same group from his 60<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup>, and 70<sup>th</sup> parties. Me, I entered Medicare age but I gave myself a trip to Rio de Janeiro instead. See my Liberty Crown bearing teddy bear poking out of his box? C’est sufficient!



Tom didn’t make his usual trip to the foothills of blue grass music this year because he really has been busy. Between all his friends, lunch and dinner dates, he still mans the Koi Health Hotline. He takes care of four cars which require exercising them, and he takes care of me. Plus he’s had many projects going on at the house – new deck, new plantings, repair from storms, etc. Of course he can’t leave in May or June because the bamboo would take over before he can get back! He really does a lot extra to make it possible for me to travel, from playing chauffeur, managing the house and advising me on my travel itineraries.



Two years ago I introduced you to 12-year old Marie; her coming into our life has made it much fuller. Her Aunt Loudean loans her to us at times and last summer was her second visit to NJ. Marie and I made trips to Washington DC for the Fourth of July celebrations and later to Philadelphia, with Boston in the forecast for next year. I’ve had time with her at her home base in Kansas City where daughter Alayna and grandson Joseph live too but it’s easier to get time with and to play fairy-godmother to Marie than my own kids. While in Kansas in November **Marie came out to run the last part of my marathon with me.**

Since one of the primary reasons for holiday cards are for keeping in touch, this is our wish that we hear news from you and soon!

Finally, we come to the end of 2010 with a glass of cheer to you and our friendship and best wishes for a happy new year to you and yours.

*Diana and Tom*

