

Diana and Tom Burton

Holiday 2014

185 Kingfisher Drive, Middletown, NJ 07748

732-671-7045 Dianab@juno.com TomsKoi@juno.com

My goodness but how did it get to be Christmas already? I could simply send you to www.TomsKoi.com or www.LibertyLadies.weebly.com since our life is open book or, give you an open travel log that could read: Traveling. Eating. Traveling. Eating. Traveling, etc., etc. That's about all we did so this might be the easiest holiday letter I've done yet. But for those not on the internet (and some of us aren't even on Facebook) and for posterity's sake I feel a need to summarize 2014.

A before and after: from a trip to Milan in 2009 and then this September. The restaurant didn't change and of course we didn't either. Hahaha. A Last Supper in the Dolomites. We appreciate (need?) a little candlelight. And more recently in Barcelona at the Palais de Musica.



Some things haven't changed and that's our travel desire. While I hike, sometimes Tom comes along on the trip, we have a few days on either side of the hike, and we meet up in the evenings. Everyone is happy. We did trips in this fashion to Provence (with a fascinating trip to Avignon before), the Dolomites of Italy (with a reunion to Tom's earliest ski memories in Kitzbuhl and Dobbiaco first and then a few days in Innsbruck before heading home out of Munich and a Hofbrauhaus day) and the Lakes of Italy (after beginning a few days in Milan). I did domestic hikes with my favorite leaders at www.ParksPlusHiking.com to Palm Springs and Joshua Tree; New Mexico; Canyonlands; Yellowstone and Grand Tetons; Salida (with Colorado Springs), Lassen Volcano (with Lake Tahoe); Mammoth Lakes and Yosemite. I went on hikes to Portugal with a bunch of ultra-marathoners (who put up with me anyway), and to Argentina's wine region in Mendoza and northern Patagonia, and now I plan to return to the southernmost town in the world in February.

I'd intended to quit marathons but I still went to Huntington Beach, Kings Mountain, Majorca (we're going back to Barcelona for the holiday), the Amish Country, London and Atlanta. Ice skating trials with my sister in January were in Boston (we added on five days at my old favorite the Kripalu yoga retreat in the Berkshires) and then again for October in Chicago. Those 19 trip reports (with two more due for 2014) can be found on www.LibertyLadies.weebly.com. I'm off to Atlanta pre holidays and Tom, Marie and I are to Barcelona for the holidays. If you wonder, yes we invite my daughter and grandson on trips but get no takers so it's a good thing we have Marie, and then also nephew Colin joined me on the Mammoth and Yosemite High Sierra hiking trip. I've invited lots of folks to hike with me and just can't understand why they aren't as enthused as I am.



That's me up on top of North Dome in Yosemite Valley. This mountain-view was overlooking Half Dome, a climb of major proportions for me in 2009. I was grateful that my legs were able to make it up this far.



Here we are at Asheville's Biltmore Estate; me in Portugal where I joined some hot shot Badwater runners who practically had to carry me.

Daughter Alayna does well in Kansas City and I do believe she should have been a general contractor as she so enjoys managing renovations to her home. Grandson Joseph is pretty mysterious about his life and I don't push the subject but that makes me all the more grateful to have Marie in our lives. She visited this last summer and enjoyed NYC and a Broadway show; she is doing great things and fortunately is receptive to letting us into her life which gives her some travel experience too. We are crossing our fingers for her acceptance into a summer pre-med program at Stanford and we'll deliver her there. (Pictures of daughter and grandson are next to non-existent but I tried.)



Tom still keeps our refrigerator full of good foods, our wine cellar stocked, and fortunately still does his power walk most days and consistently lifts a few weights too. He has a number of trips planned for 2015 but the most exciting one is for

his 80th to some of his favorites: Paris, the French Riviera, Grindelwald and Zurich. I laughed at the idea that he could outdo himself after all the 2014 trips.

Me, so far I'm committed to trips to Santa Monica, Florence, Patagonia hiking again, Salida trail marathon, Colorado Springs, Western Colorado hiking, Isle of Skye hiking, with days in Inverness and Edinburgh on either side, then more hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park, Mt Rainier and St Helena, Sequoia National Park, Dalmatian Coast of Croatia, and (with Tom) Madrid and the Basque Country. That's so far . . . with more to come if we can just keep up. (The picture from the northern Patagonia lakes area and the recent Argentina trip and next I'm off to hike in southern Patagonia.)



All of which reminds me that maybe we ought to have Christmas once a month so we'd communicate more often. But since that's probably not going to happen, we'll at least try to keep up the annual tradition. We do hope that you enjoy the pictures and bits of explanation about our continuing trips and adventures as we certainly delight in visiting new and interesting places and returning to some of our favorites. And Tom often says, "If it gets any better I don't know if I can stand it."

Happy Everything to you and yours and may we hear from you soon and often.