

2017 Clark Holiday Newsletter



Greetings and Happy Holidays.

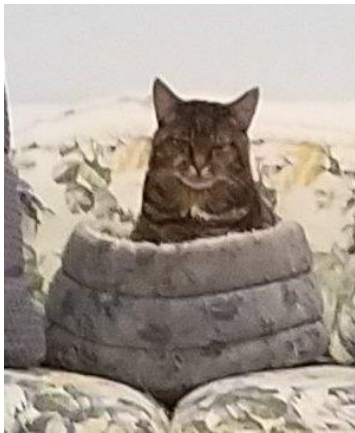
We hope that 2017 was a good year for you as it was for us.

Mostly. No big trips like the ones we reported years ago – unless you count Philadelphia.

My health has not changed which is pretty good news. I have been on the same clinical trial for 3 1/2 years. I am now on my 60th cycle (21 days each) during which I visit

Dana Farber twice and take lots of pills for 14 days and then have a 7 day "break". Side effects are quite tolerable, but having to be at Dana Farber most Wednesdays is inconvenient. More detail is available at <http://warrenmmblog.blogspot.com/>.

Not to be outdone, Barbara had her own medical adventure this year. She has been saying for several years that she does not relish the idea of spending the winters in New Hampshire. "It is cold and icy in New Hampshire and at our age, you can easily slip and



fall and break something." So, Karma strikes again. On the day after Christmas last year, Barbara went for a walk near Fox Hill Village, slipped on some black ice and broke her kneecap. This meant surgery, rehab, physical therapy and all that stuff. She spent 10 days in the skilled nursing facility attached to Fox Hill Village. Every day, I loaded one of the cats into the carrier and took the cat to visit Barbara. I told the people at the front desk that her doctor had ordered a "Cat Scan". She has been limping around since then. The had installed a steel wire in there to hold things together

temporarily and she had that removed at the end of November. We hope that she will soon be back at 100%.

Barbara has become very involved in the governance at Fox Hill Village and is now on the Finance Committee. From my perspective, it seems a lot like she has a job.

And, speaking of jobs, she has also gone "professional" as a Mah Jongg player. Yup - her New Hampshire group plays for money. Some nights she comes home with as much as three or four dollars. Of course, she always starts out with five dollars. Once in a while, she comes back with slightly more than five dollars which is very exciting.



I continue with my hobby of making bowls and other wooden trinkets in my New Hampshire workshop as well as in the one at Fox Hill Village. I made a huge advance this year. I decided that small cracks and blemishes in my projects were in fact features of the natural wood to be celebrated rather than "defects" that one might spend many boring hours trying to patch or hide.

I limited my gardening this year to New Hampshire. Planted two rows of radishes to guarantee a good early harvest. Got a total of three radishes. My gardening partner was jealous since he

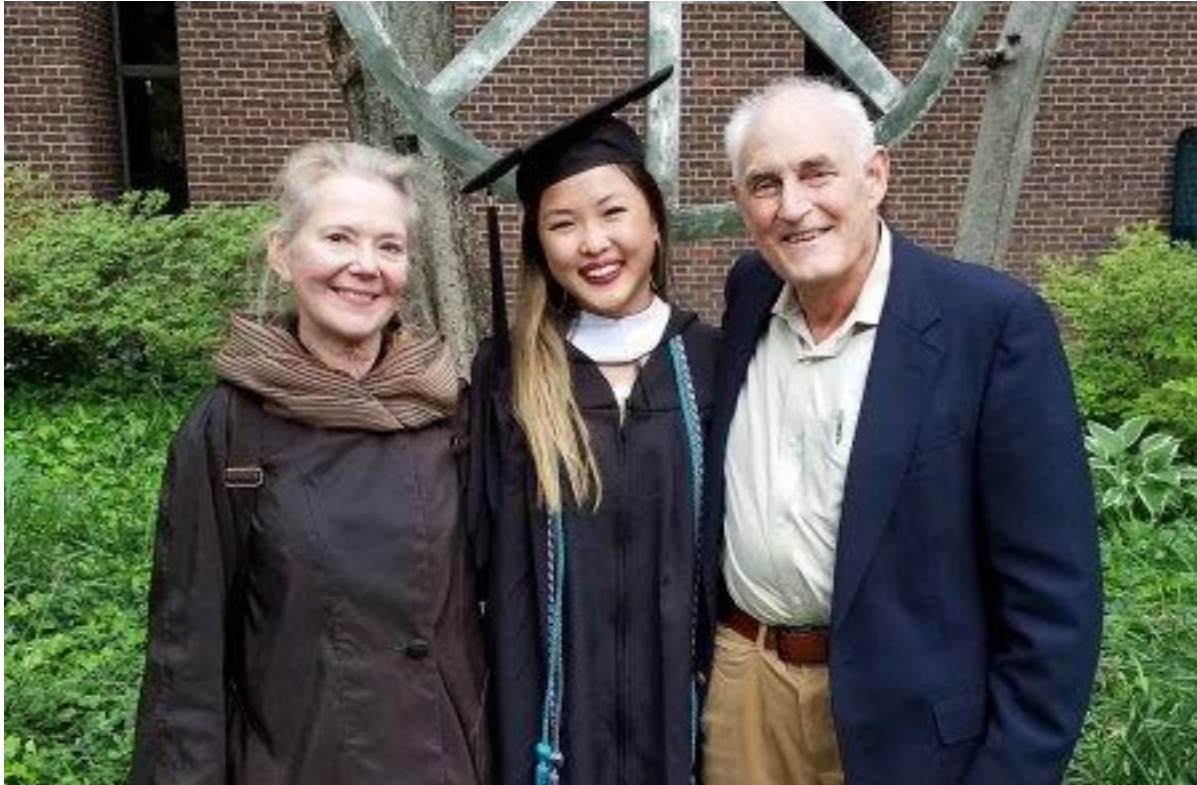


got only ONE radish. I was having good luck with my tomatoes until the horn worms stripped every leaf over one week when I was not checking on them.



Our big travel adventure this year was a trip to Philadelphia. Our niece Caroline was graduating from University of Pennsylvania in May and she invited us to celebrate with her. We had a nice trip and of course we were very proud and pleased to share the

event with her. Soon after the graduation, Caroline headed off to a four-month long round-the-world tour before starting her new job. Sounds better than working to me.



And since I mentioned Caroline, I will also mention our other graduating niece, Izzi. She graduated from Duke University (same weekend as Caroline) and is currently in Uganda working on a research project which involves collecting urine from chimpanzees. I am still not exactly sure how this is supposed to work, but I imagine that it involves running around the jungle with little bottles, pleading with the chimps.

Barbara and I had to find our adventures closer to home. We went to yard sales. Each town in our area declare a Saturday that is their official "yard sale day". Go to that town and you might find 50 or so yard sales. I love buying stuff. Barbara then conducts a yard sale at our house to get rid of the stuff that I purchased. She usually gets about half of what I paid. We make it up in volume. Sometimes we also get great deals.

Last Spring, I bought a beautiful floor vase that I really loved for only three dollars. I found similar vases on eBay for \$300, so I figure that I did pretty well. At least that is what it was worth before the cats knocked it over and smashed it. Barbara says It wasn't the cat's fault. There was a chipmunk on the back porch.

So, that's the report for this year. We look forward to 2018 and hope that it is a great year for everyone.