

Happy New Year!

2023 events – sorry a little late...

Bruce

Yep, you guessed right. Bruce is still working full-time at Northrop Grumman. He's still thinking he'll never retire, but now at least he is thinking about it. We'll keep you posted.

He joined the HALO program at work, which is the first piece of NASA's lunar Gateway that will be launched. It's a pretty cool system to be involved with, but the best part is that Bruce gets to work from home about half the time.

2023's homebound project was to create a website for Eileen's hometown, Hicksville, NY, since the previous curator passed away. Of course, Bruce built the site using the Joomla CMS. In fact, he literally cloned his own high school class site that he created over 5 years ago as a starting point. The site (hixnews.com) is up and running and is doing so well that some of the "old crew" who supported the previous generation site have become involved, adding content.



Eileen and Lea in London

Eileen

Eileen officially retired in January 2023. She's been taking advantage of her newfound freedom to pursue her passions: Lasagna Love, cooking, travel without dragging the hubby along, and learn new languages (Dutch and Portuguese). She made several trips to visit friends and family in Florida, TX, Calif, and Indiana.

She traveled by herself to London to visit our AuPair, Lea, who was with us over 20 years ago! And yet another trip with her friend Deb, who was looking for a companion

to explore Amsterdam. But 2023 hasn't been all wine and roses for her.

If 2022's Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss (in her left ear) wasn't enough, 2023 threw her a real curve ball. This time it was with her eyes. She will be having two eye surgeries, one very urgent, first thing in January 2024. To make things even worse, these surgeries were supposed to happen in 2023. But after returning home from Amsterdam in early December, Eileen got



Eileen and Deb in Amsterdam

COVID...twice (rebound). So, all her medical appointments had to be pushed into 2024. So, 2023 turned out to be Eileen's "health crisis" year. But we are hopeful for a healthier year. She is looking forward to more retirement adventures in 2024!

David

Had a bit of a challenging year. First, they were part of the massive 12,000 person Google layoff in Jan. After a short stint with another company, they are started a new and exciting position as a senior software developer on Jan. 2, still based in Northern California.

We had a wonderful visit together in VA over the holidays with lots of downtime, good home cooking and hugs.

Andrew

Andrew and his partner Newt moved again to escape from what turned out to be a horribly maintained and overpriced apartment. After a temporary move in back with us, they are now living in Herndon in a much nicer place with a lot more space for them and their cats.

Our grandkitties, Sam and Buck, are no longer kittens and seem to have taken to their new abode quickly. They had stayed with us for a few months at the end of summer which took a bit of adjustment but in the end, really bonded with Bruce and Eileen during that time.

Rachel

Rachel overall had an uneventful year (which is really a good thing). With the exception of getting a mild case of Covid, she remains relatively healthy and happy. She's always excited when we come to visit and bring her homecooked meals.



Rachel at Halloween: Cowardly Lion

Douro River Cruise

Bruce and Eileen celebrated their 40th anniversary by taking a Douro River cruise in northern

Portugal. Eileen got to use some of her Portuguese skills and was horrified when she noticed a restaurant that had (translation) "dogs with sauce" on the menu. The next day, she passed a food stand that had "dogs with sauce" and busted out laughing when she saw the picture of a hot dog on it!

Portugal was an amazingly beautiful country rich with history, wonderful food, wine, and people. We were spoiled throughout and stayed at amazing hotels and had incredible experiences. We absolutely want to go back again!



The Ivens Hotel Surprise

Be sure to visit our family website at <https://scherzinger.org> where you can read all our past newsletters and see a lot more photos.



Thanksgiving at the Scherzingers
Chase, Andrew, Eileen Joey, Sally, Cindy, and Bruce

Happy New Year!
The Scherzingers
10514 Coving Cross Lane
Vienna, VA 22182
703-264-5259



Eileen with Merline Murray in Lisbon, Portugal



Eileen at Zébota in Lisbon, Portugal



Eileen and Bruce



One of Many Breathtaking Vistas Along the Douro River



Eileen and Bruce in Salamanca, Spain,
with Luis (our cruise manager)



Eileen and Bruce Somewhere in Portugal



Eileen in Lisbon



Eileen and Bruce at Boxwood Estate Winery, Middleburg, VA