

December 2018

Dear friends,

To start with the most recent news: In October, after a six-year trial, Alice and I moved in together. We relocated to a new apartment about halfway between our previous places – a high-ceilinged two-bedroom apartment in an older building. We are a block away from the library, the post office, and the community college, and a short walk from the restaurants on Liberty Street and Alice’s bookbinding studio. We are mostly settled in, and, so far, still getting along!

We made two trips to Europe this year, both delightful in their own ways. In February I gave a talk at an interactive design conference in Lyon on the project I designed at the Office of Charles and Ray Eames 40 years ago (which started my career in design). You can see the video of my talk at <https://tinyurl.com/yd8qe74j> ).

Alice came along, and we went early to have a few days exploring Lyon, a fascinating city with Roman ruins, great museums, a great industrial history, and of course fine food. We did not seek out the hallowed temples of gastronomy, but we ate pretty well. Alice stayed long enough to witness my talk, then moved on to London to visit friends. After the conference, I headed south for a weekend focused on the Roman remains of Nîmes and Arles, with a bit of Van Gogh and a few fine repasts thrown in. I joined Alice in London for a few days, including a visit to Birmingham, where we met sister Dot and Roger.

Traveling to Europe from Newburgh is much easier these days, now that Norwegian Airlines flies from our local airport (15 minutes away) to Dublin and a few other cities. On our next trip, in May, we stopped for a few days in Dublin, where we visited the many museums and libraries, all new to both of us.

The reason for this trip was a reunion with my siblings and their spouses, which we have been doing every 3 years as each of us turns 64 (as in the Beatles song). For her turn, sister Helen chose Amsterdam – an inspired choice. We stayed in a large house in Broek in Waterland – linked by frequent bus service south into Amsterdam (about 15 minutes) or north to Edam, a charming village we visited more than once. We had several meals together at home and elsewhere, but we also broke off in smaller groups. Plus, we met with several Dutch cousins - a festive group at cousin Wouter’s in Haarlem, and a visit to our place from another branch of Hoekemas.



Our new digs at 98 Grand Street #1, Newburgh NY 12550



Talking about “Art Game” in Lyon (February).



On the road (Birmingham, UK)



Hans, Marieke & Heino photographing siblings & partners



Wouter & Anneke Meijer; Marleen & Jan Hoekema



Visiting Le Corbusier's pilgrimage chapel at Ronchamp, France (May).



Alice and Hannah in studios at Atlas (photos: Meredith Heuer)



Extended family at "faux Thanksgiving"



Emma, Parker & Rylee; Sanford & Courtney channeling Wayne's World



Housewarming with college friends & partners

After the reunion, Alice again repaired to London to visit friends. This time I slipped away to Basel. The primary goal was to visit the great 1953 chapel by Le Corbusier in Ronchamp, about 2 hours away (by 3 trains). Long on my architectural bucket list, this breathtaking monument did not disappoint! I also visited the Vitra campus, filled with buildings by fashionable architects like Zaha Hadid, Frank Gehry, and Herzog & De Meuron. By pure chance, college classmate Paul Schrader was in town to be honored at the Basel Film Festival and show his latest movie "First Reformed." He finagled me into the festival dinner, and the next day we took a walking tour of the city.

Normal life was pretty good this year, too. Alice's work at the bindery continues to occupy and satisfy her. This month she and daughter Hannah were both featured in an article about studios in Newburgh. Alice has a student coming twice a week, and we've become friends with her and her husband, a rare book dealer who also teaches Italian! In October, the annual Guild of Book Workers met in Minneapolis; I tagged along and explored local museums and architecture (again with Gehry and Herzog & De Meuron).

The Historical Society continues to occupy me. I was re-elected president of the board for a third term – an honor bestowed on those who fail to duck fast enough. Also, sitting on the city's Architectural Review Commission provides an early view of the new arrivers (mostly from Brooklyn) who are restoring old homes and building artist studios in Newburgh.

We had a great "faux Thanksgiving" – Alice's extended family gathers a couple weeks before the real holiday, so everyone can make it and then go to in-laws and such on Thanksgiving proper.

In kid news, Sanford, 35, moved from Los Angeles back to Phoenix, where he and wife Courtney are thriving (especially on Halloween, it seems). They just purchased their first house in the historic district (yes, there is one in Phoenix). With eerie symmetry, Emma and Ryan moved from Phoenix to Los Angeles! In June they welcomed their second daughter, Rylee Paige Marshall, joining 2-year-old Parker Rae. I think a trip west is in my future.

We've had some fine visitations. California friend Lynne came to help out with the Open Studios. My cousins Wout & Anneke, who hosted a party for us in the Netherlands in May, stayed for a few days – we took in sights in the Hudson Valley, plus a day in New York City. A week later, Alice's old friends from London, Ian and Marie, stayed for a few days to great mutual entertainment. A college friend was passing through in November – we alerted nearby Calvin College survivors, and they all came!



Wishing you health & happiness...  
– Jim (& Alice)