

Happy Holidays

December 2015

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM HOLLY AND MATT. . .

Is it December already? How did that happen? We hope 2015 was a good one for you. Here's the news from us.

OUR NERD VACATION

The highlight of the year was our summer in Gothenburg, Sweden. It was lovely: great public transportation, beautiful parks and public gardens, charming sidewalk cafes, healthy looking people and men pushing baby carriages. We loved the weather: sunny and in the mid-60s with l-o-o-n-g days, perfect for walking.



Holly Dressed for a Balmy Summer Evening in Sweden

We lived the Ikea life in a 450 square foot apartment that helped us understand

why the Swedes have such a high divorce rate.



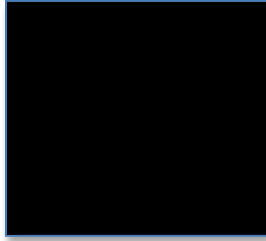
Matt "Working" in our Apartment

Matt greatly enjoyed math collaboration hosted by his colleague from more than 30 years ago, Ali. Holly interviewed local social workers until July, when it seemed the entire country went on vacation for four solid weeks

Ali's wife, Amy, was the perfect hostess and tour guide, planning excursions and inviting us over for her fabulous home-cooked Persian food, often with other foreign visitors.

Holly's efforts to learn Swedish were pretty much a waste as Swedes speak amazing English – often with an American accent. Knowing a little Swedish sometimes came in handy, but thank heaven for Google Translate.

En route to Gothenburg, we spent three days in London where we treated ourselves to tickets to *The Book of Mormon* and dinner at Dans Le Noir, where the food is served in total darkness (on purpose!). Here's what our food looked like:



On the way home we spent three weeks in Cambridge UK reconnecting with our favorite haunts, friends and colleagues there, as well as making some new ones.

OTHER ADVENTURES

Uh, yeah, not so much. The only other travel we did this year was a trip to Asheville, North Carolina in October for a very pleasant and low-key family reunion with various members of Matt's family and a trip to the Texas Hill country for Holly's birthday.

Most of our other adventures are on the recliner, either reading books (we bought Kindles this year) or watching TV. Most days we go for a walk in the neighborhood.

HOLLY'S TURN

Holly divides her time between two writing groups, doing Nia (a dance/exercise class), weekly walks with friend Carol, volunteering a little, messing around with fabric and paint,

and wasting time on Pinterest. She is currently in the middle of a class called "100 Days of Gratitude" at a local spirituality center. She celebrated her 60th birthday with some of her oldest friends and some of her favorite new ones and engaged in a bit of fun food art:



Yes, That IS a Banana Slug Made Out of Marzipan on Top of the Cake

MATT'S TURN

Matt keeps busy with work that is way too "interesting" to describe here. He's settled into a routine that works well for him (e.g., working at the computer in his pajamas –yes, at home). He co-hosted the ACL2 workshop this year in Austin. When he's not working, he can sometimes be found reading mysteries or noodling around on the piano. Now that he's getting older (63 this month!) he's working on manifesting his inner curmudgeon.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope you enjoy this season, and that whatever and however you celebrate, it is a time of reflection, connection, and hope. Our best wishes to you in 2016!