

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

2002

From Don and Mary

Greetings from Vermont. With only 10 days before Christmas, we are looking at only four inches of snow, but we do have a foot of ice on the lake. The December sun arrives late and the night begins early. A fire blazing in the fireplace, good books, friends, family, TV, cell phones, and Don's computer mean we don't need to completely hibernate in the winter.

This past year, we were in Naples, FL in January, six weeks in March-April, and a month plus in November. There we play tennis, and Don pigs out on bridge. Mary's "wicked step mother" spent time in Florida with us and Amy and Aleksey took the train from Hartford, CT to Orlando, FL and we met them at Disney World.

In February we skied with David and Karen and their families for a week at Lake Tahoe, followed by ten days at Don's favorite...Sun Valley.

In May we visited David, Shelley, Owen, and Kyle and then drove up the California and Oregon coasts, flying East from Portland. Beautiful country, especially the Coasts and Crater Lake. This is the year for avalanche deaths, as we were at Timberline Lodge shortly after the tragedy there. Although the climbing was closed, skiing was open. We did neither. Although we have stopped doing Tuckerman's in early May...another fatal avalanche accident occurred there within the last few weeks.

Our summer was largely spent in Vermont...although Don continued to run off to bridge tournaments. He became a Silver Life Master early this year by going over 1000 total points. His 260 master points for the year is by far his best ever.

In August we celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary in grand style as our kids surprised us with a party at the Golf Club at Middlebury College (Vermont) with good food, drinks, and dancing.

We flew north from Florida a little early to celebrate Thanksgiving with Karen and her family in Sudbury, MA. Also saw Amy, Eric, and their families.

Last week we spent five plus days in NY City with the Friedlanders...hitting seven shows in five days.

Both of us are still healthy, happy, and we are looking forward to the coming year.

We wish you the happiest of holidays and a wonderful and peaceful New Year.

The Sondergelds

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