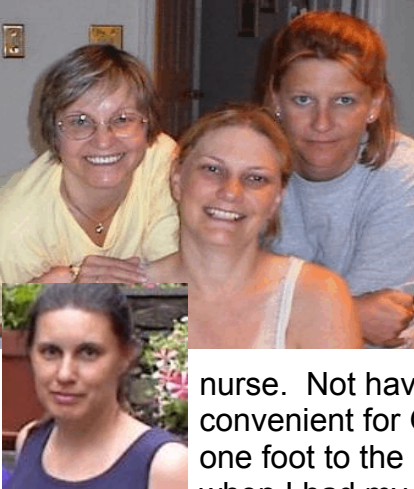


# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## The Review of 2003



This really was an exciting year, with several trips, a few weddings, many visits and parties with friends. In late December 2002 on the way to the airport for a visit to my parents in Florida, George and I experienced a car accident. Luckily we were not hurt, but his PT Cruiser was in the repair shop for 45 days. Surviving the car accident gave us a new look on life, as if George's heart surgery in 2000 and ankle surgery this year were not enough.



In February the Washington area had a severe snowstorm, which paralyzed traffic and closed government offices and schools. The snow was beautiful, but most likely brought pain to many backs. In spring we hiked Sugarloaf Mountain in Frederick, MD. In May George and I flew to Chicago for his nieces' graduations. This trip included touring Milwaukee and Washington Island/Door County, Wisconsin. We also visited my brother Eberhard & his wife Patti Jo in Oswego, IL, and their daughter Erika and her husband Andy, who moved in just down the street from them.



In July, George broke his ankle in three places. It required surgery with a plate and 10 screws, which placed him on a six-week short-term disability. I'm getting good at playing nurse. Not having steps to climb in my house made it convenient for George to recover here. Watching him hop on one foot to the bathroom reminded me how difficult it was for me when I had my sciatica and back surgery last year.



In the summer, my sister Dominique visited from Charlotte, NC. She prefers to travel to our area when there is no risk of winter storms because on one of her trips she got stranded. Even though her visits are rare, we enjoy them.



In September, Hurricane Isabel's winds blew trees onto power lines, causing our community to be without power for days (almost 5 for me). A power outage is always a challenge in our community, but I was thankful this time that no tree fell in my yard.

In October, George and I drove to New York visiting the cities of Rochester, Montgomery, Niagara Falls, and the Finger Lakes areas. The fall colors were in peak season. The views of Niagara Falls on both the US



and Canada side were more spectacular than the first time I saw them. This time I even got to see them illuminated in color at night.



The most exciting trip this year was to St. Louis, Missouri, which included visiting the cities of Branson, Springfield, and Lansing, Kansas. We celebrated Thanksgiving Day with Inessa and Jerry Morelock in Fulton, MO. The main reason for going to St. Louis was to attend the wedding of



George's son Rob and Jennifer Hebenstreit. All went well from our point of view. In St. Louis, we went to the top of the Arch, toured the Anheuser Busch Brewery and rode the 28-station-stop Metro Link, which stretches from Lambert Airport to Scott Air Force Base in Shiloh, IL.

My community involvement continues with my 6th year on the Rockville Planning Commission. My retirement from Federal government is less than 13 months away - January 2005! Then I plan to run for Mayor of Rockville. This dream is no "joke." My goal is to seek the highest voter turnout, concentrating on getting new voters. I will go door-to-door seeking opinions and encouraging everyone to vote for me.



In December, Erika and Andy Lincoln were in town. We had them join us at the U.S. Army Band concert called "A Holiday Festival with Lou Rawls". That night as we walked toward Constitution Hall, we heard a helicopter overhead. We commented on how it might be the President coming back to the White House. As it turned out, the next morning the news of Saddam Hussein capture was reported. What a nice Christmas present that was for our U.S. troops (and the President)!



I hope this Christmas card and letter finds you in good health, that you have a wonderful holiday, and that 2004 is a good year for you all. It is a pleasure to have so many friends, family and to continue making new acquaintances each day, as I get older and wiser. May God bless you and your families.



Love, Peace and Joy,



*Brigitta.*

You can e-mail me at: [coburg@erols.com](mailto:coburg@erols.com) or [Mullican4Mayor@erols.com](mailto:Mullican4Mayor@erols.com)

