

Prettig Kerstdagen en een gelukkig nieuwe jaar van Hugh en Becky

At the American Women's Club of The Hague Gala



Yes, we do clean up nicely!

RUSH READ

- Likely our last year in The Netherlands
- Still doing a lot of traveling
- Hugh's assignment at OPCW ends in 2017
- Becky's last year as President of American Women's Club of The Hague
- Becky broke her leg in early December

Wishing you happiness and health now and in the New Year

Greetings once again from The Netherlands. This card comes to you filled with gratitude and joy. One joy we just shared is the annual Thanksgiving service at the Pieterskerk in Leiden. Many people do not know that some of the Puritans who made the voyage on the Mayflower had immigrated to Leiden in 1609. This is remembered each year with a joyful ecumenical service of thanks.



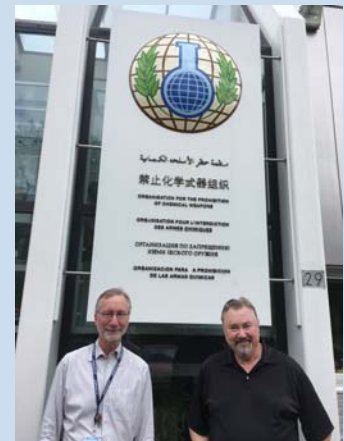
It was a joy to have Becky's brother, Doug, and friends Kathy, Phil and Chris visit this summer. Always fun to show people around our adopted home.

Doug, a life long fan of trains, said, after our train trip to Berlin, he had spent more time on trains during his visit that he had from his entire previous lifetime!

Hugh enjoyed receiving congratulations for this 60th birthday from friends around the globe, including many of you. Hugh worked on his actual b-day and then in November we took a trip to southern South Africa to celebrate in style. From beautiful Cape Town, the wine country, beaches and visits to a few game reserves, this was a varied and fun way for Hugh to start his 60s.



Visited our neighbors at their second home in Denmark, followed by a short tour around this beautiful country



Doug visited Hugh's lab

Short holidays close to home



Giethoorn, NL



Sailing on the Waddenzee



Belgium coast with friends



The Guggenheim, Bilbao, Spain

Of course, travel is our hobby. We spent last Christmas' vacation in Oman. While some of you may have been sliding down



snowy hills, we were sliding down sand dunes, and riding camels and dune buggies.



For "home leave" this year we visited Washington D. C. Such an easy and fun city to be tourists. Becky's brother, Doug, drove up from Virginia to join us for a day. We took a quick side trip to see friends living in northern Michigan, who had also previously lived in The Netherlands. We took them some Dutch cheese. The airport security scan noticed the "suspicious" items; when we said that we were bringing the cheese to friends, he informed Becky "Mam, we have

cheese in Michigan!"



The American Women's Club of The Hague does a lot of community service and philanthropy work. The Red, White, and Blue Gala raised €30,000 that was distributed to 3 charities. One of the auction items from the Gala was a sailing trip along French Riviera. Hugh could not go but that did not stop Becky! We gave a big assist to the Stand Up Against Human Trafficking Symposium in The Hague.

Every 3 years Hugh spends a few weeks working at LLNL. This year is being in July for 2 weeks. Very little time for play, so Becky did not join him. Thanks to Bill and Joyce McLean and Trish Baisden and Bear Bechtel for their hospitality. Many good meals and fun times were shared.

One wonderful thing about living here is the ease getting around, without a car! Bus, tram, train, and bike! However, no transportation is without risks. Becky fell while riding her bike in Delft. She will have surgery on Dec. 14 to insert pins and a plate in her fibula just above the ankle. A lateral malleolus type B fracture for all our geeky friends. She has already "pimped her ride" With help from our friends, her recovery should be smooth, but long at about 3 months. So, we will spend a quiet time in The Netherlands for our Christmas holidays. No, that ain't bad at all.



It was Hugh's work at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons that brought us to this lovely country. Initially this was a fairly quiet assignment, until the use of chemical weapons in Syria in 2013, and since then the extra focus on sampling and analysis and training has kept Hugh quite busy. His

assignment will be ending in 2017. What the future brings is still unknown. While the uncertainty may make us anxious at some point, the possibilities seem almost endless right now. Stay tuned!

Hugh & Becky