

# *Happy Holidays 2004*

*from the Fairfax Jewells*



This was indeed a memorable year for all the Washington area Jewells. Reporting in chronological order:

In January, Andrew and fiancée Anna Corfield made a 5-day, grueling climb to the summit of Africa's highest peak, Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. This was followed by a 5-day safari in the Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater.

That same month, Christopher flew to Hong Kong to celebrate Chinese New Year with his girlfriend, schoolteacher Janice Lai. Accompanied by her parents, they visited the mainland city of Guilin (Kweilin), famous for the surrounding hills depicted in so much Chinese art.

In mid-March, Anna's parents, Peter and Gillian, who reside in Briarcliff Manor, New York, visited Washington to check out the site of their daughter's approaching wedding. Late that same month, Dick's nephew Michael, wife Sunny, and her brother Eric, all from Texas, stayed with us a few days and were able to enjoy the lovely blossoming cherry trees around Washington's Tidal Basin.

On March 18, Dick reached the grand old age of 80! In April, family members and friends from around the country, and including Janice from Hong Kong, gathered at our home to celebrate this milestone.

Also in April, after years of renting apartments, Christopher took possession of his first condominium, a completely renovated unit located in Arlington. Janice then declined her Hong Kong school's renewal job offer and flew to the U.S. in July. She has been busy ever since giving private lessons to students of Mandarin and Cantonese, as well as working as a translator (including an opportunity with a multimedia company that filmed a documentary on Hong Kong for National Geographic Magazine).

In June, Andrew and Anna traveled to Big Fork, Montana, to visit Cameron, Gerri, and Erica in their summer home on Flathead Lake. The following month, the Fairfax Jewells and Andrew and Anna spent an enjoyable July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend with the Corfields at their New York home and watched a spectacular fireworks display over the Hudson River. In August, Chris and Janice holidayed at the beach in North Carolina.

September saw a major family event: the wedding of Andrew and Anna. Besides large Jewell and Corfield family contingents, guests arrived from around the U.S. and as far away as Japan, France, and England. The two-day affair was held at a bed & breakfast in Middleburg, Virginia, 20 miles from our Fairfax City home. In addition to a moving marriage ceremony officiated by

Guillermo Araoz, Andrew's friend from graduate school, attendants were treated to a variety of entertainment, delicious food, and much partying and dancing. It was a red-letter occasion that we will long remember!

In keeping with their love of adventure, the newlyweds had an unusual honeymoon. It included three nights in an Ecuadoran jungle lodge, a wild nighttime taxi ride back to the capital, Quito, and a week of cruising and hiking in the Galapagos Islands.

Andrew and Anna are now back at work at the Treasury Department, but official duties this year took Andrew to South Africa, Botswana, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in one trip, while Anna visited Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates in February and Singapore and Indonesia in August. She will return to the latter two, plus Hong Kong, in early December.

A final travel item: In November Christopher and Janice enjoyed a 5-day trip to San Francisco. There they celebrated Christopher's 35<sup>th</sup> birthday and visited Rebekah's brother David and his wife Carol, joined by our old Okinawa friend, Ying Ling Liu.

This year has been an exceptionally busy one for Rebekah. In addition to her weekly activities at the local senior center, she now teaches Chinese cooking classes at both Fairfax and Arlington County schools and at the prestigious private cooking school Sur la Table. There is also the occasional private class.

With her amazing energy, Rebekah is constantly on the go. She continues to serve as an Officer of Election at our local voting precinct, and she was a volunteer in the John Kerry presidential campaign. She also has put in many hours as a faithful supporter of Fairfax City's Chap Petersen, a would-be candidate for the lieutenant governorship of Virginia. In June both Rebekah and Dick attended the two-day Virginia Democratic Party convention in Roanoke at which Petersen announced that he was in the running.

For Dick this was another year of the usual medical tests and problems. In March he over-exerted in the garden and wound up in hospital for three days. Otherwise, although a bit creaky in the joints, he is a model octogenarian.

The family and old friend Luis Franco suffered a great loss this year with the death on October 7 in Miami of Dick's Scottish brother-in-law, Hamish MacRae. Aged 71, Hamish was unable to survive surgery for lung cancer. He will be dearly missed. We also bade farewell to longtime friend Esperanza Brooks, who on November 12 returned to her native Spain. Prior to her departure, we joined former FBIS colleagues Helene Castellane and Tom and Gillian Foley in paying a visit to Espe at her Baltimore home.

As another Christmas season approaches in a time of great unrest and danger for the Western world, the Fairfax Jewells wish you peace and contentment in the year ahead.