



## Merry Christmas / Happy Holidays / 2020

Dear Friends and Relatives far and near,

This holiday letter is our way to connect with everyone and update you all on what we have been up to in the last year and to wish you all a Happy Holiday, good health, love and success always.

I was able to finally get my right hip replaced the end of February. It went well and I returned to work at Ball State two and a half weeks later. But because Covid-19 had begun its insidious spread, I was just in time to get permission to work from home and was only at work in Muncie for three days. My job is really made to work from home, so with a bit of setup, I am very fortunate to be able to work from home and stay as safe as possible. Jim makes a few forays out to pick up a computer to work on and still builds powerful computers for customers. While at home, I also had a minor one day surgery on one of my little fingers that had become frozen due to Dupuytren's Disease. So, we are so fortunate to be able to stay safe and work from home. We do pick up supplies and are just enjoying being at home. I am feeding at least 3 mostly feral cats outside and have 3 sweet rescue kitties inside.



Jim and I celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary June 20, 2020.

Since our plans for a Mediterranean cruise to celebrate with two other couples had to be cancelled because of COVID, our sons contacted many of our friends and family to give us a call to visit and wish us well. Our family also sent us a 75" television to enjoy, which we do every day, plus a meal from Olive Garden delivered by Beth, Brittney's mom. So, our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary turned out to be a lovely weekend celebration. Thank you Daniel, Patrick, Brittney and Beth and all who phoned us. We are hoping to be able to take another cruise in the next year or two to celebrate belatedly.



Like most of you, we miss being physically with our family. We are so glad we made that last trip to Brazil in November of 2019 for Thanksgiving and an early Christmas. Daniel joined us and we traveled down to see the Iguazu Falls, even traveling into Argentina for another view. It was a wonderful trip even though I hadn't had my hip replacement and used a wheelchair for much of the trip. From Wikipedia, "*Cataratas do Iguazu* [[kata' rates du igwa'su](#)] are [waterfalls](#) of the [Iguazu River](#) on the [border](#) of the [Argentine province](#) of [Misiones](#) and the [Brazilian state](#) of [Paraná](#). Together, they make up the largest waterfall in the world."



I am repeating our last family group photo together since we have not been able to get together in 2020 because of COVID-19. The Iguazu Falls trip was a wonderful trip and memory of being together. Hopefully, we will be able to travel to be together again in 2021 after we are vaccinated.



*Our family together at the Iguazu Falls overlook in Argentina, South America, Thanksgiving 2019.*

*Left to right, Daniel, Jim, Peggy, Patrick, Brittney, Claire and Will in front of Patrick.*

*We were soaked but it was hot and we were very happy to be together.*

*Below is Claire (4.5yrs) & Will (8yrs) at another amazing Iguazu Falls overlook in Argentina.*





Jim and I are so grateful to have the ability to video chat with our family and we have even played some group online games with Dan and Patrick and our grandchildren, Will and Claire. In an effort to assist us in staying home happily, our sons also sent us several LEGO sets and Jigsaw puzzles, which we both thoroughly enjoyed putting together. Dan has always enjoyed LEGOs, but our family in Brazil really got into building LEGO sets and free building since they also were required to stay at home. Dan bought the house in Seattle he was renting and is feeling a bit lonely there though he does get out for coffee, groceries and runs. Both Dan and Patrick can do some of their work from home though our two grandchildren, Will (grade 3) and Claire (Kindergarten) have started back to school with many safety measures in place.

So, until we can obtain a safe and effective vaccine, Jim and I will mostly be staying and working from home as much as possible. Hope you all stay safe too and can enjoy the holidays. We will open gifts via video chat to be with our family during the holidays.

Wishing you all the best. May your holidays be as wonderful as possible and may this next year of 2021 be better and safer and happier for us all. Stay safe and be well. Be happy. Peggy and Jim Dixon

