

Christmas 2013

Dear friends,

Christmas is in the air. Our house is quiet: Jonas working on his patent translations, Martin at home in the afternoon after he keeps his PhD students going in the morning at the Lab.

After reading some books about the German Resistance he and myself are pondering about our ancestors' situation during the Hitler times. It is a mystery what really happened, less with Martin's parents who wrote autobiographies than my maternal grandfather and my father. We won't get close to finding it out.

Chrisi David is still in his company, responsible for safety and environment. China is on the spot. The managers there find cost more important than safety but the mother company Trumpf has to pay for all the accidents. So there is a constant disbalance of interests.

Claudia is a music and German literature teacher at a Gymnasium and still conducts her big orchestra and tutors her more or less eager boys.

Jakob excels at his cello but yearns for total control of the I-pod he got from his other grandfather, Jonas spends his afternoons out of the house with friends so he is not asked how far his homework has advanced. He always has his own projects which he carries through to the end. Felix is pleased with himself because his parents are pleased with him. He is smily and cuddly and a great soccer ace.

Jonas I is still living permanently with us and tolerating it quite graciously. He is reading a lot, is always well informed and gives us many opportunities for fundamental (not fundamentalist) conversations.

Benjamin just finished his new film we all haven't seen yet, a comedy, I assume a quite sardonic one. It just got accepted by the „Berlinale“. He had an exhibit in NYC at the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art „The Berlin School of Film“. He showed his „Robber“ along with explanations and discussions. He and Alexandra came home very refreshed.

In NYC they met Thimo who has a PhD scholarship in Philosophy at Columbia University (for 5 years). He is totally enthusiastic about his courses and the professors, works up to the limit.

Alexandra keeps her whole family wonderfully taken care of. Everybody around her is blooming: Johannes, 6 and Lukas 3. Both are in Montessori kindergarden and school, both very creative and happy. In the winter everybody goes skiing up in Engelberg, not far from Luzern. Up there Alexandra's family has an apartment. As soon as the children walk they ski.

Emanuel is in the process of handing over his company of gas turbines that create electricity and heat. Something new is in the making. He and Benjamin won a competition: Art+History, next to the former „Braune Haus“ in Munich. They are installing screens with Nazi and opposition and present day texts to show the different language and frames of mind.

Monica is still writing, composing and singing her own songs. She was on top of the charts in Austria, also did a great nostalgic play in Vienna.

I hope all of you are fine and in good health.

To all of you a beautiful Christmas and a refreshing and gracious New Year

Your Apollonia