

Dear friends,

Delft, Jan 1st, 2007

another adventurous year lies behind us, and the ever accelerating passage of time has made it difficult to keep in touch with everyone. This letter is a feeble first-time attempt to compensate for our shortcomings by broadcasting a snapshot of our endeavours in the past year.



Our youngest daughter **Sunniva** is now 3 years old, and her personality is certainly coming through! She spends her weekdays at two different kindergartens, one of which is conveniently integrated with her future elementary school, where she will start pre-school (Grade 1) in May. Her favorite pastimes include dancing, biking, playing with her stuffed rabbit “Niglio”, and last but not least tagging onto her big sister, whom she adores (and that’s mutual!). She likes to sing in mommy’s children’s choir, and has also shown promising affinity with the violin, so we’ll try to explore that further in the new year.

Ursula, soon to celebrate her 10th birthday, is developing her talents in multiple directions: She thrives in her choir in The Hague, with which she attended a festival in Halle (Germany) last spring, and performed in the Concertgebouw on Christmas eve. The violin is coming along nicely, and last summer she spent one week in a “ghost castle” near Tilburg for a violin music camp. She also enjoys piano lessons, and for the indispensable physical training she takes judo and dancing classes.

Marianna is, as always, managing a combination of work, study, and running a household. This year she hopes to complete her degree in Church Music at the Conservatory in Amsterdam, while juggling a perplexing mix of somewhere between 7 and 13 part-time jobs (depending on how you count them) as a carillonneur, choir conductor, organist, and music teacher for toddlers. For recreation this year she attends a hip-hop dance class (the other girls in this class are all 20-year olds, *too!*)



Approaching 40, **Kristofer** is now definitely succumbing to midlife crisis. After a 5-year pause, he (and his viola) re-joined the Delft University symphony orchestra, touring Hungary with the *Symphonie Fantastique* (Berlioz), and this season gearing up for Mahler’s 5th Symphony. Schubert’s String Quintet in C has also occupied many a weekend afternoon throughout the year. As if this weren’t enough, there’s been a lot of foolhardy running around... literally: completing two half-marathon races this fall. Marianna has been very supportive of all this, or at least understanding (regarding the sporting excesses), but buying a motorcycle is out of the question! ☺ As *Software Engineering Manager* at Satellite Services BV, Kristofer now is responsible for all kinds of satellite ground systems software, but it is widely known that he’s mostly in it because “*it’s just like playing with Lego and stuff*”.

So, it may be no exaggeration to say that we lead a happy, musical and sportive life here in Delft. Our internal social safety net is to aim for supper together each day, whatever the busy schedule. The greater family life, geographically challenged as it is, remains a focus for each major vacation: Grandparents in Oslo and Sardinia, aunts and uncles in Copenhagen and Bucarest. Last summer was spent both in Italy and in Norway, and this Christmas all grandparents were in Delft – a rare and precious occasion!

We wish you all the best for 2007!

Sunniva, Ursula, Marianna and Kristofer

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