

December 2009

Dear family & friends,

2009 began during a four-month visit to the US, the second four-month stay in the past two years. The visit included a wonderful week in Disney World with Kajsa, Rich, Janey, Lukas,



and Maja. We spent the rest of February driving all Florida for three weeks visiting Gail's high school and college friends in Naples and Panama City. Other stops included Cape Kennedy, the Everglades, and Palm Beach. On the way north, we stopped at Gail's niece and nephew, in Georgia and South Carolina; brothers Tom and David, and of course, mother Cora.

We didn't get to the Obama inauguration (except on TV), but did attend the new Delaware Governor's inaugural event where Kajsa read a Swedish poem in a cavalcade of international poetry readings.

The year's highlight was the visit of Kajsa and the grandchildren to Wattsbo in Norrbyggeby in July. The month was filled with fun in the woods, trip to the Astrid Lindgren Theme Park, trip to Dalarna, boat rides on "our" lake, picking berries, picnics with the neighbour kids, and just enjoying Swedish summer. Later in the summer Jane had ten of her former teaching colleagues in Norrbyggeby for a fun reunion.



Wattsbo has officially entered the 21st century with 100 megabyte optical fibre broadband delivery of telephone service, TV service and Internet. All that is in the PC can now go up on the big TV plasma screen. Jane thinks the house will be totally dark one fine day when all the little boxes stop working. Gail, of course, is more positive! Gail spends much of his day working the social networks at his fingertips. To his delight, nearly 25% of the Warren Area High School Class of 1962 is now on Facebook! Jane does her social networking on the phone. She's still more comfortable that way.

Jane is working in the Wattsbo gardens and with Team Andy. Gail is a busy as ever with his local political activities waiting for what will be a very different campaign style in the September 2010 elections. All the Swedish political parties will no doubt be using lots of Obama campaign strategies as they once again ask for the voters trust. Gail also continues his engagement with the D2D – Dialog to Democracy Research Group.



We spent five great days in the very interesting City of El Classico.

We got a huge surprise in Nov when Gail was awarded a Fellowship from Google to attend the first annual European Conference of the Personal Democracy Forum in Barcelona.

For more information about the Personal Democracy Forum do take a look at <http://personaldemocracy.com>

Certainly Jane's Picasso Museum and Gaudi House visits were impressive. Our drive to the mountains and down the sea side was to say the least, spectacular.



Park Güell, Sagrada Familia, Estadi Olympic, drive to the Montserrat, walks on the La Rambla, Picasso's favourite restaurant, the Four Cats – all will be in our memories for a long time.

For the first time in many years, we will not be in Delaware for Christmas. We wonder and worry how that will feel. Already our grandchildren are asking how it can be a real Christmas without Mormor and Morfar. We'll most probably make a swing over there later in the Spring 2010 for Lukas' 7th birthday, and Janey and Maja's piano and dance recitals.

Keep in touch with us during 2010. And we wish you a very happy holiday season!



All the important facts!

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