

# Marler Christmas Newsletter



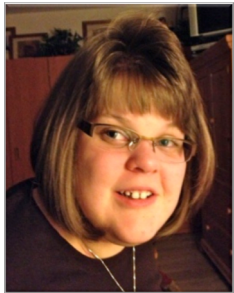
How time flies. We can't believe that we arrived in Germany over a year ago! Of course because of our late 2012 Christmas Newsletter it doesn't seem that long since we wrote, but the house is decorated in red and green and the temperatures have fallen, so it is time to tell you how we have been blessed in 2013.

After getting the house unpacked and situated, we quickly adjusted to living in Europe. Our home is located in the village of Waldmohr on the corner of two streets with about 250 feet of sidewalk. This sounds nice until you have to shovel all of the snow. Something Jeff didn't consider when he chose the house, after living in Las Vegas for over a decade. We were looking forward to having snow, until we realized this new requirement. Oh well, the joy of living at the same latitude as Winnipeg, Canada.

Kristy quickly made friends with the other ladies in the neighborhood and joined their daily walking adventures through the woods around the local villages. This was also an opportunity to be around our neighbors' dogs as we had to find new homes for our dogs, Bailey and Brogan, before we moved. The area of Germany we live in has Breed Specific Legislation against Pit Bulls. Though we miss them terribly, we still get updates from Bailey and Brogan's new families and it appears they are very happy!

In February, Jeff needed to make a work trip to Illesheim and Katterbach Army Heliports near Ansbach, Germany. We were stationed at Katterbach from 1995-97 on our first Army assignment after flight school. Braden was born near Illesheim. We took the opportunity to make a trip down memory lane and loaded everyone up for our first of many trips in Europe. We visited our old apartment and drove around the base, and though some things had changed, we were able to get around very easily though it had been almost 15 years. Jeff began to have back problems and after getting an MRI, he began seeing a chiropractor to help control his pain and get back into alignment. It has been very beneficial. Kristy went to Metz, France on her first international trip to a large antique market with her friends and brought home her first of many European treasures.

In March, Keegan turned 14 years old. She is growing up so quickly. We hosted a St. Patrick's Day party for friends and neighbors



where Jeff showed off his Mustache March copper-colored, stache.

April was Autism Awareness Month and everyone knows how important this cause is to us. Kristy discovered the Homburg flea market nearby where she could look for more antiques and looks forward to going every month with her

girlfriends. More importantly, she found a Zumba class in our village. She is totally addicted to this activity and really missed her tri-weekly workouts in Las Vegas. For Kristy's 47<sup>th</sup> birthday, Jeff got her a Cricut machine to help take her crafting to the next level. If you ever want to find Kristy the first place to look is her Craft Room in the basement. After seeing how well Braden was doing in his Ramstein High School class we started the process to move Keegan up a year early. Later in the month Kristy attended her first Ramstein Officer Spouse Club event. She became hooked.

In May, we travelled to Amsterdam in the Netherlands as a Mother's Day treat. It was a



wonderful experience and enjoyed all the interesting architecture, landmarks and infamous red light district. We were also able to visit the famous tulip fields at the Keukenhof



gardens, the North Sea and a windmill park. Later in the month, Kristy sent Jeff on a trip to Bastogne since she knows how much he enjoys military history. He was able to visit the actual battleground depicted in HBO's miniseries "Band Of Brothers" during World War II's Battle of the Bulge. Jeff was able to visit an American military cemetery where "Band of Brother" men and



General Patton are buried as well.



In June, the DoDD school administration accepted our request to allow Keegan to attend Ramstein High School in the fall. We were so excited for her.

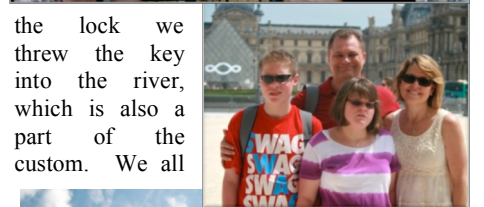
On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July we went to the Ramstein Freedom Fest and enjoyed the festivities. A week later we visited EuroDisney for Braden's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Though there are many differences between EuroDisney and Disneyland in California, we still enjoyed our visit and the kids immediately asked if we



were coming next year. After Disneyland we spent several days in Paris to start to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, which would happen at the end of the month. Kristy heard of a local custom to put a lock on a bridge over the Seine River to demonstrate our committed love. After placing



the lock we threw the key into the river, which is also a part of the custom. We all



loved Paris. After returning to Germany, we were glad to keep partying with our neighbors at a local festival. Nothing like local beers, brots, rides and fireworks



with good friends. Kristy took another antiquing trip to Tongre, Belgium with her





girlfriends. They stopped for lunch at a local Abbey. They brew the best Belgium beer there. Finally our anniversary arrived and after all of the travel this month we decided on a quiet night at home to reflect on our adventure together. Here's to another 25 wonderful years!



We had a nice surprise in August when some old friends, Rob and Lisa Fitzgerald, were able to visit. Jeff and Rob were stationed at



Katterbach together and when we got together it was like the last 15 years disappeared. Kristy, Denise and Jennifer got in a one more trip to Europa Park before Denise had to move back to the states in September. Kristy couldn't ride as many roller coasters as when she was younger. They all had a great time anyway.

Before we knew it, the kids returned to High School. We looked forward to Keegan being in the same class as Braden and hoped that she would continue to love school now that she was in a better environment. Both of the kids had grown during the summer and Braden was now taller than his mom, which was a real surprise to



Kristy. The only bad thing about August in Germany is the homes don't have central air conditioning. Obviously it doesn't get as hot as Las Vegas, but when it is in the 80s and 90s and you can't cool your home, you do notice.

Now that September had arrived, Kristy had to say goodbye to her good friend Denise. The ladies in the neighborhood attended a few events to wish her well and capped it off with a party. It was a bittersweet evening with a cowgirl theme.



The ladies schemed to get her the perfect going away gift that blew her away with tears and amazement. Jeff was so busy with work, that September is just one big blur to him. World events caused Jeff to start working long hours and it seemed like he was either at work, getting ready for work or asleep.

October was still hectic, but we made time to celebrate Jeff's 47<sup>th</sup> birthday and more importantly our favorite holiday: Halloween. This year we dressed as garden gnomes and went to a great Halloween costume party hosted by our German neighbors, the Molters. We had a



great time as usual, but not as crazy as our college days for those of you who have known us that long.

We also celebrated a friend's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday at a German restaurant where some of the ladies dressed in traditional German outfits known as dirndls. Kristy really loved hers and can't wait for the next opportunity to wear it again.

In November, Jeff's work schedule finally began to slow down and he was able to catch up on projects. He started with organizing our storage room, which turned into a 3-day job, and he still has a little more to do. After talking it over, Jeff and Kristy decided it was time for a new vehicle. Kristy decided on a Volvo XC90. It is being built in Sweden right this



moment and though Jeff and Kristy had hoped it could be here by Christmas it looks like it will be after the New Year. We spent

Thanksgiving at the Ramstein Air Force base's dining facility with the Feutz family. The food choices were endless but we missed having leftovers.

Now that it is mid-December and we have all the baking, holiday decorating, newsletter and shopping finished; we can relax and enjoy all the upcoming festivities. A special event Kristy is especially looking forward to with her girlfriends is a cookie party in which they will make cookies for the local service members.

We love living in Germany, feel blessed for our family and friends and pray that 2014 is good to us all. Thank you to our lovely neighbors, friends, Sasha, Shea and the kids' teaching staff for making this a great year and assignment. We have included our information below so update your address book and please send us your information so we can update ours as well.

GOD Bless you, Merry Christmas (Frohe Weihnachten) and Happy New Year (Glückliches Neues Jahr).

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