

**Greetings friends, family and anyone who happens upon reading this very interesting update!**

Since we sent our last newsletter summer has come and past and we've done many things, including lots of work, but I won't bore you with all the details. Martin is still working at Coding Technologies here in Nuernberg and enjoying his new challenges as the group manager of customer support. I'm still teaching English and slowly adding some new speech therapy clients onto my schedule. I am finally making some more connections with the local international school and some other German therapists. I am also in the process of contacting schools to see if I can eventually work as an SLP with Germans or maybe even go into teaching in special needs. We'll see...

A good first chunk of the summer greeted us with lots of gray rainy weather – a complete opposite of last summer's record-breaking hot weather. This was a bit of a disappointment since we had looked so forward to riding our bikes and going to the beer gardens again. But then the lovely weather eventually found its way to us around mid-July which allowed us to finally get on those bikes again and start exploring some more areas around us. We also went to Martin's favorite beer garden which is about 1 hour bike ride away from us. I'm enclosing a picture of Martin's snack here – Blutwurst (yes, that means blood sausage) to give you an idea of the good healthy food we have here at our disposal that you would only be so lucky to be able to eat everyday!!! :-).



Since I missed celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July last summer, we decided to have our big annual party on that day. Martin's parents and my friend Emily came early to help us set up the most American party we could manage to put together from a German supermarket. This included HEINZ ketchup, burgers, hotdogs, Doritos, Salsa, chocolate chip cookies, brownies, baked beans... We had 50 guests. We had probably about 15 kids there who entertained us with a 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade set to Stars and Stripes Forever, “fireworks” (sparklers). I had my debut singing “She'll be comin' around the mountain” and the “Hokey Pokey” on the microphone – which didn't go over so well, but we at least had a lot of fun. This day was also the final of the European Cup so we set up our TV outside in the evening so that everyone could watch. It was different, but fun and Greece won.



The beginning of August brought a special visitor to our household. Ronja, 8 years old and Martin's goddaughter, visited us for a week. This was a very fun time. Not only were we able to get to spend time with her, we were also able to discover all of the fun things Nuernberg and Germany has to offer to kids. The zoo, an amusement park set on a castle's grounds with a pretty impressive knight tournament, the Playmobile amusement park in Zirndorf, where the world-wide headquarters are, the pool and so on.



Our big bike vacation this year was in the north in the former East Germany. We stayed in a city called Stralsund and biked along the shore of the Baltic Sea mostly on Ruegen Island and Hiddensea Island. For those of you whose German geography is a bit fuzzy, look at the map, find Berlin, look north of there and find the Baltic Sea and a big island. You're probably looking in the right place. It was beautiful there. It reminded me of home, that is Cleveland – lots of green and lots of water, but sometimes a bit gray. On the very east coast of the island there is a national park where you can go see some very beautiful snow white cliffs and walk along the coast. It was quite touristy there, but it was worth seeing. My friend Monika got married on this coast just a few weeks later. Martin enjoyed eating the smoked fish and fish and chips while I ate other foods not involving any kind of anything from the sea. Our favorite hangout was an old fishing boat where we watched the sun go down after riding our bikes, had a drink and (one of us) ate fish treats.



Martin had a last minute business trip to California in September so I happily accompanied him. It was pretty great catching up with old friends, visiting our favorite restaurants – Manuels- where I can eat great salsa that doesn't taste like ketchup and Martin's dessert that comes with his special: CINNIMON CHOCOLATE ice cream – and Bangkok West where I can eat fresh vegetable spring

rolls and the most delectable chicken curry dish I've ever tasted. We were also able to meet the babies born in my absence and personally congratulate Brad and Julie who also got married in my absence. Also on that list was visiting former co-workers/friends, Well Within, a great spa, “our beach”, “our forest”, seeing banana slugs, and especially spending time with my brother. It was a whirlwind week, but I was very grateful to be able to go.



The fall has been filled with attending conferences, going up north to celebrate people's weddings and Martin's grandmother's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. That was a great event. Martin's family came from all around the world, including the US, Greece, Switzerland, and of course Germany. It was great to meet the members of the family who live in Greece. We received an official invitation to visit them in Naxos and are looking forward to hopefully seeing them again this coming summer or fall.

So that's all the big news for now, of course there have been countless other little things that have occurred and there has been a president which has been reelected – but we don't need to talk about all of that now. We are really looking forward to my mom coming to celebrate a German Christmas and New Year's with us this year. Unfortunately we can't be in two places at once, so we won't get to see all of you for Christmas or Thanksgiving this year. We will be coming sometime early next year, most likely in mid-February. If you are in Cleveland around that time, hopefully we can see you – we have new houses to see, new babies to see, and people to congratulate who have gotten engaged or married, and last, but definitely not least my grandparent's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary to celebrate!! Life goes on, as I like to say, you can never step in the same river twice. You are all in our hearts. Thanks for staying in touch!!! We miss you!

Love, Martin and Beth