



# PEACE & JOY

The holiday lights are in the windows and the house is beginning to look like Christmas. The tree is up, and soon the kitchen will have a wonderful smell of holiday baking. Once again we find ourselves busy with the many preparations for the holidays, and another year has flown by.

March found us traveling to Panama. Doug had worked there in the early 1990s and Lois visited there. This time we traveled to several areas we had not seen before. Cameras and binoculars were always with us as we took a dugout canoe trip on the upper Chagres River to visit an Embera Village, explored Fort San Lorenzo, took another boat to the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute on Barro Colorado Island, flew to David and stayed at a coffee farm in the Chiriqui highlands, and made a partial transit of the Panama Canal. The highlight of the trip for Lois was seeing the Resplendent Quetzal flying through the trees in the highlands. Doug was intrigued by the way the Panama Canal is evolving; he had been evaluating alternatives to the current Canal.



They are now widening the Canal and building additional locks to accommodate larger ships. There is a

wonderful Visitors Center at the Miraflores Locks that shows how the canal was constructed 100 years ago. We spent a little time in Panama City, walking around the historic district. Upon leaving Panama we headed to Vieques Island, Puerto Rico for a few days of relaxation. (you can see some of our photos at [www.mayflowerweb.com](http://www.mayflowerweb.com))

We went on a road trip in September. Lois' 50th high school reunion was taking place in Mars, Pennsylvania (north of Pittsburgh). We drove to western PA, found her old high school, the house where she lived while going to high school, and the church where her father was the minister. Lois had a good time at the reunion seeing people she had not seen for 50 years. Doug was the official photographer. It gave him something to do while Lois was talking. We then went to visit our alma mater, Westminster College in New Wilmington. It is still a beautiful



campus in a semi-rural area. It was fun poking around and seeing the changes, and Lois got to see her former organ professor. Then we drove up to Niagara Falls, Ontario to stay for a few days. While the Falls and the park along the Falls are still lovely, we cannot say the same for the rest of the place – it has turned into Las Vegas, with all the tackiness and casinos. (We were not impressed with the changes.) Upon leaving there we headed to Rochester, NY where we had lived for awhile after we were first married. We found our old house and explored the area along the lake front. Then we drove to Seneca Falls. We





managed to find a few wineries before heading to the B&B. Seneca Falls is a very interesting place with lots of history. That was where the first Women's Suffrage Conference was held in 1849. There is a very interesting museum at the site as well as the Women's Hall of Fame close by. Well worth a trip.

**L**ois continues to be involved in community Land Church activities. She is on the town's Open Space Committee, is secretary of the local League of Women Voters, is the substitute organist at the Church, sings in the Choir, directs the Cherub Choir, and is the Church Clerk.

**D**oug also is quite active in our Church, especially with computer related things. He sings in the Choir and is a Deacon. He is Secretary/Treasurer of the yacht club on Long Pond, and is Treasurer of the Six Ponds Association. He also spends a great deal of time doing photography and computer stuff.



**B**oth of us go to the gym, sing in the Pilgrim Festival Chorus, and sail and race our Sunfish during the summer.

We are often in Maine to spend time with the grandchildren. Heather and family love Maine. She is teaching third grade in her town. Wayne commutes to his job in Boston and has many activities on the weekends. Sam is now in 2nd grade and Rebecca is in Kindergarten.

**K**imberly and family are keeping busy also. Kimberly is adjunct professor at a Community College and a Business College in the Portland area. Dave has been doing a lot of work on their house and continues to sing both solo and with the Dave Rowe Trio. McKenzie is now a teenager and Kieran has just turned 10.



**E**veryone was here for Thanksgiving. The house was full. The cousins had a great time together. We will be spending Christmas with them in Maine. Life is good and we are keeping quite busy.

**W**e hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a very healthy, happy New Year. If you should be in Plymouth please let us know. We would love to see you. Our email address is: [dougandlois@mac.com](mailto:dougandlois@mac.com).



*Doug Lois*  
Christmas, 2009

