

## Sorrow Interrupted: 2022 and 2023 Reflections from Fran and Bill

Why were we not overwhelmed by despair since our last Reflections?

2022 and 2023 have been years of frustration and sadness when lies masqueraded as truth, state murder became normative, and poverty and our planet were exploited as sources of profit.

This Christmas, each carol triggered anger and sorrow instead of joy as bombs exploded in Bethlehem and too many children of genocide became genocidal. Yet, the tears quickly vanished as we were seduced by the concert activities of our grandchildren Evelien (8), Pieter (10), and Chloe (13) in their Fine Arts and local schools. The youthful energy, comraderie, and excitement overwhelmed our sadness and gave us hope for 2024.



Photo 1

In a world where families are divided and strangers excluded, where hunger becomes a weapon and the mourning for children overwhelms us, we enjoyed visitors from the Netherlands, Nova Scotia, Québec, and BC. Each Sunday we sat down with family and friends for a feast lovingly prepared by Fran and John. John is now living in our basement suite, so we appreciate his regular visits (when he is not in Mexico) and each of his contributions to the Sunday meal.



Photo 2

When so many people are struggling with an economy that favors the rich and distorts our most important goals, we continued to celebrate the career accomplishments of family and friends. Lisa became Dr. Brunner while continuing her support of international students at UBC and Sarah completed her MA in archaeology—setting her up for a job with Inlailawatash in North Vancouver<sup>a</sup>. To top it off, Sarah and Andrew married. JP moved from his Claterpult workshop<sup>b</sup> to a more manageable facility for his woodworking achievements (with plans for a return to teaching). Lies thrived as an events organizer<sup>c</sup>, Daegan and Steve raised their house, and Samantha moved from hotel administration to a management position in a senior's home<sup>d</sup>. Our hope was also renewed when NRE research alumni initiated a 25-year reunion and we learned of their many accomplishments.<sup>e</sup> Bill has been inspired by the many delightful memories stimulated in his role as CRRF Archivist.<sup>f</sup>



Photo 3



Photo 4

How can we manage our frustration when health, welfare, and education institutions are decimated as easy pickings for cash and private profit? Yet they function well enough to keep Bill alive into his 7th year of myeloma treatment<sup>g</sup> and warned us of Fran's celiac disease. The warning launched her into research and exploration of non-gluten cooking in all its forms. Bill continues to enjoy the many results of Fran's experiments.



Photo 5

Our whole being aches as we see another record year of global warming while petroleum pirates take us on another round of the tobacco two-step. Just as we felt we could bear no more, we received another video clip of JP and Lies' wonderful 5-month traverse of the Northern USA and Canada.<sup>h</sup> We were particularly impressed with their exploration of Indigenous communities along the way—including Tuktoyaktuk on the Beaufort Sea. It reminded us of the wonderful Westfalia trip we took with Charlie in 2022 (searching mountain biking trails in the Shuswap and Okanagan regions).



Photo 6

As we anticipate 2024, we brace ourselves for more disappointment but look forward to the surprises of joy that keep us smiling through our tears.<sup>i</sup> We wish many such surprises for you into 2024 and beyond.

*Fran and Bill*

## Index of Photos, Links, and Names

### Photos (people listed left to right)

- Photo 1: Two unidentified students and Chloe in concert at Langley Fine Arts School (2023-12-14).
- Photo 2: Sunday Supper with friends from Montréal. Fran, Annette, Jim, Ralph Moscovitch, Sarah (largely hidden), Andrew, John, David Moscovitch (2022-11-20).
- Photo 3: Evren, Aaron, Lisa, Wilma, Gary at Lisa’s PhD convocation—UBC (2023-05-25)
- Photo 4: Fran, John, Sarah, and Andrew at Sarah and Andrew’s wedding (2022-05-29)
- Photo 5: Some of Fran’s gluten-free baking (2022-12-24)
- Photo 6: Evelien, Lies, Charlie, Piet, and Chloe at the Arctic Circle on their way to Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk (2023-07-04)
- Photo 8: (standing) Charlie, Chloe, JP, Thom, Samantha, Zachary, Daegan (sitting/crouching) Steve, Evelien, Fran, Bill, Piet, Lies (2023-12-24)

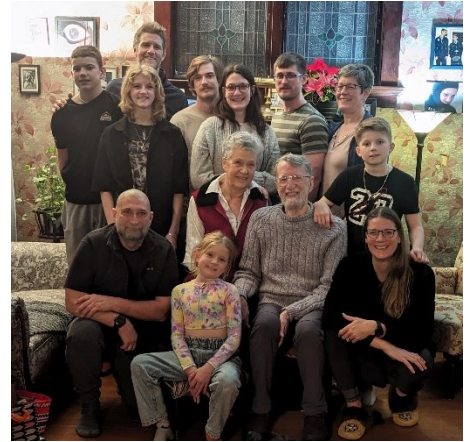


Photo 8

### Links

- <sup>a</sup> Inlailawatash: <https://inlailawatash.ca/>
- <sup>b</sup> Claterpult Woodworks: <https://www.claterpult.com/>
- <sup>c</sup> Red Door Events: <https://allevents.in/org/red-door-events/17595200#>
- <sup>d</sup> Parkwood Court Residential Care: <https://parkwoodcourtseniors.ca/>
- <sup>e</sup> New Rural Economy Project: <https://nre.concordia.ca> and <https://crrf.ca/crrf-archives/>
- <sup>f</sup> Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Archives: <https://crrf.ca/crrfin-the-archives-series/>
- <sup>g</sup> What Myeloma teaches me: <http://www.billreimer.net/what-myeloma-teaches-me>
- <sup>h</sup> Search **Elsie\_roams** on Instagram
- <sup>i</sup> Bill Reimer’s Web Workshop: <http://billreimer.ca/> and Fran Shaver’s Website: <http://francesmshaver.ca>

### Names (by generation number, partners, and children) People in the photos are in bold.

1-Michael John Victor Shaver Rev.	-----2- <b>Jim</b> Shaver
+ Dorothy Heald Hamlet	+ Marilyn Erikson
-----2- <b>Fran</b> Shaver	-----3-Michael Shaver
+ <b>Bill</b> Reimer	+ Julia Buss
-----3- <b>Daegan</b> Reimer	-----4-Isaac Shaver
+ <b>Stephan</b> Jones	-----3-Will Shaver
-----4- <b>Zachary</b> Jones	+ <b>Annette</b> Gelsinger
-----4- <b>Samantha</b> Jones	-----2- <b>John</b> Shaver
-----4- <b>Thomas</b> Jones	-----2- <b>Wilma</b> Shaver
-----3-Jean Pierre ( <b>JP</b> ) Reimer	+ <b>Gary</b> Colin
+ <b>Lies</b> Verhoeff	-----3- <b>Aaron</b> Colin
-----4- <b>Charlie</b> Reimer	+ <b>Lisa</b> Brunner
-----4- <b>Chloe</b> Reimer	-----4-Cedar Brunner-Colin
-----4- <b>Pieter</b> Reimer	-----4- <b>Evren</b> Brunner-Colin
-----4- <b>Evelien</b> Reimer	-----2-Peter Shaver
	+ Penny Packham
	-----3- <b>Sarah</b> Shaver
	+ <b>Andrew</b> Wilkes
	-----3-Kathryn Shaver