



**Starr Talk
December 2009**



Dear Friends and Family,

We wish you good health and happiness in the coming year and beyond. Going further, we hope that 2010 brings less conflict around the world, unlikely though that may seem.

Last year we wrote “we both just finished what is likely to be our last semester of teaching.” Indeed, Norton retired, although he continues pursuing his mathematical efforts and involvements in the world of puzzles. Last May, during reunion, his department gave a wonderful party in his honor and presented him with a lovely booklet of alumni memories (posted at www3.amherst.edu/~nstarr/booklet/). Andrew came for this which made it even more special.



Irene is on leave from adjunct teaching and is unlikely to return. She continues occasional consulting, managing her website, and doing websites and computer tutoring for several non-profits as a volunteer. An ongoing project is slowly downsizing – a recent example was donating a large collection of letters, written by Norton’s father during his WWII military service, to an archive in KC. She scanned them first for a CD

which was distributed to the family.

We had several conferences and family events during the year that took us to DC, Kansas City, New York, and San Francisco. Ethan accompanied us at a puzzle conference in SF where we also visited some friends and family. On the way home we had a 50th anniversary lunch with Andrew and other close family in KC. Andrew has adopted the friendliest kitten we’ve ever encountered, shown here on his favorite perch.



Ethan visited us Thanksgiving week making our feast especially enjoyable.



Sadly, Norton’s younger brother died in June. He was an accomplished academic psychologist, artist, and collector of photographic books and images as well as a wonderful person.



In closing, we extend our annual invitation to visit us if you are traveling in the Northeast.

Fondly,
Irene and Norton



Our Email & Web Sites:

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