

Christmas 2023 Newsletter



Cathy and Robert, Fiesole, Italy. July 2, 2023

We want all our wonderful friends and relatives all over the world to know that we are thinking of them during this Christmas season (when the mind expands to encompass a feeling of fellowship and connection). Cathy and Robert have always felt like citizens of the world, happy to live almost anywhere. However Sarasota, Florida, in our 2nd year has proved to be a very good fit. We have both consolidated a social scene (Robert in the jazz community and Cathy in the neighborhood community) and this has brought much contentment and gratitude.

Most of our Floridian travels this year have been dictated by Robert's gigs that have taken us to Orlando and Daytona Beach, as well as multiple towns on the west coast of Florida. What usually happens is...while Robert is playing away in some bar or restaurant, Cathy is busy exploring the town!

In March, Robert was invited to participate in a live radio broadcast for Radio St. Pete, from a Cafe' at St. Pete Beach, near Tampa.



March 11, 2023, with Joe Porter (bass) and Natalie Barber (voice)

Later that month we had the fortune of seeing the fabulous Christian Sands Trio at the Sarasota Jazz Festival, as well as the ever-jovial Paquito D'Rivera with his wonderful brand of samba-jazz.

After 4 years of no traveling, except for the move from New York to Sarasota in 2021, we decided to plan a long and complicated 3 month trip to Europe to reconnect with our friends (and memories) in the Old World. It proved to be epic, and demonstrated how doing things the slow way yields the best results. The pace was mostly dictated by Robert's old car which could not be pushed much beyond 90 Km/h (56 mph). Photos of the trip are on Robert's Facebook page. Here is a map of our trajectory through Europe:



Europe Trip. June 14 - September 7

The afterglow of our trip is still lingering with us. We are so grateful for the generosity and hospitality of our friends and relatives during our travels. We hope to be able to return the favor here in Sarasota one day. Florida doesn't have much history, but it does have some very pretty beaches and landscapes. And right now it's 77° (25°C).



December 23, 2023. Robert (shadow) on his daily walk round the Glen Oaks lake