



Hello from upstate NY and London,

I know that it is trite to say, but it really feels like the past year has flown by. Family situation report first:

John, mom and Mary are all doing well. My nephew and his wife have had their first child, Nora, so I am a grand Aunt now. Nice. My British niece and nephew did extremely well on their leaving exams and secured places at Bath University very quickly. They are in the adjustment phase of living the college student life away from home. So far, so good.

I continue plodding along with my road cycling and skating. First skating.

I am still progressing my own skating, mostly by taking ice dance pattern dance tests. These are basically ice versions (with increasing levels of difficulty) of ballroom dances. Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Quickstep, etc. To achieve these I end up having to skate with lessons 3 times a week. In London I have to get up at 5AM and in NY I have to run around about a 30-mile radius from my home. That is tiring all on its own. Ahhhh, but those of you who have been involved or had kids in sports would know exactly what I am talking about!

I have probably mentioned that I am a figure skating judge in the US. I've been judging singles skating and skating tests for a while now. At long last I finally got the first dance judging appointment. One more notch in the belt. Another notch: I have been invited to do judging in the UK as well. This is quite a departure from their previous regime for judge recruitment. It used to be only offered to people who had achieved quite a high standard in the sport. I've already attended an intake/school seminar in Edinburgh with 10 other new recruits. I found it both demanding and satisfying at the same time. We are being brought along by people who officiate at the Olympics and Worlds, so no more excuses for not knowing what I am doing!

Cycling-wise I am routinely covering 40 miles+ in hilly settings. This fall rendered beautiful weather and astonishing scenery in the Saratoga area of upstate NY. Most memorable was a group ride around the revolutionary war battle site --- very nice toilets at the visitors center. 🇺🇸 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★. Meanwhile, around Kent, Surrey and Sussex the villages and scenery are the embodiment of charm.

Family visit: With my sister in Morton. Caught up with my nephew Patrick and his girlfriend Neicy in Champagne and with Mary's in laws Vicky and Gary. Stopped in Chicago for a day to see friends.

Let me know what is happening in your neck of the woods! Check out my "Christmas Card 2024" web page: <http://www.ahsebook.com/SeasonsGreetings24> Amy (and John)