

A Letter from the Fried-Cassorla's - 2012

If you cannot see the pictures, please copy and paste this line into your browser:

http://www.fried-cas.com/Family_and_Friends/family_letters/fcamltr12/

Dear family and friends,

This was a busy and happy year -- hope you had one too!

Emma got her Masters!



After studying for four years, our Emma picked up her Masters of Environmental Studies from the University of P has resigned from her job as a laboratory technician at the U of Penn and is working on getting a job in the environ her Masters' thesis, she researched and wrote a highly technical report on the effects of using methyl bromide on th That's a chemical used to de-bug fruit arriving at ports.

If you're technically inclined, you may read her article here: <http://www.eesolutions.net/health-and-safety/treating-imports-at-philadelphias-p>

Here's some more news about our Emma! A few months ago, she received a "Geek Award" for her work on <http://phillylovenotes.com> Check it out, why dontcha! Martha selected Elfreth's Alley (see July 2012), the oldest street in the new world. My entry is under June 2012 (see it along the right edge.) I chose the Water Works area, extraordinary. The article about Emma is here:

<http://geekadelphia.com/2012/08/22/geek-of-the-week-philly-love-notes-creator-emma-fried-cassorla/>

Also, she just got two internships. Both are important to her career.

One of her two new positions is with the Montgomery County Planning Commission, and she will even be doing s Cheltenham! The other is with a Philly media organization, <http://americacity.org> , a web site, covering urban issi

with her Masters. put her in line to be better qualified for an environmental job.

We're proud of our Ems!

Spouse sings swell (Martha's choir activities)

Martha's newest preoccupation is singing her curly blond head off. She attends voice lessons weekly in Germantown studies with an instructor who is also a former high school classmate of Benjamin's. The choir has performed at locations including a mammoth cathedral in Germantown called St. Luke's. I was struck by these loud, organ-controlled acoustics that are built into the walls there. And the singing was great, too! Martha even had a solo in Cailin's new work, C, four notes long, but as Spencer Tracy once said of Katherine Hepburn, "It ain't much, but what there is is cherce." Martha sang with her choir in a performance of Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and really enjoyed it.

Worth noting is that Martha has also been working! Her psychology practice continues to go strong, at both her Allentown and City Philly offices.

Mini-Vacations at Ocean City, NJ, Tanglewood, Jacobs Pillow, Robert Frost's Home & Keuka Lake

No Italy or Greece this year, sorry! Both of us enjoyed our one-week vacations. One of those was in Ocean City, NJ, in a large apartment, and spent time at the beach with family visitors. Martha and I even tried out jet skiing.



On our New England swing... In Massachusetts, we attended a concert at Tanglewood. Then we ran off to Shaftsbury a farm and house once occupied by Robert Frost. Martha and I love his poems. Next, we saw our first dance performance at Jacobs Pillow. It's well-known as an international center of dance performance - and this was our first visit.



Robert Frost's home in Shaftsbury, VT

To learn more about our industrial heritage and to make our way westward, we stopped off at the Schenectady Museum Electric photo archives in Schenectady, New York. The Proctor Theater there was a grand old place, and witness to a public demonstration of television. This was followed with an uproarious and relaxing time (is this combo possible) with Martha Ruffo in scenic Keuka Lake in central New York.

Betty celebrates her 90th

My Mom ate birthday cake with about 60 friends and relatives in our less-than-capacious ancestral home in Bellmore, NY. It was a great occasion! We sang, told stories and cavorted - driving the frigid February air away for several hours for all who came. You can see a video of this extravaganza at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4hV4dqKf0s>



My Mom is in reasonably good health, with aches and pains of course. She welcomes visitors and phone calls from her, and these are legion. In fact, give her a ring now why don'tcha at 1-516-781-3590.

Me - (Albert) I continue teaching and writing!

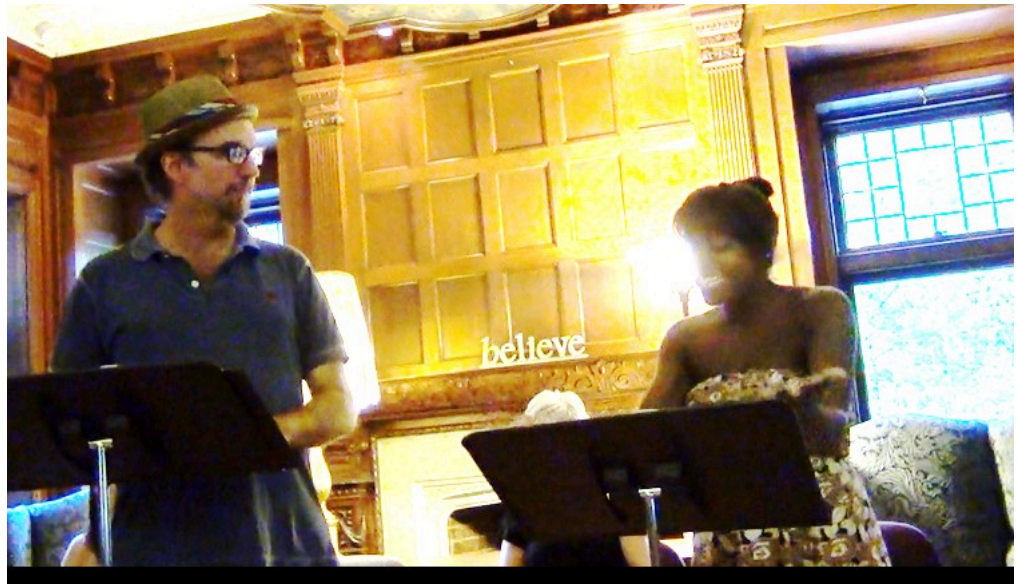
This current school year 2012-2013, was perhaps my best ever as a teacher! It is my 7th year of teaching overall at Fareira High School, in a Latino area of Philly. I am very fond of my students, and some of them even like my teaching (not all!) This year, I am teaching a Drama course, which includes: Acting, Improvisation, Playwriting, Musicals (*I Fair Lady* now). My drama colleague and I will jointly develop units on Dance, History of Movies, and Opera. His even more! In History of Theatre so far, we have covered Greek & Roman, with Medieval coming up. Last school year teaching my 10th Grade English students *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens and *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. With my 11th graders, we enjoyed and *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller and the ever-durable *The Catcher in the Rye* by Salinger.

Also, we produced a great *Literary Journal*. If you'd like to see a copy, ask me.

I consider a major part of my job to teach young people how to be read and write with greater ease and creativity; and to enjoy a variety of cultural offerings. I am very fortunate to be teaching these amiable teenagers such an interesting and enjoyable course.

Playwriting and readings!

My playwriting has continued apace, with two readings of my play *Florals and Nudes*. This is a story about an artist who paints portraits of his girlfriend. He is lured from that by a wealthy heiress who has grand plans for him as a creator of gigantic floral sculptures. I won't tell you how it turns out! If you'd like to read the script, shoot me an email. The email address is: tomirvin@trinity.edu. These are the web addresses:

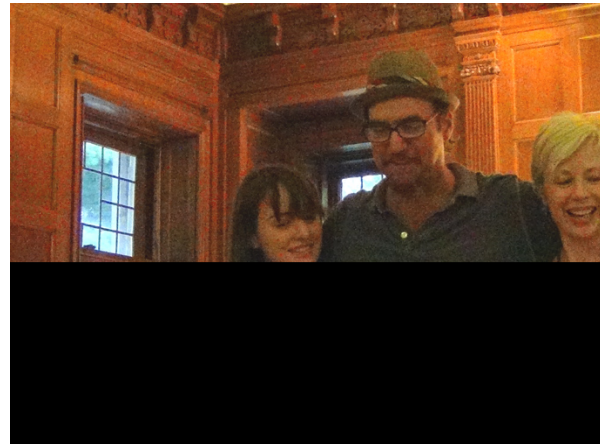


I was also fortunate to have professional actors and a talented director work on a public performance of two beach plays: *My TriniDad*, viewable at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-z1N5msv-Nw&feature=relmfu> ; and *Sea Glass Ladies*, viewable at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpggX6LQuPM>



My TriniDad performed off-book at MN Players, Swarthmore, PA. Two talented actors graced the show: Curtisha Starks, who played the role of Roxanne; and Tom Irvin, who played Alfred.

View the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBAUxjQZmo8>



Sea Glass Ladies, viewable at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpggX6LQuPM>

This was a wonderful experience... the director gave me great notes, which I used to make the play far more interesting. The actors brought it to life, even as a reading. All of this took place at the Elkins Estate, a robber baron mansion in Swarthmore. It was a "fabjous" way to start the summer!

Our **Melrose Park Philosophy Club** continues to ponder concepts such as happiness and knowledge (Bertrand Russell's *Meditations of Marcus Aurelius* - very readable and a book you can dip into anywhere and learn how to slough off. Next up: An article on Consciousness from the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, a Stanford U. web site. Meeti

though longer readings are taxing during the school year. The camaraderie is at least half the pleasure of it. Our next January 10th on the subject of **Love**. Interested? Drop me a line!

And the work of our **Melrose Park Neighbors Association** has been rewarding, providing a good way to build the fight over-development, beautify the hood and more. Our new leader is the remarkably energetic and bright spirit, president Andy Rudin has led us magnificently for several years. Thanks, Andy! I recommend building or joining an association as a great way to connect and accomplish much.

That, in brief, was our year. Here are some favorites:

Faves of all Flavours

Albert's Favorites

Novel: *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

Shows: *Sylvia* by A.R. Gurney - about a dog adopted by a husband under the protests of an unappreciative wife (she was superbly played by a woman), *My Wonderful Day* by Alan Ayckbourn, Anything Goes by George Gershwin, and Park by

Movies: *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *The Intouchables*, *Silver Linings Playbook*, and many, many more.

Music: (classical) Francesco Geminiani, **Concerto Grosso No. 12 La Follia** and (rock) "Is there something you need?" by Ben Cassorla (<http://vimeo.com/28965232>) ; "Want More" by JC Braxton III and Uptown Sound; and "Pump" by the B-52's - What a great song for running! I scam down the block when I'm with my headsets (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ASUTwbxmoM>)

Oh, and Bailey says hi. She's 15 years old now, which makes her about 85 in human years (you use a multiplier of 5.67). She's losing her hair, alas, so no beauty shot this time. She also is a cancer survivor, having had a successful operation. She still runs with me and licks my face while I rub her ears.

I continue to talk, lunch and occasionally work off calories by running with my great and attentive friend Dick Goldberg!

Well, that's it for now! Stay good and be as happy as you can possibly be!



Love,



Albert, Martha, and family!

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Poems, movie reviews, biographies, photography, plays and more are at:

<http://www.fried-cas.com/creative>

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