



Dear Friends

- **We Wish You All a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !**
- 2017 brought Kari and I many happy and memorable moments. Dines celebrated his 80th birthday, at Rest. La Vela, 10 kms. from our home. We were 39 in all: **Nikolaj** came from Seattle, **Camilla** from Amsterdam.
- **Charlotte's Family** [Ellesvinget 147, DK-2950 Vedbæk, Denmark] is doing well. They live 9 kms. from us. We see them 2-3 times a month. **Charlotte** (49) now works for *Danish Technology Center*, <http://www.d-tech.dk/> 4 kms. (bicycle!) from home, 8:00 am–14:00. Enjoys it. She still sings in the *Gentofte Gospel Choir*. **WeiWei** (50) commutes regularly, 3–4 times a year, between home and China! Acting in TV series, film and theatre productions. When home he bathes, now winter-bathing, in Vedbæk *Vikingelaug* <https://www.vedbaek-vikingelaug.dk/>, where we also celebrated his 50th anniversary (14.12). **Camilla** (21) came up from Amsterdam – where she studies Economics & Mathematics at UVA – for her father's and my birthdays! **Caroline** (17) has 18 months still to go in Senior High. Enjoys it. Is a member of *The Academy for Young Talents*, <http://ungetalenter.dk/> (by invitation only) and frequents their elite lectures and summer and fall 'camps'.
- **Nikolaj's Family** [13337 NE 186th Ave., Woodinville, 98073-6309 Washington, USA] is also doing well. **Nikolaj** (48) works whenever and wherever he sits down with his laptop (yes, often in his lap!): at work, obviously, at home, in airports and during flights, and abroad: constantly on the move. **Bodil** is the anchor of that family: drives a Tesla! **Marianne** (20) studies at Univ. of Washington, in Seattle. Lives some 10-15 miles from "home". Was in Europe this last Sept., alas, we were away! **Katrine** (17) – last year of high school – volunteers in a pre-school, *The Shyne School* in Woodinville. **Jakob** (16) got his drivers license, appears to be the tallest in the family. Dines miss him, terribly. Alas, we see too little of the family.
- **Travels:** Perhaps one of the busiest years in recent times.
 - * Kari and Dines were in **Amsterdam**, early March, for 4 days, visiting our granddaughter, **Camilla**. Kari bought P&Q fabrics! Symphonic evening at *Concertgebouw*.
 - * Dines was in **Uppsala** giving a short PhD course, in May. Also enjoyed a visit to Carl von Linné's Hammarby.
 - * Kari and I were in **Moscow**, 25.6–2.7. Dines' trip was financed by the Russian Academy of Sciences. We stayed at the iconic *Hotel Metropol* <http://metropol-moscow.ru/en/>. The reason was the 11'th Ershov Conf. Kari walked around Moscow. Dines enjoyed seeing the city for, perhaps, the 15th time since 1978 – and meeting dear Russian friends. The highlight, though, was Dines' presenting **Ilya Ilyich Tolstoy** with, as you see here, a book written by Dines' grandfather when, in 1949, he was 79, and its translations (English, Russian):

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- * Then, 7–16.7, we went, for the perhaps 33rd time since 1980, to **South Tyrol**, via **Munich** – there to see old friends: **Preben Folkjær** and his wife **Christiane Widmann**, (Preben is former student of mine), **Ulla Reinke & Mike Reed** (he was UN Director of UNU-IIST), **Mary Rusinow** (“from” Vienna days, 1973) and **Peggy & Peter Stark** (since 1969), strolling around **Bolzano** and enjoy the fresh, calm mountain air of **Oberbozen**.
- * Four days of motoring (23–26.7) brought us to **Rundhof**, a few miles south of the Danish/German border – there to see **Birgitta & Otthein Herzog**, “preparing” us for Shanghai, and to **Kiel** to enjoy dining with **Annemarie & Hans Langmaack**, friends since 1980.
- * The major trip of the year was next: 30.8–30.9, with SAS, business class, to/from **Shanghai**. Dines to do research¹ at *Tongji Univ.*, invited by **Otthein Herzog**. Kari to enjoy life. We stayed in a 75m² suite, 19th floor, *Renaissance Shanghai Yu Yuan Garden* hotel, view over the old town, the Bund, the river and Pudong’s 100 floor buildings. Kari walked the town, shopping for textile fabrics, eventually brought home by WeiWei in two suitcases, 43 kgs. Dines walked approx. a kilometer to the metro, and from the metro to the *Urban Planning* bldg. on a beautiful plane tree grown campus, and back again, most working days. We spent a 2+2 night/day weekend in **Macau** where we dined with **Bruno A. Soares** (architect of the UNU-IIST bldg.) and with **Sandy Lee** and her children (formerly UNU-IIST) and **HongKong**.
- * After Dines’ 80th anniv. Dines again business class SAS to China: financed by the Inst. of Software, Chin.Acad.of Sci. Three mornings of PhD lectures in **Beijing**, then 5 days of ‘academic fest’ for **Zhou ChaoChen** and a conf. in **Changsha** (1500 kms. south), with prepared paper presentation and a dinner speech² for **ZCC**, and two nights in **Wuhan** (350 kms. north of Changsha) – there to be together with WeiWei’s mother, her brother, her husband, WeiWei’s younger brother **Bing** and his daughter **Ting**, and WeiWei’s older sister **Hong**, her husband and their daughter **YiFan**. *It was very moving*. Since then I have realised that **I have a family in China**: wonderful people.
- * Finally, 10–19.11, the third SAS business class trip to China, this time 1+2 nights in Beijing, out and return, and 5 days in **Xi’An** (1100 kms.): To give an inv. paper at a workshop.

If you have wondered why I emphasize the ‘business class’ facet of my travels, it is simply this: at my age and in my physical condition I wouldn’t travel intercontinental unless I can really rest during the flight: horizontally! And SAS is great.

For all these travels see: <http://www.imm.dtu.dk/~dibj/2017/summer/>

Dines enjoyed the 302 kms./hour luxurious trains of China for a total of 5 rides, 5.200 kms. and 27 hours – varying from 5½ hours to 1½.

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¹<http://www.imm.dtu.dk/~dibj/2017/up/urban-planning.pdf>

²<http://www.imm.dtu.dk/~dibj/2017/summer/Bjorner-DinnerSpeech.pdf>



- **Kari's Days:** Kari is busy with her Patchwork & Quilt activities: designing patterns, choosing fabrics from her perhaps 3000 fabrics collection, sometimes selling some of these from her boutique, sewing by hand and quilting by machine, attending regular get-togethers of three P&Q societies, "her own": *Holte Tea & Patchwork Society*, now meeting at the local Rudersdal center, the *Green Quilters* in Lyngby, and the *Gentofte Quilters*.
She enjoys swimming, at the local, indoor pool, and, on Fridays, attends physical exercise class.
She is up at 5:30 am most mornings. Like me, takes a noon-day nap, 1 pm–2 pm, shops, cooks, takes a drink with me most afternoons, and otherwise *enjoys the bliss of a 53rd year of marriage* – so I tell her!
- **Dines' Days:** Is up at 6:30 am and goes to bed somewhere between 6:45 pm and 7:15 pm to listen to classical music. Kari joins me at around 8 pm! I check for e-mails before breakfast, then read two newspapers, Fridays three, Sundays just one. Works on scientific "stuff": experiments or paper writing a couple of hours or 3–4 in the morning, 2–3 in the afternoons, in-between reading books. This years great books have been *Heinz Schnelling's Martin Luther*, *Neil MacGregor's Germany: Memories of a Nation*, *Sørine Gotfredsen's: Free us from the Evil* (in Danish), *Kai Sørlander's: Introduction to [the] Philosophy* (in Danish), *Fjodor Dostovjevski Short Stories*, *Nicolai Gogol: Dead Souls*, and some Danish classical novels. I can warmly recommend *Neil MacGregor's* book. Sadly, neither *Gotfredsen's* nor *Sørlander's* books are translated. Somebody really ought have Kai's books translated into either German, French or English.
As a result of my latest China trip I just completed a 50+ page draft report on *A Space of Swarms of Drones*.³ I will let a colleague at IoS/CAS in Beijing ponder over it for while.
I had the great joy of seeing two of my scientific papers published this year, one in March 2017, the other (officially Jan. 2018) already appeared in print late November. But I "plod" on.
The paper I have set up on my computer, ready to think about, work out and write has the presumptuous working title *Domain Science & Engineering: An Interpretation of Kai Sørlander's Philosophy*. Dines' research focus, over the last 40 years has been on the use of precise mathematical methods (set theory, mathematical logic) for the development of large software systems. Most computer scientists handle the also very important area of computer programs, typically 30–line code.
Dines enjoys going to church on Sundays: *Sørine Gotfredsen*, *Thomas H. Beck*, *Katrine Bang Lilleør*, *Thomas Reventlow Bruun* and *Christian Fink Tolstrup*. When not attending church Dines, reads sermons, most often from collections by *Otto Andersen* and *Johannes H. Christensen*.
- **House & Garden:** After 42 years in the older part of our house and 33 years in the newer part we are having some renewals and some renovations: carpenters, electricians, plumbers and painters come and go. And the great new thing in the garden is a robot lawn mower: *Robomow*, an Israeli company! We have ordered a second one: we have two very large lawns and it's too cumbersome to have to move the one between the two at least once a week!
- Kari has made **glögg**, a type of Scandinavian mulled wine made with brandy, red wine, port wine, almonds, raisins, and spices, and I have prepared the fireplace: now, on this day, December 16, 2017, we shall open up for 2–3 weeks of Christmas and New Year's "cosyness".
- **We Wish You All a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

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³<http://www.imm.dtu.dk/~dibj/2017/summer/Swarms-and-Drones.pdf>



(1) Camilla: Rijstafel, Amsterdam. (2) Room 202 at Latemar. (3) Hotel Laurin Garden Rest., Bolzano.

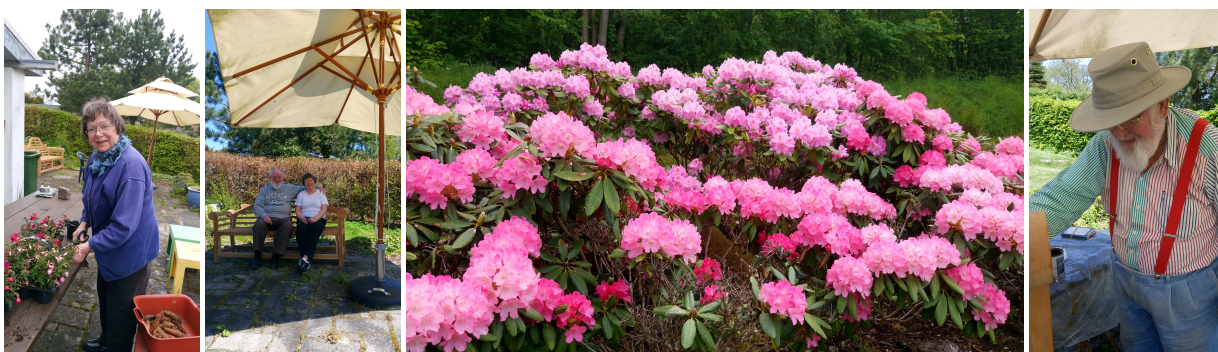


(1) Dines with Prof. Alexander Petrenko. (2–3) Bolshoi – and Hotel with Mikhail Chupilko – photo taken on the very same corner. (4) Kremlin. Dr Natalia Cheremnykh of Akademgorok took the photo of Alexander and me.

Alexander Petrenko helped translate the Tolstoy book to Russian – and provided a car with driver for Yasnaya Polyana. Mikhail saw me through 7 days – zillion THANKS.



(1–2) Italian lunch on The Red Square. (3) The Herzog retreat !



Garden life ! Dines finally got his *Lutyens Garden Bench* !



(1-2) Our 19th floor Club Lounge suite in Shanghai. (3) The *Sushi Ginza Onodera*, The Bund, Shanghai.

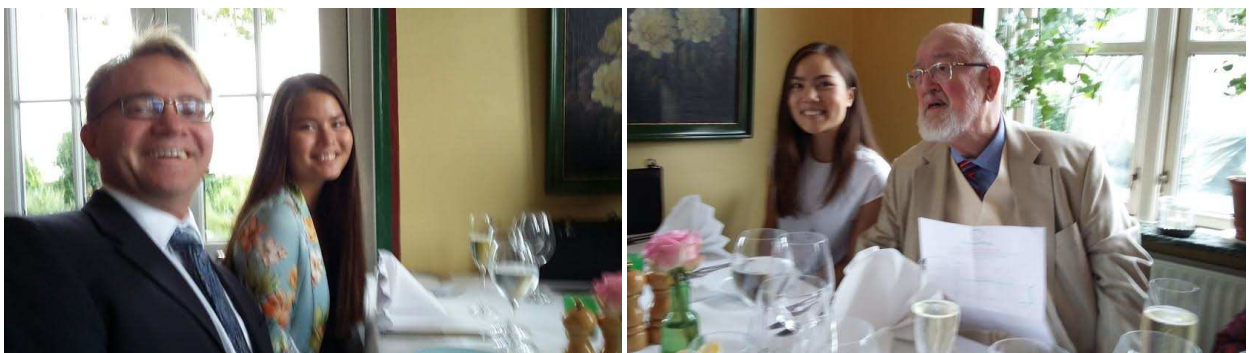


(1-2) Qi Bao, a water town within Shanghai. (3) Shanghai NanXiang Steamed Bun, Old Town.



(1) Lunch at WeiWei's mother. (2) *Guess Who!?* (3) The Münchener Siegessäule.

The Victory Arch inscription reads: DEDICATED TO VICTORY. DESTROYED BY WAR. URGING PEACE.



A grand birthday party it was: Nikolaj from Seattle, Caroline, and Camilla from Amsterdam.

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