



Dear Everybody,

**Health:** Dines underwent a major colon cancer operation, 5+ hours, July 2 this summer. Was in hospital due to various complications all of July. Started chemo therapy mid-August. It was terminated late October. No need. Is feeling very well now. Controls (X-Ray, MR scans, etc.) every half year, starting February next – till 2018 !

**Charlotte's Family:**<sup>1</sup> Wei Wei commutes to China regularly for theatre performances (this year included a play by Jean Paul Sartre), TV series and films. He often helps us with the garden: cutting hedges, mowing lawns, cleaning the gutters, etc. Camilla is now 18, just passed her driver's license test last week, preparing for senior high school final examinations. Plays trombone in her high school band, has a boy friend, etc. Caroline is 14. She too is blossoming: soon masters Web page design, is concert master in the local community's all-girls parade-band: The Vedbæk Guard. Charlotte (46) seems to have the time of her life: a nice husband – we think – two beautiful, clever girls and a good job. She sings in a gospel choir, exercises Yoga and also in a fitness center, etc. Right now, as I type this, Wei Wei is en route to Peking – back again in 6 days. His theatre pays his trip this time. They are to stage the *War Horse* next year – and the actors are to meet the British instructor of the London play.

**Nikolaj's Family:**<sup>2</sup> Marianne (17) is also in her last year before graduation from senior high. Spent 2+ months this summer in a sophomore-like intern course at Stanford – while the rest of the family were in Denmark, and Nikolaj also in Vienna. Yes, they came in the afternoon, late June, when Dines had just been told of the tumors. They visited me at the hospital. It was wonderful to see them: Jakob (12), Katrine (14) and Bodil. Nikolaj (44) travels the world: must have been around the globe at least twice this year. He is often in Europe. Dines' colleagues North and South, East and West, sends him e-mails extolling Nikolaj's scientific virtues. Right now Nikolaj is "on tour": Seattle – Tokyo – Tunis – London – Seattle, 2 weeks, home Dec. 13/14.

Kari (now 71) is busy, very busy, with the P&Q (patchwork and quilts). Right now she is quilting a large patchwork for a lady friend in Geneva, Switzerland. At her last exhibition she got an order from a local lady to make a 150 cm by 220 cm P&Q. Takes a year and "costs a fortune". She has had two exhibitions this year, one in March and one in November. Dines is compiling a "compendium", a list, of all her works &c. – see [www.imm.dtu.dk/~dibj/Kari/oeuvre.pdf](http://www.imm.dtu.dk/~dibj/Kari/oeuvre.pdf). Tuesdays she either has around 10 ladies her for P&Q "small-talk", or goes to the *Green Quilters* (evenings) in nearby Lyngby, or to the *Gentofte Quilters* (afternoons), in also nearby Gentofte. Friday mornings Kari does calisthenics in the nearby Rudersdal sports center.

Dines (now 77) has his day cut out: up around 6:30 am, checking for e-mails. Leisurely breakfast with Kari. Then reading the main newspaper, Berlingske. The rest of the day alternating between reading a novel – has read Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov*, *The Idiot* and is now reading *Rodion Raskolnikov (Crime and Punishment)* – all of these for the second or third times in 60 years. This year's wonderful discovery were the philosophy books by Kai Sørlander: he is deep and great, unfortunately – for some of you – not translated into English. Working on Kari's 'oeuvre', or on a scientific paper (just completed [www.imm.dtu.dk/~dibj/domains/daad-p.pdf](http://www.imm.dtu.dk/~dibj/domains/daad-p.pdf)), or reads Kristeligt Dagblad, the best newspaper for debates etc., or – as now – on this Christmas letter. Goes to bed at 18:30–19:00: listens to classic music till around 20:00–21:00 – when Kari joins him !

**Travels:** Dines was 5 days in New York, late February, for the last of four yearly meetings of an ACM Infosys Awards committee. Again had dinner with Karen Backus and Alan Goldberg – 4th time – I shall miss seeing them next February.

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**Dines Bjørner**

Fredsvej 11  
DK-2840 Holte  
Danmark

[bjorner@gmail.com](mailto:bjorner@gmail.com)

+45-45 42 21 41

<http://www.imm.dtu.dk/~dibj>

Prof. Emeritus, PhD, Dr.h.c., MAE, MRANS [AB], ACM Fellow, IEEE Fellow, ATV Fellow

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<sup>1</sup> Charlotte's family lives in Trørød, 6–7 kms. from where we live. Charlotte manages Asia House (<http://www.asia-house.dk/en/>) also see [http://youtu.be/rwr\\_5s-osxo](http://youtu.be/rwr_5s-osxo)). Wei Wei acts at the National Drama Theatre of China, and also in movies and in TV series.

<sup>2</sup> Nikolaj is at Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA, USA – near Seattle. They live in nearby Woodinville.



Then 8 days, mid April, in **Japan**: **Kanazawa** and **Tokyo**, for Prof. **Futatsugi**'s Fest. Dr. **Ogata** helped Dines, in both cities, to buy P&Q fabrics for Kari. **Kari** and **Dines** went to **Singapore** for two weeks, first half of May, Prof. **Jin Song Dong** had helped with a free, lovely apartment at the NUS's Kent Vale apartments. Kari shopped for fabrics, Dines bought a new laptop and had Prof. **Hugh Anderson** install the Ubuntu software on it. Dines gave two lectures in Singapore. Kari had a dress plus a jacket tailored in beautiful, coarsely woven Indian silk, and Dines a white linen suit plus 4 linen shirts plus a vest in same fabric as Kari's dress. We parted in the airport, **Kari** to return home, and **Dines** to go for another two weeks, now to **Australia**. First 4 days with two lectures in **Sydney** – where Dines saw and heard Dame Kiri Te Kanawa sing (a recital) at the Sydney Opera House: pathetic! Dines also bought opals for Kari: earrings, pendant and a ring – all set with stones. **Vladas Leonas** came by the hotel for a chat. His wife, **Irina**, is very ill, sadly. Then 3 days in the **Blue Mountains** hosted by **Paul** and **Carolyn Clarke**. Paul and Dines knew each other from reciprocal high school class exchanges in 1954–1955, Paul then lived in Mansfield Woodhouse, the Midlands, England. After almost 60 years we saw each other again. A highlight of the year. Then a week in **Melbourne**, saw Prof. **Harald Søndergaard** and gave four lectures. Saw Ibsen's *Ghosts* played very convincingly. Four great trips – and then the cancer operation etc.

**House & Garden:** We enjoy our house and garden. Kari's work spreads over three rooms + occasionally also the dining room. She has taken over mowing the lawns with her electric mower! Winter time afternoons are marked by a long cocktail hour in front of a "roaring" fireplace!

All the very best wishes for 2015 and a Merry & Happy Christmas!



— we missed **Marianne**!

