

Our daughter Hillary, who lives in Brooklyn and is Editor-in-Chief of *Slate* magazine married Stefan Liebich, a German national, former Bundestag member, and Director of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation on April 13th of this year.

Hillary and Stefan held receptions/celebrations at Vic's in Manhattan (for their NY friends) and Berlin a week later at Zollhaus Pankow (for their German friends). Both events were well attended and had great food and social interaction.

MANHATTAN



Hillary & Stefan



Iris, Hillary, & Jim

BERLIN

We told Hillary that we would come to Berlin if our health permitted, which it did. We spent 4 nights there. On the 1st and 2nd days, we toured the city via the Hop-On Hop-Off bus, stopping at points of interest. On the 2nd evening, we celebrated Hillary's birthday at Borchartt (Stefan described their schnitzels as being the size of Austria). On day 3, Stefan drove us around the old GDR (where he grew up) and saw Checkpoint Charlie, remnants of the Berlin Wall, and the Brandenburg Gate culminating in private tour of the Bundestag by Stefan (where he served as a member for 20 years). We then had dinner at Zur letzten Instanz (the oldest restaurant in Berlin - 1619) with Stefan's parents, Heidi and Achim, and the newlyweds.





Stefan was our translator at dinner as his parents spoke little English and we spoke a bit of German. However, beyond words, other gestures (hugs et al.) proved to be a good communication vehicle. Heidi and Achim are as pleased with their new daughter-in-law as we are with Stefan. The next day was spent at their reception/celebration.



Dining with the newlyweds' families and friends



We joined Stefan's extended family for a group picture

PRAGUE

On the following morning, we travelled to Prague via high-speed train for 4 nights and thoroughly enjoyed the city (ranking with Iceland and Portugal as the best places we have visited). Great DISTICTIVE architecture, excellent food, and a massive Prague Castle complex.



Prague Castle



Old Town



A Prague Castle Chapel



Wenceslas Square

THE NETHERLANDS

Then off to Amsterdam, where we celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary. While in the Netherlands, we: toured Amsterdam by walking and taking canal cruises; visited Bruges, Belgium for a day; and closed our trip with a bus & boat tour that stopped in: Zaan Schans to visit a sawmill that was powered by a working windmill; Marken to witness the making of a wooden shoe; Edam, where we saw how cheese was made and sampling 60 varieties of Gouda; and then a boat trip to Volendam, a charming waterside side small town.





Zaan Schans



Volendam with our guide Charlotte

BRUGES, BELGIUM



All in all, a great trip that reinforced our ability to plan a self-directed trip and do a lot of walking despite our age, so we'll be off to somewhere in Europe next year.