

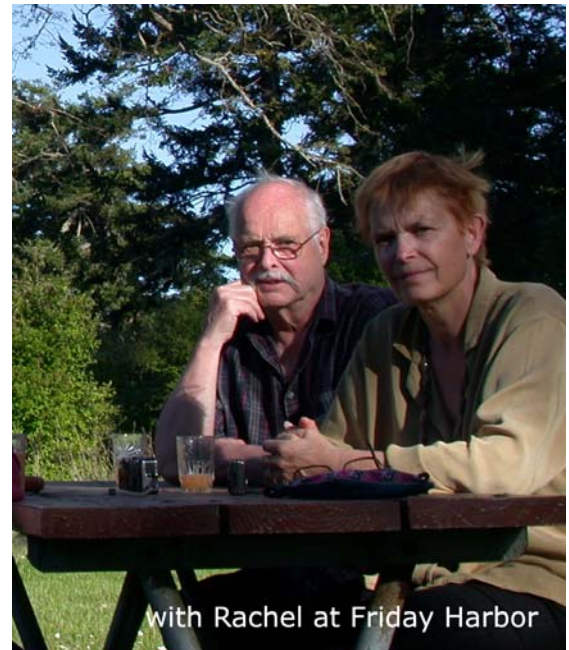
*2173 Tryon Rd, North Saanich, BC, V8L 5H6, Canada  
December 2012*

Dear Friends,

We haven't been to Europe this year although we nearly did! Tempted by an Air Canada seat sale, we bought tickets to Rome and planned to tour Puglia and/or Sicily in September and October but in the end we decided to postpone foreign travel till next year, and we now plan on a trip to England next April. We did spend six weeks at the Friday Harbor Labs in May and June, and George continued his collaboration with long standing friend and work partner Bob Meech. We had visits there from several family members as these pictures show.



Al, observed by Kjerstin, taking closeups of forest microfauna



with Rachel at Friday Harbor

Al is a very accomplished photographer by the way and has a blog where he posts new pictures almost every day.



Rachel too takes beautiful photos of wildlife and flowers.

While we were there at Friday Harbor a deer gave birth right beside our front door. The fawn was there curled up by the door step. After a while it got up and found its mother.

There are always lots of deer on the UW campus as it is a wildlife preserve.

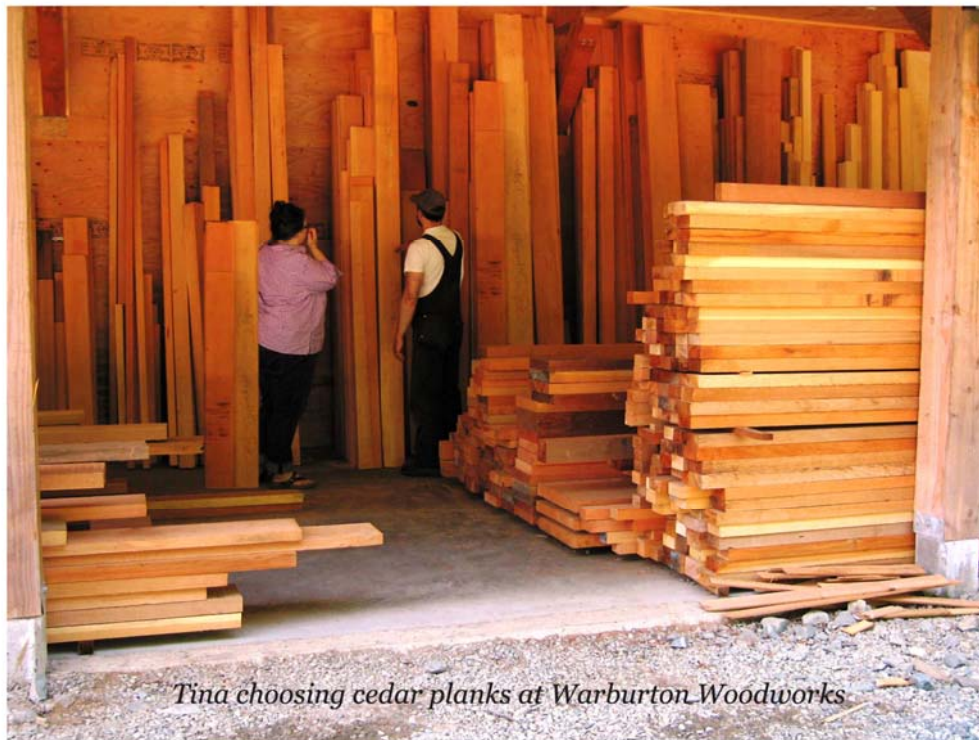


One of Rachel's hummingbird pics.



waiting for the ferry to go back to Canada

Back at home again, we had a visit from Christina who had a show coming up in Vancouver in September. Tina wanted to get big, long cedar planks for one of her pieces and had located a place out at Sooke where they still dealt exclusively with cedar. The saw mill was a fabulous place with everything from huge logs trucked in from the forest to



*Tina choosing cedar planks at Warburton Woodworks*

richly coloured milled lumber of every dimension, stacked in drying sheds. Tina managed to get what she wanted and had them shipped over to the gallery in Vancouver where she lap-jointed and fitted them together herself.

Richard and Susan are well settled into their new home in Vancouver. Richard is busy teaching and working as associate editor of B.C. Studies. He is also interviewing and preparing biographies of distinguished alumni of the UBC Faculty of Law.

Sue's book *All Roads lead to Wells - Stories of the Hippie Days* came out in July and has been a big hit.

We have had several very nice visits from Quentin, Cathy and their little daughter Claire, our youngest (and arguably most talkative!) grandchild.



In August, Quentin drove north to Prince Rupert to attend a business meeting in Old Massett, followed on Aug. 12 by a potlatch ceremony (at which he spoke) marking his friend

Allan Davidson's installation as Chief Skil Hiilans of the Clan St'langng Laanas. Allan now joins the Council of Potlatched Hereditary Chiefs of the Haida Nation. Alexander, Kjerstin and Christina also attended the potlatch, an amazing and colourful event vividly captured in photos in one of Al's albums on facebook. Gillian and I were privileged to meet Allan when he and his wife Tamara came to see Tina's show in Vancouver.

George has been having fun photoshopping his friends as historical figures. Here is Rachel as Simonetta Vespucci. He has also written "Life at Packhorse Farm", see <http://web.uvic.ca/~mackie>



Gillian, seen here through the window of her study where she has spent so many hours writing about art history, has now edited a bunch of letters she wrote from Belgrade describing her life as a student in Tito's Yugoslavia in the early fifties (see our web page).

It only remains to say,

*Smrt fašizmu, sloboda narodu!* And all the best for 2013,

*Love from Gillian and George Mackie*

