

News from Nan

TRAVEL

WE VISIT MINNESOTA, 2015 MAY

MAY 20, 2015 | ANNA



Over Mother's Day weekend (May 9-10, 2015) and during the following week we visited the Blomquists in Shorewood, Minnesota (close to Lake Minnetonka). We love their house and neighborhood, which is filled with ponds and trees. And the two kids and four pets provided us with a lively time, with activities as varied as walks and runs by the lake, dinner in Excelsior, and community shredding events.

The kids are still in school, so one of our pleasures was walking with them to the bus stop in the morning and back again in the afternoon (fond memories of riding the school bus in our youth!). A school-related activity was the family running club, which was "choreographed" by one of the PE teachers. In addition, Archer had a soccer game and Helena had a Girl Scout meeting and a piano recital. How lucky we are to have seen all these activities in a single visit!

Helena's piano recital deserves special mention. Today I told her cousin Miranda that Helena reminds me of Miranda's playing: confident and precise. It seems that Helena has both art and music in her genes!

Click the arrow to start the video.

Helena Piano Recital



We rented a car at the airport so we could drive ourselves (and the kids) around a bit on our own. Archer showed his geographic skill by giving us accurate directions to the Excelsior ice cream parlor; unfortunately, we didn't listen to him and got a bit lost. Silly grandparents! Archer, next time we'll listen to you! The picture below is Dick at the art museum, which we visited on our own.



Dick at MIA

When we visit our families we always enjoy doing a little project in the house or garden. This time it was painting in the basement and gardening, which involved spreading mulch by the house and planting of flower boxes, which we managed to finish even though we had to dodge the rain.

The Blomquists love their pets (two dogs and two cats), and we also love our grandpets (six in total!). The dogs really hate to be left out of a run, walk, or short trip to the bus stop.

Now here's the sad thing: Our beloved Mud died just a few hours after we left for the airport on Sunday. Even though we knew he had a cancerous tumor it was a dark day for all of us. But we're so glad he had

the spunk and drive to continue to walk and even run with us right up until the end. What a trooper he was! Thank goodness for memories!



RIP Mud (Photo courtesy of Mike)

◀ 2015 ◀ ARIZONA ◀ BLOMQUIST ◀ GARDENING ◀ JOHNSON ◀ MINNESOTA ◀ MOTHER'S DAY ◀ PET
◀ PHOENIX ◀ RUNNING ◀ SHOREWOOD ◀ VAN RAAPHORST