



Dear Family, Friends, Colleagues, Acquaintances, ...

This letter was composed by Dines

- **We Wish You All a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !**
- **This year, 2019**, brought Kari and I many happy and memorable moments. We “suffer” the ailments of “old age” – but feel blessed.
- **Charlotte’s Family** [Ellesvinget 147, DK-2950 Vedbæk, Denmark] is doing well. They live 9 kms. from us. Camilla spent most of this year in Vancouver, Canada. Caroline graduated from senior high and is taking a year as “girl Friday/piccolo” at PWC. **Charlotte** now sings in the *Niels Borksand Choir* [<http://borksand.com>]. We heard her in Mozart’s Requiem and Händel’s Messiah in October, resp. December. **WeiWei** 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>].
- **Nikolaj’s Family** [13337 NE 186th Ave., Woodinville, 98073-6309 Washington, USA] is also doing well. **Nikolaj** 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. In Sept. he (and his Brazilian Microsoft Research colleague, Leonardo de Moura) received this year’s Herbrand Award [<https://www.cadeinc.org/Herbrand-Award>]. Nikolaj’s mother is very proud, and Dines – to tears. **Bodil** is the anchor of that family. **Marianne** got her B.Sc. in microbiology this summer from Univ. of Washington, in Seattle. **Katrine**, after a year at Univ. of Calif., San Diego, now studies at NYU, New York: Mathematics – with some classes also in Law and French. Yes, the real thing: a proper Liberal Arts education. She came to visit us here Nov.27-Dec.1. **Jakob** has half a year to go before graduation. Presently he has submitted applications to study at either of a number of science & technology-oriented US universities.
- Kari and Dines were on **three European trips** this year:
 - **Lugano, Switzerland and Milano, Italy – 12–18 May**. Dines gave talks at Università della Svizzera Italiana (Prof. Mauro Pezze), Lugano and Politecnico di Milano (Prof. Dino Mandrioli) – and we had time for some sightseeing. Dines enjoyed talking with PhD students and post-docs. We enjoyed the Heinrich Heine museum in Lugano [<http://hessemontagno1a.ch>]. It was a first for Lugano, and an n th, with n around 8–10, for Milano. We stayed at great hotels, lunched and dined at cozy restaurants, and, in Milano, spent two times with WeiWei’s brother’s daughter, TingTing, who studies design at the Politecnico – after a year in Sienna learning Italian. With her we sailed the Canals of Milan.
 - **Uppsala, Stockholm and St.Petersburg and Novgorod Veliky, Russia – 8–16 September**. Dines gave talks at Uppsala Univ. (Prof. Wang Yi), and at a workshop/conference in Novgorod Veliky (200+ kms. south/south-west of Sct.P.), possibly Russia’s oldest town! Travel and hotels in Russia courtesy the Russian Academy of Sciences (Prof. Arutyun Avetisyan): in Sct. Petersburg we stayed at Belmond Grand Hotel Europe – the place to stay. Had classic suites, caviar dinner, etc. We sailed the canals in connection with an on/off bus tour. At the Novgorod event Prof. Efrim Grinkrug [http://leonid_ilyukhin.artstation.com, 3rd painting] gave Dines a beautiful drawing by his son, of a Moscow church: Tserkov’ Zachatiia Anny [<http://instagram.com/p/BkgG907Bu0B>]. Now it is framed by one of Copenhagen’s best frame makers.
 - **Paris: 1–6 October**. Flew in, in time for lunch at Benoit, around the corner from our hotel. Had great lunches and dinners. Went to two café de chansons – at one of these an artist made a sketch of Dines ¹. Sailed the canals of east/north-east Paris. Dines 82nd birthday lunch at Le Grand Vefour, planned dinner with Klaus Havelund at La Coupole (but Dines had to give up, after a minor “seize”), but lunch and dinner next day with KH went well.

You can follow these three trips at: <http://www.imm.dtu.dk/~dibj/2019/year2019/>

Kari ♥ Dines Bjørner

Fredsvej 11
DK-2840 Holte
Danmark

kari.skallerud.bjorner@gmail.com, bjorner@gmail.com

+45–40 12 35 17, +45–40 12 38 04

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

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

¹last in 6th row of photos: <http://www.imm.dtu.dk/~dibj/2019/year2019/node30.html>



- **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 two P&Q societies, "her own": *Holte Tea & Patchwork Society*, now meeting at the local Rudersdal center, and the *Green Quilters* in Lyngby. From our Paris trip in October she brought home some two dozen P&Q fabrics and I brought home some soft Madras cotton fabric [<http://www.imm.dtu.dk/~dibj/2019/year2019/node32.html>: first row, last pattern] from which she sewed me a night pajama! 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 55th 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 9 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 2–3 in the morning, 1–2 in the afternoons, in-between reading books. I had the great joy of seeing one of my scientific papers published this year, in March 2019. The paper *Domain Science & Engineering: A Philosophy Basis*, was submitted in October. With Klaus Havelund a paper of ours was submitted early September. Cross-your-fingers! Dines enjoys going to church on Sundays: *Thomas H. Beck* and *Christian Fink Tolstrup*. When not attending church Dines, reads sermons, most often from the collection by *Johannes H. Christensen*. Dines still read many books: novels, history, philosophy, thrillers, etc.
- **House & Garden:** We enjoy the garden. Especially in May–June when the rhododendrons are blooming. See [<http://www.imm.dtu.dk/~dibj/2019/year2019/node15.html>].
- **Reminiscing:** This year's Christmas letter was written, mainly, on Tuesday 17 December: the 80th anniversary of Dines' baptism, Sunday 17. December 1939, in Ths. Kingo's Church, Odense. I was born on October 4, 1937, with a rather life-threatening cleft palate and cleft lip. So I was given the name Dines that day (in the presence of my parents and 21 of my fathers high school students²), then ambulated (by car, three propeller Fokker aircraft and car) to Copenhagen for urgent surgery. So when I was 2 years, 2 months, 2 weeks minus one day old, I walked up the aisle and was properly christened – and have enjoyed that ever since, and with increasing happiness, for now 80 years!

I, Dines, increasingly often find myself, sitting in my comfortable armchair, thinking of nothing, for minutes on end! Or, maybe I am thinking. Reflecting on 55 years with Kari, with a family of 11 of us; on daily life here, on travels abroad, since 1949, 2 years in Stockholm, 7+ years in California, 2 years in Vienna, 5 (Macau) + 1 (Singapore) + 1 (Kanazawa, Japan) years in The Far East, well over 60 times in and out of China, similar for Japan, 18 times in and out of USSR/Russia, 5 times in Australia/NZ, 8 times, between 1972 and 2000, in South America, etc., etc. I often find myself reminiscing street scenes, cafe's, etc., probably around a 100 cities on 5 continents – often longing back.

One-by-one old family, friends and colleagues pass away. We have attended four funerals this year and had to cancel two further attendances.

We hope to be able to visit Vienna in the new year – it seems as if we spent a lifetime in Wien. And the US West Coast: Nikolaj turns 50 on March 28, 2020. Maybe.

Every evening I listen to classical music. In the summer, from 4–5 dozen places around Denmark: summer festivals. What an amazing fact: Young, and now not so young people, playing or singing. Men and women who have trained, indefatigably, musical instrument or voice since early childhood. Forsaken the toothless "fun" most young people today waste their youth on. To finally emerge through music conservatories as professional, no doubt lowly paid musicians and singers – all to our enjoyment!

So what it is that I am trying to express in this final paragraph. It is that of an exuberant joy, a happiness and a deep gratitude for this blessed life, for its beauty, for Kari.

- **We Wish You All a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

Kari ♥

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DK-2840 Holte
Danmark

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²He and they had been on a bus outing to see the new Lillebelt bridge – some 30 miles to the west.