

Louise Hainline

From: Louise Hainline
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2010 10:16 AM
To: Christoph M. Kimmich
Cc: Micha Tomkiewicz
Subject: RE: Happy holidays
Attachments: bramhall30.gif

That's what I expected, and given the terrible circumstances on the streets here, you're better off in NJ. The Mayor has really outdone himself in hubris. Almost Shakespearean, except Bloomberg is much more sarcastic than any of Shakespeare's tragic heroes. In any event, it really helps our cause on the bike lane. Have attached a cartoon from the Daily News that says it all.

Happy new year – looking forward to your becoming a Park Sloper.

Louise and Micha

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From: Christoph M. Kimmich
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2010 9:46 AM
To: Louise Hainline
Subject: RE: Happy holidays

We would love to take up your invitation for New Year's ... next year (when we can stagger home on foot). Many thanks for extending it.

And a Happy New Year to you both.

(P.S. I was afraid that the deanship responsibilities were going to spill over into spring and keep you from taking time to renew and refresh. I can understand your reasoning and appreciate your loyalty to the College -- but at some point you have to say no, no more.)

From: Louise Hainline
Sent: Fri 12/24/2010 6:54 PM
To: Christoph M. Kimmich
Subject: RE: Happy holidays

I am really happy that your renovation is coming along well. Is it coming out as you'd anticipated? Flora had a very clear vision of what she wanted, and that is really important.

I certainly will take your (most uncommon) experience with both architect and contractors into account if we decide to do any more work here. Last time was so difficult, I swore never again, but of course, things get old and eventually need

more than just minor fixes. I personally hated the “pick things” stage of renovation, but it is a sign of progress. Hope you and Flora take to it better than I did. Micha never was interested, but you know him well enough to know that’s not unexpected. I hope things continue to go well. It certainly is a lot of work, but you’re probably right to say on top of it – in fact, that’s probably why it’s not taken any wrong turns. So we will look forward to your eventual arrival. Though there is still a lot for you to do, I’m sure the worst is behind you.

The bike lane effort has been really engaging in both time and energy, but I’m learning that I am glad I never went into anything smacking of real (as opposed to academic) politics. Iris had been working behind the scenes until the election, but with Chuck now making good progress in the Senate battles, she’s apparently decided to throw caution to the wind and come out from behind the scenes. The Times letter is the mark of her public engagement with the issue. Norman Steisel is like no one I’ve ever met, but clearly very experienced politically. I’m the data geek and technology guru in measuring the bike lane usage and I write a lot of the early drafts of things that then are then critiqued and polished. I also organize meetings, mailings, etc, which I didn’t really know that others can’t do that well sometimes.

Iris and Norman have been meeting with City Council people privately, particularly Jimmy Vacca who doesn’t like the lanes and is the chairperson of the City Council Transportation Committee. Several of us (not including Iris) met with Brad Lander and Steve Levin, both on CC. Lander was on CB6 when they created the plans for this bike lane, and made it clear in our meeting that he doesn’t really see anything that will change his mind, even higher rates of accidents, as long as it slows traffic down, as he believes thereby he is averting a fatality. The fact that there has not been a fatal traffic accident on PPW for at least 12 years, and probably longer at whatever speeds the traffic has been going seems not to have much traction with him. I think we’re giving up on him, but Stephen Levin is a protégée of Vito Lopez, who if you are reading the papers is in some hot water, so Levin’s looking for some god father, and may want Vacca or Schumer to protect him, maybe both. He’s our CC; on PPW, the split is at 5th St., so we’ve decided to see if we can get anything out of him, though he’s junior and not seen as potent as a result of the Lopez situation. DOT is lying through their teeth about the before/after data on the lane, and mercifully, there is beginning to be more reaction around the city to her methods of shoving these down neighborhood throats. To think I used to worry about getting curriculum matters through Faculty Council!

I had originally planned to take my substantial back vacation time this spring, but as it’s developing, there is no way I can leave before the end of June. The Dean searches are proceeding apace, and I think it’s a good move for us at this historical point, but there has been virtually no planning of how the portfolios of Donna, Jerry and me are going to be reconfigured and reassigned. Karen has a lot of balls in the air, and Bill has been kept pretty busy, so I don’t blame him for this, but it’s still going to be chaotic until it all settles in. I think that’s going to take at least a year or more before the new systems are really working. I’m the only one whose portfolio is disappearing into who know what when this occurs, and while there is a lot of work to both of graduate and research, maybe people don’t realize how much we do. Whatever, I’ll do what I can until June, and then it will be someone else’s. What exactly will happen then is anyone’s guess. No one seems to be thinking about my transition back to normal faculty status, but I can’t blame them for that. There is just too much going on at the moment. But without whining, I’m ready to leave what’s left of the job – Bill hasn’t used me for the kinds of more creative things I did under you and Roberta, so I’m mostly finding lab spaces for new faculty, getting the spaces renovated, and helping the faculty get their start-up equipment. I am also finishing the renovation of the greenhouse, and of course, have taken on the BC garden because I couldn’t stand to see how much of a PR mess it had become. Things are quiet, I’m on good terms with the former community gardeners, and we’re developing a working relationship with the BBG, and have about 100 members on our mailing list, including students, faculty, staff, and some of the old timers. I know the graduate part so well it’s hardly work, but I did get to go to Federal court for the first time this year for a student who claimed he was racially discriminated against for a number of specious reasons, one being that he wasn’t allowed to count a Phys Ed course on sports law for a masters in social studies teacher. You can’t make this stuff up...

Thanks for your good wishes. We reciprocate with our own wishes for a happy holiday and a smooth transition into 35 PPW in the near future. If you are free on New Year’s Eve and in Brooklyn, please consider coming for dinner and fireworks at our place, starting about 9. The fireworks are spectacular from the Longmeadow.

Louise

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From: Christoph M. Kimmich
Sent: Friday, December 24, 2010 6:12 PM
To: Louise Hainline
Subject: RE: Happy holidays

Louise --

We're getting there. Most of our time is devoted now to selecting colors, fixtures, lighting – that is, the kinds of items that suggest we're getting close to the end. The contractor thinks mid-January or, at most, the end of January. Then, of course, we have all the moving-in to do, and we expect that will take some months. Our furniture from Westminster Road is in storage; boxes upon boxes of furnishings are here in Cranbury; and then there are things we will have to acquire (beds, for one). Throughout, progress has been steady, and we've had no more than a minor glitch or two. The contractor has only one or two other projects, and he can therefore send his entire crew (plus himself) to work at 35 PPW. But he's got prospects early next year, so he, too, is eager to finish. The other nice thing is that we are getting very good work from him, as from our architect (who supervises everything closely).

The renovation meant that we needed to be here, and that's what we've done. No trips anywhere – even Scotland (the first time in 20 some years that we've not made the trip). But once we're settled we'll make up for it.

We read and thank you for your very good letter in *The Times* yesterday. Every time we go to PPW, we shudder at what the bike path has done to the street. Let's hope that this particular abomination can be reversed.

If memory serves, you will be leaving the deanship come spring semester. I hope it hasn't been all hardship and misery. I, for one, valued your ideas on what could and should be done and your energetic approach to implementing them. The College was (and is) the better for it.

To both of you, best wishes for the holiday season and for the New Year.

Christoph & Flora

-----Original Message-----

From: Louise Hainline
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2010 3:00 PM
To: Christoph M. Kimmich
Subject: Happy holidays

Margaret Faciano asked me at one of the Christmas parties whether you had moved to PPW yet, and I realized it's been some time since we heard from you about the reno and life in general. How are things going? What's the estimated completion date? The schedules have a tendency to creep, I know, but hopefully, no major issues or problems and things are moving apace.

Hope you're not traveling on the continent – frightful things over there. We'd thought about trying to catch some theater in London but fortunately decided to stay home this holiday. Best to you and Flora, whether in NJ or NY.

Louise and Micha

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