

Josephine Maria Riss Fang

95th Birthday Celebration



FOREWORD

On April 1, 2017, the Fang family celebrated their mother/grandmother's 95th birthday with a banquet at Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Sudbury, Massachusetts. 97 people joined in the celebration. I gave a brief talk illustrated with a couple of dozen photographs, Peter Fang gave a slide show; and Josephine talked for 15 minutes. In addition there were toasts given by David Fang and Frank Fang, and numerous birthday greetings by various attendees, including Anna Fang, the emcee for the event. This booklet gives an edited version of the two talks. The slide show and video of the talks can be seen on youtube.com.

The cover photo of Josephine, as well as the group photos toward the end of this booklet, were taken by Paige Gilbert. The color photos of houses in Washington D.C. came from Google Maps. Other photos were taken by Maria Fang and Nancy Rosi.

Jim Crawford

April 3, 2017



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Age 0-30: "Sefi", the Austrian girl who survived the War, came to America and married a man from China.

Age 30-60: "Mom", who had 10 children in 13 years, and raised them while being a Professor of Library Science.

Age 60-90: "Oma", grandmother to 18 grandchildren.

Age 90-120: "Ur-oma", great-grandmother to one and counting.



Speech given by Jim Crawford

First, I want to make sure everybody knows about my web site “www.craw.us”. If you go there and click on the link for the Fang Family, you will find all sorts of interesting things about the Fangs, including my booklet on the 90th Birthday Celebration, and soon speeches and photos and video of this 95th Birthday Celebration. Today I will try to not repeat what I said 5 years ago and give you some new tidbits of Josephine's life, in particular the houses she has lived in.



Grist mill next to Longfellow's Wayside Inn on April 1, 2017



Josephine and Paul Fang - March 31, 1951

I'm starting this talk 30 years into Josephine's life, in 1950 when she received a one-year fellowship to come to the U.S. to study at Catholic University. In the same month that Josephine arrived at Catholic U., another foreign student, Paul Fang, also arrived to study for his doctorate. Josephine's heart soon turned to the persistent Paul, and they were married six months later on March 31, 1951, 66 years ago yesterday. The first house they lived in was on Randolph Street.



**March 1951 – September 1951
1237 Randolph Street NE, Washington D.C.**



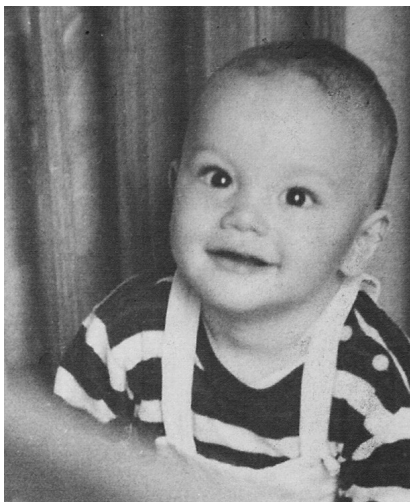
Paula - February 2, 1952

The next phase of Josephine's life started quickly, as ten months later she gave birth to Paula. In fact in the first 13 years of married life, she was pregnant 60% of the time. They were living on Evarts Street when Paula was born, in the end row-house, which bordered a cemetery.



**September 1951 – July 1952
19 Evarts Street NE, Washington D.C.**

One year later, David was born while they lived on Seventh St., once again the end row-house. Paul finished his studies and earned his Ph.D. at Catholic University. Josephine avoided deportation by always being pregnant.



David – April 1, 1953



**July 1952 – February 1954
4010 Seventh Street NE, Washington, D.C.**

The family moved for a brief three months to a house on Newton St. While there, Paul became a naturalized citizen. This photo shows the back of the house; their apartment was on the 2nd floor.



March 1954 – June 1954
1331 Newton Street NE, Washington, D.C.



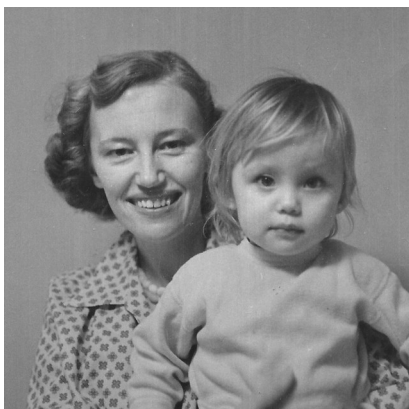
July 1954 – February 1956
Limekiln Pike, Dresher, Pennsylvania



Maria – July 22, 1954

lived with them in Dresher. This allowed Josephine to work on her thesis, and she was awarded her M.S. degree in Library Science at Catholic U. in June 1955. Shortly before leaving Dresher, Anna was born.

The family finally made a break from the Catholic University neighborhood by moving to Dresher, Pennsylvania, where Josephine became a legal resident thanks to an act of Congress on July 19, 1954. Maria was born three days later. Help came in the form of Grossmama, who



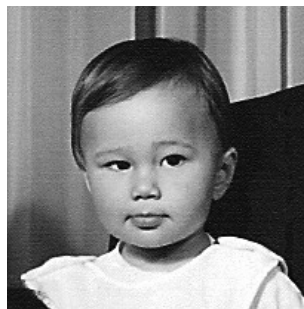
Anna – December 25, 1955



Peter – Dec. 20, 1956



John – May 13, 1958



Joseph – Sept. 7, 1959

Another year, another house, another baby. The family moved back to Washington in 1956, and lived on 12th St. for four years, while Peter, Johnny, and Joseph were born. These were the years that Josephine was really tied down by her family, and did nothing else but be a house-mother and become a naturalized citizen.

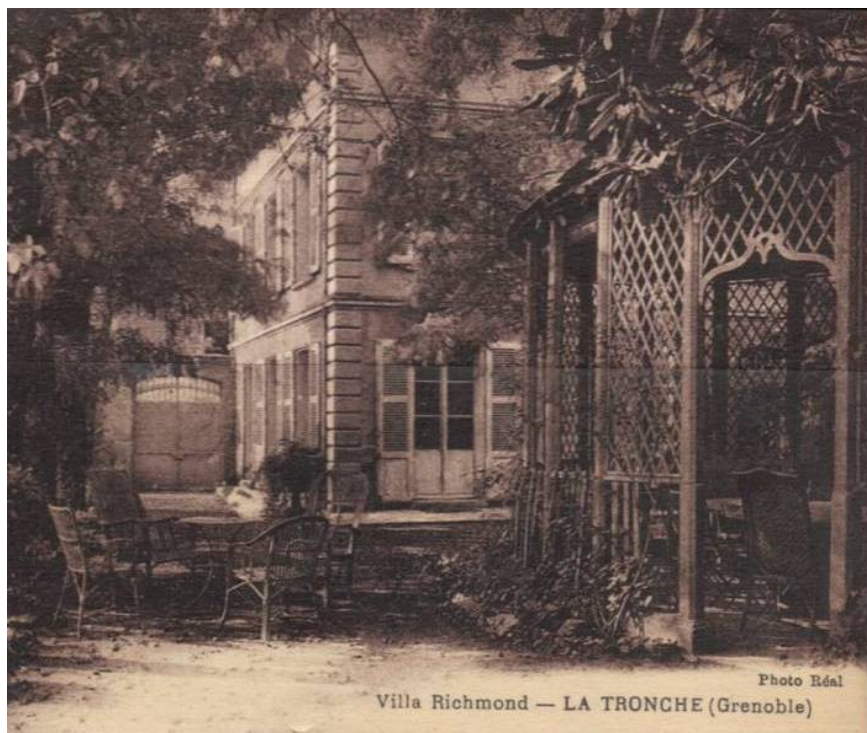


**February 1956 – June 1960
August 1961 – September 1961
5003 12th Street NE, Washington, D.C.**

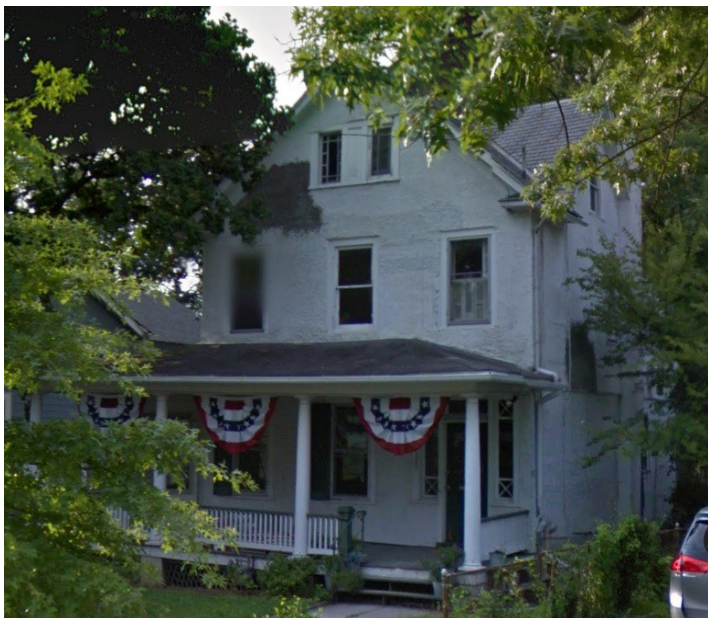
By contrast, 1960 was a wonderful year of change and excitement. In June, the family flew to Europe for a summer's visit back to Josephine's Austrian homeland, followed by the school year in Grenoble, France, where Paul was a Fellow at the Institut Fourier. Josephine, ever the academic, earned a certificate in French Language and Literature from the University of Grenoble. They returned to America by ship, and were now a family of 11, with the addition of Frank and their first au pair, Waldi. They returned to live in the same house on 12th street, but the landlord now complained that there were too many people causing excessive noise and wear-and-tear on the house, so he evicted them.



Francis – Oct 14, 1960



June 1960 – June 1961
Villa Richmond, Grenoble, France



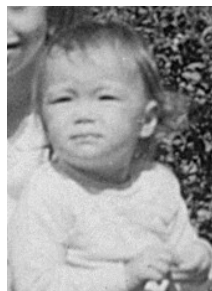
October 1961 – May 1968
1333 Lawrence Street NE, Washington D.C.

They found a larger and better place, 1333 Lawrence Street, that became home for the next 6½ years, during which Chris and Teresa were born. This was also the first house that they owned. There was a steady stream of au pairs to replace Waldi (Germany): Heli (Austria), Monika (Germany), Hildegard (Germany), Agneta (Sweden), Lucy (Taiwan), Christl (Austria), and Lucy's sister Teresa. Relieved from the burden of caring for the children during the day, Josephine went to work at a number of jobs: associate



Chris
June 28, 1962

Editor at the Catholic Library Association, Editor for the New Catholic Encyclopedia, Editor of Corpus Instrumentorum; Associate Professor at the Dept. of Library Science at Catholic University, and Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Maryland.



Teresa
May 25, 1964

1968 saw the Fang family move to Belmont, where Josephine worked for a year in the Boston College Libraries. Finally in 1969 she moved to the Graduate School of Library Science at Simmons College where she taught for over 20 years. I looked over her resume for these years of her career, and found it overwhelming. 13 monographs, 47 articles, membership in 12 different professional organizations including dozens of committees, and over a dozen honors and awards. But all I will focus on here is the trips that she made.



**May 1968 – January 2016
156 Common Street, Belmont**

From 1972 through 1991, Josephine traveled overseas every year, 39 separate trips. Her gold mine was going to the International Federation of Library Associations' (IFLA) annual conferences 21 times. This map has red crosses for the IFLA trips and purple crosses for her other trips. The IFLA trips were to

Budapest, Grenoble, Washington, Brussels, Czechoslovakia, Copenhagen, Manila, Leipzig, Montreal, Munich, Nairobi, Chicago, Tokyo, Brighton, Sydney, Paris, Stockholm, Moscow, Barcelona, and Beijing. Add to that a trip with Opa to Brazil, and she has been to every continent but Antarctica. Add also numerous conferences and meetings in Europe, and 11 total trips to China where she visited numerous universities and library associations around China, plus of course visits to the relatives in Kunming and Lijiang. I also counted a total of 17 trips to Austria, which is probably an under count. Just for fun I estimated airline mileage for these trips, and came up with 671,000 miles. Add to that all of her many trips within the US, and she has probably flown around one million miles.



Red crosses: IFLA trips – Purple crosses: other trips

International Trips

Austria	17	Japan	2
Western Europe	18	Philippines	1
Eastern Europe	6	Australia	1
Russia	1	Kenya	1
China	11	Brazil	1

over 671,000 miles!

Retirement and age hasn't slowed Josephine down much. Since her 90th Birthday, she has traveled twice to Austria, four times to Arizona, three times to Florida, three times to Colorado, and once to North Carolina, for a total of 53,400 miles. And she already has a ticket for a cruise to Bermuda in a couple of months.

Trips since 90th Birthday:

Austria	2
Arizona	4
Colorado	3
Florida	3
North Carolina	1

over 53,400 miles!



**January 2016 – Now
285 Common Street, Belmont**

Finally, she is now living in a new house, her 10th home since being married. Josephine, we all have a long way to go to catch up to you.





Speech given by Josephine Riss Fang

Dear Family and Friends,

I wish to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for coming here to celebrate my 95th Birthday! I can't express my joy and gratitude adequately to you who have come from near and far for this happy occasion.

But first I ask you to join me in a special toast to my oldest son David. Today is his birthday, the first one as a grandfather and I wish him many years of joy with his family. Here is to David!

I want to thank my family for arranging this beautiful occasion, especially my daughters and their husbands for all the work they put into this project. My family has been very good to me and I would not have reached this golden age without their care. Paula and her husband Greg have always been my medical mentors; I am thrilled that Greg is with us today, since he suffered a leg fracture when skiing. He postponed his surgery until Monday. I wish you a successful surgery and speedy recovery, Greg. David takes most competent care of my teeth, Maria keeps telephone track of me and prepares beautiful family designs, Anna is my loyal support in every respect and her husband Jim my trusted adviser, and of course Teresa and Annie live with me and watch over me. I could go on and on extolling the virtues of my children and their spouses, but each one has always treated me with kindness and consideration and I thank you for that. And thank you, Peter, for the media show! In addition, I have 18 grandchildren, in whose interesting lives I am privileged to participate and I enjoy listening to their stories. I want to thank my grandson Stephen for coming twice a week to work out with me. Thank you, Stephen. All my grandchildren are very special to me. Time does not permit to cite all their names and give details of my family. I can only say, thank you and I love you all very much.

I am also grateful for my Chinese family who traveled far to be with me today. Aiqi, Paul's cousin and her daughter Lin and granddaughter Ella, and Cliff with his wife Ying and children

Daniel, Anna and Addison. Thank you so much for coming! Last but not least, my grandnephew Dominik, who represents my Austrian relatives and is here with his wife Tabea and their children Timon, Jonah, Miriam and Aaron. My sincere thanks to all my extended family!

And you, my dear friends. Each of you has enriched my life in some way and I am deeply grateful. I cannot thank all of you by name, but I want to mention just a few who are here.

Here at my table is dear Portia Tang. Her late husband Shao-Lung was an old and dear friend of Paul, coming with him on the same boat from China. Shao-Lung's father was once governor of Yunnan Province and moved to Hong Kong when Mao-tsetung took over. Soon Portia is returning to Hong Kong to live with her daughter. All the best to you, Portia, for your new phase in life.

Dear Waldi Crawford, who was our first au pair, who traveled with us from France and made the resumption of my career possible. Waldi came from Washington, DC.

I welcome Lucy McHale, whom a mutual friend from Catholic University, Father Tou, brought from Taiwan, and who is here with her husband Dan and traveled from Virginia.

Also my friends and colleagues from Simmons College, Sherelyn Ogden, paper and book conservator, who taught in my Preservation Class at Simmons and traveled from Minnesota, and my dear friends, Assistant Dean Em Claire Knowles and Librarian Linda Watkins, who keep me up-to-date on current Simmons affairs.

Last but not least is Michelle Cloonan, the former Dean of the Library School and her husband Sid Berger, whose beautiful results of their letterpress I greatly enjoy.

I also am very close to my Austrian roots: Traude Acker, who is the president of the Austro-American Association of Boston and her husband David, who arrange great monthly programs in their Sudbury home, where also Rosmarie Scully attends. Rosmarie and I arrived on the same boat in 1950 in the USA, sponsored by the Institute of International Education, only Rosmarie had just





finished high school and I already had my Ph.D. Rosmarie is so kind to take me to these events. Thank you! My dear friend Doris Freitag is also here, who shares with me many activities, one of them is our monthly German Stammtisch, where a group of us practices our German language, as if you could ever forget your mother tongue!

We also have a small group of former colleagues who meet at my house for Tea and I welcome them here: Katherine Dibble, Christine Reynolds and her husband Jim, and Pamela Banks. Thank you for coming!

Last but not least, I belong to a great organization called "The Friends of Switzerland," which has monthly programs, both entertaining and informative and my friends David Simler and Stephen Reneault are here today. David makes my attendance possible by giving me a ride. Thank you!

Locally, I am still involved with the Belmont Public Library and sit at their Board and can attend their monthly meetings thanks to the kindness of getting a ride from Bettina Winter who is here with her husband Stephen. Thank you so much.

I could go on and on with welcoming each of you, dear friends, colleagues and former neighbors, so please forgive me for not mentioning you all by name.

The most important event for me this past year was the birth of my first great-grandchild, Killian, to my first granddaughter Ashleigh and her husband Michael Hanratty. Killian is the sweetest baby and he already shows an interest in books by loving to turn pages. What a joy he is! Thank you, Ashleigh and Michael, for this great gift!

There is no profound wisdom about my long life to share with you. God has been good to me, I am grateful for the 60 years of marriage to my husband Paul Pao-hsien before I lost him to Parkinson's six years ago. I consider our children our greatest gift and was extremely fortunate having been able to raise a family and pursue a career. For this I also have to give credit to Paul who not only supported, but encouraged me in my endeavors.

As we get older, we tend to lose those close to us and this is a fact we have to accept and cherish precious memories. Every morning, when I get up, I am filled with gratitude and joy, even when body parts ache and don't always seem to cooperate. I love listening to music, where my tastes are conservative. Reading is still a great pleasure for me and I am enjoying nature and above all, good company and a good laugh, as many of you know.

I hope you like our choice of restaurant. The Wayside Inn is a historic non-profit organization and was made famous by the great American 18th century poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, through his collection of poems, called "Tales from a Wayside Inn", in which travelers, who stayed here over night, while their horses were taken care of, exchanged stories in the form of poems! Could you imagine this nowadays? We - conversing in poetry? The Tales include the well-known poem, Paul Revere's Ride. By the way, Longfellow wanted to use as the title "The Sudbury Tales" and very reluctantly changed to the Wayside Inn only by the urging of his friends, who found the title too close to "The Canterbury Tales"! Longfellow was a worldwide beloved poet, who wrote for the masses and whose literary merits may be disputed. But he is still the only American poet whose bust is standing in the poets' corner in Westminster Abbey in London.

I recommend to you to do some further research as I did. The fallen down building was bought by Henry Ford in 1923, who restored it and also bought and brought the little Red Schoolhouse and the Grist Mill, whose products are still used in the Wayside Inn Bakery.

Finally, I thank all of you for coming and for your indulgence in my talk. I hope you are enjoying yourselves. Please speak to me, if you have not yet done so, and I do hope I will see you soon again. My sincere thanks to those of you who remembered my Scholarship Fund at Simmons. Please keep well and happy, so I can celebrate again with you in five years! God bless you all!

April 1, 2017



Prof. Dr. h.c. Mult
Klaus G. Saur
Senator e.h.

Frau Professor
Dr. Josephine Fang
München, den 21. März 2017

Liebe Josephine,

mit unseren USA-Reisen haben wir nur noch Pech. Es klappt einfach nicht. Ich hatte jetzt vor einer Woche eine sehr mühsame Rückenoperation und muss die nächsten sechs Wochen täglich hier zuhause ein Gerät benutzen und muss jeden zweiten Tag zu einer speziellen Physiotherapie. Das ist nicht der Zustand an dem man an einem Geburtstagsfest teilnehmen kann. Wir bedauern es sehr, dass wir nicht kommen können und wir gratulieren Dir von ganzem Herzen und wünschen Dir und der ganzen Familie alles erdenklich Gute!

Es ist jetzt genau 44 Jahre her, dass wir uns zum ersten Mal auf der IFLA-Konferenz in Grenoble getroffen haben. Dies war der Beginn einer wunderbaren Freundschaft, die Lilo und mir unendlich viel bedeutet. Du weißt ganz genau, mit welchen Worten ich Dich an meinem Ausstellungsstand empfangen habe und wir beide wissen ebenso genau, wo immer wir uns in der Welt getroffen haben. Es war nicht nur Boston und München, nein – es war viel, viel mehr. Einer der schönsten Aufenthalte war in Strbské Pleso, wo Du zum ersten Mal in näheren Kontakt zu Bill Welsh getreten bist.

Wir verdanken Dir unendlich viele wunderbare Treffen, hervorragende Gespräche, Anregungen und keineswegs zuletzt hervorragende Publikationen.

Alle unseren guten Wünsche sind bei Dir!

Lilo and Klaus

