

December 19, 2005

Dear friends and family,

Tra-la-la-la-la! As the days grow cold, the growing discomfiture of Congressional Republicans in the face of the Abramoff scandal warms our hearts like no candelabra or fireplace ever could. Ring-a-ling-a-ling!

Mary is now chair of the Labor and Employment section of the American Trial Lawyers' Association. She's had very active year, including several speaking engagements as well as a jury trial and several hearings. This year's most notable victory was the settlement of a case involving a safety officer at a federal prison who exposed massive environmental pollution at the prison's computer recycling plant. As of this writing, some other major cases are moving towards settlement. She has been biking around the Bay Area with her book group nearly every week, including the 100K Cinderella Classic. On a sad note, she went back to Michigan in mid-October for the funeral of Karen Hanchett, her grade school and high school friend. She got to attend the opening night party for the movie "Elizabethtown", featuring her cousin, Michael Naughton.

Nora just been accepted by the University of Arizona in Tucson. She has also applied to six campuses in the California system. She is taking a heavier load than last year. This summer she rounded out her high school courses by taking health and art classes at City College. Nora gets to "be six years old and get paid for it" by teaching Sunday school to the pre-schoolers at Or Shalom. She has developed a widening circle of friends, including those she met in her summer classes. Nora enjoyed a stint counseling in a camp for disabled children.

Bob's new job at Wells Fargo has been challenging. He's found his feet balancing the competing needs of several projects. Over the last year and a half, Bob has digitized the bulk of his vinyl and CD collections; the entire music collection now lives on a hard drive. This is perhaps an appropriate outcome for someone who has long claimed to be a music lover rather than a record or CD collector. Bob has taken several friends flying this year, but has not yet been able to set aside time and money to get an instrument rating. This Spring was his fifth trip to speak at the UML forum in Tokyo.

Travel highlights in 2005 included family visits to Michigan, Wyoming, Philadelphia, as well as Bob and Mary's trips to Burning Man and Palm Springs. We've also traveled to campuses in Arcata, Chico, Davis, Santa Cruz, and Tucson as part of Nora's college selection process. Our friends Marie, Steve and their son Jonas have become members of our family by staying at our house on weekends during their four-month sabbatical in nearby Palo Alto. We will close out 2005 in Belize with Bob's sister Gail and her daughter Kim, and Mary's sister Kathy and her husband Kim, and her daughters Paula and Patricia.

Keep in touch with us – we would love to hear from you.

With love,

Mary, Bob, and Nora  
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