

December 31, 2006

Dear friends and family,

So we're late with this letter this year. We still care about ya'll, but we've been traveling, and we've been fixing up the house a little bit, too.

Mary's client Leroy Smith got the Federal Whistleblower of the year award, and she got paid for part of the long-running USGS case. We went to South Africa for ten days with an employment law group organized by NELA stalwart Paul Tobias. Mary got to meet with representatives of local unions and government agencies. Bob got to do more tourism, including some time in Soweto. We both enjoyed Kruger Game Park and Cape Town. South Africa struck us both as a basically hopeful society. The combination of economic development and strong affirmative action may yet prevent the strife and disruption that have hobbled other countries in the region.

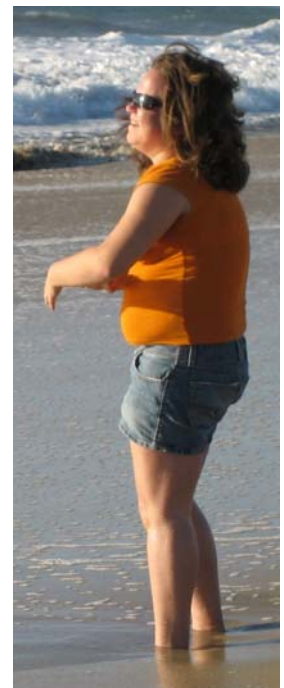
The biggest news for us the year is that Nora has graduated high school and successfully completed her first term at the University of Arizona. Her first choice college has turned out to be the right one. Nora has become active in campus organizations and easily survived her finals. She's arrived home after a two-day road trip up from Tucson with some of her new friends. Her parents, now newly hatched empty nesters, successfully placed the pet birds and gecko with welcoming families.

Family visits this year included a summertime reunion in Florida with Bob's relatives and Thanksgiving in Colorado with Mary's mom, sister Sue and brother-in-law Al.

Our friend Michael Gold died this spring. We organized a memorial service for his San Francisco friends before he was returned to New Jersey for burial. Friends and acquaintances from two decades were re-united in grief. We've arrived at a stage in life where this sort of event will be more frequent.

Bob's career again led him to multiple speaking engagements. This year's highlights included Minneapolis, Tokyo, and Toronto. Sweetest of all was the opportunity to speak in Dallas on election night and think to myself: That's *my* San Francisco Democrat and now she's *our* Speaker of the House, you red-state troglodytes!

We again enjoyed Christmas by leaving town. This time it was Cabo San Lucas, with Mary's sister Kathy and her husband Kim, and their daughters Paula and Patricia. We explored the town and enjoyed the beaches. We look forward to planning reunions on both sides of the family in 2007.



With love,

Mary, Bob, and Nora  
309 Montcalm St. San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 550-1019

Bob, [bahir@pacbell.net](mailto:bahir@pacbell.net)  
Mary, [mdryovage@igc.org](mailto:mdryovage@igc.org), [www.mdryovage.com](http://www.mdryovage.com)  
Nora, [noracarasi@aol.com](mailto:noracarasi@aol.com)