

Watson News & Views - Christmas 2006



Christmas 2006

Christmas--that magic blanket that wraps itself about us, that something so intangible that it is like a fragrance. It may weave a spell of nostalgia. Christmas may be a day of feasting, or of prayer, but always it will be a day of remembrance--a day in which we

think of everything we have ever loved.

Augusta Rundel could not have said it better! Christmas 2006 may be a bit more nostalgic, with the addition of Tony back into our lives after a twelve-year absence. For certain, we are thankful that our prayers have been answered and we hope that each and every one of you have a Merry Christmas and let's all pray for peace in the New Year.

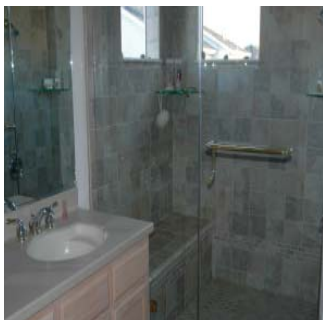
Tony Returns

My son Tony was never really gone as we have recently found out. He has been living in San Francisco, so close, but yet so far away. The separation was eliminated with a late night phone call in early November. A friend called to let us know that Tony was in San Francisco General. After about five weeks of tests, he has been diagnosed with Primary Effusion Lymphoma and is undergoing chemotherapy. While he is being treated, he is staying at Laguna Honda Hospital. We just set up an email account - if you want to say hi, he is at wolfeant@gmail.com



Tony Wolfe

We are planning a special Christmas eve celebration with him by going to dinner in the city and then attending the midnight service at Grace Cathedral. Welcome back Tony!



Our new bathroom

replaced the floor and sinks in both upstairs bathrooms. All that work was finally completed early in 2006. A couple of months into the new year, the construction bug

Home Remodel

For safety reasons, we decided late in 2005 to remodel our bathroom by taking out the huge bathtub that required a stepstool for entry. It was replaced with a huge tiled shower that only requires a minor step up and over the threshold to enter. This of course triggered

got to us again and thoughts of "filling in the hole" began to take shape. With the hard work and expertise of good friend Ted Chinn, our dream became a reality. There is no longer a hole between living and family rooms. In its place, on the living room side is a wonderful alcove for many of our mementos; on the family room side is a fabulous entertainment center where we have room for all our equipment (with no wires-that was my requirement) and a place for our video/DVD collection. Now Marston is dreaming of a new cabinet in the garage to replace the metal shelves - and I'm not objecting. While we cleaned the garage this year, everything would be much neater behind closed doors!



The living room alcove



Entertainment center



Michael and Kori

they actually flew to Washington together to meet Marston, who was attending the Grand Convent of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem. Their home while in Washington was a 47,000 sq. ft. mansion on Embassy row. Michael and Kori had their own rooms as did Marston.

The sites they selected to see in Washington included the National Air & Space Museum, the World War II monument where they saw the Battle of the Bulge commemorated, Abraham Lincoln's memorial and the Reflecting Pool with Washington's memorial in the distance, the Korean War Memorial and the Holocaust Museum. Both children were touched personally by the visit to the Holocaust Museum.

The World War II memorial was significant as Great Grandpa Joe Watson fought in the Battle of the Bulge and would never really talk about the experience as he wanted to "put it behind him".

Thanks to Michael's father, Al Amador, the trio of tourists were treated to a special tour of the Capitol building. Both Michael and Kori have great memories from the special trip with their Grandpa Marston.

Washington D.C.

Grandchildren, Michael Amador and Kori Segerer, accompanied Marston on a trip to Washington D. C. this summer. The kids are pictured in front of the White House. It was truly a great experience for them both because

In January of 2006, I heard that Kaiser was looking for Project Managers. After discussion with Marston, my resume was sent to a couple of contacts at Kaiser just to see if my skills might be put to good use on an interesting project. Well, the last week in April found me working on the billing team for a new product - a high deductible health plan.

The work was supposed to be for six months, but one of the key vendors working for Kaiser was not able to meet their dates and six months turned into seven and a half months. My last day on the project was just last Friday, December 15.

Kaiser was a wonderful place to work. No more than three days into the effort, I heard son-in-law Al's voice and traced it to his office, which was no more thirty feet from mine. What a small world!

I ran into many friends from my Fireman's Fund days and made new ones on the project. Everyone I worked with was professional and had patient care at the core of every decision that was made which made me very happy to be a member of Kaiser for our health care as well. Who knows? Maybe another project in 2007?

Speaking of....

While both Marston and I enjoy good health, there were a couple of interesting situations that happened in 2006 for Marston. A kidney stone required extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL). Extracorporeal means outside the body. The kidney stone experience lasted about two months until the stone parts were finally passed. Now Marston drinks Cranberry juice every day as a deterrent.

He had a better experience with cataract surgery just after Thanksgiving. He has a new prescription for his right eye that went from coke-bottle thickness to almost paper thin! He says that he is ready for the other eye - unfortunately, it is not ready yet for the surgery.

Xander Maniaci

Graduates

In June, after completing all the requirements of preschool, Xander (now 6) graduated, and within two weeks was attending Kindergarten in Patterson. It sounds unusual to be going to school in July, but not in a school system that uses the year-round program. So far, he loves school.



Xander's first day of Kindergarten

Other news of the Maniaci's: Rob now works for Ascent Media (owned by Discovery Channel) rather than being an independent consultant. He travels more, but does enjoy time working on their new homesite in Sebastopol. Dionne formed a Relay for Life team which raised over \$3600. The name of the team was "Team Better Days" after her favorite band, Goo Goo Dolls that she got to meet in person. Robbie and Trevor are both in college and doing well.



Lexie Watson



Haley Watson

Suffice it to say that we had a great time visiting with Kori, Haley, and Lexie while Jill and Erik had a great time in Hawaii.

Amador's Expanding Empire

Karen and Al Amador purchased a piece of property on Camano island in Washington where they will ultimately build a seaside cottage. The property looks out on Puget Sound where crabbing and clamming are excellent. Karen says that it reminds her of Norway.

In the meantime, however, Michael (now 12) and Sophia (now 9), enjoyed great success with soccer this year. Sophia's team, coached by father Al, went all the way to the Tournament of Champions. Michael's team did really well with great coaches and lots of fun.

Michael is nearing his 1st class rank in Boy Scouts and Sophia has moved on to Juniors from Brownies. Both Karen and Al are involved in these activities as well, when they can spare the time from their work at Table Group (Karen) and Kaiser Permanente (Al).



Sophia Amador

Editor: Kathy Watson

