

December 2006

Hello everyone,

It's been awhile since we have sent an "annual" letter, but we want you to know that we think of you often even though we're not in touch as often as we would like. We also wanted to share some photos that were taken in November when the entire family was home (and the first time *in five years* that we celebrated Thanksgiving together!).

Here is a brief synopsis of what's been happening with our family:

**Jim** has been retired for nearly four years and loves it. He plays golf at least three times a week; and when he's not playing, he's practicing at the driving range or on the putting green. He also serves as treasurer of our synagogue, as a member of the board of directors and the finance committee of the Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay, and as a board member for SpectraGenics, a company founded by his former business partner. Jim travels whenever he can; this year, it was Japan in late May / early June (with Abby), then Moscow and St. Petersburg (with Karen and Eva), and this month to India (Jim, Karen, Eva, Abby, and Rebekah).

**Eva** keeps very busy running her tutoring and test prep business ([www.preppoint.com](http://www.preppoint.com)). In addition to serving her own clients, the business places tutors with families throughout the Bay Area. The business keeps her hopping, and she has learned much in the past two years about being an entrepreneur. Eva is currently looking at condominiums and will likely purchase her first home in 2007.

**Emily** moved to San Francisco in November, where she attends the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising. She has just completed her third quarter and seems to be enjoying both Fashion Design and living in the city, as well as fixing up her apartment that is conveniently located a 10-minute bus ride from her school and Union Square.

**Abby** is a junior at Tufts University (outside of Boston) and will be living in Spain next semester. Rather than participating in a formal study-abroad program, Abby is planning her own course of study in which she hopes to become fluent in Spanish. From January through

April, Abby will study in Sevilla, Malaga, Barcelona, and Madrid. Then, she plans to travel on her own throughout Europe until the end of May. If all goes as planned, we (Jim, Karen, Rebekah and Arthur) will visit Abby in Madrid during spring break.

**Rebekah** and **Arthur** are high school seniors, which means we're in the midst of college applications right now. Rebekah is applying to schools on both coasts and one school in between, while Arthur plans to stay in the Bay Area. Both kids are looking forward to the second semester of their senior year, which should be much more relaxing and enjoyable than the current semester has been.

**Karen** keeps busy with her part-time "job" as the accountant for Eva's thriving business. She also devotes a considerable amount of time to volunteer work at our synagogue as a member of the board of directors, the finance committee, and the human resources committee. In June, Karen will complete her term on the Board and may pull back from other commitments as well in order to accommodate other interests.

Last January, Karen's dad passed away four months after being diagnosed with lung cancer. It was difficult watching his health deteriorate, but Karen was grateful that she was able to spend large amounts of time with her dad during his illness (seven trips to the East Coast between mid-September and mid-January). Karen's mother is doing well, and Karen tries to visit her (in Binghamton, NY) every few months.

That's the latest from here. We look forward to hearing from you--and seeing you, too, when travels bring you our way. We've recently redecorated our guest room to feel like a bed-and-breakfast retreat, so come and visit us when you can!

Love,  
Karen, Jim, and family