

## Christmas 2007

The years are flying by, the kids are growing up, and I find myself thinking more and more of just Kevin and I as a couple, in the retirement years. Where did the time go?

For Eric, who is a couple months shy of 18, this has been a year of firsts. Last December, he finished his training as a ski instructor at Hidden Valley, and patiently waited for snow. Once it finally got cold enough, in mid-January, he enjoyed spending every minute he could on the slopes, teaching little ones how to ski, and perfecting his own skills. I wasn't surprised when he told me he likes free-style (aerial) skiing best. He bought his own equipment at the end of the season and Kevin took him to Utah to ski real mountains over Easter.

With budget cuts to the school, the swim team was eliminated, so Eric decided to join the drama club, turns out he has a wonderful deep bass voice, and we were all thoroughly entertained throughout the spring with Eric doing the voice of Audrey II, the carnivorous plant from Little Shop of Horrors. And of course I got involved when Eric enthusiastically told everyone in the drama club how well I could sew.



continue his education locally, at the community college, and try to find a direction. It has made the whole college process very painless.



June was a busy month for Brianna, she was confirmed at the Lincoln Park First Reformed Church, then she graduated from Middle School, winning a number of academic and science awards, including the President's Education Award for outstanding academic excellence, an Honorable Mention for the 2007 Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision competition, and the Kerri Memorial Science Award.

Bri spent much of the summer away at Girl Scout Camp. She loves the camp, each week having the opportunity to meet new girls her age, and is hoping to eventually become a counselor.

Bri started High School jumping in head first. Having an older brother, who is a senior, has been at times an asset and at times a liability. She has joined lots of extra curricular activities, marching band, (she picked up the trombone again, yippee!) manager for the cross country team (no she doesn't run, she keeps the stats), drama club, and the broadcasting club, she writes scripts and engineers and performs the morning broadcasts about once every couple weeks. Meanwhile her first marking period grades were



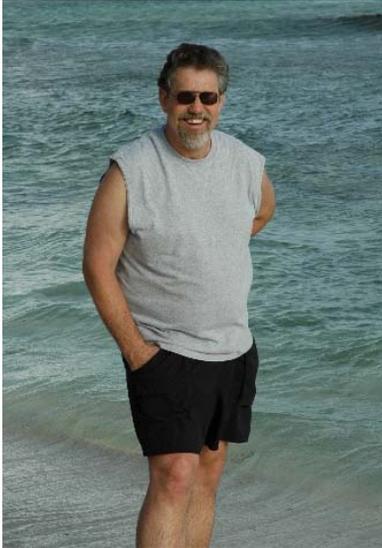
What does a ski instructor do in the summer? They sit by the pool! In the spring Eric trained at the local "Y" to become a life guard. He got a job within a day of getting his certification, at a local pool, and with overtime, we barely saw him the whole summer.

Eric got his driver's license in August. Since we already owned a third vehicle, we reluctantly handed over the keys to the pick-up and he hasn't been seen since! Only kidding, but the cost of gas is probably the only thing holding him back.

Of course the burning question in everyone's mind, now that Eric is a senior, what is he planning for the future? No one, including Eric, has a clue. He is still discovering talents, interests, and is having too much fun to be really committed to intense academics. So the plan, when he graduates next year, will be to

outstanding. But what Bri has the most fun doing, is hanging out in my studio. She is an avid fan of Project Runway, and begged for an early Christmas present of a dress form that matched her body. She got it a couple weeks ago, and spent three intense days making an adorable dress, perfectly fit, from black and red duct tape. Much to her brother's mortification, she proudly wore it to school the day after she completed it, and spent much of the day describing how she made it.

This is a terrific age, we are enjoying watching the kids begin to launch, find their way, painfully watching them when they crash and burn, and pick themselves up, with renewed directions and lessons learned.



Kevin had a wonderfully uneventful year, still on the School Board, his tenth year, and the Planning Board, can't remember how long that's been, he is still traveling internationally, but instead of India, he has been traveling to the Caribbean. Many days he works from home. It is great to have him down the hall, we meet for lunch, often walking into town, and enjoying each other's company. His ponds and gardens continue to amaze me, they are a beautiful oasis for us in the summer, and with the extended fall, the perennials and colorful shrubbery lasted clear into December.

And that leaves me. A whirlwind year. I am traveling so much, this year took me to Canada, another 25,000 miles logged, love that Elite Status on Continental. My sister turned 50 in May, and the three of us all decided to do a sister's getaway, and took off for 5 days in San Francisco. It was an amazing trip, and a very special opportunity to spend some incredible quality time with my sisters, without any other family members. We are actually still talking to each other and are hoping to try to do something like this annually.

I had a great opportunity to be interviewed for an episode of Weavecast, a podcast for hand weavers, I am scheduled to be the March episode, if all goes well, you will be able to access it at [www.weavecast.com](http://www.weavecast.com) I am still writing for Handwoven Magazine, but not as regularly, which has given me much more time in the studio, and I've been able to create and exhibit more work. Kevin and I took off the first week of September, right after the kids started back to school, for an overnight trip to Fall River, MA, to attend a gallery opening of a yardage exhibition where I had a piece on exhibit. That was a grand adventure, and I look forward to more opportunities for travel with Kevin in the future.



On a final note, after more than 25 years, we are finally without a dog. Our last dog had to be put down in September, it was a sad time, but four days before she died, a beautiful white domestic rabbit appeared on our front lawn, and after repeated attempts to find its owners, I gave in and let Kevin and Bri take ownership of the rabbit, which now lives in the garage. And of course we still have the snake. So, the Lancaster family still has pets, but the housekeeper is much happier not having to deal with so much dog hair.

Wishing all of you a bright healthy 2008, would it be too much to wish for a little world peace or a few less natural disasters?

Love, Kevin, Daryl, Eric, and Bri.

