

December 2012

I half toyed with the idea of re- sending last year's letter, since so much of this year is just a repeat, including the late in the year destructive hurricane. Kevin continues to travel, I continue to travel, Eric continues to stock stuff at Target and Bri is into her second year at UMass.

But in the interest of continuity, and because I'm so enjoying rereading our early letters when the kids were young, twenty years from now I may regret not having a summary of our annual adventures, and so off we go...



Kevin continues to travel, yes, but the great news is, the job in Saudi Arabia has ended. Kevin came home in July for our planned trip to California, with the intentions of returning to Saudi. However, between project renegotiations and the work that was already completed, he never ended up returning. Meanwhile Kevin's company was sold to Ericsson, with global offices in 180 countries. Kevin was assigned to the global consulting

team, and so presumably will be traveling globally for a few more years. Meanwhile, he is currently assigned to a job right here in the USA, and has been spending the last few weeks in North Carolina of all places.



Having Kevin home for a couple of months allowed him to work on the gardens, we removed the pool and in its place, Kevin created another gorgeous and meditative sitting area and garden with water feature, where we can sit and watch the butterflies and enjoy nature.



Brianna, who turned 20 this year, is half way through her second year at UMass Amherst as an animal science major. She is in love with the Beltie Cows (Belted Galloway) and spends much of her spare time at the farm. She sailed through her first semester of Organic Chemistry. Grades are slowly coming in for her finals as I write. She keeps two looms in her dorm room and has finally joined the weaving guild up in Northhampton that meets at yarn mecca, WEBS, once a month. They adore her and are thrilled that they have a member under 50.



Eric continues to work for Target. He has been on the top of the list for a promotion. He would have been promoted by now, if not for a detour, down the shore. Two days before Sub Tropical Cyclone Sandy hit the Jersey Shore, Eric was activated in the National Guard, he waited out the storm at the armory and then was part of the unit that helped evacuate Hoboken. From there, he was sent to Ocean Port to assist local police with patrols and then on to Check Point #4, on Rt. 35 in Bayhead. There he did the 6pm to 6am shift for one month straight with no day off. He lived in a local firehouse and showered at Gold's Gym. He spent Thanksgiving at the checkpoint where many well meaning citizen groups made sure the troops on duty had more than their share of Thanksgiving turkey with all the trimmings.



Eric returned to work at Target, in the thick of holiday retail mania, and the adjustment has been a bit difficult, not to mention the time issues, going from a 6pm shift to a 6:30am shift within the span of a few days.



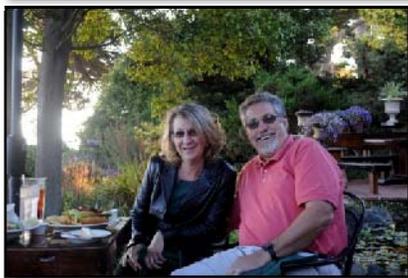
I continue traveling, teaching, writing, and passing along my passion for weaving and garment construction, and still love every minute of what I do. I will say through, that traveling by plane anymore, now that United and Continental have merged has become more and more difficult and I am increasingly thinking of ways I can still do what I do and fly as little as possible. I've been stranded so many times this year, not getting where I need to be in time to do what I have to do, that the stress is taking its toll. I'm starting to travel longer when I do get on a plane, five day intensives instead of two or three day workshops, and this coming February, I'll be traveling to the west coast for an entire month.

I won two awards this year, for garments, one from the National Weaver's Conference Convergence in Long Beach California. I also had a six page article published in Threads Magazine. I've just written another six page article for Sew News Magazine, due for publication next summer.

I continue to blog, four years now, I have over 400 subscribers with over 500 blog posts, and really am touched by all the support from my loyal readers. www.weaversew.com/wordblog



Speaking of California, Kevin accompanied me to the west coast for the Convergence conference, and we made a vacation out of it. We started by visiting friends in San Diego, and then continued up the coast to Long Beach, where I stopped to teach for a day, see the fashion show, and then continue north to the central coast where I taught for an American Sewing Guild Chapter and then on to stay with more good friends in Morro Bay. We continued as far north as Monterey before heading home. We saw so much and did so many fun things, including Hearst Castle, and took thousands of photos. I still don't think I've seen them all.



In the late summer, we departed from our one dog status, something we haven't done since before the kids were born. With the kids sort of launched, we decided it was time for a playmate for Bjorn, and we adopted his half sister Saphira, and I'm reminded of a time very long ago when we had Misha and



Misty, and I find I look at Bjorn now and am starting to call him Misha. Hmmmm.....



And then there was Sandy. Sigh... For the second fall in a row, the poor state of NJ has had to endure another devastating blow to its infrastructure, economy and general way of life for its residents. Though we didn't experience the flooding inland like our town did in hurricane Irene, we were without power for ten days, and I've never been so grateful for the wisdom and expense we incurred over the last two summers having very large trees that were threatening the house taken out, they gave us plenty of firewood to burn for the 10 days we relied on the wood stove for heat, and we had virtually no tree damage to the property. Neighbors around us weren't so lucky.

We cooked on the gas stove, enjoyed hot water because the hot water tank is also gas. And we had a very generous neighbor across the back, with a big-ass diesel generator who allowed us and five additional families to plug in the essentials, we were able to keep the refrigerator going and have a plug for charging cell phones and laptops. Kevin's 4G cell phone acted like a mobile hot spot and he could continue to work. There was something simple about our daily existence for those ten days. It was just the two of us, Eric was deployed, and Bri safe at college, and we kept the wood stove fed and had neighbors in for meals, and I cooked some pretty great meals by candlelight and oil lamp.

In this crazy messed up world we find ourselves in, we hope all of you are surrounded with the things in life that are really important, family, good friends, good food, and a passion that gets you out of bed in the morning.

Love, Kevin, Daryl, Eric, and Brianna and Bjorn and Saphira!