

2013

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The Manick Family Year in Review

HAPPY NEW YEAR

by Steve Manick



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2013 will be remembered by me as a year of personal tragedy and rebirth. The tragedy is the breakup of a 19 year marriage and the resulting effects on two remarkable children. The rebirth is the healing process that enabled me to reconnect with my long-forgotten true self, and allowed me to move forward and explore new opportunities. ♦ Although my divorce has been extremely stressful, frustrating and overwhelming, I have managed to maintain a positive outlook for myself and my children. After months of sleepless nights, endless introspection, and feeling very alone, I decided that it was time to emerge from my self-imposed exile. I joined an online dating service for no reason other than a social distraction (and you'll never guess who I found on my first page of "matches.") After several initial blind dates (none of which were really sight impaired), I met the special woman that I now call my "girlfriend." I also call her "Judy." The instant attraction was undeniable and caught me quite off guard. We shared great chemistry and communication, and discovered that we had much in common. We both separated at about the same time (although neither has any missing parts), have children about the same ages, and have very compatible personalities. She brings out the best in me (a requirement) and even gets my humor (a bonus). I haven't laughed so much in 25 years. ♦ Adam and Julia are still adjusting to the changes in family life, and are doing very well under the circumstances. Adam, who has been living with me in our house, has been instrumental in my retention of sanity over the past seven months. He is now a senior in high school, was elected as President of his school's Student Council, and recently applied to a number of colleges in his pursuit of a degree in engineering. His latest report card was all A's. He is still teaching classes in robotics and is also learning to drive. Julia is doing very well in her first year of middle school and is adjusting to living between two homes. She is an avid reader, has renewed her interest in art and music, and is usually found carrying a sketchpad and pens. As a very beautiful, intelligent, witty and sensitive young lady, she amazes me every time I'm with her. My parents celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary in February and are doing well, in spite of the fact that I concluded they are quite untrainable to modern life. And yes, I'm still at LAX with my now infamous commute from hell. ♦ We did take our annual winter vacation in Yosemite Valley as a family, and Adam and I photographed quite a bit during the one day of snow. In addition, Adam, Julia and I went on many weekend excursions throughout the year. Among the highlights are: a vacation in San Diego that included the exploration of the USS Midway aircraft carrier and several other historic ships and submarines, Santa Barbara, Disneyland, the Petersen Automotive Museum, and various Long Beach attractions. I ended the year with a romantic vacation in Carmel, which of course, included wine tasting. ♦ I'm sure there will be major changes in my life during this next year—some wanted, some necessary and some dreaded, and I will strive to remain positive and optimistic. My regular perusal of open houses may lead to a change of address. Adam will become an adult and enter college, and Julia may acknowledge the existence of boys. ♦ I do wish you a happy and healthy New Year and hope our paths cross frequently on our respective journeys through life.

Steve, Adam and Julia
...with Tigger, Puma, Linus & Lucy,
Lexie, Squeak and "The Strays"

Learn more about Manicks at manick.com.



2014

A journey begins with a single step.

Hoping your journey leads you to a
happy place in the New Year.