

2004

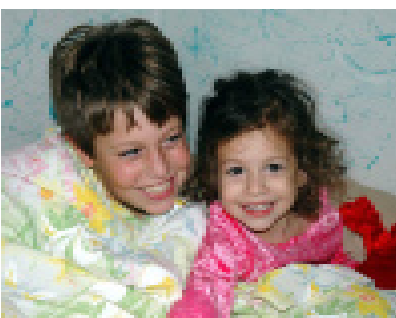
Volume 14

The Manick Family Year in Review

by Steve Manick

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Okay, 2004 wasn't the most exciting of years, but it was filled with lifelong memories nonetheless. We started out the year with our annual (and always too short) winter vacation in Yosemite. Julia enjoyed her first snow (pronounced "noo") experience, Adam built snowmen and we hiked and photographed. During one hike, Adam and I came across several deer and a spectacular scene with Half Dome bathed in alpenglow. Father's Day was exciting and memorable—we spent the day at the Dodger-Yankee baseball game with my brother Jeff, Traci and Ryan, and my parents. Jeff pitched the ceremonial first ball (a perk of his job) and I played catcher with Adam behind me as umpire in front of 50,000 people. We spent most of our summer at home—swimming and barbecuing. We had a brief family vacation in San Diego, where we met friends and visited Seaworld and the La Jolla tide pools. Darlene and I made several wine tasting trips this year, including one to Sonoma County with friends and another to the Santa Ynez Valley area. Oh, the things I must do to keep up my website. And speaking of websites, late last year I volunteered to create a website for my 30 year high school reunion and I somehow became responsible for the entire event. Nine months of hard work and headaches paid off with a successful 3-day reunion weekend in August. Julia had her first "trick-or-treating" Halloween, in which she was appropriately dressed as a princess. A relaxing family vacation in a 1930's style bungalow in Palm Springs capped off our year. ▶▶ Adam, who received a new Mac (what else?) for his eighth birthday in July, is now a seasoned computer veteran. He's doing well in third grade, loves electronics, reading and magic, and just finished his second season of soccer. He's a great kid and I always look forward to our father-son time together. Julia decided early in the year that it was time to start walking and we haven't been able to catch up with her yet. She turned two in August and is now talking in complete sentences and asking questions non-stop. She is very independent, funny, a little stubborn, and is arguably the most adorable creature on the planet. Sort of like me. Darlene incorporated her business in January, developed a new eating disorders program, hired staff, and has been working long hours ever since. (She chose the name "The Manick Program" over my suggestion of "Bambi's Escorts.") She is now talking of redecorating the house, so hopefully that means she won't find a new one in the next few months. As for me, I'm still very busy managing security projects at LAX but my dream is to spend more time at home. ▶▶ Darlene and I are trying to find some way to simplify our lives. We often talk about moving to Sonoma County or Paso Robles, where I can run a wine tasting room and Darlene can practice her magic on the locals. As for now, we are fortunate for all that we do have and are looking forward to 2005. We wish you all the best.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

