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The Manick Family Year in Review *by Steve Manick*

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Boy, did this year go by quickly, or what? In January we took our annual winter trip to Yosemite, where we encountered lots of rain and (thankfully) several days of snow. The experience of standing in a snowfall in Yosemite Valley is almost overwhelming. Julia turned out to be a formidable hiker and Adam and I ventured out every afternoon to photograph the scenery. In March Darlene tricked me into an evening drive, ending at an Acura dealer, with the intent of buying me a new car to ease my commuting frustrations. A few weeks later I actually bought the car and I've been trying to give it back ever since. The "RL" stands for "Real Lemon," as the car is plagued with rattles and electronic problems. So as not to feel left out of the spending spree, Darlene purchased all new bedroom furniture for us in an entirely covert operation. This signaled the beginning of Home Makeover: Manick Edition. ♦ The highlight of our year was our vacation in Maui spanning the 4th of July week. Aside from being a much-needed getaway for the family, it was the first airplane flight for Adam and Julia. We stayed at the Hyatt Regency in Ka'anapali Beach (which we loved), toured the ocean bottom in a real submarine and watched July 4th Fireworks over Lahaina. Adam enjoyed swimming in the ocean, tropical smoothies and waterslides, and Julia loved the sandy lagoon in the children's pool. Darlene and I enjoyed the outside ocean-view dining, the good food and drinks, and the change in scenery, although the vacation was really much too short. Darlene and I managed to eke out several wine trips, including the Paso Robles area, where we have been considering buying property or possibly a future move. We are attracted to the simpler lifestyle, low crime, community atmosphere and the fact that people still smile and greet strangers. The family capped off the year with a short and relaxing vacation to Palm Springs for Thanksgiving. ♦ We are so proud of Adam and Julia—each year makes such a great difference in their lives. Adam, who was nine years old in July, started guitar, piano and trumpet lessons before settling on Karate to augment his already busy schedule. He loves science, electronics, magic, teasing his sister, and riding his new bicycle. It's hard to believe that he has only one more year of elementary school. Julia's third birthday in August signaled a new era for her. She matured beyond the diaper stage, got a new "big girl" bed and started preschool—all within about a month. She loves to sing and dance, knows how to manipulate her parents, and always has a smile on her face. She also has a stubborn streak. Darlene's therapy practice and eating disorder program is doing great—with a network of specialists and administrative staff. She resumed piano lessons ("I'll be Bach!") after a 30 year break and is now attending Hebrew school with the goal of finally celebrating a Bat Mitzvah. A small promotion at LAX moved me into a design and engineering area, and back to designing a new parking system—a project that I actually started more than six years ago. Outside of work and my "commute from hell," I'm keeping pretty busy with numerous house projects (the pink wallpaper is finally gone), and updating my websites. I'm also trying to find a way to spend more time with Adam and Julia—while they're still young enough to want their parents around. ♦ In 2006 we are looking forward to our annual Yosemite trip, the completion of several home decorating projects, and spending more quality time with our friends and family. With that we wish you a very happy and healthy year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Steve, Darlene,
Adam and Julia 