

# 2006

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## The Manick Family Year in Review *by Steve Manick*

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Once again we started off the year with the annual family winter vacation in Yosemite, where we encountered less snow and more rain than we had hoped. We did, however, get some much-needed family time and a few nice photos. Because of our busy schedules, vacations were minimal this year. In addition to Yosemite, a summer trip to Carmel and Cambria, Thanksgiving in Palm Springs and a few weekend outings were the extent of our travels. We will again be in Yosemite in January and hope to return to Hawaii next summer. I generally like the heat and had plenty of it during our record-breaking summer heat waves—the highlight of which was losing power on two consecutive afternoons with 121 degree temperatures. Imagine having to light up the kitchen with tiki torches placed outside the windows. ❖ Adam entered the double-digit age of 10 in July and is doing well in fifth grade. He spends most of his time working on his computers and disemboweling electronic components. Princess Julia, who had her 4th birthday in August, enjoys her preschool, taking care of her “babies,” and “cooking” for her family. Darlene drafted Julia onto a girl’s soccer team, in which Darlene also acted as coach, but Julia had absolutely no interest in participating. Princesses do not chase after balls. ❖ After delaying the cursed event for as long as possible, I nevertheless celebrated my 50th birthday in early September with little fanfare—a fact that I may have mentioned to the wife a time or two during the ensuing weeks. Little did I know that, a month and a half later, I would be lured out of the house for a weekend wine tasting trip only to find upon my return the most elaborate surprise birthday party that I’ve ever seen. I was reunited with many friends—some of which I hadn’t seen in many years. Although I was told there were many issues (rain, tenting the yard, moon bounce, etc.) to stress Darlene out, the party was a highlight of my life. Darlene even produced a photo montage of my life and a commemorative “party favor” music CD, and Adam created a special PowerPoint presentation. ❖ Somewhat related to my advancement in age was that in early June I weighed myself for the first time in several years and didn’t like what I saw. A “change in lifestyle” during the next four months resulted in a weight loss of over 40 pounds. Maybe it was just an excuse to buy some new clothes. ❖ Darlene moved her “The Manick Program” eating disorders practice out of the house and into a suite of offices in Woodland Hills. A new staff and increased administrative responsibilities is keeping her very busy and very stressed. I’m still spending considerable time working on my [thewinetaster.com](http://thewinetaster.com) and [manick.com](http://manick.com) websites, in addition to a new website for Darlene’s business. As for my real job, a recent reorganization has made me responsible for the design and engineering of operational and administrative IT systems at the airport. My parents celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary this year with a cruise to Alaska and are doing very well. My brother accepted a promotion with Macy’s and moved his family to Washington state. ❖ This year I had the rare opportunity to be reunited with many valuable friends whom I had lost recent contact and I learned a very important lesson: It’s easy to lose sight of those we don’t regularly see because we get caught up in the demands of life. But no matter how much time has passed, a true friend will pick up the conversation as though you spoke yesterday. Give yourself a gift and call those old friends you’ve been thinking about. They will love to hear from you. We hope you have a very happy and healthy year.

*Steve, Darlene, Adam and Julia*