

2009

The Manick Family Year in Review *by Steve Manick*

Volume 19

A manick.com Publication

December 2009



"I wonder what the Manick Family has been up to this past year" is a question that's come up quite often lately (mostly by me). Let me say that it's been another memorable year at Manick Manor. As our annual tradition dictates, we started out the year with a family vacation in Yosemite Valley. It didn't snow as much as we had hoped but we still had fun. We'll be there again in January. To continue another tradition, we started out the summer with a camping trip to Kings Canyon National Park. During the trip Adam had his 13th birthday (yes, we now have a teenager!), and was rewarded with his first digital SLR camera (a Nikon, of course). I really love how he and I have so many interests in common. (The highlight of my weekends is our 6 to 8 mile walks for "coffee" and perusing the local tool store.) In August we had back-to-back vacations in Cambria, where it was unseasonably cold and damp, and La Jolla, where it was unseasonably hot and humid. At least we managed to fit in some wineries. ● Princess Julia, who turned 7 in August, began piano lessons and progressed from Daises to Brownies. (I, too, was a girl scout once.) In addition to having a great musical ear, she's also a fashion maven and quite a talented artist. And after a long, hard fight with school district bureaucrats, Adam was finally transferred to a new private school. In spite of an hour-long taxi ride to and from school, he loves it and is doing extremely well. The big event of our year was Adam's Bar Mitzvah in November. He attended lessons all summer and performed the ritual flawlessly. As his parents, we were extremely proud. Our response was to give him a weekend of celebrations: an evening cocktail party at our home, followed by a large kid-friendly reception the next day. A few days later I was in Boston to attend the double Bat Mitzvah of my cousin's two daughters. It was such a wonderful experience to spend some quality time with with relatives (on my mother's side) that I haven't seen in many years. As a bonus, I had the opportunity to walk Boston's entire Freedom Trail and see the many historic sights, including walking on the USS Constitution and drinking a Samuel Adams in a real Irish pub! ● Darlene and I have had some stressful times this past year but we're still making progress. She is doing well but her psychology practice has suffered in this challenging economy (and I *still* think changing the name to "Bambi's Escorts" might help). I'm still doing enterprise architecture (long-range IT planning) at LAX, photographing in my spare time (four of my photos were selected for a new LAX calendar) and writing about wine. As for my parents, they spend much of their time keeping doctors busy and socializing with friends in their over-50, er, 60, more like, 70 club. They joined us for our usual Thanksgiving holiday in Palm Springs. My mom had surgery in early December in which she had one thyroid removed and she is now doing well. My brother Jeff, Tracie and Ryan recently moved back to Manhattan Beach after living in Seattle for a couple of years. And of course I can't forget our four-legged family: four cats (16 paws & 80 claws) who take great pride in ruling their indoor kingdom and all their human subjects. And on a more somber note, this summer marked the passings of my aunt Jeanette (my dad's sister) and Darlene's father Jules. ● Life moves very quickly and we sometimes get too caught up in the details to notice the view along the way. We hope you have a happy and healthy new year. And try to remember to enjoy the view.

Steve, Darlene, Adam and Julia
...and of course Tigger, Luna, Linus & Lucy!