

Dear Family and Friends,

The easiest way to describe our year is to paraphrase a forgotten but quotable French journalist¹: The more things changed, the more they stayed the same. We relished the continuities from last year - travel, music, visits and good times with family and friends. We cherished big and wonderful changes - welcoming Alastair, our fifth grandchild, to the family, and taking our first trip with Crystal and James, our oldest grandkids. Life is good.

Bob was, as usual, invited to various and sundry meetings and labs for work, here and in Europe. United Airlines loves him. We visited interesting museums as we traveled, and the list this year, for Bob and/or me, includes the Honolulu Academy of Arts; the Ashmolean (Oxford, UK); Clark Museum (Williamstown, MA); Dickens House Museum, British Museum, Natural History Museum, and the Victoria and Albert Museum (all in London); Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, Palazzo Vecchio and the Galleria dell'Accademia (all in Florence, Italy, where we celebrated our 15th wedding anniversary but – we confess to true culture buffs – we skipped the Uffizi because we were too unorganized and impatient to deal with the long lines!); the National Gallery, Air and Space Museum, National Portrait Gallery, American Art Museum, Smithsonian and the Bureau of Printing and Engraving (all in Washington, DC); the Kimbell Art Museum and Amon Carter Cowboy Museum (Fort Worth); Dallas Museum of Art; Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York) and the Museum of Fine Arts and Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (Boston); not to mention the Art Institute in Chicago and the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Museum next door to us in Oak Park. At the risk of sounding like we need to get a real life, we admit we saw the same exhibit, "Americans in Paris," in museums in London, Boston and New York. London did the best job describing the Americans and Paris!

Our grandchildren Crystal (12) and James (9) toured most of the D.C. museums with us, on our first multi-generational, parentless expedition. We plan many more of these adventures in wild as well as civilized surroundings. They were great travelers: tolerant of their grandparents and savvy at finding cheap restaurants.

Bob still enjoys his work, learning more every year. We've had many scientist visitors to his lab and to our dinner table, which is always interesting and stimulating. We've also enjoyed more visits than usual with out-of-town friends, a real treat for everyone. I've handled legal and business matters for the family and helped Ben and Bob keep track of Crystal. She has become a

¹ And what is a missive from a scientist and lawyer without a footnote or two??? The author of the quote is Alphonse Karr, a 19th Century French writer. Sorry – no info on how Alphonse got the German name!

delightful pre-teenager of the best type, but requires at least three adults to keep up with her. We hope that between Dad-the-Marine, Grandma-the-Enforcer and Grandpa-the-Softy, she has the right mix of love and discipline.

Ben is working downtown—not on a new building, but un-building parts of an older one. It appears to be harder work than starting from scratch, but he's enjoying it, and we enjoy the opportunity to see more of Crystal.

Emily's Spa Soak has had a good first year, and I admit I've done my part to make it so. We have even more respect for entrepreneurs after watching her schedule the past year. Ben Taylor is close to finishing up with college, and we await his next steps with great pride.

Jill and John are still in Hawaii, now with four children. Alastair Solomon Trowbridge arrived January 10, 2006, and is already doing his best to keep up with Henry, who will soon be three. The two younger brothers are happy scrappers, to the bewilderment of James (9) and Holly (6), who have always been gentle, quiet souls. We love the stories about all four and our times with them.

Sally is still in New York, working for SPARX, the Japanese mutual fund company. It's been a great combination for both parties, and we delight in watching her professional life expand and progress more quickly than anyone could have imagined.

One change this year arises from our discovery that we could only press adult children into Christmas pictures for so long. This year, the resistance was almost total, except where adults were impressing their *own* children into a photograph. So—we're happy to send pictures of grandchildren, and lucky to send pictures of grown children where we can. And we can still giggle and coo over the grown ones anyway, but not in public!

And so—things are the same and things have changed in the Eisenberg clan. What has been good has overshadowed whatever was problematic. We hope the year has given you the same and that it continues in 2007, giving you your own reasons to rewrite the journalist of your choice.

Ardyth & Bob