

Greetings!

It seems to be Morgans on the move again this year, at least for Tim. He started the year with a couple of trips to Hawaii and many commutes to lovely, exotic Bakersfield (Calif.) In August he really did travel to an exotic place - Jakarta, Indonesia - where he taught a class for one month and saw some of that beautiful country. In October Tim returned to Gaithersburg, Md. for a week to haunt his Bechtel friends there. By coincidence he was able to see one of our Brazilian friends who was in Washington on business.

For Sharon the year has been Hands On Science, Hands On Science... (the after-school program based in Maryland which she taught in 1988 and which she is starting in the Petaluma-Santa Rosa area.) The recent news that two schools will be offering the classes after the holidays is a welcome Christmas present. After a year of working toward this goal, it's something to celebrate! Otherwise, she finds enough to keep her busy helping in Amanda and Jocelyn's school, leading two Girl Scout troops and La Leche League groups and running the family's taxi service. (ha-ha)

Amanda has the energy of...well, a 7-year-old. She continues to love skating and this fall played soccer and learned to ride a bike. Her reading and writing skills are really picking up this year and she's doing well in second grade. Among other Brownie troop activities last spring her troop invaded a ranch near here along with 200 other Brownies for an overnight campout called a "Brownie Catnap." It poured rain, even though we are in a serious draught and it does not pour in late May in California, and another Brownie threw up all night in our tent, but it was such an adventure! We especially liked chasing the cows out of our field so they wouldn't trample the tents.

Amanda had her stage debut last spring, playing "My Country 'Tis of Thee" on the piano in the school talent show. She is dying to take ballet lessons since she saw a friend in a local production of the "Nutcracker."

Jocelyn kept up with horseback riding until mid-summer and is now going back to playing piano a little and, as always, reading. She is also taking a drama class at school. In 6th grade this year, she is almost as tall as her mom, is getting As & Bs in school and enjoying her friends. She has taken a few classes this year, such as ceramics and silk scarf painting. Thanks to Jocelyn, we have a new addition to our family this year--a white and black frisky rabbit named "Magic." He and the cat play chase, but her feline dignity was totally destroyed when the rabbit nudged her right into the fish pond.

Terry, in 8th grade, is working hard at turning in assignments, and when he remembers to do that he usually gets As & Bs. (Funny how details make a difference.) He is active in the school's science club, which is currently working on planning an environmentally sound city of the future. Otherwise his favorite activities are having sleep-overs with his buddies to stay up all night playing computer games or Dungeons & Dragons. Two of his good friends he has known since babyhood from our babysitting coop before we moved to Maryland. It's interesting to see

them now at 13; we parents tease them unmercifully about diaper changes and pleas of "Apple juice!" Terry is also active in Boy Scouts and has been initiated into the Order of the Arrow.

Although we haven't traveled much within Calif. because of a) no car b) no money c) no time d) all of the above, we did have a full summer. Sharon attended a 4 day Hands On Science training session in Md. (ah-Washington in July- 90 and 90% humidity or raining) and had some vacation time after that seeing friends and being a tourist. With all those frequent flier miles Tim earned Jocelyn flew with her mom, returned to Camp Echo Trail in Pennsylvania one more time and then as a very special treat stayed with her camp friend, Willow, at her summer home in southwestern Pa. It's a summer she'll long remember.

Meanwhile Terry was off to Boy Scout camp for a week and Amanda off to Girl Scout camp, her first time at a resident camp. All three kids had some special times at "Grandma's camp" this past year, too. At the end of July Tim, Terry, Amanda and their Aunt Kim drove to Disneyland and other attractions for a few days. At Universal Studios Tim was chosen to play a Kling-On in a production of Star Wars. We've seen the video many times since.

After Sharon returned from Maryland, Terry's friend Peter Vargo flew out here to spend a week with us. Then in October our friend and neighbor from Md., Deb Cathers, stopped here for a weekend of beaches, redwoods and wineries before spending a week in San Francisco. (No earthquakes this year.)

Tim is still in reserves and has not been mobilized; at this point it's a very remote possibility. But our thoughts are with those of you who have friends or family in the middle east. Let's hope they can be home soon.

We hope all of you are enjoying the season and spending it warm and happy. We miss our Maryland friends and all those days scraping an inch of ice off the windshield, shoveling snow and charging car batteries. Never fear, the temperature HERE is in the low 40s today and they're calling for snow!!

Happy Holidays!

Tim, Sharon, ~~Tim Morgan~~

Amanda Morgan

Jocelyn

 Membership

 Chipmunk

 And fish

 Migs