

Hello, happy holidays, and end of 2007 greetings from Peter Brueggeman. We had an interesting 2007, a different sort of year for us.... no exotic-location travel for work or vacation.



2007 comprised the 2nd half of Leo's freshman high school year and the 1st half of his sophomore year. He's 15 and a half right now, and we are looking forward to discontinuing our chauffeur duties to school and his social events. Leo is on a learning curve to be a professional student. He's tackling more schoolwork, and has been challenged by several advanced classes (math, English, biology, Physics, etc). Leo's in the process of learning to work ahead on larger assignments, not leaving it to the night before. Leo is playing lacrosse in high school, a spring sport. After freshmen tryouts, he got a slow start on the junior varsity team with little game playing time, because the coaches had difficulty spotting your talent among 40 freshmen all wearing helmets and no names on their jerseys. Leo had comparable lacrosse skills to the better players because I schlepped him to off-season lacrosse play, but the JV coaches didn't know him and he didn't get a chance to show his stuff until the 3rd game of the season. It was a character building experience for Leo to wait to show his skill to say the least. During that 3rd game when the JV coaches gave him playing time, Leo proceeded to tear up the field, slipping around defenders while carrying the ball, driving hard towards the goal, etc. So Leo moved up in standing on the JV team, and had plenty of playing time during the remainder of the season, scoring several goals while playing his mid field position. Kathy and I enjoyed attending his lacrosse games. After the season ended, Leo started off-season play again, playing all summer and fall as I carted him around to these events.

Last summer, Leo started going to an all-ages music club with friends, making more friends who are into the same music interests as he. He has become adept at mosh pit dancing with his friends, and has come home a few times with the expected physical badges of honor. It is toughening him up for battle on the lacrosse field.



Fire seemed to be a theme this year, because late one November night, we woke up to a blazing fire in the condos right across the street from us, and the October San Diego fires burnt to within 200 yards of our Palomar Mountain cabin. However we escaped a nerve-racking experience with our cabin, because we had sold it in June, having owned it for almost 6 years. We were sorry to let it go, having had many great family times, & enjoying the tall forest there. Looking ahead to Leo driving & college, we could see that a 2nd residence mortgage would be difficult. After our January decision to sell, we made numerous weekend visits moving out possessions, & preparing the cabin and property for sale. That work thoroughly defined the first half of our year. The October fires validated our decision to sell; mountain property in Southern California will inevitably burn, and the tall trees that attracted us so much to that cabin would not survive a forest fire.

I continue with scuba diving in San Diego, my interests in Palomar Mountain history, and riding my vintage racing bicycles to work and on weekends, now riding a longer 12 mile route to work to get more exercise (and stress reduction). Work for me at Scripps Library is highlighted by guiding digitization of our historic oceanographic photos, while some of the administrative and personnel issues make me look forward to retirement, which isn't any time soon. Kathy enjoys socializing with friends, reading, doing sudoku puzzles, and is working on a grant proposal to digitize photos and other archival materials on the Maring people of Papua New Guinea for Internet access,... she is looking forward to that project getting off the ground.



long ago has come in handy.

Leo enjoyed graduating from middle school at mid year, and is now fourteen and in ninth grade at La Jolla High. By springtime, Leo had had enough of middle school and was looking forward to high school. Leo seems to be doing well enough in high school, grades are okay, and is learning to apply himself more in school. He is well socialized with friends, and seems to be fitting in. Leo's mostly off in his teenage world of friends, multiplayer Internet gaming, lacrosse (Leo's at left in photo), and skimboarding. Sometimes I go to the beach shooting skimboarding pictures of Leo and others. Leo will be trying out for the high school lacrosse team in February, and has been attending off-season lacrosse



clinics and games to sharpen up. He's fleet on his feet and is playing a mid-field "middie" position in lacrosse.

I continue my interest in local history of the Palomar Mountain community. This year I prepared revised second editions of the three Palomar history books I have edited, and have worked off and on compiling a fourth book of shorter historical pieces. At work as a side activity, I've enjoyed working on PDF versions for Web publication of books published by Scripps Institution of Oceanography or about Scripps as well as some ocean oriented books published elsewhere. It is rewarding for me to do this. It's a counterpoint to my more usual personnel and operational management, which are critical aspects of my job, but don't leave a satisfying legacy like putting useful and interesting books on the Web that were formerly available only in print. I've also enjoyed my leadership role in historical projects on the history of Scripps, including our digitization of old photos and conducting oral history interviews of senior oceanographers.



Kathy went to New Caledonia in July for three weeks vacation; that country and her friends there are very important to her. Keeps her happy. She went to a Pacific history conference in New Zealand in December, conducted some work-related meetings in Auckland, and then went onto New Caledonia for a week's visit before heading home. Kathy has gotten interested in the genealogy of a friend in New Caledonia, whose mother came to the US with a GI after WW2 leaving her children with their father, and started up a US family with her American GI husband. Kathy has linked the half-siblings of this family together. This has springboarded her into researching the history of New Caledonian war brides, which she researched in the national archives there during her December visit.

Aside from reading, Kathy's principal hobbies are Sudoku number puzzles, walking her two dogs Nash and Ned, and she particularly enjoys fooling around with Ned, a Bichon-poodle mix and the dog she picked out for herself (Nash was Leo's pick).

**Have a great New Year....**

## Catchup letter.... Covering 2004 and 2005



*Basically* ..... our lives revolve around Leo .... and his schooling, no surprises there. We look forward to some point ahead where we won't have to rise early to get Leo to school. Now that Leo is half way through 8th grade at age 13.5, our hindsight was that 7th grade was too long, both for Leo and particularly for us. 8th grade goes well; Leo pays more attention to school deadlines, maintains progress with his schoolwork, and gets himself up and going in the morning. 8th grade has been a dream ride by comparison to our 7th grade life. Leo is doing very well at school, both socially and academically, and his grades for conduct have improved.

About Peter's scuba diving, he quit volunteer diving in the Scripps Aquarium's kelp tank in Nov 2004 after 11 1/2 years and 259 dives there. Enough of that for his lifetime. In June 2004 he went for 2+ weeks to Sulawesi, Indonesia. Lots of coral reef wall diving, seeing turtles, pygmy seahorses, sea snakes, lotsa reef fish, cuttlefish, etc. He was well off the beaten path, out of touch with world events, located in a distant archipelago of islands with no tourist infrastructure other than the dive resort, just fishing villages. In Feb 2005, Peter went on a Bahamas shark diving trip, seeing 14 foot long tiger sharks, 10+ foot great hammerhead shark, and 6 foot reef sharks. He saw them while open water diving without a cage, with the sharks swimming in near the divers to get to the fish bait !!



Kathy and Leo went on a 7+ week South Pacific trip during summer 2005. Kathy has done this twice before, visiting several Pacific Island nations on an acquisition trip for the libraries at Univ of Hawaii and UC San Diego. She goes to government offices getting their publications and also to bookstores, etc, then ships them back. This time, we paid for Leo's expenses to accompany Kathy, with some vacation days added in. They flew through Honolulu, and then on to Sydney Australia for a four nights, then Vanuatu for two weeks, New Caledonia for 3+ weeks, Fiji for 1+ week, and then Honolulu for six nights. In addition to Kathy's work, they did a lot of

snorkelling, sightseeing, visiting friends, eating local foods, etc. Leo enjoyed chocolate croissants made by French bakeries !

In July 2004, we went on a family vacation to Honolulu and Kona. In Honolulu we visited friends and Leo went surfing off Waikiki. At Kona, we went snorkelling a lot seeing sea turtles and reef fish, did a nighttime snorkel trip seeing a feeding ten foot manta ray attracted to the plankton in our underwater lights, saw lava flowing into the ocean, kayaked along an old irrigation flume dug out in the mountains. By coincidence Leo hooked up with a schoolmate who was there, doing a lot of beach time with him, including spear fishing with a pole spear.



Leo's grand passion is skimboarding, surfriding a short flat fiberglass board on waves breaking onto the sandy beach. He has gotten very practiced. Sometimes Leo takes his skimboard to school, and then goes skimming after school since the beach is down the street from his school. Rough life. We spend time at our Palomar Mountain cabin when we can, less time than we would like, hoping to spend more time there in the future when we aren't shackled with Leo. Peter edited some books on Palomar Mountain history, which are now being sold locally plus he has a website with historical items like hotel brochures, postcards, photographs, text, etc. Peter has set up some vintage racing-type bicycles in order to

get him out riding more for exercise. He has three vintage bikes now in various states of assembly. He got started on this interest reminiscing about a classic British bike he owned in the 1970s.

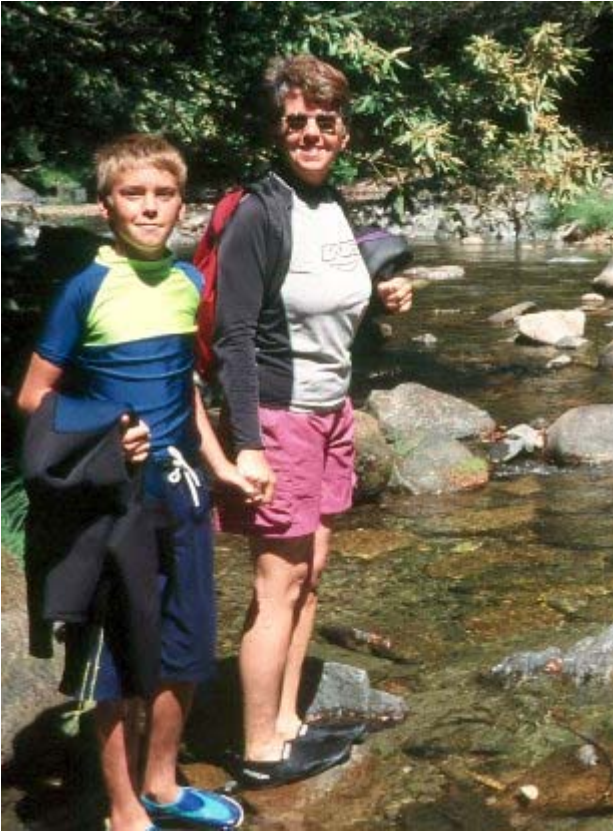
Kathy went to a rainy conference in Kauai, and Peter did that better with a conference in Rome, seeing the sites plus eating great food. We visited both sets of parents as we usually do in Santa Cruz and Oregon, and always enjoy that. We also attended the wedding of Kathy's brother Andrew, his first marriage at age 48, in June 2005; Kathy's been waiting a long time for her sibling to line up a sister-in-law for her. And finally, a second dog recently joined our family, named Ned after Kathy's paternal grandfather, Edward Ignatius, and Ned is much better mannered than our beloved Jack Russell terrier Nash. Our two cats are consistent and don't care for Ned as they don't care for Nash.

## Happy holidays 2004



This was a year without epic trips for either of us... a relaxing change of pace. We have been enjoying our cozy cabin at 5,500 feet in the forests of Palomar Mountain and try to go there maybe two weekends a month plus holidays. We had some very fun snow weekends in January, March, & April. Leo enjoys riding his Snowdeck, a small snowboard mounted under a wood skateboard deck, with no bindings and ridden like a skateboard. Peter enjoys being the guide, hiking around in the snowy woods, and watching Leo and his friends do their thing. We also enjoy leaving the snow after a few days, and going home to La Jolla. Nash, our Jack Russell terrier, loves it there, carousing with the other dogs, chasing wild turkeys if we don't have him under control, digging out animal holes, etc.

We work at improving fire safety in the forest around our cabin, and were quite anxious during the San Diego fires that burned close to the base of Palomar Mtn. We purchased a lot adjoining our cabin giving us more buffer around us as well as flat legal access; we now lay claim to 0.715 acre... not enough for cattle, but more of a 'spread' than we had before. This new lot has some very tall and broad fir and cedar trees (about 100 feet high).



We enjoyed our summer vacation in Oregon with Peter's parents, spending time at the local rivers, and also visiting Kathy's parents in Santa Cruz, where we enjoyed many local attractions including the Winchester Mystery House, and a train ride from the redwoods to the beach.

Leo did well in fifth grade during the first half of the year, and became rather obsessed with online multiplayer PC gaming, since cooling off on it. With sixth grade last fall, he switched to middle school, riding a city bus to school and home, which has proven to be an adventure for him. He is being challenged more in sixth grade, and having to gear up, particularly in reading time. Sixth grade girls have now started to appear on the periphery of our parental consciousness with "instant messaging" being the new generation's choice of flirtation grounds.

The really good news is that Leo broke none of his own bones this year-- unfortunately he did manage to break a friend's ankle while they were all horsing around at school. Sigh!

Kathy's major project for the year was going on a weight watcher's diet and losing 27 pounds. Now if she and Peter can just resist the Christmas goodies!

Peter spent a busy work year.... several recruitments for Scripps library including the key number two librarian position under Peter, plus doing projects putting historical images and texts about Scripps oceanographic research on the Web. January 2003 brought a closure for Peter; PBS TV aired his friend Norbert Wu's "Under Antarctic Ice" scuba diving film, a project on which Peter assisted in 1999 following his 1997 trip there. In addition to his name rushing by in the credits, Peter appeared briefly onscreen twice, underwater and topside, but you wouldn't know it unless you were him.

### **New Year 2003**

It's been a busy and happy year for us. Leo continues to do well in school, now in fifth grade. This year, Leo cooled out on skateboarding, which came as a surprise to us, since he was a rabid skateboarder. To replace that parental fear factor with another, Leo began tall tree climbing with friends this summer at our place on Palomar Mountain, using rock climbing gear..... until he broke his left arm this fall. Lest we forget, Leo broke his right arm in May '01, and don't forget the three broken collarbones in his infant years. Leo is quite proud of his broken bone tally, now at five if counted by emergency room visits, though Leo tallies higher, counting each broken forearm bone as a separate break. Leo broke his arm jumping down from the school's corkscrew slide while playing tag.... both activities forbidden by the playground rules, which Leo had read and signed two days previously.

In August, Kathy and Leo decided that they absolutely had to get a Jack Russell Terrier puppy, since they needed another pet in addition to their three cats. Named 'Nash' by Leo, Nash is lively and loving, and has a mind of his own. In the final throes of being housebroken by year's end, Nash has become a part of our family, for better..... or worse if you listen to our three cats. We have been staying at our Palomar Mountain cabin most weekends and holidays, enjoying our family time there immensely. We like to play card and board games, and Leo is very happy trouncing Peter and Kathy when he can. Leo particularly enjoys it there with snow on the ground. Peter keeps busy at work at Scripps Inst. of Oceanography Library, dealing with the usual library budgetary problems, staff turnover, two grant-funded digital library projects, and two remodel projects, one of which included a larger office for him (and parking for his bicycle... he's still bike commuting to work).



Separately, an ocean-view redwood deck was built on an exterior corner of the library building, and an espresso coffee vendor set up shop. In combination with the larger office, Peter's job environment is now really comfortable.

Kathy went to a conference in New Zealand, and before that she did a side trip involving nine days vacation in New Caledonia, her former stomping ground in the early 1980s. This vacation was a great experience for her, and Kathy enjoyed renewing her friendships in New Caledonia and on Lifou, an outer island. As she did in 1999, Kathy traveled to the South Pacific for six weeks, acquiring publications from government offices and bookstores in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia. She then flew back to Honolulu to conclude her business, and Peter put Leo on a flight to Honolulu to

join up with Kathy for five days vacation together. Kathy and Leo had a fabulous time snorkeling, shopping, and hanging out with friends. Prior to Leo's Hawaiian vacation, Peter and Leo visited Peter's parents in Oregon, where they slept in Leo's treehouse almost every night. Leo and Peter goofed around on two local rivers, floating on tubes, and seeing local wildlife. Leo likes to hunt small animals and caught salamanders, frogs, and snakes..... including a pretty big two and a half foot snake that bite him on a finger, making it bleed quite a bit. Leo didn't give up on it, and managed to pin its head down with a stick, thus able to grab it behind its head, and pick it up.



In Sept, Peter went on a white shark cage diving trip to Guadalupe Island, Mexico, seeing several white sharks every day, usually 13-15 feet long, circling the area around the boat and cages, due to bait in the water. Their size impressed him, as well as that biting thing they did on the cage right in front of Peter. In March, Peter went on a scuba diving trip to Palau for 2.5 weeks with a photographer friend, and had his usual good time spending a lot of time underwater, seeing colorful coral reefs and their fish, watching sharks hunting off plunging reef walls, swimming among feeding manta rays swimming tight loops like fighter planes, snorkelling

among millions of non-stinging jellyfish at Jellyfish Lake, seeing sea turtles and chambered nautilus, exploring WW2 Japanese ship wrecks, and more. He also went kayaking in the mangroves, and spent a lot of time seeing natural areas & native villages.

**Happy holidays 2001**



It has been an eventful year for us. In February, we all flew in a 4-seater plane with friend Ken Corben, to San Ignacio Lagoon in Baja California, Mexico to see the gray whales. After an exciting flight at low altitude, we landed on a dirt airstrip and caught a ride in the back of a pickup truck to our accommodation: a canvas "cabin" in an expedition camp run by local people. Food was heavenly, three Mexican-cooked meals a day with fresh tortillas, salsa, guacamole, and lots of scallops and other seafood fresh from the lagoon. Whale-watching from the small open boats was superb--lots of spyhopping going on! We even got to touch a few of the more curious youngsters who would sidle up to the boat, seeking attention, mother whales hovering a few feet away. Nothing like getting sprayed by whale breath! Other activities included kayaking in the lagoon (Peter managed to capsize twice in full view of camp, much to the other guests' amusement!), estuarine mudflat walking in wader boots to look at sea hares, moon snails, and other sea critters, and examining the numerous whalebones washed up on the beach. Leo had fun playing with some of the locals and his Gameboy was an enormous draw each evening in the palapa. He even learned a few key Spanish phrases for Gameboy coaching, e.g. "Pone sobre el monstro! Jump on the monster!" He also picked up on some local nature lore, and perfected a pee-in-the-tidepool-hole technique for flushing out octopi!

Peter, as usual, underwent supreme travel torture yet again--this time traveling to Sardinia Italy in May to assist an underwater photographer friend who was photographing traditional fishing for bluefin tuna and swordfish. He stayed at a small town on a small island off the southwest corner of Sardinia-- and slept in a small bed, drove a small car, but ate large meals. The Italian fishermen capture the tuna live in offshore netted enclosures and Peter went diving in those nets, seeing large bluefin tuna (6 feet plus, 600-700 pounds) in schooling groups, along with a few swordfish and sunfish. He also witnessed the traditional "mattanza" harvest of these tuna, and ate some great local food, including tuna stomach, tuna heart, and tuna egg sacs, all with pasta. Yum!

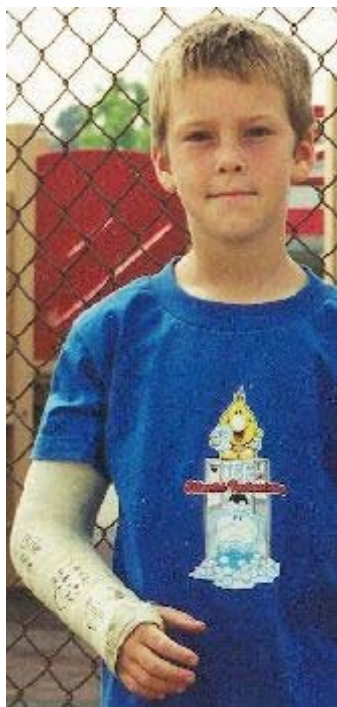
We have done a fair amount of camping this year, though our spring trip to Anza Borrego Desert was less-than-pleasant at times with pouring rain, very cold temperatures, and, worst of all, the omission of coffee from our food supplies! Kathy barely survived the caffeine withdrawal! Peter alone stayed snuggly (or was it smugly?) warm, due to his recent Antarctic experiences and ample supply of cold-weather gear--Kathy and Leo are clearly lightweights in that department! We finally managed to warm up in the hot spring-fed pools at Agua Caliente!

In July we met Kathy's friend Carla Reissman and her family for a few days of camping in Tuolumne Meadows, the high country north of Yosemite. On the way we stopped and visited Kathy's friend from New Caledonia days, Debbie Gillett, and her children in Three Rivers and detoured through Sequoia National Park (big trees, big cave, small bear, oh my!). At Tuolumne Meadows we hiked, dipped in some icy rivers and a lake, skipped a lot of stones, and generally enjoyed camping and the scenery. We did go down to Yosemite Valley one day, and braved the crowds for a hike up to one of the falls--a bit like a Nordstrom shoe sale crowd, but with more chipmunks!

In August, Peter's parents hosted us at their home in Brookings Oregon for nine days. We brought along Jaime Lawson, 13-year-old son of Jim and Nedra. Big Leo and Alice wisely put guests up in their travel trailer--close enough to visit, but a nice separate space to contain our noise and mess! We spent most afternoons in stream canyons, swinging out on a rope and dropping into the water, jumping off rocks into the water (while trying to catch a foam football in mid-air), etc. Lots of time for hunting water snakes, frogs, salamanders, etc. Leo loves hunting and catching animals so he was very happy whiling away time this way. One highlight was taking a jet

boat ride up the Rogue River for 52 miles upriver, into a roadless section, with great scenery, lots of ospreys and bald eagles, deer and bears (although one of the "bears" turned out to be a black cow!), and getting splashed. The treehouse continues to be a big draw-- Leo and Jaime slept in it most nights and spent many more hours in it discussing Pokemon Gameboy strategy.

The last summer hurrah for Leo was four nights on Catalina Island with a YMCA camping excursion. He had fun kayaking (he was quite impressed with having to paddle back against the wind), snorkeling (with, Leo says, "tiger" sharks--we know these were actually harmless leopard sharks), hiking, swimming, and just goofing. He was proud to tell us that he wore the same clothing all five days! Look, Ma, no laundry!



In our nine-year-old's world, skateboarding is still king, but Leo did take on a new sport this year: bicycle BMX racing on a local dirt track with bumps and jumps. Starting at the novice level, Leo quickly improved, and was placing well. Then in May, a fellow rider veered into him during a race, knocking him down, which broke Leo's arm (unknown to Leo, but Mom got it all on videotape). In pain, Leo picked himself up, and rode off the rest of the track, finishing third, with a broken arm. He was then out of action for many weeks in a cast up to his shoulder. Resuming BMX racing, Leo finished the requisite number of victories to advance to the intermediate level. Leo is proud of his intermediate trophy, but seems to be even prouder of his high broken bone tally; this makes number four, with the first three being collarbones that he broke up through age three or so. He will occasionally introduce the subject of broken bones with new acquaintances, apropos of nothing, and try to determine who has had the most fractures.

Peter continued to work on his macho reputation, doing some more shark dives this summer offshore San Diego, diving outside the cage with blue sharks and mako sharks. Peter is getting practiced at fending off sharks that come way too close to him, usually pushing them away gently with his hand or with his underwater camera strobe light (which has a few bite scratches to show for it). He is slated to go to Guadalupe Island in Mexico next September to see great white sharks; he will be inside the cage on this trip, so he won't end up an appetizer for the sharks.

Kathy realized a long-term daydream this year, much to our surprise! In mid- November, we closed purchase on a small cabin for weekend use on Palomar Mountain, about 1 1/2 hour drive from La Jolla. The altitude is 5,500 feet, so this really has a mountain feel to it and is high enough to get snow. The cabin is an A-frame on a third acre with lots of big trees (fir, cedar, oak). It has a wood burning stove, and great spring-fed water. We've already spent a couple of long weekends in the trees, and look forward to spending our Christmas and New Years holidays there. It's peaceful, quiet and beautiful. Come visit, please!

Work goes well for both of us, though things have been kinda quiet. Peter is involved with library projects to put materials on the web involving historic oceanographic expeditions, and California marine species. Kathy is beginning to plan another collecting trip to the South Pacific in 2002--it's hardship duty, she says (yeah, right!)

## Happy holidays 2000

In June we all flew to Oahu and stayed in Waikiki for eight days, visiting friends and having a great time. Peter did a lot of snorkeling with Leo and enjoyed this activity immensely. Leo really got into spotting fish and other animals and pointing them out excitedly. We also had seemingly endless discussions with Leo during this trip about sharks--which shark is the most dangerous, which is the largest, what shark would win if the largest had a fight with the most dangerous, what shark would fit in the hotel swimming pool, etc. Leo and Kathy did a lot of body boarding, which was exciting. Leo is fearless about going out over his head, so we really have to keep a sharp eye on him. Peter went scuba diving with Eric Vetter (a Scripps graduate now teaching in Hawaii) on the North Shore (Shark's Cove), while Kathy, Leo and Eric's daughter, Alyssa, collected a bucketful of seahares and

other oozy creatures in the bathtub-warm tidepools. Leo also caught several large cane toads during a rainstorm one night--and kept them in the bathtub for a couple of days. We gave the hotel maid an extra large tip for putting up with that.

In August we visited Peter's parents in Brookings, Oregon. On our way there we went to the Oregon Caves National Monument, up in the mountains near Medford. We took a long tour through the caves (Leo plastered himself to the guide and asked many, many questions). Then we checked into the 1930ish, WPA- built Lodge (think "The Shining") for the night--with this great room overlooking the waterfall--and had an elegant dinner. What a treat!

In Brookings Peter, his father ("Big Leo"), and "Little Leo" built a treehouse over three days. A simple platform with some walls and a roof was envisioned on our end but Peter's father (a retired engineer with a whole lot of power tools) had a grander plan. Leo ended up with a house on a platform large enough to sleep two, with two functional windows, translucent fiberglass roof, and small balcony with railing. Kathy had to restrain her urge to start wallpapering and adding cute little curtains--it's clearly a bachelor pad! Little Leo pitched in and built with the grownups and seemed interested throughout and quite proud when finished. Leo slept in it three nights, two of them with Peter, one with Kathy. The first night out there, with Kathy in tow, Leo verbalized all his fears about whether a mountain lion could get through the windows, a bear could break down the door, lightning could hit the tree, etc. We had to discuss all the possible (and a few impossible) disasters, before sleep arrived! Since we survived, Leo is now looking forward to his return to the treehouse next summer.

While in Brookings we went wading up the Winchuck River to look for salamanders and Leo caught 104 total. All were released again, but in different spots on the river--definitely contributing to future genetic anomalies in the salamander population! We also went to the beach for tidepooling, did a hike, cut brush, Leo drove the garden tractor a lot, shot rocks with a slingshot, etc. Summer was in full swing, as was Alice and Leo's garden. We all enjoyed picking ripe blueberries, strawberries, and blackberries. Big Leo and Alice were delightful hosts, as usual. Kathy and Little Leo especially enjoy asking Alice about Peter's bad habits when he was a kid!



Leo is now in third grade and is doing very well--a relief and change from second grade, which was a battle. We speculate that the neurons necessary for reading and doing homework have finally grown in! Leo is a pretty happy carefree fellow, complete in his world of school, friends, skateparks, and pets (2 cats, 1 gecko, 2 snakes). Our new-ish neighborhood has lots of kids and Leo's room sometimes seems to be Party Central, with the music blaring, intense videogame competitions, and lots of laughter. In addition to skateboarding, Leo enjoys aggressive rollerblading now, without the brake and with the grinding gap in the middle of the wheels. He likes working on tricks, jumping down stairs, grabbing his skates, etc. He and his friends have made several ramps for jumping, which they drag over to the park. Needless to say, we're big into helmets at our house!

In August, Leo went to a week-long YMCA summer camp in the San Diego mountains. It was his second trip away from us and it went well. He did hiking, beebie rifle shooting, wall climbing, horse riding, etc. Though he had six days of clothes, it was no surprise he wore the same clothes all the way through. In Leo's mind the biggest hardship of the week was having to eat whatever food was put on his plate...even the mashed potatoes! And he still talks about the talent show, during which he and the other 8-year-old boys sang and danced to a Britney Spears song--they even had to put on glittery makeup! Camp in every sense of the word!

Peter went to Victoria BC for a marine science libraries meeting in early October. He went bike touring in the San Juan Islands for four days before the conference with a Seattle friend. He did some whalewatching tours while in Victoria. He saw a gray whale bottom feeding (which we don't see in San Diego or Baja California) and also saw killer whales (they jumped out of water a few times!) and various sea lions and seals.

Kathy has done a bit less traveling this year--at least compared to 1999. She went to Vancouver, B.C. in February to attend the Pacific anthropology meetings, and to Hawaii in November for the Pacific studies conference. This Fall, she also was able to make a quick trip out to Boulder, Colorado to visit sister Lorena and her family. While there Kathy and Lorena took a hike in the high Rockies--glorious!

And speaking of hiking, all of us have been doing more of that this year. We try to go out a few times a month, often to the Cuyamaca area or to the Laguna mountains. We've also been out to the desert a couple of times. Leo is a pretty good little hiker, although he has a tendency to overpack. Mom and Dad usually have to carry his pack by the end of the day.

Peter did a low speed face plant from his bicycle on July 3rd on the way to work. Fell on the right side of his face plus right shoulder. Bled like crazy, black eye, puffy face, etc. Luckily he crashed right in front of a linen store-- the clerks rushed right out with a nice towel to sop it all up! Leo and his friends were impressed with Peter's monstrous appearance. 23 stitches closed him up, and he now has some nice scars on his chin and under his right eye. Thank goodness he was wearing his helmet!

Peter is waiting for his friend Norbert Wu's PBS Nature show entitled Under Antarctic Ice, which will air in Fall 2001. Peter helped with Antarctic scuba diving and filming on this project at the end of 1997 and 1999. Onscreen Peter will probably be a diver underwater or a bundled-up background figure that only he will be able to spot--his 15 seconds of fame! Peter may go with Norbert Wu to southwestern Sardinia in May to assist with underwater photography of tuna fishing; they herd tuna into big nets and haul them into boats. There are swordfish in the nets too. Escorted divers are allowed to dive in the nets with the tuna so Peter hopes to see that, see some nice scenery and eat some good food too. Peter dives locally in San Diego most weekends. He did a shark cage dive offshore San Diego where a chainmail suited diver feeds the sharks while the paying customers watch from the cage. As a repeat customer, Peter is allowed outside the cage so he hangs about watching the blue sharks and mako sharks swim around.

## **Christmas 1999**

I returned to San Diego from a second Antarctic scuba diving trip on Dec 15 or 16 -- can't remember which day. Leo had a strep throat when I got home, Kathy got sick shortly thereafter, and then I got sick. Since I arrived home exhausted and then promptly got sick, that blew off my energy for the holidays! I resumed San Diego scuba diving over New Years and now Antarctica feels like a distant memory. It feels so distant because it is so different than the normal routine.

This was the second Antarctic photography trip in which I participated with a personal friend, Norbert Wu, a photographer / cinematographer (the first trip was at the end of 1997). I was with two other friends helping Norbert to film a high- definition one-hour show for PBS Nature. I lugged gear, modeled underwater, ran errands, prepared dive gear, shot slides for Norbert to use in promotional materials for the PBS film and for equipment sponsors, etc. Norbert roughs out the film at WNET in New York during the month of May and then goes back to McMurdo next season to fill in the holes. Thus PBS Nature won't be showing "Under Antarctic Ice" until Fall 2001 or something. I may actually be onscreen since I certainly was filmed underwater enough times as a generic diver. You wouldn't recognize me unless you can recognize my diving gear (blue- black drysuit/blue fins). We are so thoroughly encased in dive gear underwater in the 28 degree F water that you see dive gear more than you see a person.

I can't go back to Antarctica with Norbert next season since it pushes an envelope to be gone from work (and home) for so long less than twelve months later. This is just as well because I do feel I need to spend my future vacation time some place other than Antarctica -- scuba diving there is really fun but some of it started feeling like been-there, done-that this second time around. I was underwater so long on each dive (many dives were an hour long) that you do several dives in an area and you feel you have seen it thoroughly. I did 28 scuba dives and saw Weddell seals underwater a lot as well as penguins.

Last summer, Kathy left for six weeks on a business trip; Leo and I did fine in bachelor mode. Kathy was gone July through mid-August, going to Papua New Guinea, Fiji, New Caledonia, and Vanuatu purchasing/collecting publications within those countries for the library collections at University of Hawaii and for Kathy's Melanesian collection at the UCSD Libraries here. She did some snorkeling but mostly worked ALL the time. She came home for one night, picked up Leo, flew to Honolulu for a debriefing meeting with the University of Hawaii Library, vacationed a bit with Leo in Waikiki, then went to Massachusetts with Leo to see her older sister and some friends. So Kathy and I were apart for eight weeks there for July and August and then apart for my 6.5 weeks ending mid- December. It still feels nice to be home together after all that.

I made the mistake of letting Leo have a vacation this summer between first and second grade during Kathy's absence and didn't exercise his reading muscle. He started second grade very rusty at reading and was near the bottom of the class. Kathy worked him hard at reading when I was gone and he has caught back up.

Leo is really, really into skateboarding starting last May when we (mostly me) started taking him to either of two skateboard parks in San Diego. He has gotten proficient at dropping in on six-eight foot tall half and quarter pipes and can skate back and forth, up and down the pipe. He can't get air or do grabs or handstands -- nothing radical yet. He does drop in and skate the big bowl that the older fellows principally use. He has skateboarding magazines, some videos, two Playstation games on skateboarding -- it's definitely his thing. He also took up skimboarding this summer which he picked up quickly since he can skateboard. The skateboarding has been good for him in mastering something, giving him an interest, giving him a shared activity with neighborhood boys, learning to deal with pain from the inevitable falls. It has matured him quite a bit (he's 7 and a half now -- second grade). Leo spends his time hanging out with some neighbor friends and it seems our move a year and a half ago to our current neighborhood has been good for him. I started riding my bike to work (two hilly miles) last February so I am now in better shape than I have been for years. Combined with a weekend scuba dive off San Diego from a friend's boat, I am doing well at fighting my inactive deskjob lifestyle.

This upcoming year, I don't know what's going to happen. I face a void compared to my outlook from May 1997 until Oct 1999, when I was looking ahead at going on two Antarctic scuba diving trips. I don't have anything big like that planned though I am interested in doing some more shark cage diving offshore San Diego. You go out all day in a boat, they chum the water, draw in blue sharks and mako sharks, and you jump in the water. The dive operator knows me and will let me dive outside the shark cage if the sharks aren't too jittery. It's a lot of fun to be suspended in the blue open ocean water at about twenty feet depth and have some sharks wheeling about you, on their way to and from the dive operator who is throwing out some fish chunks and wearing a chain mail covering over his wetsuit for bite protection. As long as you stay a respectful distance away from the fellow with the fish chunks (about twenty feet), there is little to fear. Leo will keep trying to talk me into purchasing whatever, I will keep trying to get him to focus on doing activities and not to focus on thinking up ways to spend money. Probably do a lot more hiking.... wear them young legs out a bit.

## **Christmas 1998**

Greetings from San Diego! It's been another busy year for us. As some of you know, we sold our home of 12 years in Linda Vista last summer and downsized to a two bedroom condo in La Jolla, very close to UCSD. We spent much of the Spring getting the house ready to sell, put the house on the market in June, and had 3 offers within 2 days! We packed everything up in boxes, got rid of a lot of accumulated stuff and things we no longer needed (like lawnmower, garden tools, etc), and moved on schedule at the end of June with no time to spare (the buyer wanted in NOW). We're thrilled with our new "La Jolla lifestyle" (as Peter calls it). Living within walking distance of work is wonderful and we are still gettin by with only one car. Our new home is also very close to other necessities of life. A park is a one minute walk away and Leo's friends from school live nearby (Leo's school is just over one mile away). We are near movies, grocery store, Trader Joe's, etc. Peter and Leo go to the park to throw frisbies, balls, etc; Leo likes batting practice. We don't miss the daily commute at all! This was definitely a good change for us; we don't miss owning a house at all.

Leo turned 6 in June and entered first grade this Fall, at Torrey Pines Elementary. His reading skills are coming along, with not too much foot-dragging in the homework department. Boogie boarding continued to be great fun for Leo this summer. Leo has turned into a collector--a trait he seems to have inherited from both grandfathers. Over the last year he's collected baseball cards, rocks, shells, and---air fresheners!

Kathy continues to work fulltime at UCSD in the Social Sciences and Humanities Library. Developing the archaeology collection has been a special focus this year, working with faculty members to build strengths in Middle Eastern and West African archaeology. The Melanesian Archive is thriving--Kathy has now been at UCSD for 15 years, with this collection as the primary focus of her job. She travelled to Honolulu this Fall for a very special conference at the University of Hawaii--the first-ever international meeting of Pacific Islands Studies librarians.

Peter has had a busy year on top of working hard with Kathy to fix up the house to sell. He attended a marine science libraries conference this fall in Iceland and spent a few extra days there seeing the countryside--very beautiful! He is working on a web site of photo IDs of Antarctic underwater life for the use of diving scientists; photos from the Antarctic trip on which Peter participated a year ago will be in the February issue of National Geographic magazine. He may return for more Antarctic scuba diving at the end of 1999. Similar to the past, Peter participated in a research submersible cruise off the So. Cal. coast, involving dives down to 1000 feet in underwater canyons. Peter also went on two shark cage diving trips ten miles off San Diego and got to see blue and mako sharks as big as himself; on the second trip, he was allowed to dive outside the cage which improves the shark viewing experience a lot!

We have a new kitten, now six months old, named (by Leo) "Speed". Speed started life with us constantly mewling but is now quiet except when hungry or lonely. Speed sleeps on Leo's bed a lot and Leo is quite fond of Speed.

### **Christmas 1997**

Happy holidays from Kathy, Peter, and Leo. This has been an interesting year for us principally marked by Leo starting kindergarten this fall. After the school year started, we got Leo into Torrey Pines, a public school right next to UCSD where we both work (which makes daily life easier). This proved fortuitous because one week later, our 1983 pickup truck finally gave up the ghost and we all started commuting together in one car. This worked so well that we decided to be Southern California revolutionaries and continue as a one- car family in order to save money and spend some more time together. Driving home together is the perfect time to "debrief". Since our eventual goal is to move to--hold onto your hats--a condominium (gasp!) close to campus, having only one car makes a lot of sense.

Leo went to see both sets of grandparents at various times of the year--Kathy's parents in Santa Cruz and Peter's in Brookings, Oregon. His interests are several and include bugs and animals in general (we now have a kitten, Torbie, and two toads, Goldie I and Goldie II, to go along with our dog; a local tarantula was a short term pet that we let go). On vacation, Leo spent a lot of time hunting salamanders, crabs, snakes, lizards, grasshoppers, etc. and reeled in a trout (he was very fixated on the concept of fishing though his lack of patience works against him). Leo currently tells us that he wants to "study bugs" when he grows up. It's either that or be a megazord. Grandpa Scott put his geology magic to work and took Leo gold panning in the San Lorenzo River--many nuggets of "something resembling gold" were found! No, we haven't had it assayed yet...

We spent considerable time at the beach this summer with Leo; this is made easier due to Peter's Scripps parking permit and his access to shower rooms there. Leo loves boogie boarding on the shore waves and also loves crab hunting in the rocks. There are clean seawater outflow streams running across the beach--many hours of building dams out of kelp. We did some snorkeling where the sharks hang out in shallow water at La Jolla Shores beach and Leo saw his first big fish underwater: four foot leopard sharks and guitarfish and some smaller gray smoothhound sharks. Leo loves the beach a lot and Peter vastly prefers doing that with Leo

compared to many other playtime activities. Kathy received a boogie board for her birthday and really enjoys it too.

Kathy took a wonderful trip for three weeks back in her old haunts of the southwest Pacific islands. She attended a conference in New Caledonia on Pacific archives and spent some time there with old friends (she lived there from 1979- 1983); she also went to Vanuatu for the first time and visited friends. It was great to see so many friends, brush up on speaking French, and even try the local drink, Kava (tastes like mud and cloves, but has a mildly pleasant narcotic effect). Kathy would love to return soon--with at least Leo, and maybe even Peter, along.

Peter went on two trips with his friend Norbert Wu, a professional nature and underwater photographer: the Galapagos and Antarctica. His Galapagos trips resulted in great slides and encompassed hiking and snorkeling (no scuba diving). The wildlife there is profuse and fascinating to see so close up. His Antarctic trip in November encompassed scuba diving under the ice as well as topside excursions to three penguin rookeries, the sea ice edge, and the Dry Valleys. The larger wildlife he saw were Weddell and leopard seals, Emperor and Adelie penguins, and killer and minke whales. Peter put extensive descriptions of both trips linked at the bottom of his personal web page at <http://library-pc5969.ucsd.edu/>. Kathy notes that one of Peter's biggest worries about becoming a father was that he'd never get to travel again--hah!

Other activities this year included rock-climbing--both indoors at a class for Leo, and outdoors in some of the beautiful country east of San Diego. We also had a fun, though wet trip up to the Monterey Bay area last January, and a camping trip up to Idylwild. One of our goals for the coming year is to go camping and hiking more--easier now that Leo is older.

Work continues to be a challenge and interesting for both Peter and Kathy. Peter's library underwent centralization of some functions with the central library at UCSD so there were challenges in reshaping staffing and operations for remaining functions. Though Peter's library is slightly reduced now in staffing, the remaining staff work well together with the result that his library is much more harmonious workplace than before the reorganization.

## **Christmas 1996**

Here's a jointly-written Christmas letter to let you know what Kathy C, Peter Brueggeman and Leo Brueggeman (4 1/2 years old and not writing yet) are up to.

Peter: Work as the director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography Library continues to go well for me though I find dealing with difficult personnel issues exasperating at times. However now that Leo has been processing my coping skills for the last 4 1/2 years, I find that I am better able to cope with managing an organization with sixteen people plus a bunch of student employees. My lifeline is that I maintain Web pages that point to Internet resources in oceanography; this is a creative outlet that gives me an opportunity to do something more personally rewarding. I continue to scuba dive locally in San Diego and a few times a year on the various offshore islands or banks of Southern California. I also continue to be a volunteer diver in the Scripps Aquarium's kelp tank where I vacuum the bottom, clean the inside of the glass, hand-feed the fish, and wave at little kids. On occasion, I like to make faces at the kids underwater since they are not expecting it; their reactions are priceless to see. The really little ones think I am a big fish and are surprised or stunned to see me stick my tongue out at them, etc. It's either that or they are surprised to see a grown-up act so silly. This summer and last summer I went on multi-day research trips with a Scripps scientist studying the ecology of underwater canyons. The work was done with a two-man submarine and we took videos, photos, and sucked up bottom sediment samples with a remote arm. Over both trips, I made twelve dives in various canyons and control sites with depths ranging from 300 to 700 feet. Since I have done so many scuba dives in the local Scripps Canyon, it was great to see what canyons looked like down deeper. I saw lots of large shrimp, various fish including a large electric ray which turned and attacked the front of the sub, lots of sea pens, sea urchins, a wolf eels, basket stars, crabs, etc. Each dive lasted about an hour plus or minus. As in the past I assisted a professional

underwater photographer friend on a photo assignment in the Bahamas for 12 days. We went to two different islands for shark photography. One place chummed the water with frozen fish in a big lump which attracted 40-70 sharks from 4-6 feet long. The sharks are smart and are only interested in the food. If you stay at least 20 feet away from the food, there is no danger though you are literally surrounded by sharks as they swim in an orbit around the food. With regularity a shark or two would lunge in at the food, extend their jaws on it and twist and turn to break some off. Very visual experience! As we moved about in the orbital area, sharks swam alongside me, overhead, underneath, right at me and veered off, etc. My photographer friend and I were much closer to the food than the paying customers about ten feet further back. Can't say I blame them since it does look initially frightening to be in the midst of 70 sharks. The second place we went to attracted 12-15 six-foot sharks and the divemaster hand-fed them. We were very close to the person feeding them -about 8 feet away - and, as a result, the sharks were physically much closer. It would suddenly seem dark, I would look up, and see a six-foot shark passing six inches over my head. Sharks were passing a foot away alongside and I would reach out and stroke their body after their mouth and eye had passed me by. The sharks didn't flinch and were surprisingly soft and smooth. There were lots of other great things to see at both places including caves, shipwrecks, large groupers, reef fish and invertebrates. Leo can be great fun and a real pain at times. Fun stuff included spending a lot of time with him at the beach this summer. I bought him a wetsuit and a small bodyboard and he was probably the coolest looking four year old on the beach. He is so proud of his wetsuit and bodyboard; with some coaching, he got pretty good at riding the small waves running up on the beach. He cannot swim yet but has taken some lessons and should be able to swim next summer. We spent hours combing the tidepool rocks south of Scripps looking for various animals and catching crabs. I will continue with his ocean education and when he can swim, I plan to tow him on his board inside the La Jolla sea caves and to see the sharks schooling in a remote cove south of the public beach in La Jolla. It's more fun for me to hang out at the beach than a playground so I hope to facilitate his interest in that direction. Leo starts kindergarten next fall so that represents a milestone for us. Since he is more child than baby, I find him easier to be around and have spent countless hours with him at movies, Sea World, etc. It is nice to give Kathy a break on weekends.

Hello there friends and family! Kathy writing now. Let's see...I'm still working full-time at UCSD in the Social Sciences and Humanities Library. My assignments currently including buying all the books for the Anthropology and Sociology collection (it's fun shopping with other people's money, I must say!), working the reference desk, and, my largest and most-fun assignment, building the Melanesian (Pacific Islands) collection. My favorite aspect of this is collecting the unpublished manuscripts--anthropologists' field notes, etc. And we've had lots of success in this over the last year. Of course, I need to attend conferences of Pacific scholars to network--so I'm sorry to say that I made the supreme sacrifice of going to the big island of Hawaii this year...twice! So, all in all, I'm pretty happy with the way things are going at work. On the homefront, Leo continues to delight, amuse, amaze, and occasionally annoy! He's a chatty, funny, constantly-in-motion kid. He's working hard at playing, growing up fast--but still enough of a little one to want those cuddles from Mom. I'll miss it when he outgrows those! His most obvious talent is verbal--always telling stories, asking questions, making jokes, composing songs (you should hear him in the bathtub!). We can't understand it, since we come from such quiet families (hah!). And of course, we still think that he's the cutest kid around, but we may be biased. In early January of this year I had an operation on my inner ear, to have a shunt put in-- this entailed drilling through that bone we all have behind our ear. Needless to say, it wasn't something to undertake lightly. But I'm happy to report that it has been a success in relieving the near-constant vertigo that I was suffering from Meniere's disease--hurrah! Not fun. Thank God for good doctors! What else? Well, our cat, Panisse, disappeared last spring--we think the pack of coyotes in Tecolote Canyon had her for an appetizer. Leo and I went to the Humane Society to get a kitten and came home with a chihuahua instead! She's cute, although one of our friends swears that she looks like Yoda. Hmph! Her name is Kayla--and yes, we do have a niece by that name too. Small world, eh?

## Christmas, 1994

Hello and Seasons Greetings from San Diego. We decided to send out a jointly-written letter this year to optimize effort and make sure something goes out this year.

Life has been overrun (and enriched!) by Leo who is now 2 1/2 years old. Fortunately he sleeps all night and has been doing so since he was two months old; it could have been worse. Leo is very verbal at an early age and has advanced manual skills; his teachers say this too so it isn't just his completely unbiased parents spouting off. He whines a bit too much to suit Peter's taste rather than just asking or saying what he wants. We know the whining is normal for a two year old learning how to communicate but it can drive one a bit crazy! It has been a time of major adjustment; Peter has learned that he prefers children to infants and Kathy has learned to tolerate (barely at times) Peter's adjustment process to a different lifestyle and a different perspective on personal time. (Kathy's note: that last sentence was written by Peter--in my opinion, Peter's a sensational father and Leo is nuts about him!)

For three weeks before last Christmas Peter was in Costa Rica helping a friend who is a professional underwater photographer. I (Peter) went to Cocos Island for seven days of diving; it is a flyspeck of an island, off the coast of South America, at the same latitude as Bogota Colombia. It is a national park of Costa Rica and renowned for its marine life including schools of 8-10 foot hammerhead head sharks, 4-6 foot reef sharks, sea turtles, manta rays, large pelagic fish like wahoo, tuna and jacks, and much more. I was around sharks constantly usually only a few feet away. It wasn't frightening to me since I wasn't spearfishing and divers don't look like the usual food. I carried cameras around underwater following my friend a distance behind in order to stay out of the way of his picture-taking. It was fun because it is a world-class diving destination and affordable because the trip was mostly free.

While Peter was off in the tropics, Kathy and Leo flew to Colorado to visit Kathy's sister, Lorena, and her family in Boulder. Leo had his first experience with snow and Kathy was reminded of why she left cold climates. Leo had a great time playing with his cousins, Kayla (now 7) and Alison (now 5)--he adores big kids. We also had a wonderful day in Ft. Collins, where Kathy grew up, visiting friends who still live there.

In January and February we were all sick for many weeks; it was really a low point and Peter was particularly sick. Respiratory diseases are much more common now in our lives; Leo brings home new viruses for us to sample. A cold-and/or ear-infection-free weekend is reason to celebrate.

Leo has also had two broken collarbones this year--one on each side. Ouch! The first he broke falling off of a bookcase (appropriate for the kid of two librarians, natch). The second was this past October, when we were in Honolulu for a couple of weeks for business and pleasure. Leo was "showing off" for a little girl who was doing somersaults for him--unfortunately he can't do a somersault so he just threw himself down, and landed wrong. It's pretty pitiful when a two year old's vocabulary includes "broken collarbone" and "shoulder brace"! Luckily, he heals quickly and has become a bit more cautious about climbing on furniture.

We all spent several days in a beautiful hotel in Los Angeles, just after the big earthquake. Peter and Leo explored all the escalators, elevators, pedestrian skyways, hotel lobbies and fountains of downtown L.A., while Kathy attended a library conference. Leo turned into a party animal and didn't want to sleep --just wanted to cruise around and see the sights even late at night (boy, that got tiresome). We also had the enormous pleasure of attending a performance of the play, "Fool Moon", starring one of our favorites, Bill Irwin. Great show!

In March we had a long-awaited visit from Peter's parents, "big Leo" and Alice, who retired to Brookings, Oregon a few years ago. Big Leo surprised Little Leo with a beautiful hand-made wooden truck, complete with two trailers. While Leo and Alice were here we took advantage of their energy and gardening expertise to relandscape some of the front garden and put in a small patio at Kathy's request--for sipping wine and watching the sunset!

At the end of March Kathy's brother, Andrew, visited for several days. Leo did a great job of making friends with Uncle Andrew, who responded with his famous Donald duck imitation. Lorena and her family drove out in August, just in time to enjoy a heat wave. Scott and Dorothy (Kathy's parents) shared a wonderful Thanksgiving meal and weekend with us in November.

I (Peter) had been acting head of Scripps Institution of Oceanography Library since Nov '93 due to early retirement of previous head. The UCSD Library went through national recruitment for the Head of Scripps Library position and in mid-July I was appointed head of Scripps Library. The other person who was interviewed (a third dropped out) came down with appendicitis on her interview day in San Diego and went to a San Diego hospital for an emergency appendectomy. (Peter was a bit amused by his staff's response--they sent flowers and a get-well card to the other candidate while she was in the hospital...) I felt somewhat like Tonya Harding must have felt. She was interviewed a month later so things dragged out. So now I find myself being the head of the largest oceanographic library in the world (guess I have to start acting like an adult). I enjoy my work and look forward to going in each morning which is a good indicator after ten years being there. One of the major developments has been the integration of some facets of library service with the Internet so there are always new things to do, never static.

My (Kathy's) work has also changed a lot this year. In July one of the more senior librarians in my library retired. I was asked to take over responsibility for the library's collections in Sociology, Women's Studies, and Ethnic Studies, in addition to continuing my responsibilities for Anthropology and Melanesian Studies. I love my new subjects, as these are very active areas of scholarship these days with lots of interesting books and journals being published. Must admit, though, it's tough working fulltime with so many different subjects, plus being a mom. Can't complain about having nothing to do!

This summer and last summer I (Peter) drove with San Diego diving friends to diving locations on the Gulf of California in Baja California, Mexico. Both trips involve inhospitable climate so I went without family. Desert camping in 100 degree heat is no place for a family vacation. There were certainly grueling moments on each trip including being stuck overnight in deep mud down to the rear axle of my truck, stunning heat, grimy living conditions (though saltwater baths do agree with me), driving tropical rainstorms, etc but hey it was fun diving!

To wrap up the diving news (my major recreational pursuit these days) I still dive locally in San Diego and occasionally dive in Scripps' public aquarium kelp tank and hand-feed the fish, sharks, eels and halibut. This is a lunch-time activity so it is a nice break from work. Kathy and Leo have come over to the aquarium a couple of times while I was in the tank--Leo is fascinated to see Daddy through the glass. I try to make it even more fun by waving a lot, making faces, pretending to eat sea cucumbers, etc.

Last October I (Peter) accompanied my professional underwater photographer friend to the Bahamas banks where I snorkeled with spotted dolphins swimming about while he took pictures. Again I carried cameras and made myself useful and went as a freebie except for airfare. I did some dives on coral reefs there and got close to a twelve foot hammerhead shark and was around other sharks, barracuda, a large sea turtle and the usual assortment of reef dwellers.

Leo and I (Kathy) spent more of our year on dry land than Peter did, but we still had fun. Leo is becoming more and more a little boy and less and less a baby all the time. It's been a kick introducing him to new experiences this year, like the zoo, Seaworld, the Wild Animal Park, the model train museum, and drive-through fast food (his favorite: french fries). Leo became enamored of the ritual of blowing out birthday candles and singing happy birthday--we ended up "celebrating" his birthday for about a month, by which time we were reduced to sticking candles in pieces of cheese or banana, and singing happy birthday to the dog. Leo also thought Halloween was just great and fixated on seeing monsters around the neighborhood for quite awhile. On our trip to Hawaii Leo particularly enjoyed watching the musicians and hula dancers, going in the water at Waikiki Beach, and terrorizing the pet parakeet in our hotel lobby.