

The Jaffes

December 2011

Best wishes to family and friends from Florida! No, Rory and I haven't moved here. We're here for a few days while Rory attends a health care conference. I'm fortunate to be able to relax and enjoy the warm weather — 70s/80s. Back home in Davis, it's not so nice — 40s/50s, so I'm glad to enjoy a brief reprieve.



Even though I started out the year with a broken arm, it finally healed and things have been looking up since. The highlight of the year was a wonderful trip to Italy in June. Our nephew, Aron, married his long-time Italian love, Serena, in a beautiful wedding on the Amalfi coast, nearby her family hometown of Salerno. Aron's parents: Rose Lynn and Randy, are Rory's (& my) brother and sister-in-law. It was a lovely event and Serena was a beautiful bride. We felt honored to be a part of such a special occasion.

Rory booked us an amazing bed & breakfast in the small town of Atrani along the Amalfi coast that was very close to the wedding location, Ravello. Our host and hostess at the B&B were so kind & hospitable and went out of their way to welcome us.

Their home had been recently remodeled and looked directly out to the Mediterranean Sea. It was like paradise staying there. We had a wonderful time and will always remember our special visit there.

We did lots of sightseeing — visiting several small towns along the coast including Amalfi, Atrani, Positano, Salerno, and the isle of Capri. (The food everywhere was so good as well!) After the wedding, we went to Pompeii, and further inland to L'Aquila and several small hill towns in the Abruzzo area of Italy. We traveled with Randy and Rose Lynn and had so much fun together that we agreed to take more trips in the future. Our last few days in Italy were spent in Rome visiting and re-visiting some sites we saw in our previous trip in 2005. Although it was very warm in Rome, we ate lots of gelato to counter the heat! Our only regret was that our kids, Jill and Cody, were unable to join us on the trip.



Speaking of our kids, they are both doing well and busy with school obligations. Jill worked this past summer doing a paid internship for a law firm in San Francisco. The firm later offered her a full-time job once she finishes law school and passes her bar (!!!). She accepted and is quite excited about it. She's currently finishing up her last year of law school at Boalt and continues to enjoy living in Berkeley.

I had a chance last spring to visit Jill at Berkeley and be a "law student for a day", sitting in on her Constitutional Law class. I really enjoyed it, although I noticed I was the only person actually looking at the professor — everyone else was busy keyboarding away. Times have changed since I was a student! [Rory says: Yeah, back then, Beth had to chisel cuneiform on tablets to take notes. Beth responds: Rory, too!]

Cody is in his senior year at CU in Boulder, Colorado. He says he wants to take another year before graduating so he can complete some more courses that will be helpful for his major. He's studying International Affairs with a minor in Economics and is taking languages as well. He's living in a condo off campus with his roommate, Brian, from Colorado. Brian visited us here in California last May. Cody had fun showing him around Davis as well as Berkeley and other local spots. Rory, Jill and



I had a chance to visit Cody this past October in Colorado. We took our family picture in a beautiful meadow near his place, with the Flatirons in the background.

Rory has worked very hard expanding CHPSO (California Hospital Patient Safety Organization) & has hired several people to assist him. I've traveled with him as often as possible when he goes to various meetings around the country. We've both also taken several trips to southern California to assist our parents with their needs as well.

I've really enjoyed some new volunteer groups I've become involved with this year including Davis Community Meals, Yolo County Food Bank, the Yolo County Literacy Program, and working as a docent at the Yolo County Administration Building. I've also volunteered in a locally run holiday program that sponsors families in need. It's a fun program to be a part of. Of course, I love my book club and cherished friends in that group. I've also been walking pretty regularly with a local Sierra Club walking group and have taken an early AM exercise classes through the city of Davis. There are several 'regulars' in the Sierra Club as well as the exercise class that I've enjoyed getting to know.

In addition, I've also become great friends with a young woman I met through the International House on UC Davis campus. Her name is Ellie and her husband, Min, is a graduate student in Economics. They have an adorable young son, Sean, and were able to join us for Thanksgiving dinner. We loved having them. Ellie and I enjoy going out to Starbucks and gossiping about our spouses! Ellie and her family will head back to Korea in a few years — after her husband finishes his degree. He has a job waiting for him back in Seoul. I will miss her but we're having lots of fun together now. I try to teach her lots of English expressions and have encouraged her to teach English when she returns to Korea.

So, life is good. We hope yours is too. Joyful wishes for a happy and healthy 2012!!

Happy Holidays! Buone Feste! Boas Festas! Felices Fiestas! Hau'oli Lānui! 즐거운 휴일! חמשה טוב

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P.S. Rory just had to take this opportunity to show off one of his hummingbird pictures. We've put feeders in the yard and the hummingbirds responded by arriving in droves. At one point, we had five hummingbirds in an aerial fight over feeder rights. This picture is of one that is staring into our home office, and is taken from inside the house.

P.P.S. Once Rory gets the spare time, he will update our family web site to include more pictures of our wonderful trip to Italy, and more birds! Visit thejaffes.org soon.

