

HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL!

As I sit here by the fire, with four cats sleeping nearby and eight inches of snow outside, I am moved at how peaceful life can be in-between the hectic, constant running to and fro.

This past year we said farewell to Jeff's mom, Marion, in March. She fought a valiant battle but her body did not hold up. We all miss her indomitable, can do spirit and infectious optimism. She was our mother, grandmother, confident, advisor and friend. Her legal acumen and grammar skills were renown from New York to Virginia! There's a hole in our hearts this holiday season.

This summer Sarah, 23, and her love, Andy, drove from Wisconsin, where he lives, to Alaska, going via the ferry up the Canadian coast and driving back along the Alaskan highway. Upon her return, she left the Harvard environmental master's program to relocate to Madison, Wisconsin. There, living with Andy, she's working and taking classes in order to apply to medical school this spring. She has hurt her knee (it's actually her ITB), and she must patiently wait for it to heal--hard for her when she was so active running and hiking. Otherwise, she has no regrets and is quite happy with her choices in life.

Adam, 26, is working at Nextel and training for the Loudoun County volunteer fire department. He's completed the paramedical training and is looking forward to the fire-fighting classes. In the summer he helps coach little league softball with a friend. He and his love, Karla, are busy fixing up their Reston townhouse room by room. They're a team when it comes to fixing popped nails! Adam was appointed by his local county supervisor to Fairfax County's Drunk Driving Task Force.

Jeff's configuration management job moved from a long commute to an even longer one. He listens to cassettes I provide and is becoming quite the "well read" scholar. He was honored as one of ten Lords of Fairfax for his volunteer work this summer, and then appointed to the Fairfax County Traffic Advisory Commission at the same meeting where Adam was appointed. He loves attending meetings about the rail extension to Dulles Airport.

I am doing well health-wise. I go to the gym and try to eat well and be relaxed. I was recently promoted to branch manager of the John Marshall Library in the Rose Hill section of Fairfax. I love being in charge of "my own" branch. I have so many ideas....

This past July, Jeff and I drove from Virginia to Pensacola, Florida, to meet up with our French friends, Anne-Marie and Rodolphe, of 15 years. We drove down to Key West, saw the sights, and drove to St. Augustine. After eight days together in a car driving through swamps and in the heat, we were still friends.

That's all from Virginia. I hope that this next year brings you peace, happiness and good health.