

THE PARNES' CHRONICLES FOR 2006

This has been quite a roller coaster ride for us this year! We've had joyous times and sad times, thank goodness not at the same time.

I, as president of the FCPLEA (employees association) went before the County Board of Supervisors in April at the annual budget hearings and spoke in favor of pay equity for county employees. My 15 minutes of fame grew out of the fact that the employees cheered so loudly during my speech that the Chairman of the Board interjected some angry warnings, like we will escort all county employees out, etc. I remained calm and focused as I valiantly endeavored to finish my 5-minute speech. Well, I got everyone's attention and was appointed to the "Compensation Study Task Force" which is being reviewed by the Board of Supervisors for their recommendations. Who would have known that quiet me would be such a positive force for change! ;>)

May brought a road trip to Wisconsin for us as well as the marriage of our daughter, Sarah, to Andy Meister. Wisconsin is a lovely state, full of natural beauty. The wedding, which was orchestrated by Andy and Sarah, was a wonderful affair. Relatives and friends gathered with us to celebrate this union. We then polkaed the night away!

Sarah is a second-year medical-school student at U. Wisconsin, Madison, and Andy is a first year emergency-room resident in Milwaukee. They live in between in Pewaukee. They miss the charm of Madison but are adjusting to the hectic pace of their lives.

Adam and Karla celebrated their one-year anniversary December 1 on the beaches in Mexico. They are both hard at work with their graduate school studies and jobs and really looked forward to some relaxing down time.

After only 6 months at EDS, Jeffrey was one of the 10% of the workforce that was laid off. Needless to say, we were shocked. He liked the job and could even walk to work.... It took a while longer this time to find something new. He preserved and kept his spirits up. He enjoyed staying home for the first time in our married life. He busied himself with "honey-dos" and his volunteer committee work within the county. Luckily for us, he never defined himself through his job, only through his family and interests. God works in mysterious ways and what we expected to be a dry period between Thanksgiving and the end of the year brought multiple job offers.

I am recuperating from total right hip replacement surgery on November 13 for osteoarthritis. I am feeling quite well at this point. My staples were removed after Thanksgiving and I began out patient physical therapy; I have 6 ½ weeks off from work and will return fulltime the first of the year. Jeffrey has been wonderful in taking care of me, hauling me around to appointments as well as attending to my mental state. He is a calm influence (who knew?) and becoming a good cook!

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!