

Happy Holidays and a joyous year to all!

This year we are trying something new. We'll email or facebook everyone we can, and send the rest of our news to everyone else via real mail. I hope to make this happen before Chanukah is over - tomorrow!

We always start with the boys, and this year, that means Chris. His mandolin playing has become more than a hobby. He's been playing with a few guys for a few years. Their group, The House Band, is up to 7 members and they've had some gigs. You can see and hear them on this Facebook page (I took the video of *As Tears Go By*. It was my first ever, so don't be too critical). You can really hear Chris play ~1:20. <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=211503216948&ref=mf#/video/video.php?v=126315631716> Come to the Irishman Pub in Williamsville on Saturday, January 9th to hear them again. Yeah, I know you all want to travel to Buffalo in January! At least this time they are playing indoors.

Going from oldest to youngest (that means I'm last... I'm younger than my kids, hmmm, don't know how I managed that), so let's talk about Geoff. He bought a house. He's 23. I am in awe of him. He's stationed at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City. Before he left Tyndall, he got his call sign, Kermit. At his graduation at Tyndall, he got three awards: top academic honors (he never missed a question on any test), best on scope (which means he's pretty good at his job), and the Distinguished Graduate. His classmate, Jamie, grabbed Geoff's cell phone to tell us, because Geoff didn't. Jamie called it the "Triple Crown." When I told my boss this story, he said Geoff's call sign should have been Secretariat. We haven't seen him since last February when we went to Tyndall in Panama City Beach, FL. OK City won't be as much fun to visit, but we will definitely go there to see Geoff. We can't wait.

Then, of course you want to know what Jonathan is up to. So do we. Actually, we have seen him quite a bit this semester, since he called one Sunday at 4:30 PM to tell us his chest X-ray confirmed he had pneumonia. That's after already being out of class for a week with the flu and having his inhaler run out, with his asthma out of control. Chris and I were on the road to get him within a half-hour. I stayed home with him a few days and made sure he took the two antibiotics on schedule, fed him and took his temperature. He missed 2 weeks total, but was back in time to take finals. He'll get his Masters in Engineering in May, so we get to go back to Cornell for another graduation. Last May was wonderful there. Today he is in Madison, WI for a job interview (after missing the 6 AM flight this morning and taking a taxi from Ithaca to Syracuse - \$125 !! - but, it was not his fault that he missed the flight.)

I'm trying to get motivated to clean out the basement. We've lived in this house for over 18 years and the basement looks like a maze. There is a pathway to get to almost everything, but there is so much stuff down there and some of it has not been touched in 18 years. If you want to come over and take some of it, Chris would be forever grateful. We are thinking of downsizing, so we've got to start purging. I will find the time to do that between taking care of the various web sites I inherited. The night I was ready to tell my Sisterhood that I needed to take a break, they named me "Woman of the Year." I think the president read my mind, and knew I wanted out. What kind of Woman of the Year walks out on a group who needs her? As soon as they name a new WofY, I'm bailing. I know, I say it every year.

From our family to yours, we wish you all good health and much happiness. We hope you think of us, and we want you to know that we think of you. For those of you out of town, we really miss you. Much Love,
Chris, Geoff, Jonathan and Julie