

Hello from the distant past!

It has been too long since we have done a season's salutation, and we feel the need to reach out with fond greetings to our much-loved relatives and friends. We are all in good health (discounting the gradual, age-related deteriorations that we try valiantly to ignore). We still walk, hike, and backpack a great deal; Dave still occasionally commutes to work by bike; Stacy (who is at home for a few months) and I run.

Jeff is still very much the surfer, and now lives a mere 15-minute walk from Ocean Beach in San Francisco. He is working for an advertising agency in his dream job -- account executive -- and loving it. He says he has fun at his job. How many of us can say as much! We are fortunate that he likes to visit us often.

Stacy graduated from Oberlin in geology last May, and has become an accomplished climber (far outstripping her parents' dabbling) by doing routes in the 5.10+ realm. She spent the autumn of this year perfecting her skills in the Red River Gorge, KY, where she also happens to meet a fine young man with whom to climb. They did a route on Yosemite's Half Dome last summer. She is now working at a commercial rock-climbing wall as she prepares to hike the Pacific Crest Trail (2600+ miles from Mexico to Canada) for 6 months starting in May. We may join her for parts of the hike, though we fear we won't be able to keep up with her and her friends. The first month is in the Southern California desert (we're not much interested in that portion of the hike).

Dave is still enjoying his seismological research. He speaks occasionally of retirement, but that endeavor has not come into focus. He does feel, however, that he can say "no" occasionally, to the requests for trips and projects presented by being known around the world for his work. He is not fond of traveling, much to my annoyance. Dave does visit his dad, sister, and brother-in-law in Port Angeles, Wash., every 6 weeks. The latter have a beautiful home and lots of land, beautiful views, 15 birds and 2 ponies. His dad has a 19-pound cat! Dave still volunteers as a docent for the Mid-Pen. Open Space Distr. as he has for many years.

I still enjoying doing therapy part-time, with individual and couples, as well as leading trauma and grief groups in business and industry. I am starting regular groups in a nearby hospital for nurses who have especially difficult and demanding jobs. I am still involved with the Red Cross, both locally and for national disasters, and found myself in Florida for the hurricanes this September. I am also learning to quilt, and belong to a book club. My first efforts at participating in the election process were...interesting.

We have had 5 wonderful trips in the last year or so. We hiked the private Sutter Buttes, the peaks seen E. of Highway 5 near Marysville. The summer of '03 found three of us hiking the John Muir Trail (240 miles, 19 days) at Stacy's suggestion. We tried to slow Stacy down by off-loading our gear onto her, but it didn't work. Our packs were very light thanks to Dave's interest in "ultra-light" backpacking. We saw some gorgeous scenery and lost 10 pounds apiece. With some distance from the experience, I can think of doing it again—like childbirth.

In the fall of '03 Dave and I spent 3 weeks in various parts of Turkey. It was a combination vacation and work for Dave who spoke and taught at the technical university in the capital, Ankara. We spent a month in Italy last winter with a similar agenda, but Stacy joined us this time. We visited the east and west coasts, and the Dolomites in the north and Pompeii in the south. We found very few tourists in winter. We also hiked the 5 villages of Cinque Terre—possibly the best part of the trip.

This fall we took a slow car trip up the Calif. and Oregon coasts to visit friends and relatives. We found most of the bookstores and coffeehouses between here and Portland. We also visited a glass beach in Fort Bragg for a few relaxing hours.

This coming year we are contemplating a raft trip down the Colorado, and there may be another trip to Turkey, if we're lucky. Dave even took this coming week off — it is a use-it-or-lose-it situation -- but we won't have time for a trip.

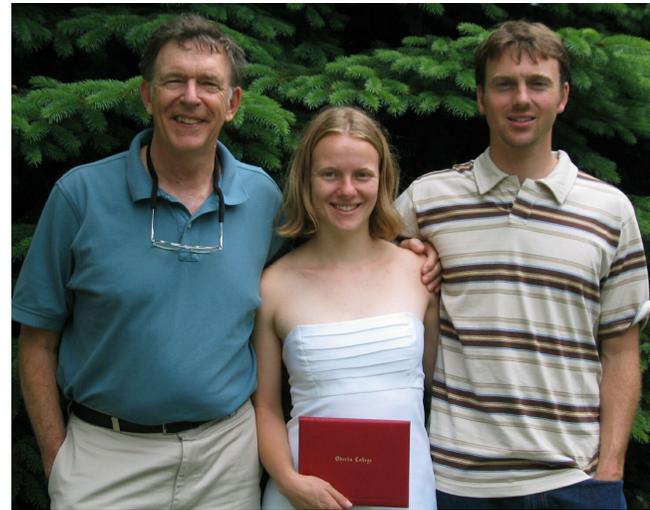
Our best to all of you, and thank you for your patience with our rare letters.



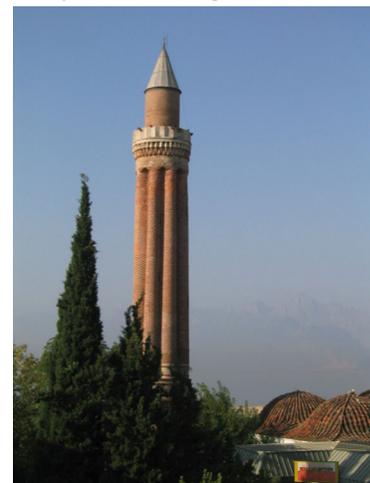
Judy Volunteering with Red Cross



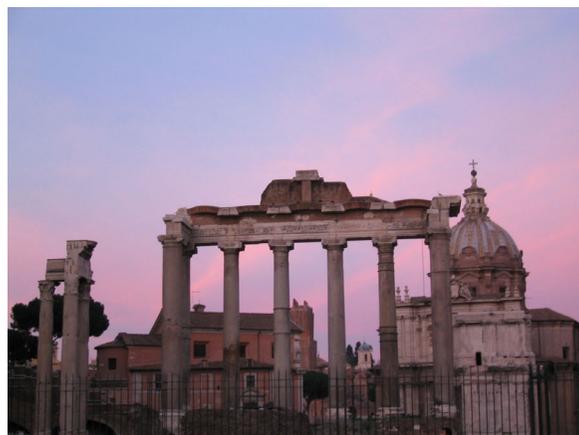
Docent Dave teaching flower identifying



Dave, Stacy & Jeff, graduation from Oberlin



Fluted Minaret, Antalya, Turkey



Rome, ruins at Sunset



Stacy, Burano, Venetian Island, Italy



Cave home, Cappadocia, Turkey



John Muir Trail; Mts Ritter & Banner, Day 5



JMT; Stacy, Mt Whitney, peak el. 14,494', Day 19



JMT; Judy, Dave, Day 2



JMT; Judy, Dave, Forester Pass, El. 13,200'



JMT; Stacy, Judy, Dave; Marie Lake, El. 10,551', Day 10, '03



Half Dome; Keenan, Stacy, friend