

Happy Holidays from the Livingstons

2009 was a crazy year for everyone, but we loved every minute of it. While it brought incredible change with positive results, the journey was trying and stressful. Our lives and lifestyles changed immensely over the year. 20 years of marriage and ten years in our NJ home were big milestones made small by the kids' accomplishments.

Sarah graduated from high school and chose the University of Maryland as the platform for her future. She had the choice of attending either alma mater of her parents, and she profoundly selected Terrapin power over Longhorn thunder. Of course, Karen reminds us often which team is playing for the college football championship. Sarah's new home, Cumberland Hall, is a mirror image and a stone's throw from Ellicott Hall where Phil lived a mere 30 years ago. Sarah is majoring in marketing which greatly suits her creativity and energy for the business world. Signs are that great fun and a huge breadth of educational experiences still abound in Terrapin-land. She has wonderful friends and has learned to explore Washington, DC via Metro. Training on the NYC subway over the teen years clearly helped. Her beau Stephen has been a great addition to the team.

Scott left us this year too, having decided to go to boarding school. That decision was pretty traumatic for the entire family. It was an unexpected turn. But he was admitted to Phillips Academy at Andover and loved it the minute he saw the dress-codeless student body. The teachers are impressive and Scott found the challenge he was looking for. He played JV soccer and is trying to make the squash team. He grows in all ways each time we see him. Scott was confirmed at Bishop Janes Methodist church this year too. He also attended the presidential inauguration in January.

Cindy started middle school this year. She's doing well academically and had a great fall club soccer season. Goal scoring and corner kicks came naturally. She played field hockey at school diversifying her sport options. Recently she got third place at a multi-

school forensics competition. She loves being an only child and cannot wait until her siblings return to school after break, so she can resume her rule over the house.

Karen and Phil spent the fall traveling to Boston and College Park to visit the kids. Cindy was a good sport, making some trips and camping with friends on many weekends. We enjoyed great football Saturdays at Maryland. The site of Sarah enthusiastically singing the fight song will stay with us for a long time. As a family we enjoyed great trips to Southampton for Memorial Day, Deer Valley for skiing with friends and of course time at the C Lazy U ranch in August. Karen still works out daily. She took a job with a local book fair company combining her love of reading and her finance background. Phil joined LexisNexis in April running a legal industry software business and the marketing services units Martindale-Hubbell and Lawyers.com. With lots of brainpower and nice people in the company there is never a dull moment.

We're happy that Karen's mom Ginger remarried this year. We welcome Bill to our family. Phil's mom Joanne turned 75 big ones and got another knee replacement to complete her bionic set. Dad is enjoying the Democrats temporary control of the government. All we can do is rejoice about our new governor in New Jersey. As he crossed the Delaware River to attack the British in Trenton, George Washington said, "all good things start in Jersey."

Scott and Phil fetched the tree this year. Cindy, too tired to make the trip, took on the decorating responsibilities. But at 9PM it was clear that the lights on the tree were not right and off they came for a corrective redo... three times. Dad retreated to write the letter with Nat King Cole on the stereo. Cindy helped Dad write the letter this year. As we finish, a major snowstorm has arrived, the ground has a white dusting with a foot more to come. A White Christmas is assured.

We hope you are all well. Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!!

Lots of love, Karen, Phil, Sarah, Scott and Cindy