

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS -2008



Another year has gone by! I alternate years with an electronic version of our Christmas Newsletter on even years- and the snail mail version in odd years. Since this is an even year, you will get the electronic version only. I also find that I tend to ramble a bit more with the electronic version since I am not limited by how much I can get on a piece of paper.

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There have been quite a few changes in our household. First, I (**Chris**) no longer work as a trainer for LG Consumer Products. Previously, I worked part time for a third party who contracted with LG to supply trainers on LG products to Best Buy and Circuit City stores as well as Sears. I trained BB and CC sales personnel on LG manufactured flat panel TV sets. I also called on Sears to train on LG's broad line of appliances (washers and dryers, refrigerators, microwaves, etc). Unfortunately, my immediate

employer lost its contract with LG in July to train Best Buy and Circuit City employees. That left just Sears, and it no longer made any economic sense to travel to an area just for one Sears store.

Earlier in January I had anticipated making a career change and I started attending Edmonds Community College on Saturdays to complete a course of study in an entirely new area for me, computer forensics. I will complete my studies, and will have acquired several necessary certifications, by mid-2009. I find this area

fascinating, and mentally challenging, and I look forward to actually doing some paid work in 2009.

**Gretchen** completed her fifth year with Kellogg Garden Products. Her good news this year was that Kellogg hired someone to call on the Oregon territory- so she has much less travel and only spends a couple of nights a month travelling. Her Washington and Idaho territory continues to grow at a very fast pace—and her employer continues to be amazed by her energy.

My son **Kevin**, and his family (wife Tamara, daughter Makaila, and daughter Zoe) moved to a new home in the greater Chicago area (LaPorte, IN to be exact). This coincided with his promotion as vice-president of Marketing for the Fours Winds Casino- he is responsible for a multi-million dollar budget and is responsible for over 100 employees. It is hard to believe that just 5 years ago he was a data processing clerk for a small casino in Coos Bay, OR. I am obviously extremely proud of him.

And we are also proud of daughter, **Ryann**. She continues to work as an Area Coordinator for the Washington Restaurant Association (WRA). She recruits new members for the WRA in her greater Seattle territory as well as coordinate various WRA events in Seattle. I continue to be a active member of the Board of Directors of the WRA, so I can keep an distant "eye" on her process- most satisfactory.

**Kimber** graduated from Willamette University in 2007- and has spent the past 14 months back in school (PioneerWest in Wilsonville, OR) to obtain her medical assistant certification. She graduated in October, and now is in the period where she must

complete 2000 hours of work experience in order to qualify to apply to OHSU to enter the Physician's Assistant program. She is working for a group of [ophthalmogists](#) as among other duties, a scrub nurse.



## 2008 in Review

[NOTE: Click on blue hyperlink to see pictures]

In **January** Kimber moved to her [new apartment](#) in Wilsonville, OR. She shares it with a Willamette sorority sister. In **February**, we celebrated the Academy Awards with a [dinner](#) at our friends, Gwen and Kerry Nicholson- and Gretchen celebrated her sister [Gloria's birthday](#).

In **April** Gretchen's mother [Erna moved](#) into a new retirement facility after selling her longtime Tacoma home- and we observed an early morning [roof fire](#), with incredible fire department response, at a home across the street. Also we attended the [Dali Lama's](#) Seeds of Compassion tour at Qwest Field in Seattle. In **May** I travelled

[to Kevin's home](#) to meet my newest granddaughter Zoe (actually born in December 2007)- and we enjoyed a [fabulous dinner](#) wife Gretchen's sister Deborah and husband John at the famous Farm on Vashon Island.

In **June** we attended Gretchen's favorite, The [Fremont Solstice Parade](#)- plenty of pictures of the famous bicyclists who forgot their clothes. We also attended the nearby [Greenwood Auto Show](#), where Ryann had displayed her classic 1967 Skylark- and later in the month, sister [Marianne, christened](#) her new patio. We attended our friend Tomi Cranton's annual [4<sup>th</sup> of July party](#) in Steilicom. Then later in July we went to the world famous (seriously) [Oregon Country Fair](#), held outside of Eugene, OR. Marianne accompanied us- and Kevin and family flew out, also. This truly is a unique experience.

**August** [Emily Keyes](#), Gretchen's granddaughter, age 13 from Bend, OR visited us for a week, [Ryann celebrated](#) a birthday of a friend with more friends at a Seattle restaurant, and I attended a dog show at [Marymoor Park](#) where Ryann was showing her Samoyed, Maker. While [Kevin and 5-year of Makaila](#) travelled in **September** to Purdue to watch Oregon-Purdue football

game, I travelled to California for a quick visit with [my Dad](#), and we attended a "[Meet the Parents](#)" party at Gretchen's sister Donna's home. Donna has two daughters of a friend living with her- one daughter was getting married and it was time to Meet the Parents!

I travelled again to Chicago in **October**. Kevin and family took the train from LaPorte to Chicago where we visited the fascinating [Museum of Natural History](#). I travelled to the Detroit area where stopped in Dearborn and toured the [Ford Motor Rouge factory](#) as well as Henry Ford's Greenfield complex and [the Ford Mansion](#). On my return to LaPorte, I drove there the [University of Michigan campus](#) in Ann Arbor- see these photos- beautiful fall colors as trees were turning. Finally [Kimber graduated](#) from PioneerWest.

**November** was filled with Thanksgiving activities. But earlier in the month, we attended [a Seahawk game](#) with John and Deborah as well as a [special dinner](#) at Marianne's with longtime friend, Al Benoliel. For the Thanksgiving festivities, first Gretchen's Mom, Erna, hosted a wonderful [meal at "THE HOME"](#) the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Then we had a full table on [Thanksgiving Thursday](#) with several of Ryann's friends.

Finally **December** has produced our first yearly [snowfall](#). And later we will all fly to California where both Kevin and his family as well as Chris' sister Kathy and family will join us and my Dad for a couple of Christmas dinners. A trip to Universal Studios is also on the agenda- sorry, obviously no pictures yet- but if you are interested, they will be posted after our December 26 return.

Well, that's it- one year in the Grady-Taylor household. We hope that you had as many happy memories as we did, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

*Gretchen and Chris*

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<http://www.gradygroup.com>