



Dear Friends and Family,

Christmas, 2003

We hope this letter finds you all well and happy. We've had an active year that started in Los Angeles, with a visit to Linda's mother, Marjorie. Seeing the Rose Parade floats up close was beautiful (and much more fragrant than on TV!)



In February Steve judged the International Wine Competition for the twelfth time. Also, his Theme Park Engineering class went online at 1400 universities worldwide.

March 25th was our silver wedding anniversary. We celebrated with a long weekend at the Ritz Carlton Amelia Island. How can it have been 25 years already?



Switching gears completely, April found us chaperoning 34 seventh and eighth graders on Dani's school trip to Yosemite (whew!). In all the years we've been going to Yosemite we've never seen such beautiful weather: warm and sunny, then two days of heavy snow, then warm and sunny again. It was a fabulous trip (but we did sleep around the clock when we got home!)



Due to fairly spectacular standardized test scores (forgive us, we have to brag some), Dani was invited to take the College entrance SAT through a talent identification program sponsored by Duke University. She did so well that in April she was invited to a state awards ceremony where she received a medal for her achievements.



It seemed like things kicked into high gear as the school year came to a close. Dani adopted a stray, injured kitten she found on the campus. "Peaches" has grown up now and masks a fairly devious nature with an "on demand" melodic purr. Steve's father had a minor stroke that had us hurrying to Williamsburg, but he's bounced back nicely and is doing well. As summer settled in Dani spent a week in St. Augustine with her godmother Nicole, and then a week at SeaWorld Camp. This was her eighth year there.



In July we dutifully lined up at midnight for our copy of Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix. Dani went into serious sleep deprivation mode and finished it by the end of the weekend, when it was passed on first to Steve and then Linda. It was a while before Linda could get to it, though, because she spent the summer swamped with projects at Disney World. The new Mission: Space attraction at Epcot opened to rave reviews, followed soon after by Philharmagic at Magic Kingdom and the new Animation Tour and Haunted Magic movie set attractions at Disney MGM Studios.



In August we met our Australian friend Pamela in Vancouver for a two-week cruise and tour of Alaska. The weather was unusually warm and clear, making it hard to believe we were almost to the Arctic Circle. The highlight of the trip for Linda and Dani was dog-sledding on a glacier; Steve liked the white water rafting. The Coral Princess had many fine amenities, but the one Steve and Dani liked the best was the ceramic studio, where they developed a passion for sculpture. They've continued to pursue it back at home with a kiln, and Steve has been taking an evening class in figure sculpture.



Dani is now a dedicated Trekkie (or is that Trekker?). For Halloween she dressed as trill Jadzia Dax from Star Trek Deep Space Nine.



At the end of October Steve's stepmother Ginnie passed away, after being incapacitated by an aneurysm six years ago. We all miss her, but it's nice that Steve's dad can travel again. He's joining us for the Thanksgiving through Christmas. Henry, the director of Steve's French company, and his wife and 4-year-old son visited in November.



Lately we've both been very involved in Dani's school, which has a beautiful new campus, but is suffering from some financial problems. We've been donating time and money to form a non-profit foundation to help out, and Steve has been having fun making a promotional film.



Christmas time is always busy; don't forget to make the time to share it with those you love.

Steve, Linda and Dani Alcorn