



Chatsworth Chatter 2008

*Happy holidays from
Bonnie and David!*

Though there are no major trips, weddings, births, deaths, job changes, or other major life milestones to report in our immediate family, this was a very busy year – divided mostly between Bonnie’s work on her Masters degree (see below), and periodic visits to *Whigmaleerie*, our “40 acres of oaks, wildflowers, weeds and dirt” and future home (the economy willing!) in Lockwood, in the San Antonio Valley AVA in southern Monterey County.

We didn’t finish everything we had planned, but we did get the electricity and a water tank installed, and we collected and planted 100 acorns from native oaks, about 50 of which sprouted, and about 20 of which survived the summer heat and the gophers, pigs and deer. Our “Christmas tree” this year is one of those hardy survivors!

In August 2007, in addition to her full-time job at Cal State Los Angeles, Bonnie began an intensive two year on-line Master of Science in Information Technology program in the College of Business and Economics at California State University Fullerton. With the exception of two weeks off each December, it’s kept her fully occupied since then, but she graduates next May, so there’s light at the end of the tunnel!



Seshon Fire - Mel Melcon LA Times



It's Been Quite a Year!

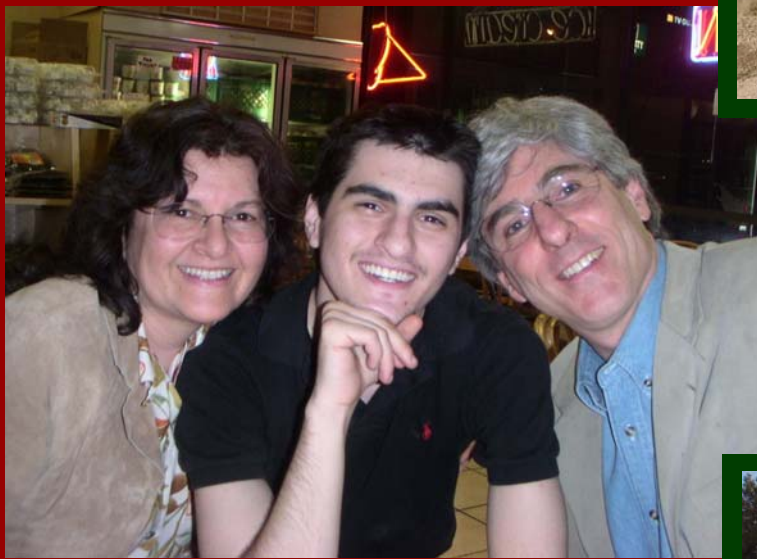
Personally, we've been fortunate this year, but disaster seemed to threaten often! Aside from the economy (which seemed to go from bad to worse every day), there were two major fires less than a mile from our house in Chatsworth, the terrible MetroLink commuter rail crash happened just north of the station where we get off every day, and several major fires burned over 200,000 acres in the Santa Lucia Mountains just northwest of Lockwood. Luckily, everyone we know is safe, but our hearts go out to those who lost loved ones, animals or property...

Despite everything, we got our first water tank installed in May — thanks to Armand Christen with a little help from David! And in October — months after Armand put in our power pole, electrical panel and meter — we were finally able to get PG&E to hook up the power! So the plan for 2009 is to install a pump for our well and put in enough irrigation so that last year's baby oaks (and more we will plant this year) will be able to survive another hot summer.



From time to time, we even get to enjoy a few hours with Quinlan — who turned 21 last March. He's still working at Superbalife as their resident database administrator and IT expert, has his own apartment in West Hollywood, and is even thinking about going back to college some day!

And lastly, we've enjoyed keeping in touch with old friends, making new ones in Lockwood, and bringing



the two together, as we did at our 2nd Annual Brunch Under the Oaks in Lockwood in November. If you weren't able to make it this year, we hope to see you next year! The older we get, the more we realize that material things matter very little, and it's how you interact with the world and the fellow passengers you meet on life's journey that really matters...

We wish you all very happy holidays and continued success in these turbulent times!



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