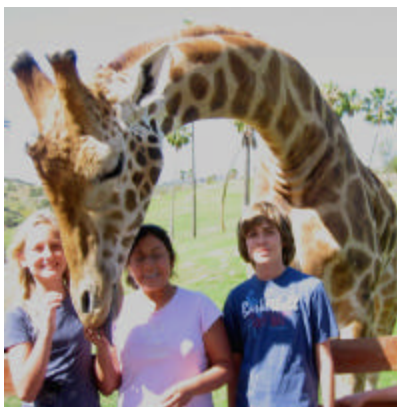


December 2006

The Birch Family  
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**Happy Holidays!**

It's sunny and warm here, but our Christmas tree and outside lights remind us it's time to send our very best wishes to family and friends. We hope 2006 has been good for you, and this finds you in the best of health.



Juliette (15) and Graham (13) are doing very well at school and growing up fast, as you see in these photos. As a birthday treat, we took a photo safari *inside* the enclosures at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. It was wonderful to be so close to giraffes, rhinos and other animals.

In July we flew to Boston where Juliette competed at the ISI World's event both solo and with Team Splash, a synchronized ice skating team. She skated very well and Team Splash won First Place. We toured Boston and drove to Plymouth and Cape Cod. Graham and Michael also visited the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield. Juliette was impressed by Harvard University!.



After Boston, we took the train to New York City. Although it was very hot we visited the Rockefeller Center, the UN, the WTC site, saw the Statue of Liberty from the Staten Island Ferry and did a lot of shopping. We also dined with Milt's cousin, Larry Edelman and family. Our hotel was super and New York was much more friendly and cleaner than we expected.

We didn't make our usual summer trip to Montana. Sadly, we lost several family members in Montana this year. Jana's aunts, Vivian and Margie passed away; also Gerald and most recently his wife, Evelyn, whom we often stayed with. Our cousins, Marilyn and Jim lost their son, Luke. They were all so special to us and we'll miss them dearly.

Ellie had a bad fall a few weeks ago and has to wear a full 'halo' neck brace. She is coping with it amazingly well and Jana visits her after school each day to help out. We hope she can fully recover and have it removed in good time for a 10-day cruise to the Mexican Riviera in April 2007. This will be similar to the cruise we enjoyed so much in 2005. As before this will include Milt, Ellie and Jamee, Antony & Diana, Colin & Rene, our four grandkids Katelynn, Natalie, Garrett and Austin – and us!



Graham is now a football and San Diego Chargers fan and he hopes to play next year. He is also looking forward to trying out his new snowboard as soon as we can get to Big Bear or the other resorts near LA. Jana continues to work with children with physical and health disabilities as an itinerant teacher in the San Diego School District. Michael enjoyed teaching a multimedia programming class at MiraCosta College and continues to do part-time consulting and update the special ed. software products that we sell through Mayer-Johnson.

With much love from Jana, Michael, Juliette and Graham,