

Warm Wishes for the Holiday Season and A Happy New Year for 2008!

Well, it has certainly been a year of ups and downs! Lots of gatherings with family and friends, and celebrations galore! We began the New Year in India, doing the “Golden Triangle” tour with our friends, the Clarkes. Our party of eleven toured in a bus that could seat 40, so the kids certainly spread around!! Its always great to see Nana and Naniji (maternal grandparents), and the best part, said Tara and Alisha, was the visit to Aunt Liz and Uncle Riyaz’s “chicken farm!”



In March, Grandma turned 70!! We celebrated her birthday at our favorite park— Universal Studios. Hey, Mom, it’s difficult to keep up with you—screaming roller coasters and all!



And in May, Tara and Alisha looked adorable as the ring- bearing dog- handler and the flower girl when “Mausi” got married, while Rob and Rajshree ribbed Protiti and Kevin a plenty when giving the wedding toast.

Rob’s ill health due to the medicinal side effects precluded us from going on many camping trips this summer, but we were able to do a couple of short weekend “school camping” trips to Turkey Run and Kickapoo. These trips were great fun for the kids, though a trifle exhausting for the adults, since our camper was “base” for the cooking and entertaining of 40+ people!



We are currently standing where the back-addition of the house will be..

And as if we did not have enough on our plate, we foolhardily ventured into buying a 2 acre lot, and are in the process of remodeling the house, which will be attached to Rob’s garages, rather than vice versa! Here are some “before” shots!!

(Yes, the house does replace the Bronco in our Newsletter this year!)



The view to the front door, and a shot of where our kitchen will ultimately be...Being our own general contractor is certainly keeping Rob busier than Rajshree, for a change!— Thanks also to Minosca, for all your advice!



We do have our usual photo of the girls at Halloween—they chose to be a vampire and a witch this year. Glad that they don this persona only once a year! ☺

Rajshree’s investiture ceremony in November, to celebrate her receiving a chaired professorship, was an event filled with warm emotion—a true moment of joy, said Michael Gort, Rajshree’s advisor. For sure, this milestone gave us pause to reflect on our journey this far, and be thankful to the people that have enriched our lives.

And last, but not least, Tara’s First Lego League Team conducted the energy audit for our new home for their challenge project. They won the Teamwork Award and were the runner-up for Research at the regional tournament! They will advance to the State tournament for the second year in a row.



As you can see, our year was certainly fulfilling! We hope yours was too, and our best wishes for a great next year!

Rob, Rajshree, Tara and Alisha