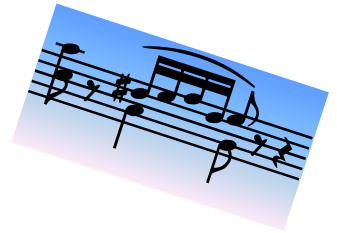





# THE STEVENS FAMILY 2 NEWSLETTER 2006



March 2007

**Annual Greetings friends and family.** Another year has passed and 2007 will move just as quickly so here are a few bits of our lives that will forever be bound in our catalogs with other yearly events to record our life journey. Our daughter Kelle presented us with two volumes of past newsletters last year that are interesting to glance through and to read personal stories and marvel at clothing and hair styles since recording began in 1961.



 Piano music has been a major event throughout the year. Our 6-½ year old grandson Zachary is doing so well, we purchased an electronic piano that can



favorite activity. Zachary’s first soccer league experience filled all of our Fall Saturday mornings. Having never played organized soccer before, we were all surprised at how well he did (of course there was the “standing still with a



record his lessons and we can now hear him as he progresses 24/7. Zachary performed in one recital and is looking forward to another in mid 2007. His musical achievements, as well as other family events, will eventually be available on the Internet thanks to yet another computer class taken by Ralph in early 2007. Zachary is now in the first grade at Valley Christian School that’s conveniently located only a few miles from our house. He plays soccer in our yard and some token golf, football, baseball and basketball games on occasion with balls going to many hiding places---and other yards. When rest time arrives (“PaPa’s” favorite time), he expands on his wide imagination of “quiet activities” with “Ahma” (Sandy) to create stories and fictional characters. Sandy’s “age-relating” attitude is wonderful to interact with Zachary which is her

blank look” every now and then. He scored two goals, but found his niche playing defense and even received a “Rookie of the Year” award from the coach. The icing on the cake was getting his first “First Place” trophy.

Zachary’s favorite indoor activity is playing hockey in the garage or watching the San Jose Sharks either in person or on TV. He can recite every player’s name and number, tell you how

many goals they've scored and even knows the names of the best players on other teams throughout the NHL. Several Sharks players have given him pucks, but he still hasn't received one from Joe Thornton, his favorite player.



After 33 years of assisted mobility using her first hip replacement, Sandy finally had her much needed hip "revision" on April 4. (See "Old and New" photos of hip parts) The old original replacement hip failed in a unique fashion in November 2005 when the steel stem broke a couple of inches from the end. The pain caused by the failed hip is mostly gone and we hope that mobility will improve, but in the meantime, she relies on a cane around the house and short trips and she uses a wheelchair to travel longer distances. The web site, [www.totallyhip.com](http://www.totallyhip.com), has many stories about knee and hip replacements, but I've

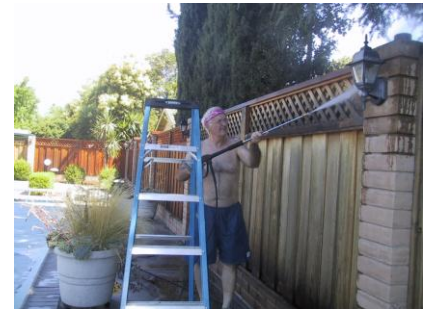


found only two persons who experienced similar broken prosthesis stems. To supplement her slow recovery and because three new libraries have recently opened, reading has become more popular. In addition, she's started knitting a scarf for Zachary and occasionally joins me for MWF stretch exercises at the beautiful new Community Center near our home.

My year had more of the same annual events with possible added care-giving support to help Sandy during her recovery. Huntington Lake camping and sailing with long time friends was my opportunity to use the camper van again. Considerable time is being spent serving as chairperson of my 55<sup>th</sup> high school reunion scheduled for October 5,6,7 in 2007 in Elmhurst Illinois. I look forward to a successful reunion with 60-80 classmates and the van trip will



include more nature viewing opportunities of sunrises and sunsets that are my choice times of the day. Visits to as many friends and relatives as possible will be planned during the trip. I didn't have any major home projects, but was able to make good use of a new item that helps take considerable labor out of difficult jobs. The high pressure water spray from my new 2600 psi washer does a great job to remove old surfaces and helped make the redwood fence, deck and house siding look like new again. Plans for a new kitchen and extended family room are moving closer to the top of the list. Activities for 2007 are well defined and implementing everything successfully is a significant challenge.



*Here is son Scott's contribution-----*

Scott (or affectionately known as "Uncle Dotty" to some people... lol) changed companies yet again near the end of 2005 in the ever revolving world of the high-tech industry and is currently working at Hewlett-Packard in San Diego as a Software Tester for a new Web Analytics product under development. I am much happier here as the work is more challenging and hours are much more manageable (people here do have the concept of having a life thank goodness... which I appreciate at my age...). I work with a good group of folks and it's a fun place to be. One of my highlights for 2006 was successfully completing the California Motor Cycle Safety Course in August and getting my motorcycle

license! I bought a 2002 Suzuki Valusa 800-cc bike and have logged about 1600 or so miles on it so far. I usually ride somewhere every weekend (the ride to Julian has been the best ride so far... if you ever come to visit me we can check it out.... Great apple pie!!). I really enjoy riding and it's kind of



strange that I never really even thought about learning/riding one when I was growing up with Dad always having a motorcycle!!! We have not actually ridden



together yet... but someday..... I'm sure he has A LOT more miles under his belt than I do ☺ I visited family off and on throughout the year and joined Kelle, Zachary and Brian at Disneyland in April. I am always up for this kind of fun..... I also enjoyed playing hockey, golf, basketball, soccer, board games, etc with Zachary. He definitely keeps us on our toes...! I really want to introduce him to tennis in 2007, as I have increased my frequency of playing this year (I joined a tennis league) and would love for him to try it out...

My goals for 2007 are to keep my mind and body healthy, travel more, work less, and visit with family more often

Kelle changed positions within Quantum Corp, in September and is now their Global Compensation Manager. The greater responsibility requires her to implement creative work schedules in order to get as much time as possible to spend with Zachary and Brian. Working at home one day a week and extending

her normal 8-5 work hours into the late evenings after Zachary's in bed helps to satisfy that need-- --partially. Quick trips included a week-end in New York and to Scott's house in Carlsbad that



included visits to the Wild Animal Park, Universal Studios and San Diego pier to tour the aircraft carrier USS Midway. On the northbound drive home, stops to visit the La Brea Tar Pits, The Ronald Reagan Library (walking into Airforce One was Zachary's favorite), visiting Brian's mother and two brothers in Ventura, CA and Universal Studios were the highlights. Brian has a new job as a Sr RF Engineer with Teledyne Corp in Mountain View which is a bit further to drive and without the DMV's carpool sticker that Kelle has for her Prius (allowing hybrid vehicles to use the carpool lane), his commute is a bit longer- -about 1-2 hours depending on day, time, weather, etc.. Brian's quest to landscape their yard and hill went well, but required



considerable labor to install trees, shrubs, sprinkler system and sod. The "steps up the hill" project was put on hold due to an unexpected hernia surgery the start of the rainy season. They

were finally able to add furniture in their living room and it makes the house look and feel more like a home. Brian's children, Connor (13), and Brianna (15), keep active with school and outside interests. Connor has been goalie for several years on a local youth ice hockey team and Brianna plays tennis at her high school. Scott played with her over the holidays and although it will take a bit longer until she gives Scott serious competition, they had some great rallies and fun exercise. Brianna just received her driver's permit and is anxiously awaiting her driver's license on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday in July.



Since pictures have taken more space and prohibited this newsletter from keeping within the "one sheet of paper" policy, I'll add a few more 2006 photos and say "Farewell" until next year---that is only about eight months away by the time you get this.

Peace and good health for 2007,



Sandy and Dr. Littlejohn

*The Stevens Family*

