

Dear Friends,

We hope this letter finds you and your families enjoying good health, good friends and good food. We've had a year blessed with visits to family and are looking forward to spending Christmas with family in Seattle.

In 2006, we renewed our tradition of "exotic" sailing charters and a number of other interesting vacation and long weekend activities.

In January, we set sail with Tom and Chris Brayton in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand, to retrace a sail we shared 10 years ago. Two highlights were sailing to the remote Great Barrier Island--where we sniffed out a Thai restaurant with a fabulous buffet and a charming Texas café that served fresh pastries and omelets--and on Waiheke Island, we dropped anchor near a pebble-strewn beach and hiked a grassy hillside terraced by grape vines to savor a gourmet winery lunch and the verdant coastal views.

Leveraging business travel enabled the two of us to rendezvous this year to see family. In February, we met in Florida where we enjoyed some time with Maria's sister and brother-in-law, Timi and Pat, AJ's cousins Jim Bayles, and Janet and Curt Rogers.

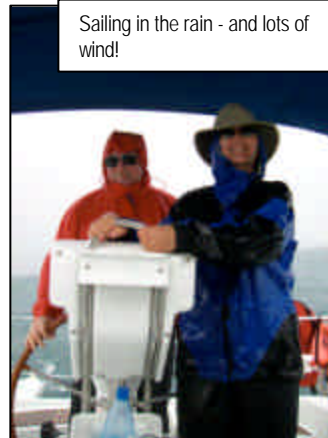
Later, we spent a weekend in New York in time to hear Sally and Howie (as a bag lady and St. Peter respectively) in Bob Franke's Cantata for Good Friday.

In August, we enjoyed several family reunions in Michigan, where we rented a monster size motor hoe in lieu of the usual hotel/rental car. We visited both moms (Esther and Shirley) and AJ took out only one traffic pylon.



Boat we chartered in New Zealand. Auckland in background.

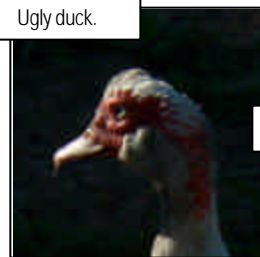
Maria drives downhill gravity cart, NZ has more forgiving liability laws!



Sailing in the rain - and lots of wind!



Ostrich gives us the eye...



Ugly duck.

Whimsical NZ mailbox.



A penguin preening.



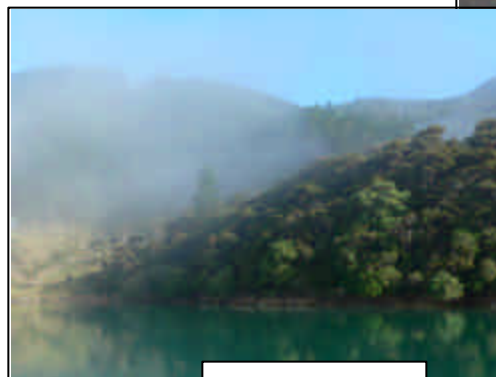
We enjoy a drink in a bar made completely of ice...



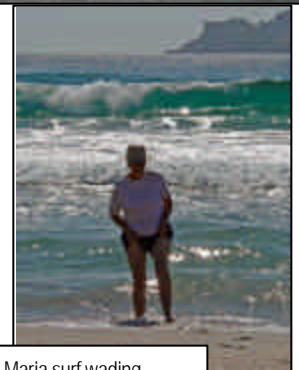
New Zealand beach.



Sunset over Auckland.



Mist on a sunny day.



Maria surf wading

In November, we enjoyed a long weekend in Cabo San Lucas where cousin Melinda Larson married Scott Price.

Luscher Farms Community Garden has again provided Maria with many hours of happy dirt play and she turned out a bumper tomato crop, with all neighbors being imposed upon to help eat them up, and the remainder spilling over into the freezer. More flowers this year brightened the plot and improved the beneficial insect population.

AJ continues his role as VP of Product Planning for Xerox Office Group and has enjoyed researching customer needs and product definition.

AJ continues to make a variety of colorful hot sauces at home, packaging them in cute two-ounce bottles with custom-made labels. He has added homemade sausage to his repertoire this year as well. It's not a pretty process but the results are rewarding.

As we approach retirement, we are thankful for our health, family and friends as well as the opportunity to practice as we age. We wish you a happy holiday and a great 2007!

*Love,
Maria and AJ*



With McCarthy's & Oltmans in Florida



Kinetic Sculpture at DaVinci Days



Michigan reunion - Lansing



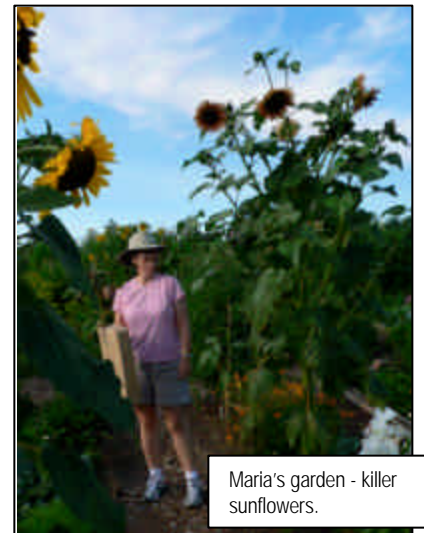
RV we rented in Michigan



2006 NW Tandem Rally



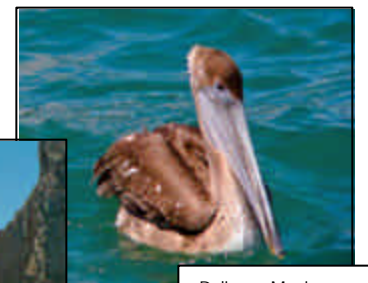
Michigan reunion - Frankfort



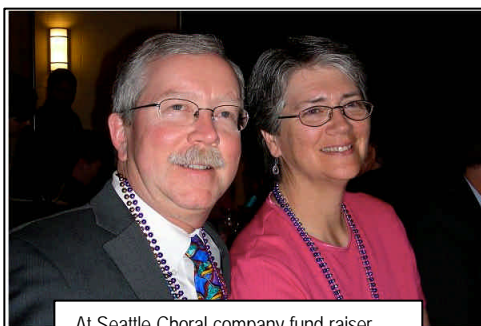
Maria's garden - killer sunflowers.



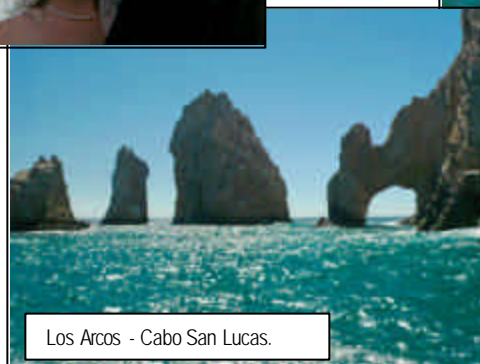
Melinda & Scott



Pelicano Mexicano



At Seattle Choral company fund raiser.



Los Arcos - Cabo San Lucas.