

January 2011

New Year's greetings from the Rosner family! Here's what we've been up to...

The garden boxes along the driveway (mentioned in our last letter) were an ongoing focus for Jeff and Ronda in 2010, with spring/summer crops of lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, carrots, beets, kale and herbs. One bed was planted in corn, pole beans and summer squash as a suggestion from Ari – in the method of early American Indians – where the beans grow up the corn stalks and the squash fills in as groundcover. The highly varied weather (cold, hot, cold, hot...) prevented the tomatoes and eggplants from ripening evenly, but the pepper and lettuce crops were fantastic! And once they got going, it was very hard to keep up with the beans.



The big home improvement project in 2010 was to replace the old, broken asphalt driveway and front brick entrance walk with 'Sunset Terracotta' paving stones. This winter we'll finish planting the front beds with some shrubs and groundcovers.

The Portland International Beer Festival was so much fun last year that Ronda and Jeff repeated the experience during a July visit with Ari, who moved into a six-person household in late spring - still in the Northeast Portland locale. Ari has taken a permanent job with the Hollywood Farmer's Market where he's been volunteering since moving to Portland in 2008. He continues to volunteer at the Alberta Coop grocery and began contributing his pro-bono efforts to the Urban Farm Collective, a barter-based endeavor, during 2010. Ari's other primary obsession is to regularly sing karaoke with friends at a local nightclub – and to convince everyone else to join in the fun! While visiting Sonia in Cambridge during her spring break last March, Ari stopped into the Samuel Adams Brewery to tip a few with his sister.



Sonia is a second-year Biological Sciences doctoral student at Harvard and is interested in mechanobiology, or how physical forces and changes in cell or tissue mechanics contribute to physiology and disease. She just completed her coursework in December and will now concentrate on her thesis work, which is focused on the cellular response to mechanical stretch. Her other passion is being on the Harvard Taekwondo team where she has a blue stripe belt (halfway to black belt). On Columbus Day weekend Sonia and boyfriend Kyle visited New Hampshire when the fall color was at its peak. They went to the Portsmouth Fall Festival, climbed two peaks in the White Mountains and strolled along the scenic coastline.



The family vacationed together in Boston and Chatham (Cape Cod) in August and both Ari and Sonia were home in Palo Alto at the holidays for ten days. Below is a shot of a lovely little path to the water from the route of our regular morning walk in Chatham. Jeff played with several bands during the year, from R&B to rock to jazz, including blowing sax with the Buffalo Chips.



See Jeff and Ronda's latest work-related news via LinkedIn. Ronda's 2010 media favorites: Movies – "A Single Man" and "Toy Story 3", Books – "Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall" by Kazuo Ishiguro, "Blackout" by Connie Willis and Stieg Larsson's 'Millennium' series, Songs – "I and Love and You" by the Avett Brothers and "Radioactive" by the Kings of Leon.

Enjoy health, peace, and love during the coming year.

Much Love, Ronda, Jeff, Ari, and Sonia Rosner