

Holiday Card History

*A family collection of Christmas and New Years cards
1977-2011*

Thor and Vicki Olson

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Preface

I grew up watching my father, following *his* father's example, coming up each year with handmade Christmas cards that nearly always included a family photograph. They were both avid amateur photographers and would corral and cajole my siblings and me into a studio-like set in the living room with carefully positioned lights and a camera mounted on a tripod that would be aimed at a scene of dressed-up children surrounding their proud parents. This often occurred at our family Thanksgiving gathering, allowing just enough time for my mother to get prints made, mounted into cards (often with her hand-stenciled or stamped cover designs), personal greetings inscribed, and envelopes addressed and stamped, all before the week of Christmas.

I fell into the same fascination with photography and even assisted in the creation of some of the cards. My grandfather once asked for my help with one of his concepts: a shot of him with my grandmother peering out a window on a wintery day. But it was not as simple as that. He brought in a spare storm window, detailed it with Christmas decorations and flocked snow, mounted it on a sawhorse in the family room, put incandescent lights on one side and aimed the other at the outdoor daylight from the actual window. He then positioned his subjects (himself and Grandma) at just the right position to get that wonderful mix of outdoor blue-sky-on-snow light and indoor hearth-and-candlelight. My job was to run the camera. I was sixteen and this was my first exposure to such high artistic production values.

A few samples of those traditional greeting cards might explain the natural urge to continue the tradition. They are both corny and endearing, the perfect mix to express your affection to the ones you care about. You will probably find this combination present in the cards in this volume, highlighting a wonderful chapter in our lives.



My grandparents' Christmas card, circa 1950



Our family Christmas photo for 1964, taken with a Polaroid camera, then reproduced and inserted into cards.

Introduction

I grew up with a tradition of exchanging Christmas Cards. Interestingly, although the volume of holiday cards has dropped by half in the two decades since entering the new millennium, it is Millennials who are now buying and sending the most cards!

Perhaps because of the ubiquity and ease of email and social media interactions, a physical card with a written sentiment, sent through the US Postal Service to someone's home, is seen as a unique way to acknowledge and emphasize a valued relationship. Certainly, it helps promote the feelings of good cheer and human connection at the end of the year.

When I married Vicki, it would have been natural to initiate another generation of this tradition of Christmas cards. Our friends were embarking on their adult life paths, and our extended family was, well, extending. Yet I don't recall actually making plans for a card in that first year as a married couple.

What I do remember however, is that we were invited to my Uncle Bob and Aunt Karen's home for dinner. They had been supportive throughout my college years and to Vicki and me during our relationship. It was late fall, and Bob asked if I would take a picture of them for their Christmas card. By now this was a natural request, and I was happy to oblige. Almost as an afterthought (or perhaps not), Bob suggested that he finish off the roll of film by taking a few pictures of us in front of the fireplace mantel in their home. Again, we obliged.

This casual photo became our first Christmas card. In the years since, we have consistently made Christmas cards, later New Year's cards (which provided an extra week to get them out), to reconnect with our friends and family, to update

them on the events in our year, and to let them know that we appreciate their friendship and love.

The early years were simply snapshots. In subsequent years, I used the card as a vehicle for artistic or technical experiments, an attempt to find new and novel ways to convey our sentiments. I was pleased to learn that some of our card recipients actually saved them!

This book serves several purposes. It is an "accidental" chronicle of the lives we have lived, one snapshot per year. But lives are far more complex than depicted by an annual family portrait. A genealogy of family names does not capture the richness of the lives lived. So I would like to augment the annual holiday greeting by providing some notes. For those who send the undeservedly mocked annual "Christmas newsletter", you have exactly the documentation I seek to provide; I hope you have kept them for posterity.

I will rely on notes that Vicki and I kept each year. On our anniversary we would try to summarize the year past, and project the year ahead, which Vicki recorded in our "anniversary diary". On our twentieth anniversary, she prepared a series of twenty cards, each highlighting the events of one year of our marriage based on those anniversary book entries. It was an expression of love that I have been moved by many times in the years since.

Our wedding anniversary is in July, so I will insert Vicki's anniversary card and notes in front of the Christmas card for that year. The five-month difference makes for some apparent discrepancies; some of the events, especially our travels, which often happened *after* our anniversary, are depicted in the Christmas photo of the prior year.

The pages are labelled with the year we sent them, usually in December, though the New Year's cards made well-wishes for the year ahead.

At the twenty year mark my memories for detail are murky, but Vicki was able to recover the anniversary notes we made and summarize them by selecting an additional 14 cards and annotating our subsequent years of life together. Another act of love.

Though our marriage ended, I cherish the many years of good times and novel experiences we had as a family. This collection of annual Christmas cards and anniversary notes provides a sampling of them. Hopefully it will convey a little of our story to subsequent generations.

Thor Olson
December 2021

1977



Traditional straw goats decorate the fireplace mantel at Bob and Karen's home on Oakland Avenue. We were newlyweds, invited over for one of Karen's gourmet dinners, accompanied by Bob's fascinating, often humorous, stories.



Our first anniversary –

A bike trip + picnic at Cargill to celebrate
+ a dinner of merriment at the Matterhorn
room at the Lowell Inn to boot! I
think the fondest memory of our wedding
that I will always have is our
rehearsal "picnic" – surrounded by
family + friends all wishing us well. It
was the best!

I could have picked the card
with my feet up on the dash for
our drive down the coast – I occasionally
think back to those places, I haven't
seen since – the redwood forest, the
Oregon coast and of course Kamloops.

We both started new ventures –
with you going full time at Bison
and me starting grad school.

Happy 1st anniversary memories –
Love, Vicki

Congratulations

Our first anniversary –

A bike trip and picnic at Cargill to celebrate and a dinner of merriment at the Matterhorn Room at the Lowell Inn to boot! I think the fondest memory of our wedding that I will always have is our rehearsal "picnic" – surrounded by family and friends all wishing us well. It was the best!

I could have picked the card with my feet on the dash for our drive down the coast – I occasionally think back to those places I haven't seen since – the redwood forest, the Oregon coast and of course Kamloops.

We both started new ventures – with you going full time at Bison [\[Instruments\]](#) and me starting grad school.

Happy 1st anniversary memories.

Love, Vicki

1978



Season's greetings

Our first anniversary, a bike ride and champagne picnic at the Cargill headquarters in Minnetonka



Wishing you much happiness
in your new home.

Happy 2nd anniversary —

Wow — this was a big year!
Lots of changes for us and our families.

We took our first bike trip — I'll
never forget Big Bend and making
my way from rock to rock and finding
a rhythm to make it up the pass, then
Sunwapta pass and coasting for miles
& miles into Jasper. The Olson caravan &
the bear alert. The hike on Parker's Ridge —
a very memorable trip.

We bought our first house and
started learning the "joys" of homeownership.
We moved in on Dec 27th.

I finished grad school, your Mom
finished nursing school and Jennie, Stephen,
and Maggie were born. Dad arrested
and had bypass surgery.

We celebrated our anniversary at Victoria
Station. Happy 2nd anniversary memories!
Love, Vicki

Happy 2nd anniversary --

Wow — this was a big year! Lots of things for us and our families.

We took our first bike trip — I'll never forget Big Bend and making my way from rock to rock and finding a rhythm to make it up the pass, then Sunwapta Pass and coasting for miles and miles into Jasper. The Olson caravan and the bear alert. The hike on Parker's Ridge — a very memorable trip.

We bought our first house and started learning the "joys" of homeownership. We moved in on Dec 27th.

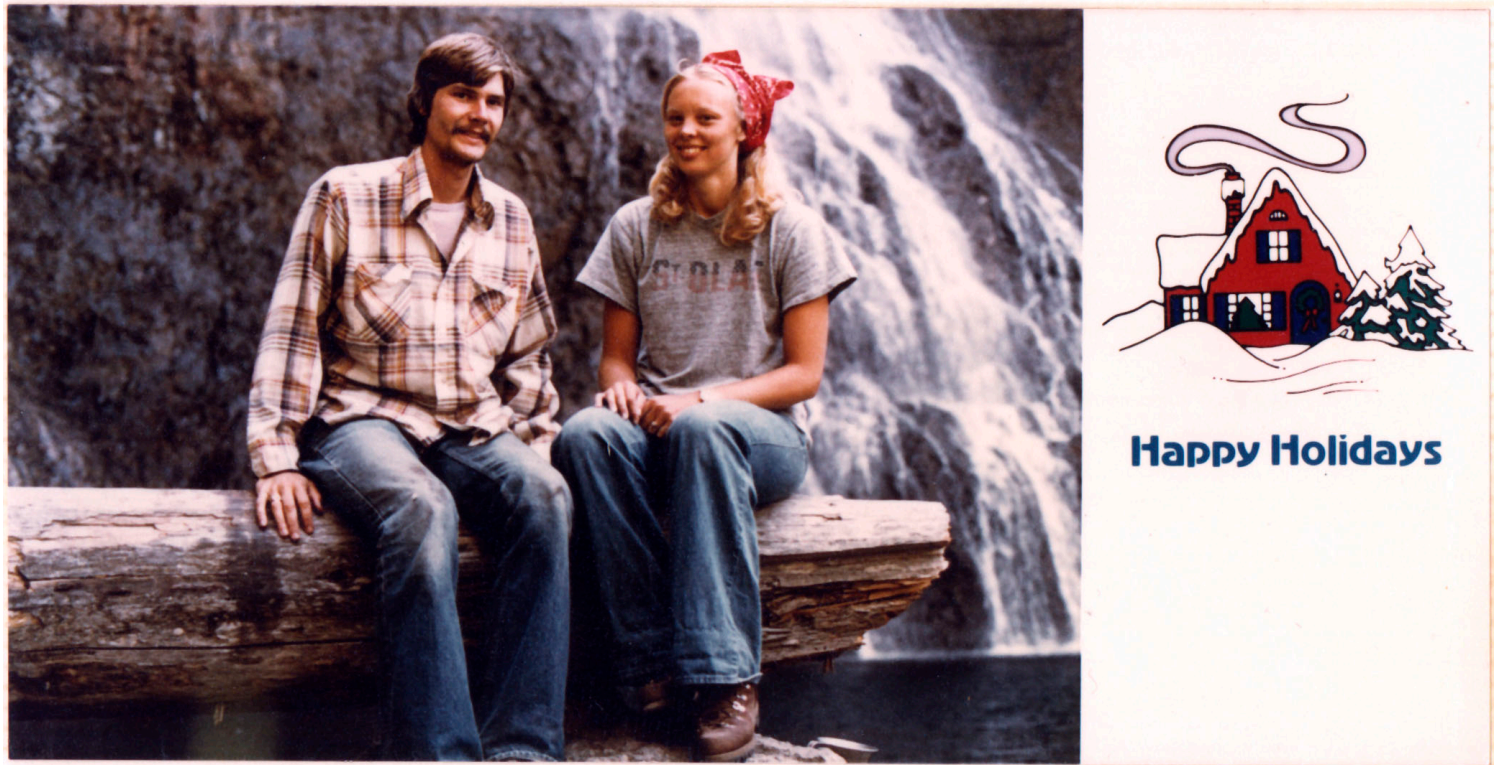
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Happy 2nd anniversary memories!

Love, Vicki

1979



In front of Fairy Falls in Yellowstone, summer of 1979.



Our 3rd anniversary –

We spent our vacation in the Beartooth Mountains and Yellowstone – this was my first encounter with the spectacular views of the pass, the upper and lower falls, the geysers and all the animals.

As I started being gainfully employed at Children's [Hospital], you started graduate school, Laurie graduated from college – Eric from med school and Eric lived with us for a month (what are the ingredients in suntan lotion???)

The Karmann Ghia died and I could no longer identify that you were home from a block away. You started our Honda tradition.

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longer identify that you were home from a block away. You started our Honda tradition.

In July, we took our Minneapolis trip – boating down the river, a bus tour around the lakes and restaurants all over town. We celebrated our anniversary at Mai Tai.

Happy Third anniversary memories!

Love,
Vicki

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Happy Third anniversary memories! Love, Vicki



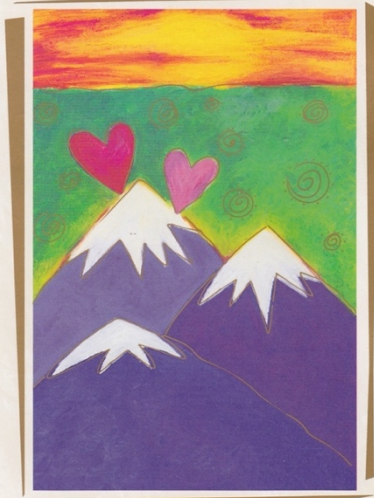
1980

*At a park in Minneapolis,
fall of 1980.*



Merry Christmas

How beautiful the view enjoyed
by two hearts in love.



Heart love

Whitney

Our 4th anniversary —

Our hike up Dawson Pass. I think I've memorized this hike - I've thought of it so often over the years. I guess everyone has events that they see as very significant in their lives - this is one of mine. I'm not entirely sure why but my best guess is that being on top of a mountain puts everything in perspective to me - I am part of something but it is so much larger than me...

I remember the boat ride, anticipating the snow, struggling up to the top, the incredible wind, the walk along the path feeling the exhilaration of being on top of the world, the walk down to the lake and the hurried rush at the end to get back in the dark. It was such an experience...

Laurie + Mike got married when we came home. You went on your first ski trip with Eric. My grandma died in February. At work, you were finishing up SuperSeis. John graduated from high school. We went on vacation to the Tetons and had a wonderful campsite at Jenny Lake.

Happy Anniversary

You went on to the Wind River area with your dad + Eric - and then started at CPT.

We celebrated our anniversary at Le Carousel

Happy 4th anniversary memories!

Love,
Vicki

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We celebrated our anniversary at Le Carousel.

Happy 4th anniversary memories! Love, Vicki

1981



In front of our fireplace at our home on Pleasant Ave. This card caused consternation among young nephews who wanted to know why their aunt is with Santa, and where's Uncle Thor?



Happy 5th Anniversary –

In the fall we went on our adventure to Europe – your German, my French – how could we go wrong? At least we didn't look too much like Americans. I remember:

- Being exhausted in England but finding our way on the subway system (any spots on the train...?) Ever since you have been trying to find the cure for jetlag!
- Seeing the rolling countryside in England and where Shakespeare lived
- Discovering Paris – the food, the museums and my favorite – some bread, wine and a picnic in the park
- Austria – does this look like Wisconsin?? Was it Maria that found us at the train station?
- Baden Baden and the festival
- Munich and Oktoberfest

It was a wonderful trip!

Eric surprised everyone at Christmas by flying into town. In January we had the horrendous blizzards but had wonderful parties with Beth and Mike [Mikulay] as we were snowed in.

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Eric surprised everyone at Christmas by flying into town. In January, we had the horrendous blizzards but had wonderful parties with Beth & Mike as we were snowed in.

You took a leave from CPT to finish your classes in graduate school and then started at Vertimag. Lynn graduated, Jill got married and Mom & Dad sold the boat. We spent the weekend in Red Wing to celebrate!

Happy 5th anniversary memories!

Love,
Vicki

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Happy 5th anniversary memories! Love, Vicki

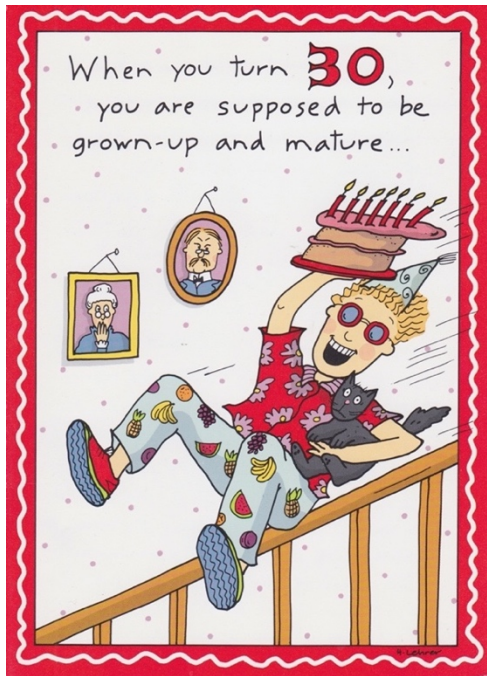


1982

*At Galena Summit in the
Sawtooth National
Recreation Area in
Idaho.*

MERRY CHRISTMAS





Our 6th anniversary -
 The year of turning 30... I went to Mazatlan; we had your 30th surprise party at Dave + Colleen's - you amazed all of us with your entertaining dialogue!
 We took our bike trip down the Mighty Salmon river - what a fun time.
 Lots of things going on with our families... Your parents lived in Colorado Springs. My dad retired and they took a trip to Africa. Eric + Julie got married. John quit school + Lynn finished her internship. Joel + Krista were born. Cinda moved to Iowa.
 We spent New Year's up at Dave + Colleen's cabin as well as our summer encounter with the bear. I learned to slalom and we bought a new windsurfer. Rich finished his degree and Rich + Peg got married. What an entrance into our 30's!
 Happy 6th Anniversary memories
 Love, Vicki

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Happy 6th anniversary memories

Love, Vicki

Roche Harbor, Puget Sound 1983



1983

*We bicycled
the San Juan
Islands, then
inland to
explore the
Cascade
Mountains.*

Merry Christmas
*Vicki & Thor*



Our 7th Anniversary –

Your parents returned from Colorado Springs – my dad retired and bought the house in Arizona.

We went on our Washington bike trip – an exercise in bike box management and an experience in all modes of transportation (ferry, cab, plane, bus, biking) and boat. The gardens were beautiful, the islands a world unto themselves, the mountain pass and the long descent in the rain a challenge and the orchards were a wonderful discovery.

In December, Maren was born and we had our own announcement to make – diaper boxes and all! Streak joined our family.

In the spring we had a fling in Hawaii and discovered snorkeling and saw whales every day.

We wrapped up the year with a nurse's strike, Beth & Mike moving and on a happier note you finished your paper!

As partners and friends,

may you share each other's joys,

ease each other's burdens and

be in love all the days of your life.



Congratulations.

We celebrated our anniversary at La Tortue and you gave me a wonderful necklace – a diamond for each of our seven years of marriage.

Happy 7th anniversary memories
Love,
Vicki

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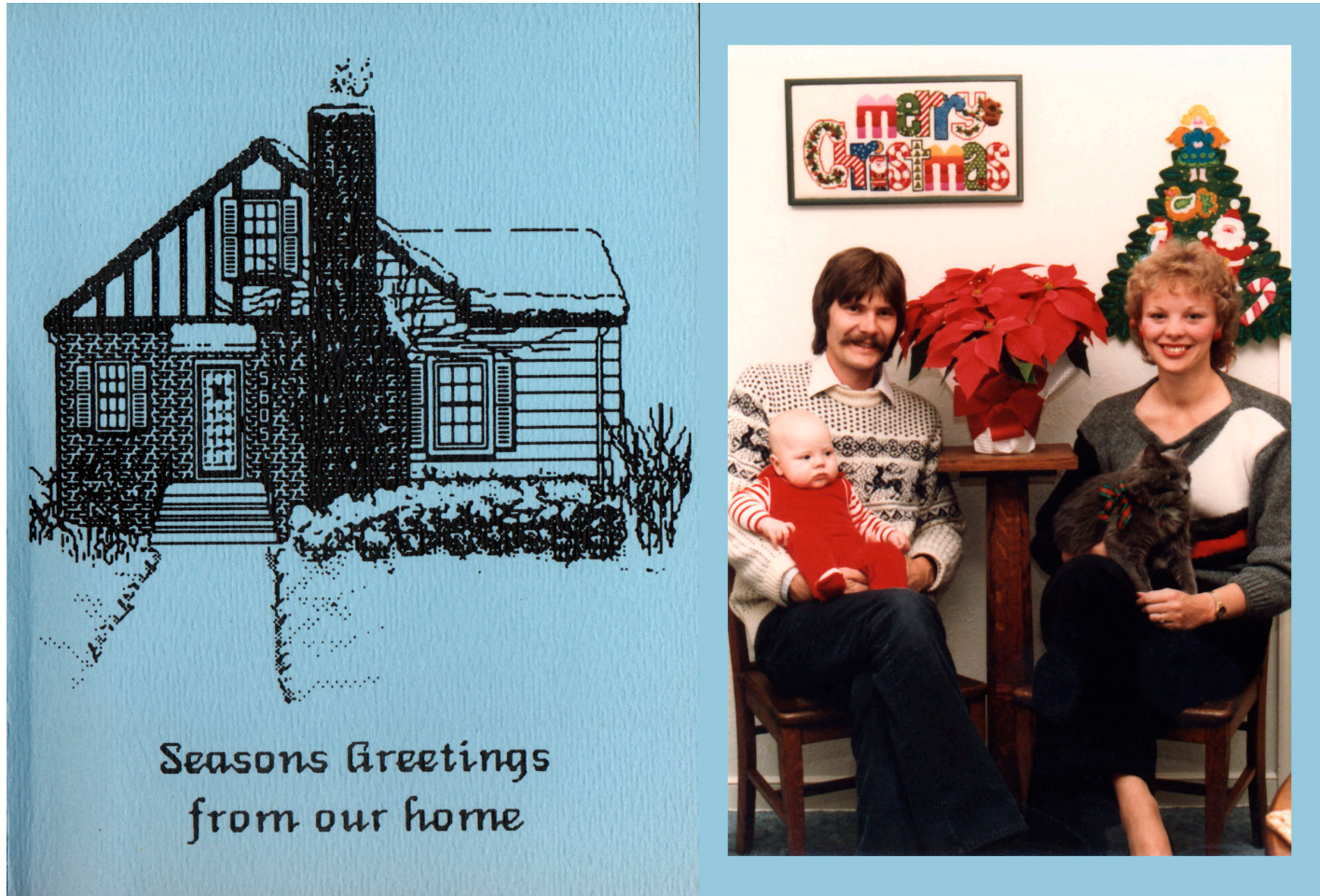
joined our family. In the spring we had a fling in Hawaii and discovered snorkeling and saw whales every day.

We wrapped up the year with a nurse's strike, Beth and Mike moving and on a happier note, you finished your [master's thesis] paper!

We celebrated our anniversary at La Tortue and you gave me a wonderful necklace – a diamond for each year of our seven years of marriage.

Happy 7th anniversary memories Love, Vicki

1984



Made using the newly introduced Macintosh computer which had tools for making and printing computer graphics. This was my rendering of our house on Pleasant Avenue.



Happy 8th Anniversary –

Derek was born August 3 right after our family picnic the night before and in the middle of the Olympics. We named him that night and it marked the beginning of a new chapter in our lives – full of rewards and challenges. I remember “squeeze the tiger”, the tin pan and strings of activities, the swing, the thumping of legs in his crib and Streak consoling him with a paw. He had his first plane ride at a couple months to Connecticut followed by a trip to Arizona. Mom broke her hip, Grandma broke her wrist, John and Candy got married and Kari [Sandvig] and Jason were born. In February we had our wild and crazy weekend where we bought our house at Upton and then I started back at work and Vertimag announced its layoffs. We moved March 28th and you started at MGI April 22. In July, we went up to Dave and Colleen’s cabin and Derek started to crawl. We celebrated our 8th anniversary at the Mitterhauser.

Happy 8th anniversary memories, Love, Vicki

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*Heard you've got a great
new sound system*

*Congratulations
and Enjoy!*

Happy 8th anniversary memories,

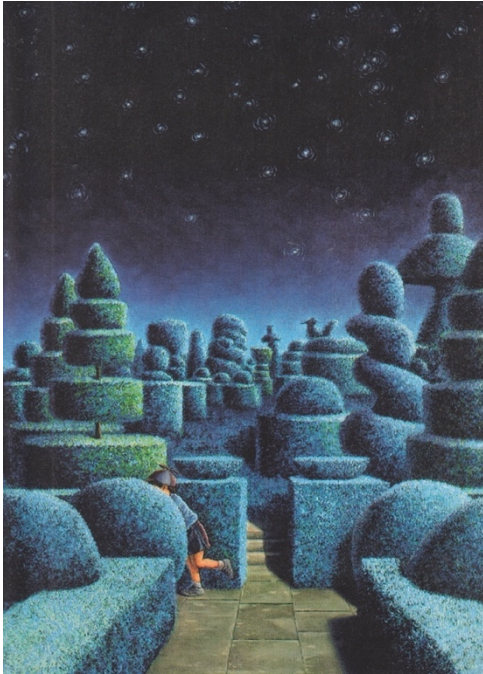
*Love
Vicki*



1985

*At our new home on
Upton Avenue.*





Our 9th Anniversary –

A year of beginnings + endings . . .

In August, we took our bike trip through New England - light panniers, heavy wallet - and stayed in lovely country inns. You got a gold star for all your planning! We sipped on raspberry liquor drinks, ate gourmet soup in a music-filled diningroom and tried to figure out how to get across the river to Montreal.

Derek took his first steps in October and his first word was either oh-oh, ball or magnet depending on which source you use.

You started geologic, Eric + Tina got married, you got your first Voyager and Derek got his first set of tubes. In January I went to Arizona to visit and in June, Daddied And such began by discovering that life

is a series of beginnings + endings - some of them very final.

We celebrated our anniversary at Murrays.

Happy 9th anniversary memories –

Love, Vicki

"Begin at the beginning,
the King said, and go on
till you come to the end
then stop"
Lewis Carroll
Alice's Adventures in
Wonderland



Our 9th Anniversary –

A year of beginnings and endings...

In August we took our bike trip though New England – light panniers, heavy wallet – and stayed in lovely country inns. You get a gold star for all your planning! We sipped on raspberry liquor drinks, ate gourmet soup in a music-filled dining room and tried to figure out how to get across the river to Montreal.

Derek took his first steps in October and his first word was either oh-oh, ball, or magnet, depending on which source you use. You started GeoLogic, Eric [Persson] and

Tina got married. You got your first Voyager and Derek got his first set of [ear] tubes. In January I went to Arizona to visit and in June, Dad died. And such began by discovery that life is a series of beginnings and endings – some of them very final.

We celebrated our anniversary at Murrays.

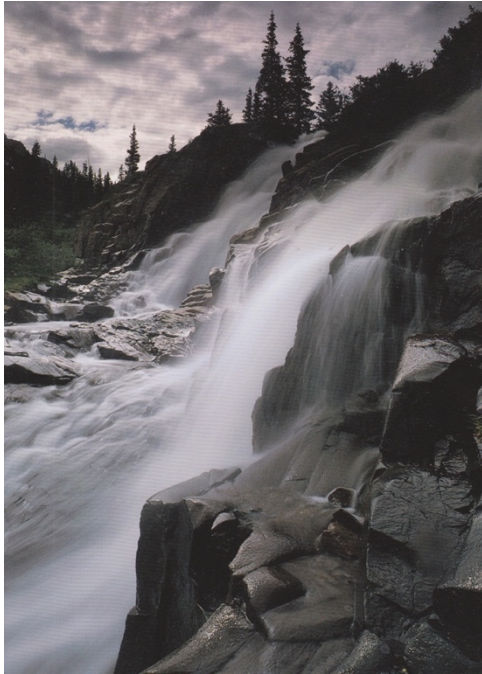
Happy 9th anniversary memories,

Love, Vicki

1986



At a store display of stuffed bears (probably Bachman's or Dayton's), in our Christmas sweaters.



Our 10th Anniversary –

In August, Cinda took Derek east and we headed west to Glacier. At Rising Sun, we ran into your Dad & Eric – one of those weird run into relatives experience – that seem to happen to us! We took the Highline trail and made it up over the overlook – a view that I never in my wildest dreams thought I would ever see!

In December, Lynn got married and we had our first Christmas with just the immediate Olson clan. Linda tried to commit suicide the next summer. I was in North Dakota at my aunt's 80th birthday that weekend.

Derek got his first set of tubes and Lee Sandvig was born. We put sheetrock on our porch and started redoing the LR (to make the couches last 10 more years!)

We started our Valley Fair tradition with Rich, Peg & Maren.

On our anniversary, we had the storm of the century.

We celebrated our anniversary at the Archer house.

Happy 10th anniversary memories –

Love,
Vicki

Our 10th Anniversary –

In August, Cinda took Derek east and we headed west to Glacier. At Rising Sun, we ran into your dad and Eric – one of those weird run-into-relatives experience that seem to happen to us! We took the Highline Trail and made it up over the [\[Garden Wall\]](#) overlook – a view that I never in my wildest dreams thought I would ever see!

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We started our Valley Fair tradition with Rich, Peg and Maren.

On our anniversary we had the storm of the century.

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Happy 10th anniversary memories – Love, Vicki

1987

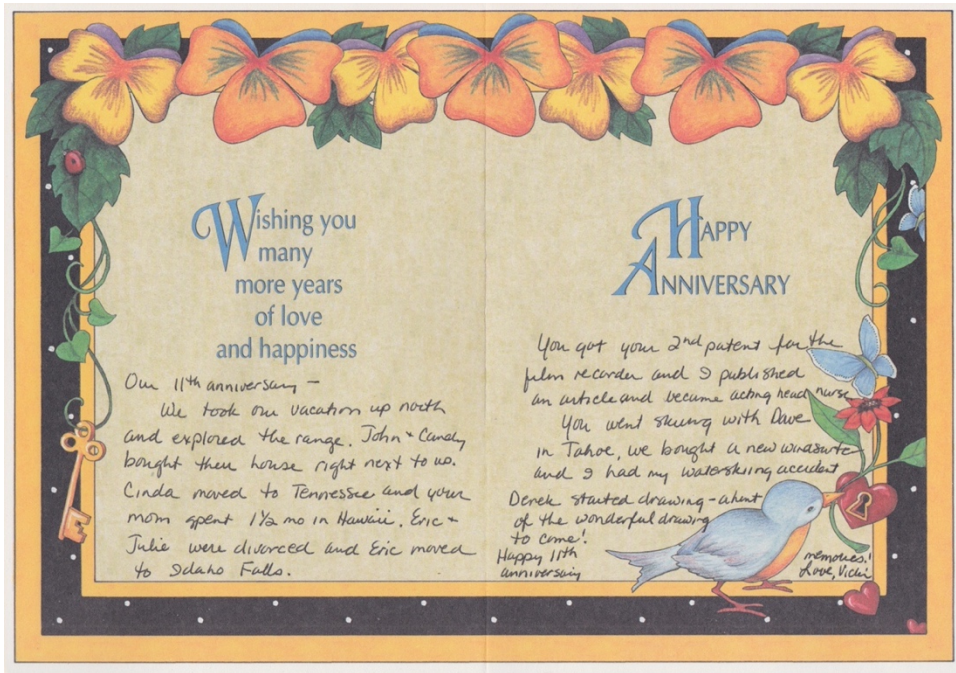


"Some Christmas Items"

1. Santa Claus rug
2. Stuffed reindeer trophy (6 points)
3. Ceramic Christmas tree
4. DeGrazia statues
5. Anniversary clock
6. Mt. St. Helens Ornament
7. Candle dish
8. Nutcracker
9. Small fake Christmas tree
10. The Straw Goat
11. Stocking hung by the chimney with care
12. Thor (wearing Santa Claus tie)
13. Straw wreath
14. Vicki (the Christmas collector)
15. Derek (on lap)
16. Another carefully hung stocking
17. Frequently read story book
18. Large rocking horse decoration
19. Small rocking horse decoration
20. Christmas cookie jar (cookies inside items 12, 14, 15)
21. Christmas parakeets
22. Angel
23. More straw goats
24. Round box to put things in (empty)
25. Christmas doll
26. Santa Claus card holder

Not pictured:
 Christmas Rubik's Cube
 Skating penguin music box
 Swedish cookie tree
 The Christmas monkeys
 Last year's Santa Bear
 Other items too numerous to list here

Surrounded by the many interesting Christmas decorations that Vicki had found and collected.



Our 11th anniversary –

We took our vacation up north and explored the [iron] range. John and Candy bought their house right next to us. Cinda moved to Tennessee and your mom spent 1-1/2 months in Hawaii. Eric and Julie were divorced and Eric moved to Idaho Falls.

You got your 2nd patent for the film recorder and I published an article and became acting head nurse.

You went skiing with Dave [Larsen] in Tahoe, we bought a new windsurfer and I had my waterskiing accident.

Derek started drawing – a hint of the wonderful drawing to come.

Happy 11th anniversary memories!

Love, Vicki

1988



A composition featuring backgrounds, clip art, inscribed signatures, and imaged with a palette of 2048 colors. This pushed the capabilities of the computer graphics equipment made at MGI. It took overnight to transfer the data for this photo.



Our 12th anniversary –

Derek had his first kid party with Matt, Maren, Becky + Jason – a pool party. I still remember all of them doing their own thing – they were so little!

We continued our escapades with the Champagne cycle club – this one was cut a little short by Derek's asthma + the resulting (one and only luckily) trip to the ER.

In October we went to Photokina + took our trip to Paris. Streak disappeared but showed up in time to go to Colleen's.

It was the year of the house... Rich + Peg bought their house, Eric + Tina moved into their new house and after much looking, we found + bought our lot.

Derek broke his collarbone + John + Candy started having difficulties.

Home Sweet Home!

Congratulations

We celebrated our anniversary at the Lobster Pot in Boston overlooking the Charles River.

Happy 12th anniversary memories!

Love,
Vicki

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Derek broke his collarbone and John and Candy started having difficulties.

We celebrated our anniversary at the Lobster Pot in Boston overlooking the Charles River.

Happy 12th anniversary memories!

Love, Vicki

1989



Another Christmas sweater portrait.



I'm glad my days

begin

and end

beside you.



Happy Anniversary

Our 13th anniversary –

We finished our vacation in Boston + went up to Rockport with a stop in Salem. We went camping in Itasca and Derek found out about rain on camping trips!

Cinda got Divorced. Derek started kindergarten (how many times did I see my mom today?!!) and switched to Wee Care

We went camping with Beth + Mike at Wild River and discovered the wonderful little festival.

I changed jobs to support coordinator, we grilled lobster tails with Rich + Peg on New Years, continued our outings with the dinnermint club. Our predominant activities, though, was designing our house.

We celebrated our anniversary at Kincaids and went to a movie.

Happy 13th anniversary memories –

Love, Vicki

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We went camping with Beth and Mike at Wild River and discovered the wonderful little festival.

I changed jobs to support coordinator, we grilled lobster tails with Rich and Peg on New Years, continued our outings with the Dinner Mint Club. Our predominant activity though was designing our house.

We celebrated our anniversary at Kincaids and went to a movie.

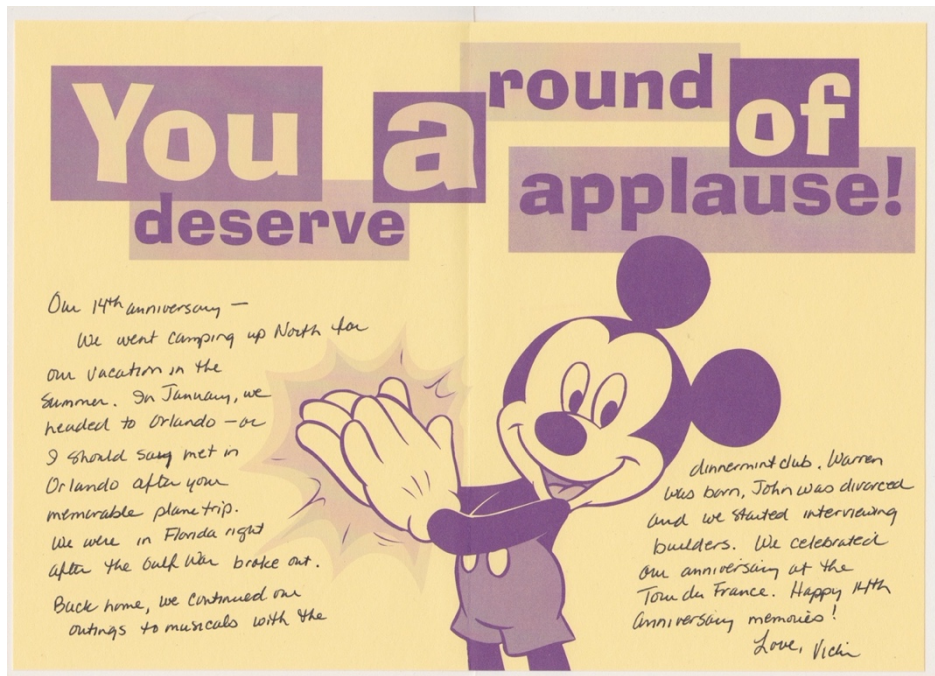
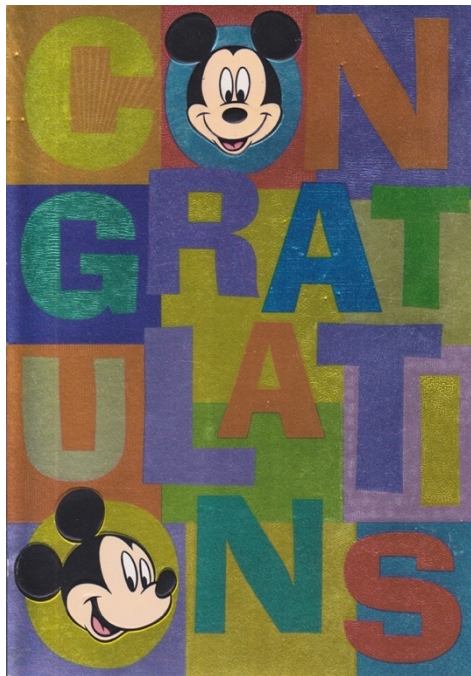
Happy 13th anniversary memories –

Love, Vicki

1990



A virtual Lego creation made with Thor's LegoShop software project. Derek was an early user/tester.



Our 14th anniversary –

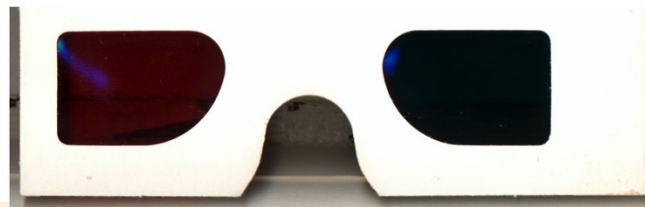
We went camping up North for our vacation in the summer. In January, we headed to Orlando – or I should say met in Orlando after your memorable plane trip. We were in Florida right after the Gulf War broke out. [Vicki was there at a conference; Thor flew to meet her with a 6-year-old Derek, eager to visit Disney World].

Back home we continued our outings to musicals with the Dinner Mint Club. Warren was born, John was divorced and we started interviewing builders. We celebrated our anniversary at the Tour de France.

Happy 14th anniversary memories!

Love, Vicki

1991



A red-blue 3D anaglyph created from a picture in front of Yellowstone Canyon.



Happy 15th anniversary –

Derek had his birthday party at Diamond Lake Lanes. We went to Yellowstone for vacation. Derek + I flew home and you went to the Tetons (and had some memorable experiences) Meanwhile Eric was calling his wedding off. Kind of a whirlwind week! John + Kate announced their engagement.

They started working on our lot in early December, you took a (memorable) ski trip to Bozeman. We broke ground for our house and started with our New Year's parties. The Spring was busy with building our house and dealing with my crisis at Children's. Although, it didn't feel like it at the time, it had a happy ending... I got out of a bad work environment,

Best wishes on your new house.
Can I burro a cup of sugar?

had the summer off and we successfully moved into our elegant house May 15.

We celebrated our anniversary at Chez Colette.

Happy 15th Anniversary memories!

Love,
Vicki

Happy 15th anniversary –

Derek had his birthday party at Diamond Lake Lanes. We went to Yellowstone for vacation. Derek and I flew home and you went to the Teton's (and had some memorable experiences). Meanwhile Eric was calling his wedding off. Kind of a whirlwind week! John and Kate announced their engagement.

They started working on our lot in early December, you took a (memorable) ski trip to Bozeman. We broke ground for our house and started with our New Year's parties. The spring was busy with building our house and dealing with my crisis at Children's. Although it didn't feel like it at the time, it had a happy ending... I got out of a bad work environment, had the summer off and we successfully moved into our elegant house May 15.

We celebrated our anniversary at Chez Colette.

Happy 15th Anniversary memories! Love, Vicki

[The Teton experience included witnessing a climbing accident and leaving gear to help the victims survive the night while hiking out for help.]

[The ski trip was with Eric Persson and Jim Lee via Jim's small plane which encountered freezing rain, then fog, preventing us from landing as planned.]

1992



Like an advent calendar, this picture of our newly built house after a snowstorm, had windows that opened to reveal our pictures behind them.



Our 16th anniversary –

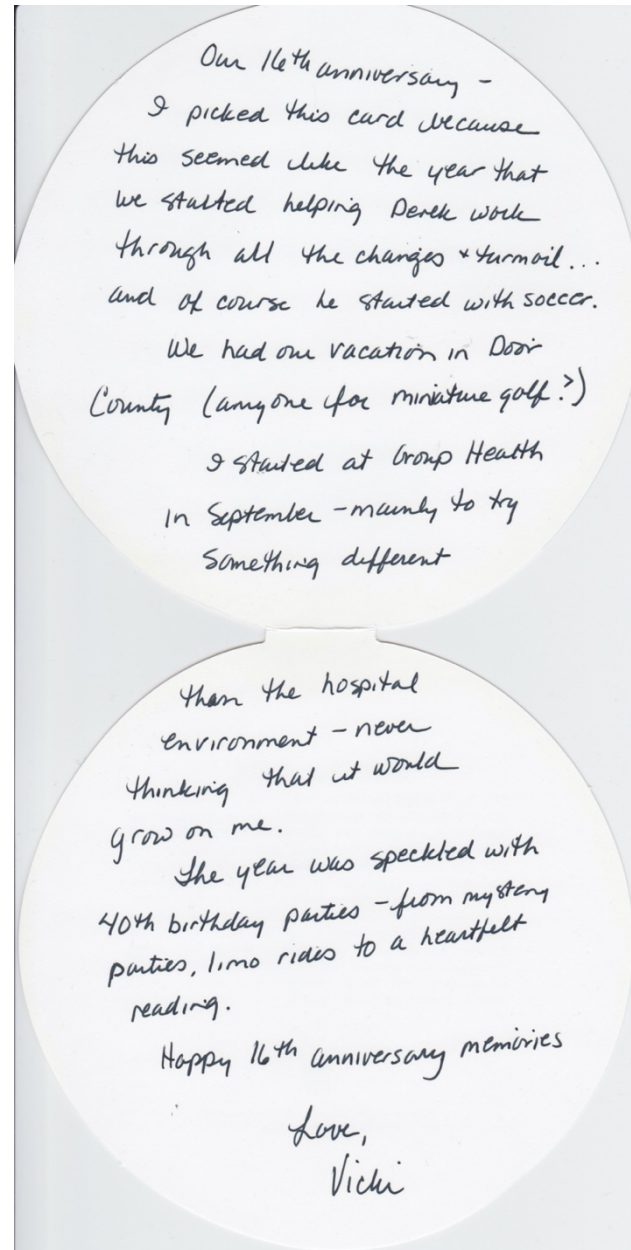
I picked this card because this seemed like the year that we started helping Derek work through all the changes and turmoil... and of course he started with soccer.

We had our vacation in Door County (anyone for miniature golf?)

I started at Group Health in September – mainly to try something different than the hospital environment – never thinking it would grow on me.

The year was speckled with 40th birthday parties – from mystery parties, limo rides to a heartfelt reading.

Happy 16th anniversary memories. Love, Vicki



Our 16th anniversary -
I picked this card because
this seemed like the year that
we started helping Derek work
through all the changes + turmoil...
and of course he started with soccer.

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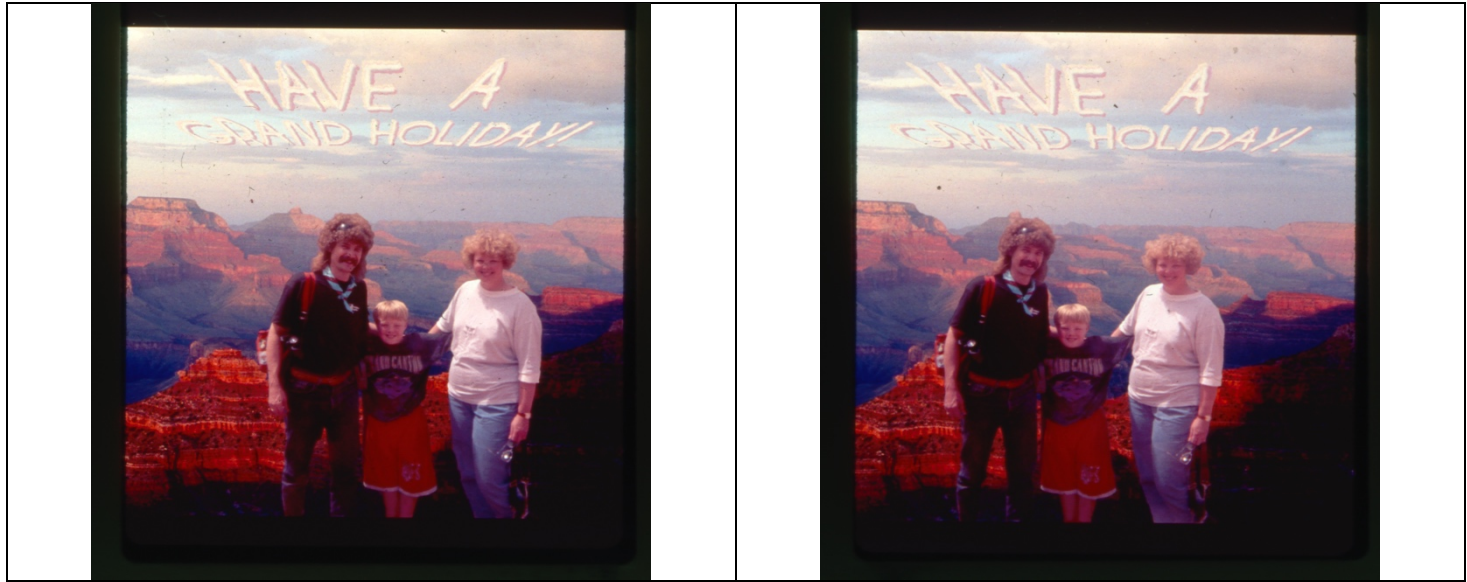
than the hospital
environment - never
thinking that it would
grow on me.

The year was speckled with
40th birthday parties - from mystery
parties, limo rides to a heartfelt
reading.

Happy 16th anniversary memories

Love,
Vicki

1993



This is a cardboard fold-up stereo slide viewer. The picture is in front of the Grand Canyon.



Our 17th Anniversary -
 Eric + Rhonda were married and
 we met them in Las Vegas - part of our
 Grand Canyon trip (and ^{Zion!} ~~Yosemite~~) - remember
 the sucky Hoover Dam?
 Andrew was born this year, I started
 my project coordinator position.
 Derek had a great teacher, Mrs
 Ahlstrom and Derek started to ask
 friends over. He was evaluated
 for ADHD but I think it was
 just adjusting to all the changes
 and growing up.
 We celebrated our anniversary
 at Randi Tres Cafe - up on the roof.

Happy 17th Anniversary
 memories!
 Love,
 Vicki

Our 17th Anniversary -

Eric and Rhonda were married and we met them in Las Vegas
 - part of our Grand Canyon trip (and Zion!) - remember the
 sucky Hoover Dam?

Andrew was born this year, I started my project coordinator
 position.

Derek had a great teacher, Mrs. Ahlstrom and Derek started to
 ask friends over. He was evaluated for ADHD but I think it was
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We celebrated our anniversary at Randi Tres Café - up on the
 roof.

Happy 17th Anniversary memories!

Love, Vicki

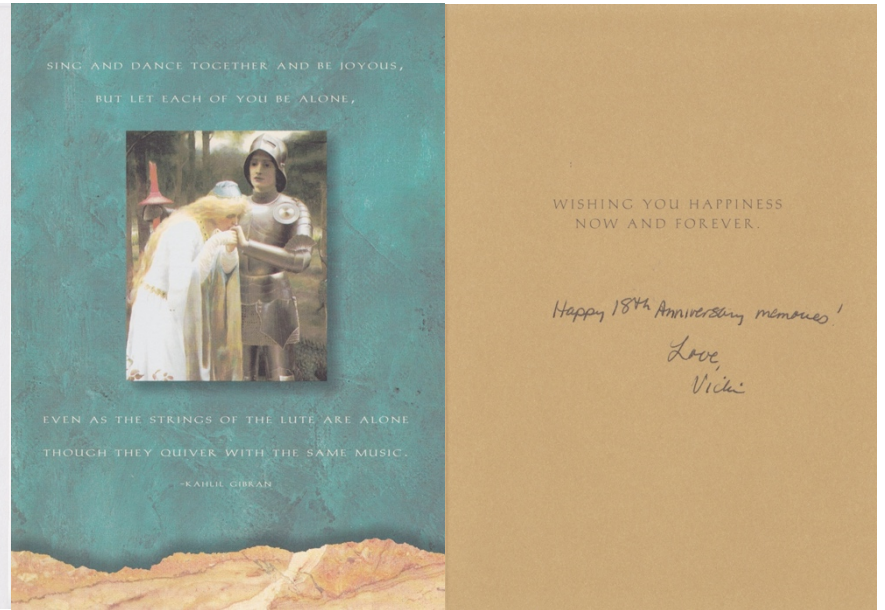
1994



A 3D image composition in the style of Magic Eye pictures that were popular at the time.



Still holding hands!
Happy Anniversary



Our 18th Anniversary –

We went to Glacier for our vacation and met Eric, Rhonda and Keith. You brought Scott [Mazar]'s telescope as you were just getting into stargazing. Derek and Keith had fun picking huckleberries and Derek went on his first hike to Grinnel [Glacier].

A few broken bones – your Mom broke her arm and Grandma Pan broke her arm and wrist.

We went to marriage counseling. John and Kate bought a new house. Cinda got laid off and went through two jobs. Brian moved to the frat and Jennie spent the summer in Europe. Your grandpa celebrated his 90th birthday. I was diagnosed and treated for Graves disease (see next card)

(continued 18th anniversary)

That summer I once again learned the wisdom of what we put on our wedding invitations... Growing together, separate but unified. I think we had the right idea!

We celebrated our anniversary at D'Amico Cucina – squid ink and all!

Happy 18th Anniversary memories! Love, Vicki

1995



A pinwheel type card with windows that revealed multiple images.



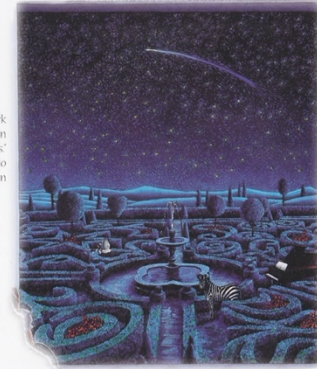
Our 19th Anniversary -
We went on vacation in the Tetons,
Idaho Falls & Yellowstone.

Derek dropped Boy Scouts, you changed
your focus to being a color engineer, I went
through dose changes for Graves disease all
year. Mom had colon surgery, Jennie
graduated from high school & Donna
had breast cancer.



This was the year of the first comet and
the view of the eclipse from England.
We celebrated our anniversary at the California Café
Happy 19th anniversary memories -

Love, Vicki



"When it is dark
enough you can
see the stars"
Ralph Waldo
Emerson

Our 19th Anniversary –

We went on vacation in the Tetons, Idaho Falls and
Yellowstone.

Derek dropped Boy Scouts, you changed your focus to being a
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disease all year. Mom had colon surgery, Jennie graduated
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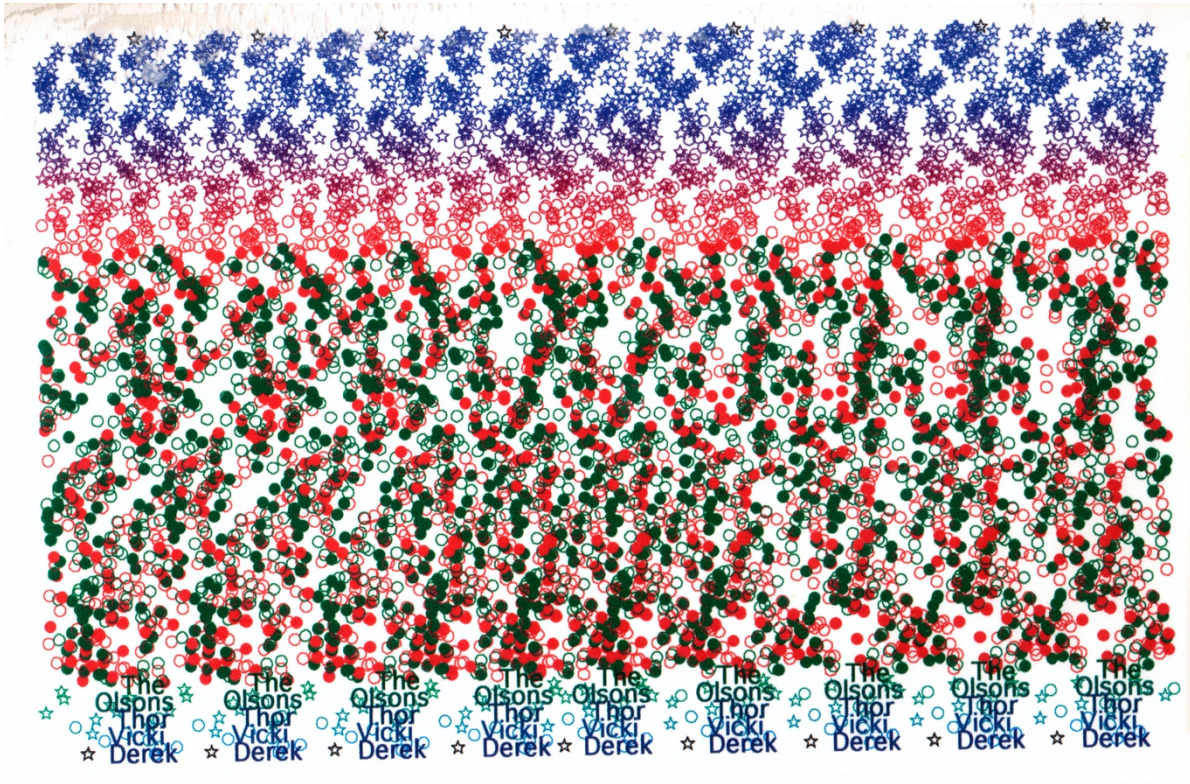
This was the year of the first comet and the view of the [lunar]
eclipse from England.

We celebrated our anniversary at the California Café.

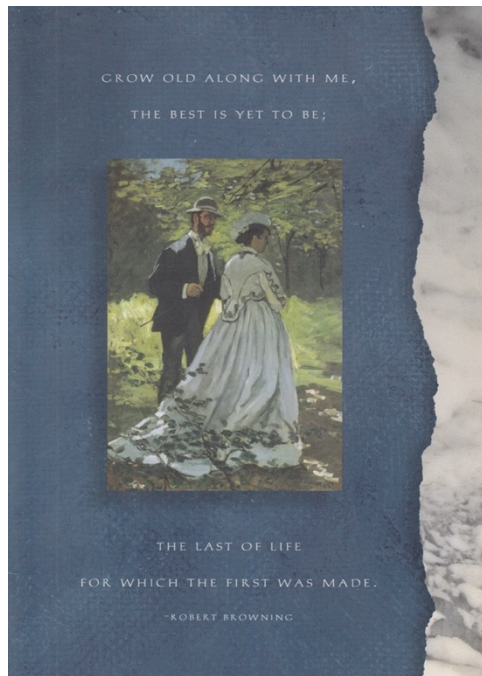
Happy 19th anniversary memories –

Love, Vicki

1996



A random dot stereogram and a lenticular 3D photo of us in Glacier Park.



Happy 20th Anniversary –

We went on vacation to Glacier and brought Nick with us – no fires in Glacier this time. Nick learned lots of stuff about camping – building a fire was the most exciting. Derek made it to the Grinnell Glacier overlook with you. We hooked up with Eric et al at Gardiner Montana

Derek started 7th grade and loved changing classes – he truly grew up a lot this year and had a good time with his buddies – (Greg, Jeremy, John Paul & Ryan) He continued with soccer.

Jennie lasted one wk at New Mexico before coming home, Grandma + Grandpa sold their house, Grandma Pan died, Mom had ^{colon} surgery, Aunt Marsha had cancer, Eric started building his house, Lynn + Dan bought a house and your parents did too!

We gave away Cinnamon but inherited an aquarium and Leo, the becko.

MGI went through layoffs and tough times. I rolled out immunizations in the fall, changed jobs and continued working with preventive. You taught a course at Siggraph and will this year too.

We celebrated our anniversary at the Matterhorn Room at the Lowell Inn

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Happy 20th anniversary memories!

Love,
Vicki

Happy 20th Anniversary –

We went on vacation to Glacier and brought Nick with us – no fires in Glacier this time. Nick learned lots of stuff about camping – building a fire was the most exciting. Derek made it to the Grinnell Glacier overlook with you. We hooked up with Eric et al at Gardiner Montana.

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Jennie lasted one week at New Mexico before coming home, Grandma and Grandpa sold their house, Grandma Pan died, Mom had colon surgery, Aunt Marcia had cancer, Eric started

building his house. Lynn and Dan bought a house and your parents did too!

We gave away Cinnamon but inherited an aquarium and Leo the gecko.

MGI went through layoffs and tough times. I rolled out immunizations in the fall, changed jobs and continued working with preventive. You taught a course at Siggraph and will this year too.

We celebrated our anniversary at the Matterhorn Room at the Lowell Inn.

Happy 20th anniversary memories! Love, Vicki

1997



We made a compact disk with digitized photos taken over the year. For those recipients without computers, the photos were shown on the jewel case insert. We suggested that they could use the CD as a coaster.



Our 21st Anniversary –

A defining moment as your parents moved to Idaho Falls to move into Eric's old house. Who can forget the caravan driving with them from Minnesota and all the over-the-air chatter! Your dad was a frequent

Very Best Wishes for
Happiness in Your ^{parents} New Home
Visitor back to MN but we saw
you mom much less.

Laurie + Mike separated this year and John + Kate were working on their marriage. Maggie + Steve went off to college. Mom had colon surgery. Rhonda is pregnant + due in September!

You finished installing the basement floor + we continued adding to the garden.

We continued our traditions of Valley Fair with Rich + Peg and Maren, a garden tour with Diane + Don and the Dinnermint Club which Joe joined this year. We cohosted a wedding reception for Fred + Fereshteh at Eric + Tina's.

Derek finished 8th grade and continued playing soccer - this year for both the school team + rec soccer. He + Maren took an art class at Macalester. You worked out an arrangement with work to be at home during the summer (working from home on a project) so that you could support Derek + his activities. Very helpful!

We celebrated our anniversary at Palamino.

Happy 21st memories! Vicki

Our 21st Anniversary –

A defining moment as your parents moved to Idaho Falls to move into Eric's old house. Who can forget the caravan driving with them from Minnesota and all the over-the-air chatter! Your dad was a frequent visitor back to MN but we saw your mom much less.

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You finished installing the basement floor and we continued adding to the garden.

We continued our traditions of Valley Fair with Rich and Peg and Maren, a garden tour with Diane [Lund] and Don [Holtzworth] and the Dinner Mint Club which Joe [Ortner] joined this year. We cohosted a wedding reception for Fred [Nourbakhsh] and Fereshteh at Eric and Tina's.

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We celebrated our anniversary at Palamino.

Happy 21st memories! Vicki

1998



This year we sent a white-frosted shortbread cookie intended to look like the old "slimline" photo greeting cards like the first Christmas cards we sent out. Technology had advanced to where it was possible to print color images onto sheets of sugar using a special printer with food-dye inks. I recall making a custom cookie cutter and providing it to a baker to make the slimline cookie substrates.



Our 22nd Anniversary -

This card seemed fitting as we learned all about produce through Derek's eyes. He started his first job bagging groceries at Driskill's and was promoted to produce once school was out. Derek also likes to play Magic & video (computer games) and he started driver's training.

Lots of wedding news. Barb & Joe got married in Seattle and we went to Judy & Dennis's wedding. We had to drive with Linda & Steve because of a plane strike and Derek got to stay with ALL his relatives. Your grandparents celebrated their 75th Anniversary!

On the other side - Laurie started her divorce and John announced plans to divorce Kate. We met Richard.

We took a trip to Banff & Jasper and had fun sharing the area with Derek. We also visited the Calgary Zoo and the Regina IMAX to see Everest. You & Derek went skiing in Idaho at Grand Targee & Sun Valley in the winter.

This was the year you went to Barcelona for work and I won the President's Award at work. You presented *The Color of the Stars* at the annual color imaging conference & upgraded your telescope!

Happy 22nd memories! Vicki
We celebrated at Sophia's

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This card seemed fitting as we learned all about produce through Derek's eyes. He started his first job bagging groceries at Driskill's and was promoted to produce once school was out. Derek also likes to play Magic and video/computer games and he started driver's training.

Lots of wedding news. Barb [Gallea] and Joe got married in Seattle and we went to Judy [Leiseth] and Dennis's wedding. We had to drive with Linda and Steve because of a plane strike and Derek got to stay with ALL of his relatives. Your grandparents celebrated their 75th anniversary!

On the other side, Laurie started her divorce and John announced plans to divorce Kate. We met Richard.

We took a trip to Banff and Jasper and had fun sharing the area with Derek. We also visited the Calgary Zoo and the Regina IMAX to see *Everest*. You and Derek went skiing in Idaho at Grand Targee and Sun Valley in the winter.

This was the year you went to Barcelona for work and I won the President's Award at work [Health Partners]. You presented *The Colors of the Stars* at the annual color imaging conference and upgraded your telescope!

Happy 22nd memories! We celebrated at Sophia's.
Vicki

1999



Remember those flip books with animated pages? We made one that can't fully be appreciated on one page, but here are a few selections from its several dozen pages. A special effect, "morphing" had been made popular and was used here to morph between us, including our cat, Cinnamon. The Merry Christmeow message rotated around us in the animation as one flipped through the book.



Our 23rd anniversary –

We welcomed the new millennium with our friends dressed up in their finest at our New Year's party. It was so much fun and everyone looked great. The Y2K bug did not bring the world to a screeching halt.

This year we had another opportunity to share one of our favorite places with Derek. We started in Seattle and introduced him to Pike's Market. He was so excited! Who knew about donut peaches and he loved the Mt Rainier cherries! We went onto the San Juan Islands and you two hiked to Mt Constitution. It was fun to be on the ferry again. We also went to Port Townsend and Mt Rainier.

It was a big deal that EFI acquired MGI. One third of the company was let go the second day. Once again you dodged that bullet. We did get treated to a fabulous party in Las Vegas and fell in love with sushi.

In family news, Laurie's divorce was final and she moved into a new house. Kate moved out, Brian and Jennie moved in together. Maggie spent a semester in England.

You and Derek went skiing in Tahoe and went on a tour biking in Colorado. Derek finished 10th grade and liked high school a lot.

again you dodged that "bullet." We did get treated to a fabulous party in Las Vegas and fell in love with sushi.

In family news, Laurie's divorce was final and she moved into a new house, Kate moved out, Brian + Jennie moved in together, Maggie spent a semester in England

You and Derek went skiing in Tahoe and went on a tour biking in Colorado. Derek finished 10th grade and liked high school a lot. He started weightlifting ^{and} wrestling his dad was one of his favorite activities. He is also into Warhammer, playing with neighborhood kids, bowling + splatball. Derek had his first behind-the-wheel training and goes out with his friends who can drive; movies being one of their favorite things.

You had a surprise birthday at Campiellos with the guys-- Dave, Rich, Eric, Phil + Fred and received the Peter Max. We celebrated at Aquavit. Happy 23rd anniversary memories!
Vicki

Our 23rd anniversary –

We welcomed the new millenium with our friends dressed up in their finest at our New Year's party. It was so much fun and everyone looked great. The Y2K bug did not bring the world to a screeching halt ☺

This year we had another opportunity to share one of our favorite places with Derek. We started in Seattle and introduced him to Pike's Market. He was so excited! Who knew about donut peaches and he loved the Mt Rainier cherries! We went onto the San Juan Islands and you two hiked to Mt Constitution. It was fun to be on the ferry again. We also went to Port Townsend and Mt. Rainier.

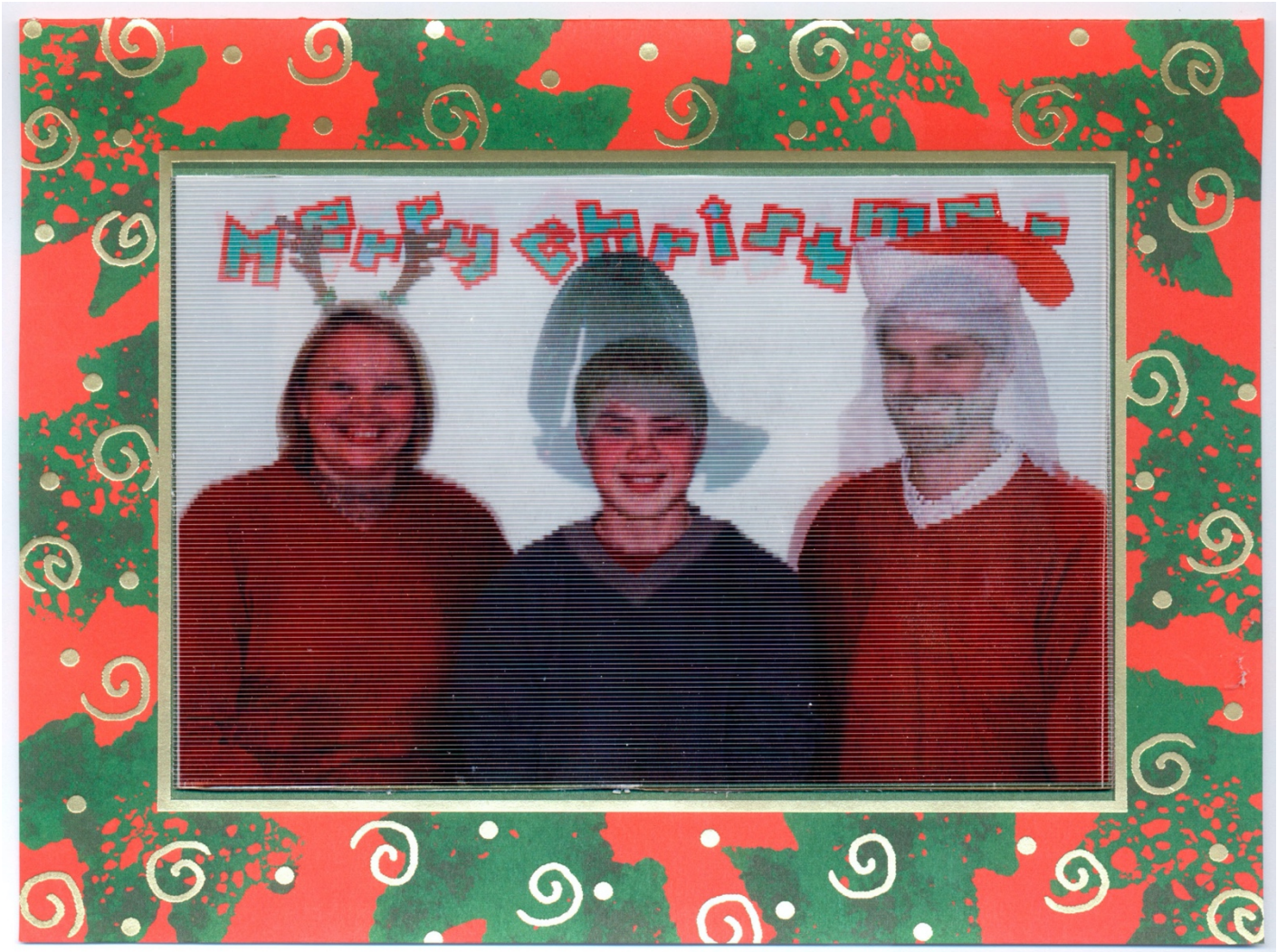
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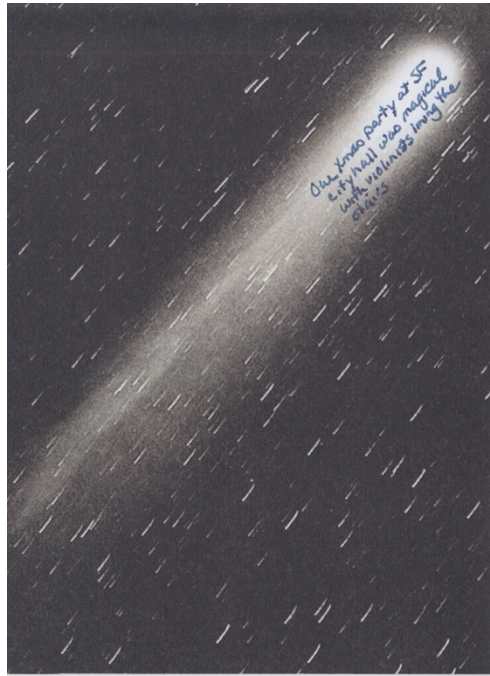
You had a surprise birthday at Campiellos with the guys-- Dave, Rich, Eric, Phil and Fred and received the Peter Max [\[signed poster\]](#).

We celebrated at Aquavit. Happy 23rd anniversary memories!
Vicki

2000



This is a lenticular image that as you tilted it switched between two images of us, one with Christmas headgear.



On our 24th anniversary —
We took Derek to Hawaii for spring break but stopped over in Las Vegas for a Blue Man Group show - the look on Derek's face when he realized what show we were going to! Hawaii was magical and Derek got to play in the ocean waves and snorkel. He got his driver's license and went to homecoming in silver pants *HAPPY BIRTHDAY a royal blue shirt. He is into ultimate Frisbee *late night instant messaging.
We organized a progressive garden party with Linda + Steve, Dick + Mary, Diane + Don (and Barb/Joe) and you took off for a momentous sabbatical... two weeks at the Table Mtn Star party + Glacier, two weeks for a family vacation in Oregon and two weeks in Crater Lake, Idaho Falls, Yellowstone *stops on the way home. (see separate album)
We widened our path, filled the sandbox with gravel + expanded above the terraced garden. We celebrated at Copelands. Happy 24th memories! Vicki

On our 24th anniversary –

We took Derek to Hawaii for spring break but stopped over in Las Vegas for a Blue Man Group show – the look on Derek's face when he realized what show we were going to! Hawaii was magical and Derek got to play in the ocean waves and snorkel. He got his driver's license and went to homecoming in silver pants and a royal blue shirt. He is into ultimate frisbee and late night instant messaging.

We organized a progressive garden party with Linda and Steve, Dick and Mary, Diane and Don (and Barb/Joe) and you took off for a momentous sabbatical... two weeks at the Table Mtn star party and Glacier, two weeks for a family vacation in Oregon, and two weeks in Crater Lake, Idaho Falls, Yellowstone and stops on the way home (see separate album).

We widened our path, filled the sandbox with gravel and expanded above the terraced garden. We celebrated at Copelands. Happy 24th memories!

Vicki

Comet annotation: Our [EFI] Xmas party at SF city hall was magical with violinists lining the stairs.



2001

Design and printing:

This year's card was made from photos taken this last year (and a few more), compiled into photomosaics by MosaicCreator, with the help of ThumbsPlus, Photoshop, and QuarkXPress. Printed on a Canon CLC5000 using an Edox Document Server.

The photos:

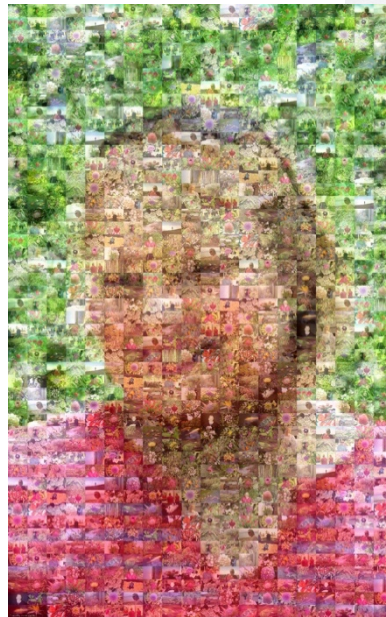
Derek at the Luxor Hotel, Las Vegas, mosaiced by photos of him swimming, skiing, hiking, camping, biking, loafing, celebrating and generally being a teenager.

Vicki at the Tropical Gardens, Maui, mosaiced by her compiled photos of flowers, butterflies, birds and fish, and some pictures of her taking them.

Thor at Haleakala Crater, Maui, mosaiced by his landscapes and astrophotos, plus some snapshots of him taken this last year.

Christmas tree, mosaiced by ornaments and decorations found in our house during this time of year.

May you enjoy the warmth and company of friends and family during this holiday season.





Our 25th anniversary –

The color should be silver instead of gold but the blue is the right color! This was Derek's senior year and many of our activities were surrounding graduation and college prep. We had already visited U of Washington, Evergreen and Oregon. We visited Boulder and Colorado State over MEA. Derek applied to four including U of M, and decided on Boulder on NY day.

Derek met Melissa on NY eve and they were together until college sent them different ways. They went to prom with their friends and could talk for hours in the evening! Derek worked at Blockbuster and took hip-hop/break dancing lessons. You and Derek went skiing in the upper peninsula of MI. Derek moved his bedroom downstairs, stopped allergy shots and unfortunately perforated both eardrums while diving into a lake.

Vicki helped the chair with the senior party and we took one shift at the party – lots of fun! Graduation was attended by your dad, my mom, Cinda and John. Eric built our fence in back as we prepared for the graduation party. We served root beer floats and had a picture wall and lots of food!

On the family front – Grandpa sadly died in February but had been deteriorating. Jackie had hernia repair, Grandma celebrated 95th

we took one shift at the party – lots of fun! Graduation was attended by your dad, my mom, Cinda + John. Eric built our fence in back as we prepared for the graduation party. We served root beer floats + had a picture wall + lots of food!

On the family front – Grandpa sadly died in February but had been deteriorating. Jackie had hernia repair, Grandma celebrated 95th birthday, John moved in with Becky and bought a new home, Jennie moved in with Joe, Donna celebrated 60th at Kincaids, Jared had bar mitzvah, Steve + Jennie graduated from college.

I changed jobs to work at Ridgeview – my very favorite job as it will end up. You went to annual color imaging conference in AZ and added visits to Riggs Lake + Mt Graham. You did art fairs in Cannon Falls + Excelsior.

We celebrated our 25th at a magical place with tiny lights - Off Broadway Grille in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Happy 25th memories! Vicki

Our 25th anniversary –

The color should be silver instead of gold but the blue is the right color! This was Derek's senior year and many of our activities, surrounding graduation + college prep. We had already visited U of Washington, Evergreen + Oregon. We visited Boulder and Colorado State over MEA. Derek applied to four including U of M and decided on Boulder on NY day.

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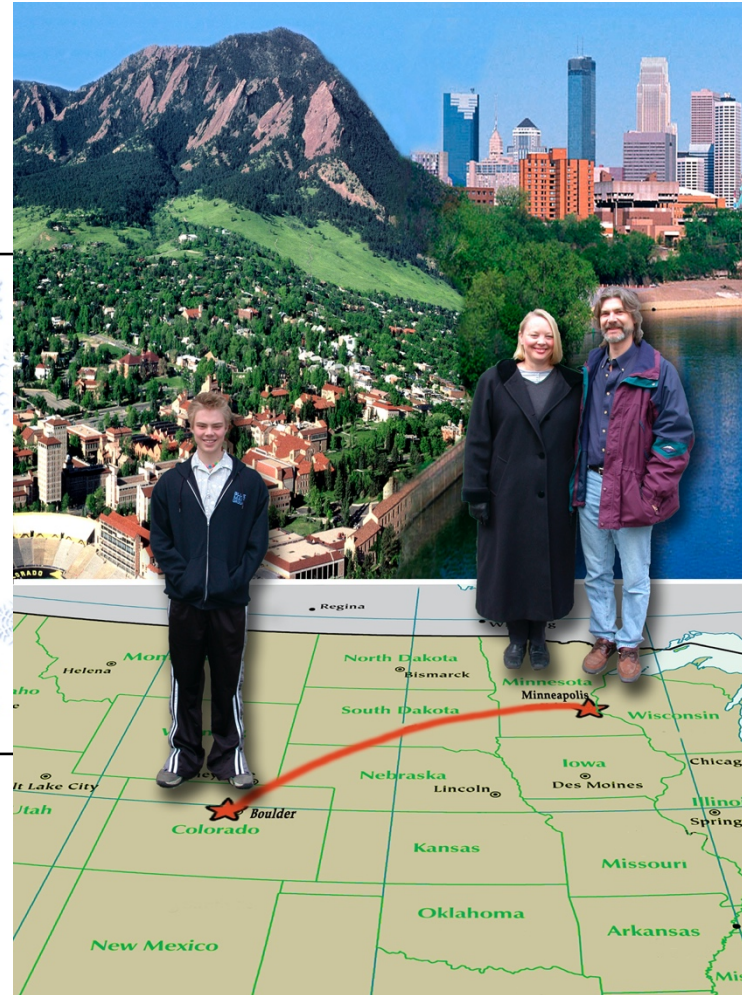
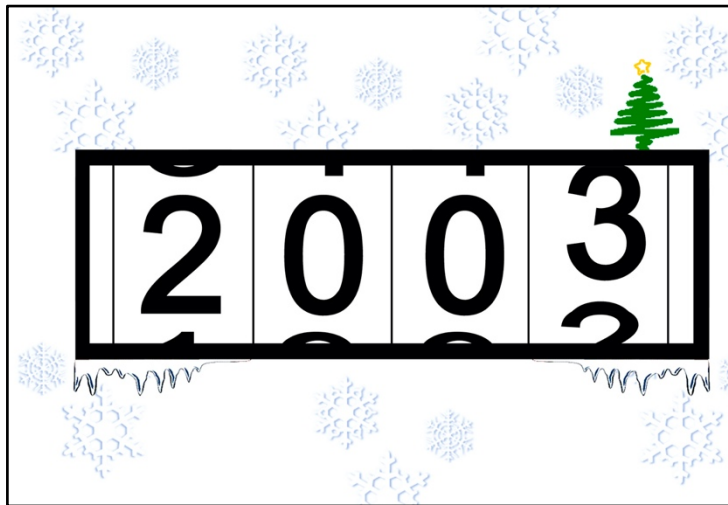
birthday, John moved in with Becky and bought a new home, Jennie moved in with Joe, Donna celebrated her 60th at Kincaids, Jared had bar mitzvah, Steve and Jennie graduated from college.

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We celebrated our 25th at a magical place with tiny lights- Off Broadway Grille in Jackson Hole Wyoming.

Happy 25th memories! Vicki

2002



This is another card that can't be fully represented here. It was a "pop-up" card. When you opened it, this scene was presented, and the figures pop up in front of their respective backgrounds. We cut out the figures, bent the paper, and glued them in place for each card.



as all the work that went into framing!

This was Derek's first year at Boulder. We drove him there and he was ready to be on his own. He found out that his high school education gave him a head start and tutored others. He came home for holidays and for Jennie + Joe's wedding in March. We picked him up in May and met Ashley over dinner. Ashley came to MN that summer to see Derek. Derek had plans to move into a house the next fall.

We decided to visit old friends for our anniversary celebration. We visited Dave + Colleen in Florida and Sally + Randy met us in Boston.

Your paper for the ^{color} imaging conference was picked as ^{one of} the top two. You did stone arch art fair. Derek came home for the summer + worked at Penn Cycle + practiced his cooking skills. We celebrated at Zelos. Happy memories!

On our 26th anniversary –

Our year of the party continued... Derek celebrated his 18th birthday with a hot tub party during a thunderstorm. Mike, Amber, Melissa, Tom, Troy + Gerry joined Derek.

Our next party was celebrating our 25th with Linda + Steve, Barb + Joe, Rich + Peg and Eric + Tina at Kincaids. Thor decorated the VW Bus to be an anniversary bus so we could go together and created a slide show that we showed back home with the cake we had bought.

In December, Jackie + Tod celebrated 50 yrs together at Interlachen.

Thor had a show at Nina's, "Behind the Forest" with a big party at the opening. It was a celebration of the photography as well.

On our 26th anniversary –

Our year of the party continued... Derek celebrated his 18th birthday with a hot tub party during a thunderstorm. Mike, Amber, Melissa, Tom, Troy and Gerry joined Derek.

Our next party was celebrating our 25th with Linda and Steve, Barb and Joe, Rich and Peg, and Eric and Tina at Kincaids. Thor decorated the [rental van](#) to be an anniversary bus so we could all go together, and created a slide show that we showed back home with the cake we had bought.

In December, Jackie and Tod celebrated 50 years together at Interlachen [\[Country Club\]](#).

Thor had a show at Nina's "Behind the Forest" with a big party at the opening. It was a celebration of the photography as well as all the work that went into the framing!

This was Derek's first year at Boulder. We drove him there and he was ready to be on his own. He found out that his high school education gave him a head start and he tutored others. He came home for holidays and for Jennie and Joe's wedding in March. We picked him up in May and met Ashley at dinner. Ashley came to MN that summer to see Derek. Derek had plans to move into a house the next fall.

We decided to visit old friends for our anniversary celebration. We visited Dave and Colleen in Florida and Sally and Randy met us in Boston.

Your paper for the color imaging conference was picked as the top two. You did the Stone Arch art fair. Derek came home for the summer and worked at Penn Cycle and practiced his cooking skills.

We celebrated at Zelos. Happy memories!

Vicki

2003



We sent our Christmas photo through a home die cutter with a jigsaw puzzle die, gathered the pieces into padded envelopes and sent them out for our friends and relatives to put back together.



I was promoted to director and had lots of conferences/education including six sigma greenbelt. Thor went to Yosemite in the spring & Lassen Volcano in the summer. You did another art fair at Stone Arch. I was flown out to Pittsburg in a Carlson plane to learn about patient safety. You went skiing with Derek in Breckenridge, Keystone & A Basin.

We celebrated at Solera.

Happy 27th memories,
Vicki

Our 27th anniversary –

It was a 50th birthday party to remember! (see separate album) with testimonials from old friends – many we had not seen for a while, our driveway chalk timeline, speeches, good food & drink. It was a lot of fun! We had it in September but you spent your actual birthday up at Split Rock Lighthouse. Make it one to remember! and followed it by backpacking with Derek and a wonderful year ahead in Rocky Mtn Park. I flew out and we drove through Colorado Monument to Arches. The waterfalls cascading off the plateau was spectacular!

For family news – Mom celebrated turning 90 at Kincaids. She fell & hurt hip in spring. Jason started at Luther, Little Maggie was born and John & Becky prepped to get married, Laurie & Richard married in December. Tom was dying and had several amputations over the years – he wore gloves to help his hands.

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Happy 27th memories, Vicki



Rocky Mountain National Park, August 2004

Savor the h
as you ch
family an



Best wishe
Thor, Vicki, a

2004



It became possible to stitch multiple photos into wide panoramas, and we did so from our summer visit to Derek in Colorado. He managed to include himself at both ends of his birthday dinner with his friends.

The long image was printed on canvas, the ends glued to handles made from chopsticks and then rolled into a scroll.

Give the holiday season,
to your cherished family,
and friends.

Best wishes for 2005,
to Vikki, and Derek Olson.





Meadows and tracked down Beth + Mike who were camping in the park for a memorable evening.

John + Becky were married that month. Tom died the previous month and Grandma went into the nursing home in November with a possible stroke. At Christmas, she was looking through a book given to her to remember everyone in her family. Mom had a car accident and Warren + Cinda took her keys which upset her for years. She fell and was hospitalized in January and her trust was affected by the incident. I spent a lot of time with her.

We had fun at an Academy Awards party at the Grand Hotel, Jill came to visit and we went to Tiburon. We celebrated our anniversary at Bayport Cookery.

Happy memories, Vicki

On our 28th anniversary -

We found that great place to hang out on our Death Valley trip. It doesn't match this picture exactly (this is more of the Thimbleberry Café vibe) but thought it would honor all the great places discovered on our adventures exploring nature. Death Valley was surprising to see all the wildflowers. This was in the spring, a month after our trip to Cozumel.

But back to the previous summer... We went to Boulder to celebrate your + Derek's birthday. For yours, we went to the Red Rock Amphitheatre and saw Barenaked Ladies + Alanis Morissette. Pretty spectacular! For Derek's birthday we took Derek + his friends (John, Ty, Mike, Eric) to PF Changs and had quite the spread! We then went camping in Rocky Mtn Park. We hiked to the top of Deer Mountain; Derek biked back to Boulder. We hiked to the Big

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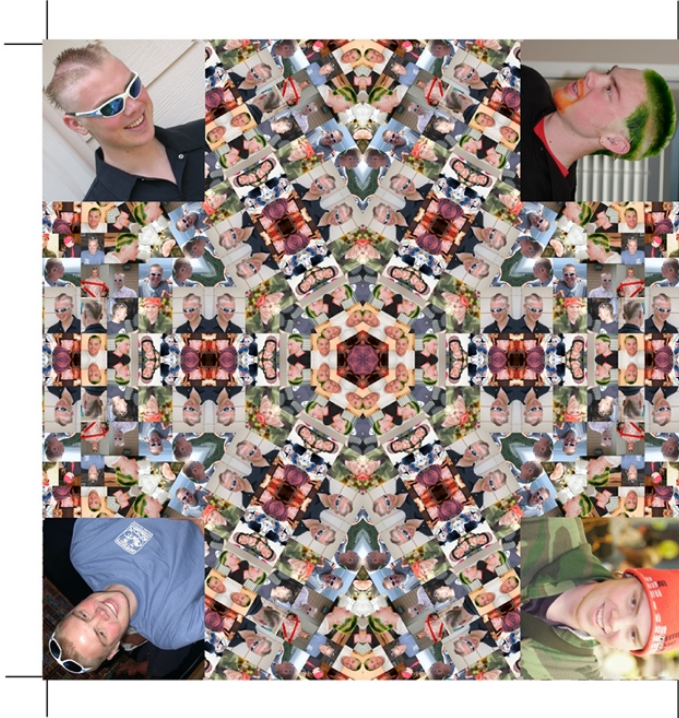
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Happy memories, Vicki

2005



This card comprised two sheets of paper with instructions to fold them into an origami box, accented by pictures of us this year.



parents weekend although I was quite disappointed that Ralphie did not run across the field. Derek is into awesomeness - very philosophical

You went to Monument Valley in November and memorably ran into a cow. You had gotten a new astrodigital camera that you were trying out. Luckily you were OK + apparently the cow too. The car, not so lucky.

Your mother had a virus in December that affected her heart -29% of LVC and it probably started a long slow demise. Becky + Richard both had two surgeries. My mom sold her house (I still remember her sitting in a chair in the middle of her empty bedroom) and moved into a condo. Warren had a stent placed.

Ridgeview's improvement work was recognized by Don Berwick in his plenary speech, a highlight of my career. Derek graduated in May and was gracious in allowing us to celebrate at multiple ceremonies! We celebrated our 29th at Pizza Luce, Vicki

On our 29th Anniversary -

I picked this card to remind us of the magical day exploring the giant sequoia trees. It was a warm day in April but there was still snow on the ground and we pretty much had the park to ourselves. The trees were magnificent, the sun was out so the sky was so blue and the air was fresh + cool. It was so quiet. This was a day trip from where we were staying in Yosemite where the creek temporarily allowed us the creekbed "island" to relax and watch the climbers ascend El Capitan. We had driven from San Francisco with a stop in the wine country and a wonderful dinner + wine tastings. All were great places to visit before the summer rush.

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Our holiday photo celebrates the highlight of our year, and is presented to you in anamorphic form. To view it, follow the usual procedure, placing your anamorph viewing mirror at the image focal point.

If you have misplaced your cylindrical mirror, don't worry, you can make an adequate substitute with the sheet of reflective mylar included. Take the mylar, identify the shiny side (yes, one side *is* the shiny side), and wrap it around a 12-oz pop can, shiny side out, not too tight. Use a piece of tape to hold it in place (see figure 1).

You will want to do this while carefully avoiding touching the mylar. Use your white cotton or surgical gloves, or if they are not handy, anything else that will keep your fingerprints off the surface. Oh, and don't crease or kink the mylar, you want a smooth surface to view into.

When your cylindrical mirror is ready, place it on the photo as indicated in figure 2. Depending on your viewing angle, you may adjust its position slightly to obtain the best rectangular view of our greeting card.

As you reflect on our 2006, accept our best wishes for a happy and healthy 2007!

Thor, Vicki, and Derek Olson

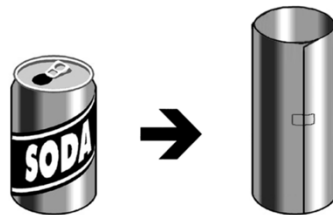


Figure 1

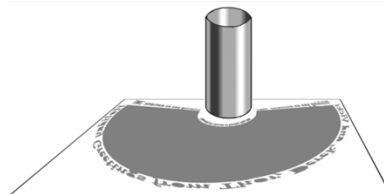


Figure 2

Wishing you an awesome 2005
Wishing you an awesome 2005
Wishing you an awesome 2005
Wishing you an awesome 2005



University of Colorado at Boulder, May 2006



University of Colorado at Boulder, May 2006





On our 30th anniversary –

Derek thought he was going into the Peace Corps but wasn't accepted until February so delayed by 6 months. He managed to get ahead of the big storm to Philadelphia for a two day orientation, then to Brussels, Nairobi, and finally to Kampala. We had a goodbye brunch at Interlachen. He graduated to a full PCV in May and moved to Pallisa.

I picked this card to remind us of our trip to the Finger Lakes and honor all the road trips we have done over the years – watching the prairie and the weather and beautiful cloud formations. For this trip we stopped in Chicago and visited Niagara Falls on the way out and took the northern route through Canada on the way home (luckily Beth and Mike helped us out with the wine). Fun with good friends. We followed up with a trip with some other good friends – Dave and Colleen – on a trip to Abacos. We went snorkeling and enjoyed many lovely dinners.

In May, we took another big trip – this time a grand circle starting in Las Vegas and visiting Bryce, Zion, Monument Valley, Lake Powell, Antelope Canyon, Grand Canyon before

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We celebrated Christmas at Bob + Karen's and took the infamous cousin pyramid picture and enjoyed their remodel.

In April, mom broke her leg + your mom had a hip replacement. I resigned from Ridgeview in June and started at HP in August.

We celebrated our anniversary at Harbor View Café on Lake Pepin. Happy 30th memories!

Vicki

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2007

Peace Corps Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All



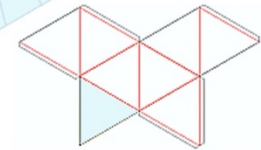
Holiday Greetings

We celebrate this year's holiday season on separate continents.

Derek is engaged in a Peace Corps program in Uganda to "teach the teachers" and help build their education system.

He reports that he is active, involved, and healthy-- attributes we wish for all of you in the coming year.

*Thor, Vicki, and Derek Olson
December 2007*



Make a global ornament!

Cut out the shape, turn over, and score the lines outlined in red above. Use a dull blade or dead ballpoint pen and straight-edge to make the score lines.

Fold along each line to crease it, unfolding to work the next.

When all creases have been made, start on the northern hemisphere. Insert an ornament hanger (optional), then glue or tape the tab to its matching panel.

Fold the remaining panels and fasten. The last panel (shaded above) has no tabs; take care in putting it in place.



adapted from <http://www.progonos.com/furuti/MapProj/MapProj/CartIndex/cartIndex.html>



We joked that this was the year that nothing happened except Africa but there were other significant events. Grandma died in December after reaching 100 but unfortunately not recognizing her loved ones. You got a new motorcycle after using Derek's hand me down. And did several (driving) trips to hike with Tony on the Superior Trail for 50 miles and go to a star party in Albuquerque and visit Jill + Tom after the annual color imaging conference. EFI did layoffs and Rick lost his job in January. Phil left in July. We took a trip up to Blue Fin Bay in February.

Mom moved to the senior apartments and Cinda broke her leg slipping on glare ice at work but still went on an Alaska cruise with Jennie. We organized a 1yr call with Derek + his cousins and kept in touch every 3 wks or so and lots of packages. We went to Cozumel instead of holding NY party. We celebrated at Amore Victoria. Happy 31st memories, Vicki

On our 31st anniversary —

The year ended with our trip to Africa in June and what a trip it was! (See separate albums) We spent the first half in Uganda getting to see the country and meet with Derek's friends and colleagues. The second half was exploring Tanzania, Botswana and South Africa. So many sites sounds!!! The markets, the people, the flora + fauna, the animals. Having dinner with Derek's PCV friends, the dinner with the teachers, millet beer, painting toenails, seeing the students, navigating transportation, seeing the source of the Nile, hearing the lions roar at night, the skittish zebras trying to drink out of the river, the cheetahs we had watched all day as their heads popped up above the grass + finally seeing them, the leopard, the dangerous cape buffalo and all the birds, the farting hippos, the elephants with their young and cruising down the river, visiting Robben Island and going ATVing. Spectacular!

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To our friends and family,

This last year we had a great opportunity—traveling to Africa to visit Derek, currently in the Peace Corps in Uganda. It was wonderful to have the experience of meeting the villagers and seeing them as they live day-to-day. The Ugandans are an extremely polite and hospitable people, generously offering their meager resources to make every visitor feel welcome. Their greetings can last for many minutes as inquiries are made of the well being of family, home-life, business, and personal concerns.

This scene captures our view after hiking to Kakoro rocks, a local high spot in eastern Uganda. We had spent the prior day riding on motorcycles through rural Uganda to visit one of Derek's fellow volunteers, or PCVs as they call themselves. The countryside was very lush after the rainy season and it was incredibly quiet with no cars or planes, and just the sounds of farm animals and the children playing. We could see for miles around and we had a great vantage point to see the well kept family homes and farms. You can see the local children on the rocks that had fun following us on our walk (at high noon on the equator!).

We were touched by the hospitality we received and the care they extend to Derek as he lives in their community. In this new year let us all share and contribute to making our global and local homes a better place for us to live.

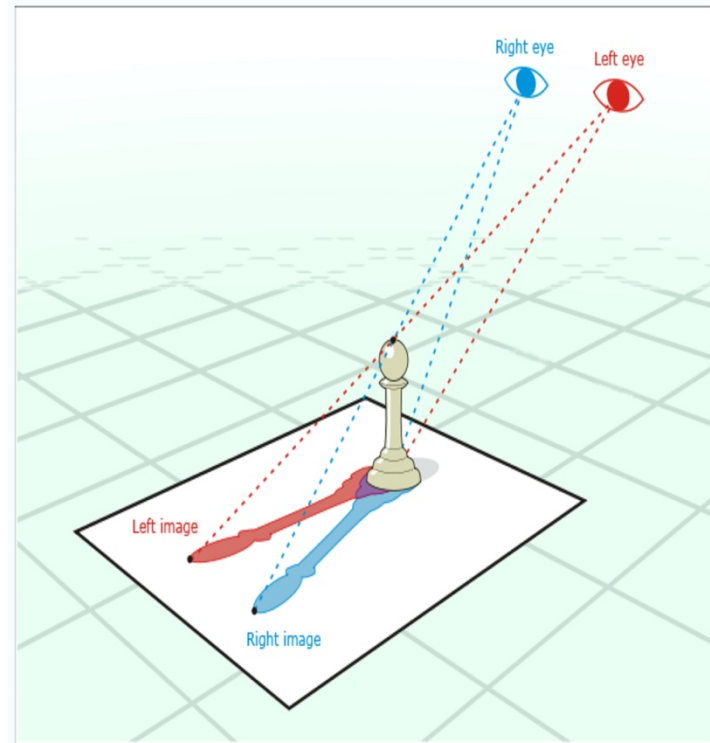
Best wishes of the season to you,

Thor and Vicki Olson

P.S. This year's picture is in the form of a 3D *phantogram*, a specific type of stereogram. Instructions for best viewing are included.



The view from Kakoro Rocks summit, June 2008



A 3D phantogram is intended to be viewed from a specific angle. Place the print flat on a table and step back so you are looking down at it from about a 45-degree angle. If you use reading glasses, put them on. Look through the red-cyan glasses (red covers the left eye) and you should see the figures in the image stand up! Spend a few moments for your eyes to adjust and you will begin to see the image in full color.





Beth + Mike were both hit by the economic downturn and both lost their jobs.

This year the color imaging conference was in Oregon which gave you a chance to reconnect with Leo. I went to the wine country with the St Olaf group. Our trips together are increasing in frequency!

We celebrated at 123 Eatery with Linda + Steve and Barb + Joe for our anniversary.

Happy 32nd memories,
Vicki

On our 32nd anniversary -

Our trip this year was to the Ramsey Canyon Preserve. The inn right outside of the preserve was wonderful with hummingbird feeders in every window. Stunning! Who knew there were so many different types of hummingbirds!

Derek came home June 30th after stops in Ethiopia and India. So excited to welcome him home! On an earlier break he travelled to Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania + Kenya.

Unfortunately, Karen was diagnosed with Pick's disease. She had had symptoms for awhile but it started a more dramatic decline. Krista broke up with her fiance and moved back to MN which was timely to help care for her mother.

We met the first Megan for the first time. Your mom had low back surgery.

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Happy 32nd memories, Vicki

2009



The die cutter was brought out of storage to make these stand-up Christmas tree cards.



School. Unfortunately, the PC didn't qualify for education.
 Mom went through a 7 month downward spiral that involved a hospitalization on Christmas eve, TCU, move to assisted living, then Hospice. She died April 23rd.
 Meanwhile I lost my job at HealthPartners. Once again an opportunity to get out of a toxic work environment. I started at Stratis Health in July.
 Tod had a splenectomy, Karen continued to decline, Hailey joined us for Christmas. Derek learned how to make ice cream, soapmaking and enjoyed going to the state fair and eating everything on a stick.
 You designed 3D glasses for your presentation at the color imaging conference. Classic! We celebrated at our favorite restaurant in Boulder - Zolo. Happy 33rd memories. Vicki

On our 33rd anniversary -
 We took three trips to the ocean this year - The Keys, Galveston + Cozumel - two with Dave + Colleen. Love snorkeling and love those birds (my first encounter with a roseate spoonbill).
 You and Derek went hiking on the Superior Hiking trail with Tony, Sam + Khoa. We then took a family trip to Glacier and took a hike on the highline trail with the goats. We visited Devil's tower along the way since Derek had not seen it yet.
 Derek moved into his own place in December, tired of commuting to see his friends and I am sure ready to be on his own again. He applied to graduate

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Tod had a splenectomy, Karen continued to decline, Hailey joined us for Christmas. Derek learned how to make ice cream, soapmaking and enjoyed going to the state fair and eating everything on a stick. [Lilly was born September 9.]

You designed 3D glasses for your presentation at the color imaging conference. Classic! We celebrated at our favorite restaurant in Boulder – Zolo. Happy 33rd memories. Vicki

2010



The die cutter was used one more time to make snowflake refrigerator magnets with our Christmas portrait.



Which made for a spiritual experience.
Butterflies were everywhere and in one area we visited, it was like rivers of butterflies flying at our height. The clear streams covered with monarchs and muddy areas that they loved. I will never forget the sound of butterflies - millions of them as they decide to leave the trees and fill the skies - there is no other sound like it.

We ended our trip with a side trip to Ixtapa. Luckily we had no safety issues the entire trip even though there was a lot of crime in Mexico at that time.

Other significant events that year was Karen's death after falling down the stairs last summer and work to get our retirement plan + estate plan in place! Vicki

On our last trip together -

We fulfilled a dream to visit the monarchs in Mexico where they hibernate in the mountains. We went on a tour with interesting people which started in Mexico City - a new place for both of us. We travelled by bus to the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve where they overwinter for 4-5 months of the year.

I remember our first approach to one of the forests and was wondering about the moss in the trees. No, those were all monarchs hanging from the branches! You had to be absolutely quiet to not disturb the butterflies

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Vicki

Epilogue

This is the endpoint of the Christmas card collection that Vicki and I preserved. It does not portray the difficulties we encountered along the way. We separated in 2011 and divorced in 2012.

But this set of images and notes *does* capture the time that our shared lives were filled with wonderful experiences and the joys and excitement of starting careers, building a home and raising a family. The cards and anniversary notes record only a few of those many positive moments.

I celebrate the wonderful life Vicki and I had together. This book is a tribute to those years. I hope that others who encounter this collection will find them interesting, amusing, and illuminating.

Thor Olson
2021

Reflections

Seeing the first 20 cards in now more than 20 years inspired me to pick out theme cards and write, using our anniversary notes, about the next 14 yrs. It's always interesting to look at your life details at the 50,000 foot level. A few thoughts....

Both of our families came from immigrants with rural roots and values of the importance of community, family and education. They were hard workers. The women were intelligent, strong women, ahead of their time and the men were focused and successful at their careers. I am proud of the heritage of our families. And yes, being of both Norwegian and Swedish descent, I got a certain pleasure listening to Grandma and Grandpa Olson banter back and forth about which is better.

I think of Grandma Pan driving alone practically nonstop from California to Minnesota on her annual sojourn. I think of Grandma Olson's constantly evolving pictures of her grandchildren's lives displayed on her bulletin board reflecting her ongoing nurturing and involvement in their lives. I think of Jackie and how she went back to school later in life to be a nurse after Tod lost his job. I think of my grandmother on the local school board. And I think of my mom who earned her baccalaureate degree in the 1930's and had enough moxie to teach a group of skeptical farmers the public health advantages of a flush toilet. She carried on her service to her community in so many different ways throughout her life. I have more awareness over time of what I owe to the people who raised me and relatives that came before me for my success in life as it was built on the opportunities that they opened for me and the values they upheld throughout their lives. Thor and I could not have accomplished what we did in our life together without them.

Derek was surrounded by a caring family, frequent family gatherings and lots of cousins- and lots of fun. Although the focus of this book is on major events, it doesn't reflect the Friday movie nights, the Sunday dinners, the afternoons spent on the porch at Long Lake, the brunches at Interlachen, and all the birthday and holiday parties. There were also the quiet moments such as the meditative hours staring out the car window at the prairie on road trips to decompress from a busy life as Derek was working on his latest Lego set he received for his birthday. And I will always have fond memories for the summer days on my family's houseboat, The Last Resort, on Lake Minnetonka early in our married life.

Just a comment on the Christmas cards. I have nothing but positive memories of our Christmas card activity every year. It was a creative process to brainstorm Ideas and make a final decision. Thor deserves the credit for figuring out how to execute the vision and the hard work in bringing that to fruition. It was an annual event, often starting with ideas in the summer, always aiming to start the process early in September, but more often having a very busy fall. Thor's patience with the process and his powers of concentration and focus, not to mention his technical expertise, were impressive.

One advantage of documenting our life events every year was perhaps unanticipated, at least by me, but has been reinforced by this process of revisiting our life through this book. And that is to be reminded of special moments, kind of a freeze frame of a time where I was touched in a very special way....by beauty, by awe, by the thrill of accomplishment, by kindness or love or some other special feeling. I have, for a while, tried to collect these in my memory as an exercise both in gratefulness for what I have been part of and also for building that appreciation into my daily life. I hope that this is an inspiration to build that into each of your lives.

Vicki Tang Olson
2021