

We are taking this opportunity to wish you a Happy Valentine's Day as Mary Beth and Richard celebrate the sixteenth anniversary of our engagement. 1998 left us in a blur and we did not have the opportunity to wish you well at the holiday season.

It has been a quiet year in Glendale, California, as Richard and Mary Beth just watched Robert and Michael grow.

Well, we really did do a little more than that, but not much compared to the travels of other years! There was no big family vacation this year, except we spent Christmas in Aurora, Ontario from December 22nd through January 6th. As usual, we managed to spend three long weekends in Cambria, California, between May and August.

Richard and Mary Beth attended several concerts again last year. We've been having a lot of fun with folk music. We are becoming involved in various ways and enjoy supporting these wonderful artists. In February we saw Steve Gillette and Cindy Mangsen. In March we saw the LA stop on the Global Divas tour: Susana Baca from Peru, Stella Chiweshe from Zimbabwe, and Tish Hinojosa from the USA. Later in March, we saw Australian Eric Bogle. In August we attended our first house concert and became enamored with the music of Paula Joy Welter who Richard is helping out with some miscellaneous recording projects.

We saw Tish Hinojosa and Judy Collins in September, Anne Murray in October, and attended two of Judy Collins's Christmas Concerts in December. In January 1999, we saw Christine Lavin for the first time and had a great time. Richard even helped her fix some of her sound gear on stage!

We are very fortunate to have JoAnne stay with Robert and Michael from 4:30 to 11:30 PM while Mom and Dad escape to concerts. We recently found Augusta from Peru who is

coming four afternoons a week from 3:00 to 6:00 PM to help take care of the boys...finally! It is appreciated.

In the spring, Mary Beth and Richard spent time researching both public and private schools as Robert will start Kindergarten this coming September. After many hours of thinking, our very own public elementary school looks very attractive for K-6. After Grade 6 we will need to do more research as we are not happy with our public schools between grades 7 and 12.

Mary Beth continues to be a stay-at-home mom. Richard celebrated 15 years with National TeleConsultants in October.

We cannot believe it. Robert celebrated his fifth birthday in November. How time flies! (We really must be having fun!!!)



Robert (on the left) continues to grow and be healthy—except for pre-school germs—despite his many food allergies. He really is a good sport about it, though. Milk, other dairy products, wheat, and peanut butter still present major problems for him.

Michael just turned four years old in December. He is enjoying his second year at preschool. Fortunately, Michael does not have any food allergies and is eating everything.

Both Robert and Michael started music classes this year. Michael is learning a little bit

about the keyboard, but his class emphasizes rhythm, singing, listening skills, and various small instruments (triangle, tambourine, maracas, claves, etc.). Michael's class is on Tuesday afternoons for forty-five minutes.

On Saturday mornings Mary Beth (and sometimes Richard) accompany Robert to a more intense, one-hour class that teaches keyboard fingering and learning to read music as well as singing and listening skills. Mary Beth finds it hard to find time to do Robert's homework with him each week.

In November, Richard had surgery to remove a bone spur from his right heel. It had been bothering him for quite some time. It has healed quite well. Two weeks ago, Mary Beth had surgery to correct another hammer toe on her left foot. Perhaps we'll both enjoy going for long walks soon and find it easier chasing Michael and Robert.

We were delighted to have Mary Beth's brother, John, visit us twice this year—once in May and once in August. He is a great help with the boys as well as being a doting uncle. Robert and Michael just adore his visits.

Richard bought a new computer this year. It included a digital audio card and a CD burner to help preserve recordings by transferring them to CD. In addition to his own recordings at St. Thomas Church and other places in New York City, Richard has had the honor to restore and transfer Cindy Mangsen's first album and several of Marie-Lynn Hammond's solo albums. Hopefully, much of this material will eventually be re-released, but for now it is at least safely on digital media.

In June we became aware that an elderly neighbor needed help and should not be living alone. Richard spent many hours—at least one day a weekend—dealing with the situation and finally got her established somewhere safe just

before we left for our Christmas Holiday in Aurora, Ontario.

Christmas in Aurora was, as always, an absolute delight. We stayed with Mary Beth's mom and spent many hours with Uncle John. The boys tobogganed and played with Sandy Graham's two sons. On Boxing Day we attended a lovely family party at Michelle and Gordon McIntyre's home in Bolton. We took the boys to Black Creek Pioneer Village where Sandy was working. Even though we were in Aurora for two weeks, we didn't have nearly enough time to see everyone who we wanted to see, but we did pretty well. Unfortunately, all the visits were far too short! We had one opportunity to escape the boys (thanks Mom and John) and had an enjoyable dinner with Canadian singer-songwriters Nancy White and Marie-Lynn Hammond in Toronto. Check out Richard's folk music web page for more information.



Richard, Robert, Mary Beth, Michael, Margaret, Uncle John

We wish you all good health and happiness in 1999, and hope that you had a very happy and healthy holiday season!