

Rosenweld 2009 Retrospective



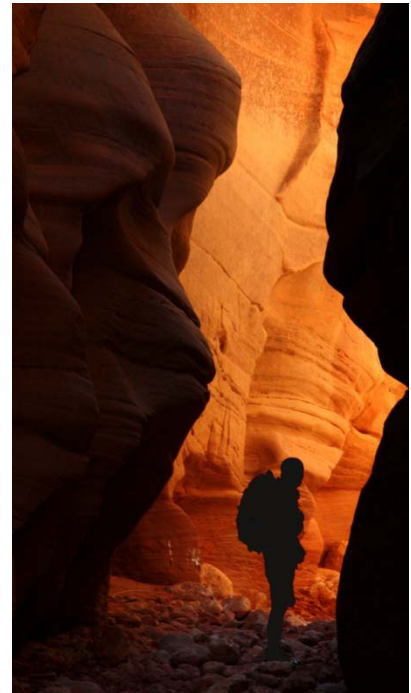
It's hard to believe that we welcomed the arrival of 2009 little more than 12 months ago in Costa Rica - a wonderful reunion vacation with Margaret's parents and her sister's family: lush rainforest waterfalls, howler monkeys at dawn, pacific ocean sunsets, white water rafting and the whole extended family sliding down ziplines. It's this last memory which jars against the year's landmark event - Ros passing away suddenly in June. She'd been hiking in the Sierra's just the day before - as full of life as when launching down the

jungle zipline - then suddenly, shockingly, gone. Everyone flew to Berkeley; an incredible gathering shared memories, but it is still impossible to grasp her passing.

Of course, 2009 had some unambiguously happy memories as well. Adam, Galen and Dan spent a week canyoneering in Arizona in April. Some of the flooded corridors were covered



with an icy veneer, causing a retreat and detour to lower altitudes, but other canyons led to gorgeous (and less painful) adventures in the brilliant sandstone of Paria Canyon.



After school let out in June, the whole family flew to Italy for a week of "via feratta" - protected climbing on the stunning Dolomite cliffs. A sudden lightning storm spiced up one climb, but we escaped safely, if drenched by the downpour. Afterwards, we spent several days in an

12th century Tuscan farmhouse, then took the train farther south to end our visit with a whirlwind tour of Rome, where Leah used here karate skills to defend us from a vicious gladiator's attack outside the coliseum. In August, Margaret and Dan had a rejuvenating 'date weekend' approaching a remote region of the N Cascade Mts via a long and very rough Canadian logging road. The weather was stellar and the views sublime, but the third day brought a rude shock when we returned to find that a new hole in the car's oil pan left us stranded far from





civilization. Friendly Canadians drove us to town, but a holiday delayed our car's repair for several days. Also in August, we flew East to join Dan's family in the Adirondacks. As always, Dan anticipated the sailboat races, but this year he was rewarded with victory yielding repossession of the Trevor Trophy for the first time in twenty years. In September, we celebrated an old friend's 50th birthday with a serene kayak-camping trip to the San Juan isles. In December, we bid goodbye to 2009 in the Tucson sun, enjoying some fantastic desert hiking.

Adam and Galen are enjoying 8th grade, their last at Evergreen, and greatly anticipate an upcoming month-long trip to Vietnam with their class (though they are dubious about the presence of their mom as trip physician, even if *she* is excited by the prospect). Both boys have taken up rock climbing, regularly taking the bus to an indoor gym, and they continue their love of Ultimate. They are fanatical about technology and Galen is passionate about public transit, especially urban rail.



Leah, now in 5th grade, trained incredibly hard to earn her junior karate black belt last spring; we were super proud. Rather than relax afterwards, she stepped up to help lead the karate Demo Team, resumed gymnastics, took up basketball, continued indoor soccer (now transitioning to outdoor Ultimate), and played the role of Mrs. Darbus in a wonderful production of High School Musical.

Margaret has grown even more beautiful and has become the diva of Children's hospital; she's planning to run for Governor of Alaska as prelude to writing a book. (OK, Dan... In fact, Margaret is braving the last of her 40s in fine style given the Scylla and Charybdis of 2 teenage boys!)

Dan's had a good year, enjoying his pursuit of the highest peaks in WA, tagging Cosho with his old friend Marcel to make 82/100. In September he managed to sneak a trip to Crete, braving the Minotaur and descending some technical, limestone canyons with his friend Dave. Work is going well, notably a major project on 'Machine Reading.'

We wish you a wonderful 2010; please come visit!

3100 E Laurelhurst Dr NE, Seattle WA 98105. 206-523-9058
weld@cs.washington.edu;
margaret.rosenfeld@seattlechildrens.org

