

Happy Holidays from Ana & Joyce - December, 2008 . . .

January - after New Years we started rehearsals for *Pippin* with the juniors. We had 48 kids between the ages of 8 and 18 in our family-friendly version of the classic Broadway show. The HP Choir began its 30th year, with a Spring season of *Music of The Earth*. *Picture a World*, *What a Wonderful World*, *Colors of the Wind*, *Joy of the Hills*, and *Under the Sea* were some of the selections sung in June. Ana was an Alto taper, but practiced Tenor and Alto for the season.

We went to the annual car show downtown. Joyce was looking at a lot of the "green" cars but the Mustang will always be her fave. Joyce spent Winter break with her dad skiing between quarters. Shows we saw with or starring friends: *Rocky Horror* for the 3rd year in a row, with our friend Aaron as Rocky (again).

February - we wanted to join several of our friends in the cast of the musical *The Best Little W'house in Texas* (yes, you know the one!) but the timing for the auditions didn't fit well with *Pippin*, so we weren't able to. A few weeks later, Ana got a call from the director asking if she'd be interested in the small but quirky role of Doatsie Mae, the "wise-cracking proprietress of the Texas Twinkle Café." Since quirky is Ana's favorite style to perform these days, she accepted right away.

Rehearsals finished up and performances started for *Pippin*, and the kids were having a great time with the show. Shows we saw starring friends: *1940's Radio Hour* and we knew every single member of the cast!

March - performances for *Pippin* wrapped, cast parties were had, and the set was disassembled and put away; another year, another junior show. The kids grow up so fast. Ana feels like a "mom" to every one of them.

For Spring break we went, where else?! We drove south right after Joyce's last class of the quarter. By the time we were in the park, it was dark. The crowds were crazy on our second day in the park, so we just spent the day enjoying the ambience of the place. On our third day, we used our early entry, and we went straight to the "new" sub ride. It does not have a fast pass - bad idea - so we stood in line for 90 minutes! Once there, though, it was worth it. Shows we saw starring friends: *Damn Yankees*, where we knew several of the cast and staff.

April - Rehearsals continued and finally performances commenced for *The Best House*. At least that's what we called it so that spam filters wouldn't prevent our advertising emails from getting into people's inboxes.

Just before the second weekend of performances, Ana's mom had a hemorrhagic stroke. She needed surgery to evacuate the blood putting pressure on her brain, and then she spent a week in ICU and the neuro ward. After that she was making remarkable progress, and was transferred to a stroke recovery/rehab facility. Since our presence was therapeutic and actually benefited her rehab efforts, we spent as much time with her as possible. Ana took six weeks off from work to be with her every day.

Joyce got a job working at the local TGI Friday's, which is also a favorite post-performance hang-out for our theatre friends. Shows we saw: *Fame* was playing at our home theater, and a number of our friends were involved; we saw the return of the touring production of *Mamma Mia*, which was of course fabulous! We can hardly wait for the movie to come out this summer.

May - *Best House* ended and rehab for Ana's mom continued through May. We took a much needed night off to co-host a birthday party for our dear friend Charles. In the middle of the last week of the month, Ana's mom got to go home. Thanks to her four-plus weeks of rehab, she had regained about 80% of her physical capabilities.

Just as we did for *Pirates 3*, we just had to go see *Indy 4* the moment it was available to the public. So we caught the midnight show on Wednesday before Memorial Day, caught a few hours of sleep, and then went to the hospital for the day shift, exhausted, but happy we saw the latest installment. In the waning hours of the month, we went to see friends performing in *Man of La Mancha*.

June - Joyce got her dad to help her finance a brand new car. She hopes to realize enough in gas savings to help with the insurance increase and maybe some of the car payment. Shows we've seen: *The Complete Works of Shakespeare Abridged* was performed at Ana's high school by 3 very talented young men who had recently graduated or would graduate this year.

July - for the Fourth of July, Joyce went to her dad's; Janet went white-water rafting; and Gwen made plans to be with family, which meant Ana and Nana were alone together for the whole weekend. Shows and movies we saw featuring our friends: the stage musical *Grease* which had many of our friends in the cast; the movie *Wall-E* which was extremely adorable; and the much anticipating and not over-rated *Mamma Mia* movie. We

caught the midnight show of that and were able to stay awake and cheer and laugh and cry for all of it! While Joyce was visiting Disneyland with friends (without Mom!), Ana went to see several of their friends in *Pajama Game*. We also caught one of only two performances of a little review called *Out of My Trunk, Out of My Mind* by a local artist and friend of ours, and starring many of our friends.

August – Joyce followed in her mom's footsteps and volunteered at our theatre to be the Props Mistress for *Seussical*. We also provided backstage costume attendant services for an opera premier at the lovely Villa Montalvo garden theatre called *Divide Light*. Ana sang more background vocals with her friends Steve and Terri. She also took a class in voice-over in San Francisco, which could potentially lead to jobs doing commercials, audiobooks, and video games. We went to our first home game of the 49er pre-season. Ana squeezed in rehearsals for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* with her alumni troupe The Glue Factory, between work and caring for her mom.

September – on the last day of the month, we trekked to our favorite aquarium. The HP Choir taped the music for the Winter concert season, and Ana joined them, this year singing Alto. We worked backstage on a couple of the *Seussical* performances. Ana served beer on a shift of booth duty at a local Art & Wine Festival, on behalf of HP. One of Ana's long-time co-workers and friends retired after 26 years with the company and there was a party. The full HP Choir started rehearsals for the Winter season. Other shows we've seen starring friends: Ana ushered at a performance of *The Odd Couple* with a female cast, performed by a few of the Glue Factory cast members at her High School.

October – our birthday fell on Yom Kippur for the first time in years. We celebrated at Temple first, then went on to join several theatre friends at Fridays for dessert, coffee and "Happy Birthday" sung by the wait staff. Work and school prevented us from going anywhere for our day. We had another party with several of our friends that dwindled into the wee hours of the morning. Ana made a big pot of her famous Nana's g'getti, which is always popular.

Seven rehearsals before opening night, Ana was asked by *Succeed's* director if she could step into a larger role. The woman playing the character of Miss Jones had a medical situation crop up and couldn't continue in the production. So Ana had to learn two solos and all the dialog before they opened! One of their friends gave them tickets to see the *Disney on Ice* show at the "Shark Tank" for their birthday.

Joyce attended a Halloween party with friends in Santa Cruz, while Ana ushered the opening night performance for *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. To keep in theme with the 'holiday' the show staff wore costumes as well, and Ana dressed as Miss Othmar (the school teacher, you know, the wah-wah-wah lady). Her costume looked suspiciously like Jonesy's from *Succeed*, but it was the right era, and easily accessible. Other shows we've seen starring friends: the gals saw friends in *Greater Tuna* where it was performed at the Hoover (where Ana has performed in 3 shows) and it was very hysterical.

November – Joyce and Ana were asked by their friend Charles and his fiancé Julie if they would usher at their wedding at Stanford's Memorial Chapel. The service was beautiful, as were the bride and bridesmaids; the groom and his attendants weren't bad to look at either. The reception had great food, dancing, good company, and Joyce even caught the bouquet!! Other shows we've seen: some of our friends were in *Flower Drum Song* downtown at the enormous center for performing arts. Joyce got to watch a performance of *Charlie Brown* on one of Ana's house managing nights.

December – the HP Choir performances were a rousing success. Ana sang 5 songs with the entire choir, all Christmas tunes, then sang a solo (*Mary Did You Know?*), a duet (*Baby, It's Cold Outside*) and a quartet à la Andrews Sisters (*Mele Kalikimaka*) with some very special friends. Ana saw more friends in *Plaid Tidings*. Ana and her mom saw even more friends in *Hot 'n Cole*, a Cole Porter review. Joyce spent parts of the holidays with her mom, and with her dad. Ana spent Christmas-time with her mom.

Both Ana & Joyce Wish You The Happiest of Holidays
Love and Blessings to All!!