

# the GRAY FAMILY

BASEBALL, BEAGLES, BLOGGING, BLUEARC... BUSY BEYOND BELIEF.



## Tripping

*Though work efforts dominated travel again in 2006, we managed to sneak out occasionally - including trips to Spring Training in Arizona, Boston in the summer, and for Thanksgiving, a stay in San Simeon. The above photo is from the famed Hearst Castle.*

*To See More Photos:  
[homepage.mac.com/beagleluv5](http://homepage.mac.com/beagleluv5)*

## Better Living Through Chaos

*The year saw Kristine absorbing the tomes of history as she continued her pursuit of a Masters, Louis expanding his Web reach in an attempt to dominate Google, and both keeping long hours at the office. Somehow, they found room for a little fun now and then.*

2006 - LIKE 2005, ONLY ACCELERATED..

Given the drama many have seen over the last few years, we are grateful that, at least for us, the headlines remain the same.

Kristine is now in her 5th year teaching social studies at Monta Vista High School in Cupertino. Louis, not to be outdone, is approaching his 6th anniversary in BlueArc's marketing department. We still live in our condo in Sunnyvale, and we still have the same dog. We still drive the same cars and attend the

same church. So what's new?

The pace, for one. Kristine's studies intensified in her second graduate year at San Jose State. Louis was promoted to Director and gained a whole new slate of tasks. Both of us were asked to share a 12-14 year-old teaching assignment in Sunday School.

And for some reason, Louis caught the blogging bug in a big way - finding new outlets for his constant stream of commentary.

*(Continued on the reverse...)*



## Molly's Corner

*Now 17, the world's favorite house beagle has slowed, but remains as cuddly as ever.*

What do you get the dog who lives in a lap of luxury? Competition. No, not another dog, but instead, a Roomba robot vacuum, which battles her for floor space and duels for stray crumbs. For now, Molly holds top billing, acting as if she runs the house. We don't tell her otherwise.

Meanwhile, with all that going on, we also embraced our role as East Bay sports fans, becoming Oakland A's season ticket holders for the first time ever - taking in 40 games, attending Spring Training in Arizona, and being present for the team's first playoff series win in years. Needless to say, we became all too familiar with the traffic nuances of I-880, our direct connection from the South Bay to both Oakland and Berkeley, where the Cal football team went undefeated at home and set a school attendance record.

## OUR DUAL-PRONGED JOURNEY INTO NERDDOM

In 2005, Louis extended his A's fanaticism into something bordering on the unhealthy, with the advent of the ANtics comics - a weekly feature on AthleticsNation.com that highlighted the A's players in near super-hero form. Back for another season, the ANtics saw nearly 40 new "episodes" in 2006, and were handed out in March to the players who had inspired them. Still unable to figure out how to cash in on this time-consuming hobby, Louis instead made a more permanent home for the comics, at [louisgray.com/live](http://louisgray.com/live). His blog, kicked off at the beginning of the year, covers the world of Silicon Valley, including technology, sports and politics. One of his more famous rants, against the wave, even made it into the San Jose Mercury News. Not content to continue posting in his self-named echo chamber, Louis was also invited to blog for the Sacramento Kings fan site, [SactownRoyalty.com](http://SactownRoyalty.com), and on all things Macintosh, for [theappleblog.com](http://theappleblog.com). 2007 will see if this will be more fade than fad, or if an increasing workload at the office will claim these pursuits as victims.

Kristine chose instead to channel her intellectual pursuits into something more esoteric, as she became among the world's more prominent experts on the United States' near abolishment of the German language following the advent of World War One. This seldom-charted topic of her final paper for her Nationalism course at San Jose State this fall semester saw her dive into a litany of primary sources, uncovering a jaw-dropping amount of research into some of the origins of today's monolingual American society. If this wasn't enough to do, she continued teaching four courses a day of World History to occasionally motivated high school sophomores, completed a graduate seminar on East Asian history through Stanford University, and visited Idaho and Montana with her mother this summer.

As 2006 draws to a close, and we look back on all we've done, and all still left to do, we're grateful for what we have, for each other, our friends, our family and colleagues. As you and yours approach the holiday season, we wish you the very best - that you can take pause, reflect... and keep pushing ahead.

