

H A P P Y
H O L I D A Y S

from the **GRAY**
FAMILY '08



DOUBLE THE FAMILY. DOUBLE THE FUN... AND WORK TOO!

After five years of growing as a couple, The Gray family underwent a year of unprecedented change. It was a time of transition and loss, as Molly the beagle moved on after 18 years, and a time of unequalled celebration, with the arrival of TWINS! Matthew and Sarah joined us on June 20th, and we know life is changed forever.

The theme of “Change” was present in more than just politics in 2008. While the last few years were comparatively stable, with both Louis and Kristine holding the same jobs, living in the same home, and even keeping the same cars, we exit the year finding ourselves in the new role of parents, to not just one, but two, children. Matthew and Sarah started their lives at a mere 5 pounds and 4 pounds, 3 ounces, respectively, and have brought incredible happiness into our lives which far outweighs their diminutive size.

Their debut also rearranged practically every element of our schedule, from sleep to meals, to even leaving the house. Kristine took a leave of absence from her teaching job in May, and since then, has been spending practically every waking hour helping the twins progress - but somehow still managed to continue her progress toward a Master’s in History at San Jose State. And after a generous four-week paternity leave, Louis headed back to work at BlueArc, where he is wrapping up his eighth full year - a surprising length of time in the always-morphing Silicon Valley.

BUT THERE’S MORE TO LIFE THAN BABIES. RIGHT?

Before Matthew and Sarah came into our lives, we knew they had time to squeeze in one last vacation as a twosome. Keeping with tradition set the prior two years, we headed to sunny Arizona to see the Oakland A’s at Spring Training, taking an extra day or two to drive from Phoenix to Tucson to see the A’s play on the road. Driving with the top down on the rental convertible, Louis and Kristine, she a fit five months pregnant, almost got sunburned before even seeing an inning of ball. But somehow they survived the four games in four days. What didn’t survive the trip was Louis’ laptop, which got crushed when he moronically stowed it in an area marked unsafe, and then raised the convertible’s roof, smashing the poor Mac to bits. It was a down moment after a fun week and repairing it cost more than the trip itself.

Oops.



At the time, Kristine, only partially kidding, said she felt a real sense of loss, as the ever-present laptop was practically part of the family. In fact, it was the laptop, and way too much typing on said device, that took much of Louis' time this year, both at work and at home. His blog, at <http://www.louisgray.com>, initially started in 2006 to talk tech in a personal way, became a lot more visible, as he found more of a stride, posting more frequently and engaging with thought leaders throughout Silicon Valley.

Meanwhile, outside of geek land, and in the real world, as new life was on its way to our family, one of the more stable elements, our beagle, Molly, found it was time to move on. After a rich life that saw her spoiled ahead of all other hound dogs, including more than 13 years under Kristine's care, she left us on June 5th, missing the twins' arrival by just over two weeks. Her loss was devastating for the family, and we still find ourselves expecting her to be in familiar places, greeting us at the door and looking for food.

The twins have more than made up for Molly's loss, and we've managed to cope with the extra work needed, gaining plenty of help from friends and family who have been generous with their time. And since their small start, the twins have tripled in size at the six-month mark, with Matthew weighing in at 15 pounds, and Sarah at nearly 12. They manage to keep us on our toes, and we will have fun chronicling their growth as they move from infants to toddlers and beyond. Kristine has even set up a blog to watch their advancement, at <http://www.thegrayeffect.com>.

Blogging. Everybody is doing it.

Now, if you don't mind, I think I hear a baby crying. Wonder which one?

— Louis and Kristine Gray

