

New Year's, 2011

I hope that you had a Christmas that was as warm and happy as all Christmases are supposed to be. We did. Our family was all together, we had a great Christmas dinner, we have been so fueled by good will that we will hopefully be happy the whole coming year.

Our three grown children are all living with us and going to school. Fiona and Gabriel are students at Bellevue College and Val is going to Lake Washington Voc Tech and doing volunteer coaching in wrestling at his old high school. I asked him the other day if any of the kids he coached were as good as he was in his senior year. He simply said, "Nope". But then he laughed.

With five grown-ups living under one roof we all get the dormitory experience without actually having to pay to live in a dormitory. I'm surprised that it is working out as well as I had hoped. Reaching for hairspray over the shoulders of someone who is brushing his teeth while someone in the next bathroom is taking a shower isn't so bad. It's just that we're doing all these things at the ages of 19 and 26 and 27 and 62 and 69. We do not have empty nester's syndrome yet.

Here are a few pics of us. Two are of Val. One of them is of him doing what he is happiest doing: hiking and climbing. The other one is a picture of why he is so happy doing it. Then there are pictures of the rest of us. I hope that you have all had so much Christmas warmth that it will carry you through the whole of 2011. Happy New Year.





