



This year has forced us to remember important things like hugging our children and letting our friends and family know how much they mean to us. We Gingolds have had little sorrow over the last months, —for which we are extremely grateful,— yet what we have witnessed in friends, neighbors and the rest of the United States has certainly given us a wake-up call. The Christmas tree is still half decorated, and you may be receiving this card Christmas Eve, but it's because we've been spending time with our kids and catching up with old friends.

We've been doing some redecorating, streamlining the office and transforming the basement from a kid's play area to a teen hang-out, so it took me a while to find the past year's photos, but it sure was fun reliving the year when I found them.

We did a lot of camping — as a family, with Boy Scouts and with Girl Scouts. Emily went to “away” camp for the first time with a couple friends, and dealt with heat and homesickness, and learned how to canoe. James and Don chartered a sailboat in the Keys with the Boy Scouts, spent a week sailing, and videotaped everything. Later, James and a buddy edited a catchy video for merit badge, which was also shown on TV. Mother's Day weekend we spent in our little trailer with my folks listening to the rain drum on the roof, and my soggy Girl Scouts had to pack up on our second night during a September camp-out when we watched our field become a lake.



We also had a week of wonderful weather in the Smokey Mountains where we camped by a stream, went tubing, climbed the mountains, toured the Blue Ridge Parkway, and did some white-water rafting. Don and I hadn't been rafting since before the kids were born, and now I wonder why we stopped! Everybody enjoyed the thrill.

Emily was still recuperating from chicken pox during the trip, a surprise which scuttled her second week of camp. The boys were in Florida at the time, so we girls watched a lot of videos and hung out together, a very special time.

Both kids are in Junior High now, which means I only work in one library, but we all have to get up earlier. Emily adjusted quite well, and James is very much enjoying his eighth grade status. He continues to play percussion with the concert band and the jazz band. Emily still plays piano and violin, and joined the school chorus. This means that we go to practically every musical event the school has to offer.



Both kids continue to volunteer at Naper Settlement. Emily is part of a group of costumed young people who do period crafts and games to give the museum life. James this year moved up to interpreter. He was the expert on Fort Hill, dressing as a soldier during the Black Hawk Wars, hanging about the campfire, and explaining the fort to visitors.

James and Emily were also involved in school plays this spring. James was the sound guy for the Junior High performance of “Middler on the Roof,” while Emily sang as part of a quartet in her fifth grade play. Also this spring, James was “tapped “ for the Order of the Arrow in Scouts, and he completed his ordeal in the fall. It was quite an honor.

Gnu Media Design Co. is thriving, hence the office redo. We continue to be active with the Chamber of Commerce and other civic activities. Church also still keeps us hopping. I'm teaching the junior high class this year, playing bells, and with Don, sparked a Youth Council to revitalize that ministry. This November saw the last of my stint as Homeowner's Association Editor, but I'm still doing the church's. One day a week, I still have my little visitor who is sixteen months old and all the baby I need at this time of my life!

We have been so blessed again this year. We can only pray for continued blessings for our family, for your family and for our country. We wish you a very warm and happy holiday, and nothing but wonderful things in the coming year.

—Kate, Don, James and Emily

PS: Don't be strangers! Email us: kate@gnumediadesign.com

