

Wishing a happy and healthy 2014 to you and your family!

Greg, Caroline and Alek Koss



2013 Koss Family Highlights

- **January:** Caroline and Alek took a road trip to Southern California to visit Disneyland and her long-time friend, Judy. On the way home, we stopped in Acton (at Granny's old ranch property) to dig up a few Junipers for Alek's bonsai collection, and we visited with Caroline's grade school friend, Lisa.
- **February-March:** We went on several fun ski trips (mostly Greg and Alek), when we finally had some snow. Also, Alek got to be one of the demonstrators (in front of a large crowd) for his Bonsai club's 30th anniversary special meeting. It was so fun to watch him "in the zone" working on his bonsai.
- **April:** We hosted the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Casa de Koss (and the park across the street). Greg's parents also flew out and visited with us for a long weekend.
- **May:** Our beloved Uncle Don passed away. He was an amazing man, and the source of Alek's middle name. He is sorely missed, but our memories of him continue to inspire us.
- **June:** Greg celebrated another birthday, and we celebrated the UCLA graduation of Caroline's niece, Janel, the high school graduation of Caroline's nephew, Jeff, and the elementary school promotion of Alek. Also, Caroline drove her parents up to Mammoth for their annual summer stay, and Alek "lingered" there for a couple weeks.
- **July:** Alek flew solo across the country to visit with Grandma and Grandpa Koss, and had a great time with them in their Otis, MA lake house.
- **August:** Alek spent time with Grandma and Grandpa Signer in Mammoth, and Caroline and Greg took advantage of the "empty nest" to spend a weekend in Pacific Grove with Nancy and Mike. Later in the month, we all took a wonderful vacation in the Pacific Northwest, visiting with Caroline's Aunt Betty and Uncle Wil, then on to Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island. We toured the Olympic Peninsula and ended our trip with a fun stay with our good friends, Lisa and Phil, on their wonderful farm (where Alek got to drive for the first time)!
- **September:** We drove up to Mammoth and helped Caroline's parents return to their Pacific Grove home for the rest of the year. The fires in the Sierras continued to provide an eerie amount of smoke and caused us to detour from our usual route. Greg had shoulder surgery to repair a blow-out of the previous year's shoulder surgery.
- **October:** Alek turned 11! Greg's parents flew out to help Alek celebrate. As a birthday present, Caroline took Alek down to a Bonsai Convention in Southern California, where we also were able to sneak in a quick visit with Caroline's brother and Sister-in-Law, Eric and Maria, Greg's Uncle Bob and Aunt Verna, and our friends, Gina and Kevin.
- **November:** Caroline and Greg once again hosted Thanksgiving at our house. The crowd was smaller than usual, but you wouldn't know it from the amount of food served or the lively conversation, including a four-way Skype call with all members of Caroline's brother Rich's family (only one of which could be present in person this year).
- **December:** Greg's father Alan turned 80! To celebrate he took his children and their families to Orlando, Florida, for a wonderful week's vacation, where we all enjoyed hanging out by the pool, visiting amusement parks, and just spending time together. Immediately upon our return we celebrated Caroline's birthday at a party hosted by Nancy and Mike plus another one down in Pacific Grove with her family.
- **Ongoing:** Caroline spends a lot of time in her vegetable and flower garden in the back yard or in front of her computers. Alek spends time with his bonsai trees (and at bonsai shows), plus he's interested in his veggie garden, ceramics classes, soccer, and of course, video games. Greg continues to enjoy skiing (when there is snow) and volleyball (when there isn't snow), geeking around, as well as lively conversation (on any topic).

We hope that you had good adventures in 2013, and that 2014 brings you much peace, laughter and good health!