Grand Opening of Remodeled Kitchen!

The Rodkey domicile has seen radical transformation in 2010; the small but serviceable 60’s-era kitchen has been expanded and upgraded to a room of such grandeur that declining interviews with home decor magazine reporters has become a regular chore. Those who know the Rodkeys will not be surprised at their hands-on approach, demolishing concrete and plaster, framing, painting cabinets, roofing, and laying wood flooring with gusto and blind determination. Undaunted by their experience of turning a 2 hour paint job into a 2 week re-plastering, they soldiered on to lay wood floor in two more rooms and are now turning their attention to the sadly neglected exterior and landscaping.

Meanwhile, the household is already reaping the rewards of the remodeled guestroom. Grandparents from both sides of the family have taken advantage of the cheerful room: Penz’s grandparents enjoyed the space during Thanksgiving, and Rodkey grandparents have booked it for February.

Newly Discovered Aerial Photographer Takes Art World by Storm

Less than a month after the discovery of amateur Street Photographer Vivian Maier’s remarkable work, the Art world was rocked once again when the work of amateur aerial photographer Jeanne Rodkey was shown in exhibition for the first time last Friday at the Monarch Museum of Modern Art (MoMMA)

“It's remarkable, really, that such amazing talent has gone unrecognised for so long,” said the curator in charge of the exhib-

See Aerial Artist, page 4
What the Well-Dressed Gentleman is Wearing ... and Singing!

Inspired by the dapper appearance of Erik Rodkey, a music major, the attire will suffice, wear for braving the extreme weather conditions at Westmont College in his Countless performances of the Santa Barbara weather. No other year, the Reader Westmont Concert Choir and ing exhibits academic prowess provides an up-to-date guide to Chamber Singers keep Erik’s like a self-tied bow-tie, as Erik developing your own retro wardrobe tuxedo in constant demand. In a discussion of the summer production of Erik explored the theological signature of Rossini’s La Cenerentola (Cinderella). Singing in his class ‘Music in the Vest lends a role of Worshipping Church’. nonchalant Dandini, the No all performances require yet well prince’s osten formal attire, however. In the groomed valet, musical ‘Precious Nonsense’, look. Erik re- his appearance- Erik sported both a pirate costume for this as the important comic tradition of Gilbert & Sullivan. Being in simultaneous tire for in the thousands productions and their rehears- sals of memorized seriously interfered with his old-fashioned doors and door knobs and millions program. “Not recommended Late spring fashion is expected of coloratura for the gentleman dedicated to include graduation gown notes that fashion,” Erik sniffed. and mortar board, adjusted at flowed effortlessly from him. For daily life around campus, exactly the proper jaunty a trench coat and a fedora are angle.

Eyewitness To Oxford Oddities

Elissa’s minute-by-minute correspondent reports reveal Krista as living a life both international and antique in flavor. With friends hearing from countries throughout the world—England, Ireland, Australia, Denmark, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, China, Russia, Italy—even watching the World Cup is a more dramatic experience. The archaic Oxford atmosphere was evident in the local slang: scout, MCR, trashing, bop, and Oriel Street pennying. Krista’s involvement in the Hertford College choir was also an occasion for much pomp and ceremony: following a beautiful chapel service, the choir adjourned to a traditional candlelit Formal Hall dinner. Moreover, as choir members, wearing their traditional academic gowns, headed through town to chapel, Elissa witnessed the unique Oxford celebrity experience: Harry Potter crazed Oxford tourists typically turn paparazzi as soon as any Oxford student so much as ventures outdoors in a robe. A pleasing end to Elissa’s visit was the chance to see the traditional May Day festivities. Getting up at five in the morning, the sisters joined the Oxford populace in listening to a choir sing atop Magdalen Tower (although ‘listening’ might be

See Oddities, Page 4
Research Uncovers Relative
Emerging from a veritable hibernation imposed during her spring semester of graduate work at York University in Toronto, Elissa wrote a flurry of academic papers, then tore up California’s roads in a grueling trip that encompassed a presentation on Eleanor Gibson at a conference in San Diego, followed by travel to northern California to research Milicent Shinn, a developmental psychologist from the 1880s and the subject of her dissertation. In her week of visits to five archives scattered about Berkeley and Sacramento where Shinn’s personal communication is archived, she was surprised and gratified to find that the Rodkeys are related to Shinn, albeit distantly—through a common Mayflower ancestor. Perhaps this accounts for the Shinn family’s eerily familiar bibliophilia and mania for knowledge.
On other academic fronts, Elissa is now a published author: her article on James McCosh, early psychologist and president of Princeton, has been accepted by the journal History of Psychology! When teaching certain stubborn Westmont seniors the intricacies of APA style in-text citation, she can now use herself as an example (Rodkey, 2011).
Back at Toronto, Elissa can often be seen escaping the worries of grad school by running long distances with friends, even in the depths of Canadian winters. The speed and endurance thus developed put her in good stead for running her first 10K, held at the picturesque Toronto Zoo. Her athletic abilities have earned her renown beyond the frozen north: Confused scouts for the Green Bay Packers negotiated rights to recruit Elissa as their second round draft pick until they discovered her expertise at punting was limited to the waterways near Oxford, gained on her visit to Krista at Oriel College.  

— John

Airborne Adventurer Becomes Stick-In-The-Mud
2010 was eventful for Tacky tire plane and stranding the Tacky in flight plans of their and his pilot. November represented the one-year anniversary of the rebuild, and John surpassed the 1000 hour mark as pilot in command. We had neglected honing his bombing skills: throughout the year many an overripe pumpkin was dropped on the airport windsock with a meticulous precision only possible with a miraculous combination of skill and OCD. But by far the most adventurous flight occurred when a confluence of questionable weather and a ‘dry’ lake bed turned a weekend jaunt to Arizona into a 5-day marathon and rescue operation. Here’s the harrowing tale: upon returning from Casa Grande, making a precautionary landed to wait out bad weather seemed prudent, but the uniform smoothness of the dried lake bed turned out to be the result of muddiness. Upon landing, Tacky’s wheels became sticky with mud, immobilizing the en-

This year also found John soaring in song with the Santa Barbara Choral Society. John enjoyed having his

Goddess of Neatness and Order Astounds
Astute readers will have doubt: to treat the inevitable Post-Reless gathered from previous model Stress Syndrome, Adelle years that the youngest sought refuge at a Suzuki con-Rodkey girl never does things ference in San Francisco (baby half. Adelle’s year was full sically summer camp for music of challenging work in many nerds) where she honed her roles: 134 days opening Star-cum teaching skills. Returning with bucks at 4:30 a.m. (that’s more fresh enthusiasm, Adelle de-than every third day!), establishing a ‘cherub choir’ at First music studio lacked an essen-Presbyterian Church, and teaching oboe and piano students. Be-cause having only three dozen joining the antique pump or-marketable skills was clearly under par, Adelle embraced the re-room gives new meaning to model as an opportunity for ‘surround sound’. — Elissa

professional development. Turning her hand to construction, she discovered the arts are in-deed applicable... when singing gaily while applying paint. Certainly demolition and rebuild skills are apt for the goddess of neatness and order, who deigns to bestow her blessings of organization upon the mere mortals who comprise the rest of the Rodkey household.

See Soaring, Page 4

Goddess of Neatness and Order; niece of Thor, pictured here with her sledgehammer.
Aerial Artist, Continued

it “I guess you just never know when genius like this will show up.”

Friends and family were shocked at the sudden shift in Jeanne’s artistic focus. “I was aware of her abilities as collage artist and her skill in painting color-field Easter eggs, but this comes as quite a shock,” said local art critic Silvia Rodarte. “Her work has taken a turn away from abstraction and towards representation, which simply panders to the culturally illiteracy of the day,” said one critic, but others were kinder toward her new work, calling it “a breakthrough of textural abstraction” with “intriguing” composition, showing “the clash of ideals in our modern culture between natural and artificial beauty.”

Over 200 of her works from the last year were exhibited, and are available in an online gallery at http://picasaweb.com/jerodkey/FavoriteAerial-Photos . The owner of the collection says there is “more where that came from” including two undeveloped memory cards, and a camera phone used by Mrs. Rodkey in her day to day photography life. “And the best part is that she no longer falls asleep while flying,” commented her long-suffering pilot husband. —Erik

Webster Dictionary of Essential Rodkeyisms
The RR is happy to announce the publication of this much-needed work. An excerpt follows:

Germ Caste: the hierarchical ranking of kitchen objects as to their cleanliness, the violation of which leaves family members horror-struck.

Rich Badness: Something that is so bad that it’s good.

Stove-job: An overly-thorough cleaning project on one small part of the house while the rest of the house is a wreck.

No-Thank-You Helping: The small portion of food given to a child who has not yet developed good taste in order that he might.

Anti-fun: The definition of Anti-fun is really quite simple. And no, I won’t tell it to you.

Will wake up at 4 a.m. for money - Contact Adelle

Soaring, Continued

abilities as talented tenor put to good use singing Vaughn Williams’ A Sea Symphony, Beethoven’s 9th Symphony, and Britten’s Ceremony of Carols. These performances achieved such heights of excellence that, in deference to the plaudits of their adoring public who insisted their talents not be limited solely to Southern California, the choir will tour Spain this summer. Due to his recent negative experience with water landings, John has set aside his dreams of a trans-oceanic flight in Tacky, and will fly on a commercial airline.

—Krista

Winner of the 2010 Hutch Honor Book
“Abounding in Wisdom: One Rabbit’s Meditations”

What reviewers are saying about Soames’ “Wisdom”:
“The most devastatingly hopeful book you'll read this year. “Soames describes his experience...with compelling narrative and touching simplicity... This book will cause you to laugh, cry, and hop across the garden in search of more carrot-tops.” —Peter Rabbit

—New Hare Times

Rodkeys Recommend Reading...
Home: A Short History of an Idea (Rybczynski)
Riddle of the Sands (Childers)
Biography of a Baby (Shinn)
The Talent Code (Coyles)
Howards End (Forster)
Awakening the Quieter Virtues (Spencer)

Rodkeys Recommend Watching...
Vitus
Lives of Others*
Scent of a Woman*
Koyla*
Genèse (Mali, 1999)*
Cranford

Vitus
Lives of Others*
Scent of a Woman*
Koyla*
Genèse (Mali, 1999)*
Cranford

Offside
Sweet Land
La Cenerentola (1981)
Swallows and Amazons
I’ve Loved You So Long
*Not for the faint of heart

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Oddities, Continued
too generous for the rather sozzled crowds who’d stayed out all night). This was followed by a visit to Blenheim Palace, a beautiful estate surrounded by gardens filled with verdant box hedges and ancient trees, where they witnessed falconry, archery, and knights jousting on the palace lawns. From Elissa’s reports, we, the RR, conclude that very little studying actually takes place in Oxford. http://bit.ly/i7zpdv
Her degree completed and her English adventure at an end, Krista returned to Indiana University, where she received a warm welcome from people in her program and at church. When missing her Oxford friends and full social calendar, she takes comfort in singing in her church choir, and visiting her various college friends also in grad school in Indiana. Krista’s choral background prepared her well for her new musical housemate; hearing hours of practicing piano simply makes her feel like she’s at home in California. —Jeanne

—Krista