



Holiday Edition Meador News Byte



December 20, 2008

Volume 15 No. 1

The Never Ending Story

Draft six of the novel is underway. With any luck Jo may finish it in 2009.

Besides writing every day and restructuring her story, Jo has been submitting other work to literary journals. She actually won an award for a poem that was published in the September issues of *Soundings*, the literary magazine of Whidbey Writers Association. See inset on next page for poem.

She has had two book reviews published on the web site for students of *Northwest Institute of Literary Arts* aka Whidbey Island Workshop. Reviews are available for reading at: www.whidbeystudents.com (one is under *fiction* and the other is under *craft*).

You may also note that the Whidbey students run a monthly writing contest. You can earn \$50 if your piece gets chosen. The students adjudicate the contest which is judged by a different student each month. The winner must simply "knock the socks off" the judge to win.

On the first weekend of October, Jo taught at the Edmonds conference. 🐦



ED's BIG HOUSE PROJECT

2008

Wiring
Low Voltage
Networking
Flooring
Lighting
Interior Painting
Cabinets
Woodworking
Appliances
Interior doors
Plumbing Fixtures
Final polish on floors

May: Moving In

Empty green shell at end of 2007



The Boaz Family

James spends his days at T-Mobile and many of his nights and weekends as well. Kasi taxis Lauren to school twice a week, shops, visits the library, the doctor, and keeps the Boaz home comfy and inviting. Bo



the bird is nearly 17 years old and still squawking although a little more crotchety than he was. Tiger the great tabby at 8 has reached a

cautious accord with the "baby" and hostilities are momentarily suspended until one or the other gets mischievous.

Thanksgiving, a holiday Kasi is not overfond of, was held at Meador Lodge with the Boazes and Lauren's godfather Jason and his family.



Christmas will be at Boaz Bungalow with Christmas eve with the Crooms in Issaquah.

What a treat to visit Kasi's home where she designs

See BOAZ FAMILY on page 2



Such an angel
when she's
asleep.

Enjoying the
colors of autumn
in Pipestem WV
Oak SupperClub

After calling herself **Coco** for the past two years **Lauren** has finally learned to say her name. She didn't initiate the process with "Lauren" however. She started with her middle name "Elizabeth" then went on to Lauren. She recognizes her name written on the board along with Nonna and Coco, but she still refers to herself as Coco.

She has been talking up a storm for the past year and we are able to understand at least half her words. She starts off well and ends well but, in terms of a writer friend, her "middle sags" a little. It



See LAUREN on page 2



The Lollypop gang descended on Snohomish during the annual Halloween extravaganza. Missing Pappa is behind the camera.

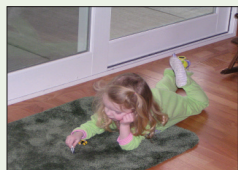


BOAZ FAMILY *from page 1*

around the seasons, a true Marthanaut. Vases filled with leaves or balls of the season, fir boughs decked with red and green and gold, Villages for Halloween or Christmas.

With all her other activities, Kasi still finds time to create lovely cards, she reads books and belongs to two book clubs, with James she is in a wine club, and still keeps Lauren supplied with play quilts.

"She's the best mother *ever!*" Lauren reports. ♡

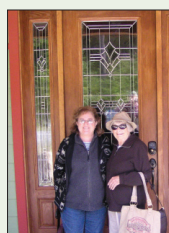


Playing horsey inside on the grassy rug



Helping Pappa dig Nonna's garden

Following Pappa around the yard



Elsie came up by train from Portland for a few days in September



Pamela's lovely home in Montchanin...What a reTreat!



Jo at rest-Ed at lens



Rocio, Sam and Summer Balcom standing on rim of Crater Lake

Record Snow Fall On Whidbey-Again!

I sit at the computer in my Nordic sweater looking out on the Deep White Chill



After being tied for so long to the house project, it felt good to free ourselves for a little vacationing.

In August we hosted the Balcoms from Virginia, taking in the San Juans, Victoria and Vancouver then south to the Redwoods.

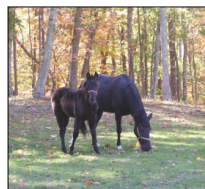
Then it was off to West Virginia. We flew into Pittsburgh (via Philadelphia!) and drove down to Morgantown area to see sister Darlene and husband Terry and living close by, nephew Andy came by with Vaia and the kids.

Next stop four hours south to Hinton to visit Ed's family where we stayed with brother John and wife Lynne. Barbara came with Sharon and Sandy with husband Tom along with Aunt Frances, where we placed a new headstone on Andrew's grave.

Over the Blue Ridge Mountains, at our next stop Stuart Virginia we visited cousin Otis Ray and wife Doris. We toured the southern end of Virginia before heading to Richmond to visit the Balcoms. We visited Jamestown



before moving on to Delaware via Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay. This back road carried us east of DC, an adventure for us. We spent three days with friend Pamela in Montchanin. There we toured Wintertur, the Brandywine Valley, and the Brandywine (Wyeth) museum in Pennsylvania, heading home to Washington from Philadelphia.



LAUREN *from page 1*

is funny to hear her self talk. As she runs down the hallway, she'll gibber then say clearly, "Slow down; Be careful." When playing with her lambies in the doll house she'll exclaim, "My God!" or "Oh no!"

Not being very experienced grandparents, Ed and Jo find this highly entertaining and I am sorry to say, encourage the outspoken behavior.

One of her favorite activities is "being naked" that is, running around in her diapers and undershirt. She insists that all her dolls be naked, including the lambies and mousies and bears who all have adorable little outfits that Nonna would like to keep on them.

Coming to Pappa's house means playing outside in the mud, the dirt, and the big open play space. She's growing into her tricycle and has grown out of her sandbox but not beyond it—Ed's spring projects are building up. ♡

