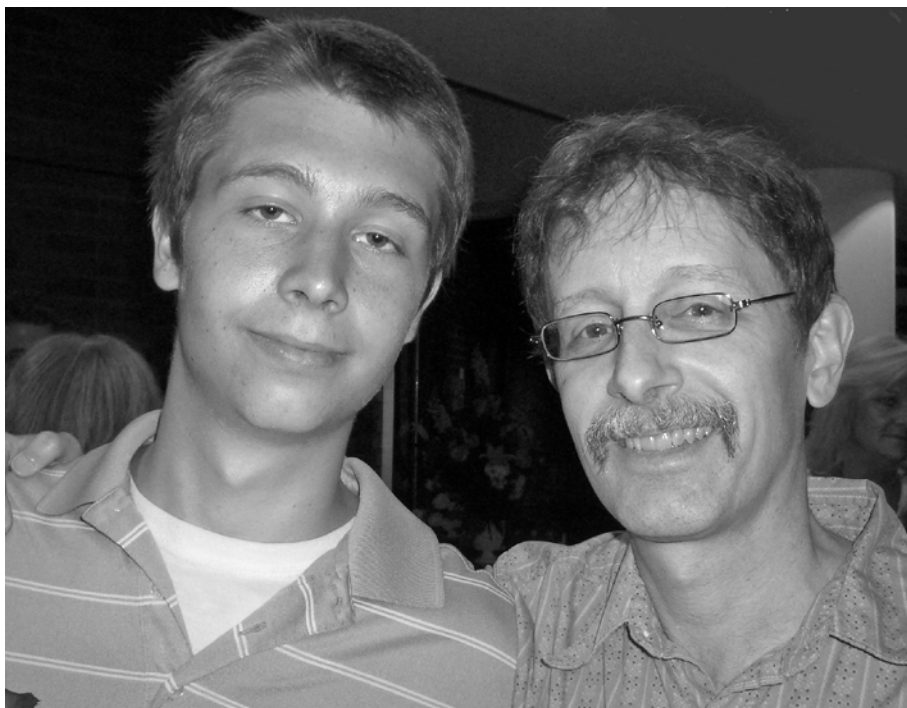




Ben turned 18 this year, graduated from high school, and voted in his first presidential election. He's now studying Business Management at Minneapolis Community & Technical College. He shares an apartment with a friend in the Wedge neighborhood, and is very happy to be on his own.



Graduation Day

In July, Ben and I rode the Empire Builder to the Pacific Northwest. We hiked in the rainforests of the Olympic Peninsula, were awed by Mount St. Helens, and discovered the troll under the Aurora Bridge in Seattle. In Vancouver we tried our hands at Canadian 5-pin bowling. (Ben won.)

Cyndie now works at Cigna as a depression coach. She's still teaching classes at the Zen Center. And she's been burning the candle at all three ends in the effort to paint and wallpaper the last few decrepit rooms in our house.

Cyndie's daughter Emery bought her own house this year in South Bend. Em and her sweetie Kevin visited us for Thanksgiving.



Kevin & Emery

*It's a joy to have a stepdaughter.
(Especially this one.)*

And me? Same as always, only more so.



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