



## FROM NY CABS TO HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGES

by Teresa Damocles

Greetings from the Damocles household! I hope everyone had a great year! While many of you have been able to globetrot and travel this year, we've been staying closer to home. Carlo was away most of this year working at the Bank of Tokyo in New Jersey from February to mid-November, coming home only on weekends. I was able to get away for a couple of weekends to visit him. The first time was Memorial Day weekend. It was my first time back to New Jersey since Cristina's (Tinette's) wedding 12 years earlier. Carlo and I were fortunate enough to be there the same

time that Paolo, Jeff, Carlo (Santayana), his girlfriend, and Jodi were all in town, so we enjoyed dinner and drinks together. During Carlo's final week there, Corey, Charlotte, and I were able to fly out and spend time with him in New York. The kids have never even been to downtown Chicago, yet, so this was quite an experience for them. Charlotte's favorite thing to do there was to play at the playground in Battery Park. In addition, Tito Randy and Tita Mitos were so kind to take the time and show us around Central Park and Rockefeller in Manhattan. The kids thoroughly enjoyed that time, as did Carlo and I. However, I was a bit homesick for the *bunso* (youngest one). Samantha had to stay back home with Grandma and Grandpa in Bolingbrook.

Over the summer, we were able to take a short vacation to Mackinac Island, Michigan. It's a very quaint and beautiful island with really magnificent views of Lake Michigan. To get there, you need to take a ferry boat. There

are no cars allowed on the island, but there are a lot of horse-drawn carriages. When we first arrived, the kids would hold their noses to keep from smelling

the horsey aroma that would always linger in the air. They got used to it after a day. We stayed at Mission Point Resort, where Carlo's cousins from the Philippines were working for the summer. I was surprised to find that they didn't have any air conditioning in the resort. In fact, most places there don't have air conditioning, since the average summer temperature is 75 degrees. We plan a return trip there again next year, since it's only a 7 hour drive from Chicago.

For next February, Carlo and I are planning another trip to Maui, Hawaii. This time I plan to stay away from anything that has to do with mountain biking down a volcano. Instead, we plan to try our hand at scuba diving.

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### You know you're a Laico when...

- travel is your addiction.
- you love *ensaymada*.
- you clean the house only when you have guests coming.
- you are *kuripot* in everything except *laquacha*. (You are tight with your money with everything except traveling and going out.)
- you walk with a waddle.
- you're telling a story, and at the middle of it you say, "I forgot what I was talking about," or you make a phone call to your sister or brother and say, "I forgot why I called you."
- your friend tells you she comes from a family of five (2 siblings) and you feel sorry for her and wonder how lonely she must be.

Nonon

Malu

Rey

