

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Buffalo, 2006-2007

Dear Friends and Family:

I begin this letter on New Year's Day, 2007, in a bit of a sad mood, as our family has lost our dear father, Peter Kizis, this past Christmas Day. Peter and Bertha, Carol's parents, had been married for 67 years, both 89, and have been in poor health for much of this year. We have been busy working between Buffalo and Pittsburgh to help the transition for them. We had a difficult but close family holiday, with a long trip to Pittsburgh for the funeral and burial. It was a great joy to see many members of Carol's extended family together to honor her father, a kind and generous father, uncle and grandfather. We will miss his deep love for Claire and Joseph, who have lost both their grandfathers. Fortunately, they have the love of their surviving grandmothers. We keep them close in our thoughts and prayers. We enjoyed a short visit with Grandmother Bertha Kizis just after the funeral, for New Years. Carol's aunt Jean Lauda, from San Antonio Texas, came up to visit also, with Aunt Sandy. It was a quiet New Year's eve, but a warm and wonderful one.

This has been a busy and difficult year, with some wonderful accomplishments and some trying times. We have lost touch again with many of our friends, and have not had the time to catch up from those we visited. We beg your indulgence and hope to catch up in the New Year. We each celebrated some wonderful times this year, some recognition, some travels, some visits with family and friends. As a family, we had a wonderful short trip to Cleveland, in April, for a Star Trek convention. Claire got to meet some of her Star Trek Enterprise favorites, Connor Trinneer, along with Linda Park and Anthony Montgomery. We also met a few other Star Trek actors, including a nice visit with LeVar Burton, who signed a video of our favorite episode of Reading Rainbow, his PBS show, "Through Moon and Stars and Night Sky", a book about Korean Adoption. Most importantly, we had a great time with Claire's godmother, Theresa Laffey. The picture shows another nice event in April, where Joe was awarded a SUNY Chancellor's medal for



Scholarship, and we shared this with our whole family.



Our largest family event was a spectacular trip to Korea in June/July. There is so much to tell about the 10 days we spent with all of our friends. Jerry Brennan joined us on the trip so we had an extended family. We arrived first in Seoul, with Drs. Yangsun Kim and Yeonhee Lee and Yeonhee's husband, Duk Bin Jun, We celebrated Claire's 15th birthday with Yangsun, and Carol and Joseph

visited Kukkiwan, the headquarters of the international federation of Tae Kwon Do and toured all through the town. We had a wonderful day with Yeonhee at KIST, and toured through Seoul enjoying



shopping and visiting the downtown area. We then took a fast train (200 mph!) to visit all our friends in Busan. We stayed at a beautiful beach hotel (where George Bush had stayed for the 2005 APEC meeting. We toured throughout the area with Profs. Changsik Ha, Professor Won Ki Lee and his family, Dr. Sinhye Jung, and her family, including a

...and On Earth, Peace, Good Will Toward Men

very nice day at the APEC house overlooking the Japan Sea. Thanks to Dr. Jung's contacts, Joe lectured at Ulsan, and had lunch with the "Gardella Korean family", all our former postdoctoral associates. We also spent a wonderful tour of an authentic Korean village with Sinhye's and Wonki's families. We then visited Gwangju the Korean historical city, the thousand year capital. We enjoyed making traditional pottery, eating fine Korean foods, visiting beautiful museums of all types. We then were picked up by Wonki, Sinhye and Professor Ha, and flew back to our last day in Seoul, with a wonderful goodbye dinner with Yangsun. The pictures cannot show the joy of our time in Korea, and our Children's chance to visit their homeland. Joseph vows to return soon, and to spend a college year. On our flight home, Carol and Joseph met up with two children coming for adoption in the US, and were able to help with their care on the plane home to



Buffalo. Our hearts were so joyful on our trip, we are blessed to have such friends who showed us so much of Korean history, and life, and it was the most joyous trip you can imagine. It was hard to top that during the rest of a quick summer.

We did have a wonderful short trip to Detroit for Joe's Birthday, enjoyed with Mom, Aunts Sarah and Robin, Uncle's Chris and Ed, and cousin Sara Renee for a cookout and birthday party. Sadly, Uncle Ed has been ill and we are all wishing for a speedy recovery.

September brought a short trip to Toronto for Joe and Joseph; they attended the last show of Lord of the Rings (Joseph's passion) and truly enjoyed an amazing show, and attended the Sci Fi convention, meeting Bill Shatner and

Leonard Nimoy. After Labor Day, came the return to school for Claire and Joseph. Claire continues at School 84, with a new teacher, Mr. Pugliese. Joseph began 7th grade at City Honors, moving toward a high school schedule. They both continue their fine work, with Joseph continuing his other interests in Tae Kwon Do, Baseball, and now in military history. Joseph and Joe enjoy Friday movie nights with WWII movies. Claire played a short summer of baseball, enjoys her best friend Brittany and her music, writing and reading. In September, we celebrated an Alumni Award from Pitt's Chemistry Department, with Toby Chapman, David Pratt and a few old friends. Shown below are Dick and Betsy Howe, and Walter Tramosch. It was great to revisit the glories of our time as a graduate student with old friends; and see how the Howe family and the Tramosch family grace Pittsburgh. Our joy was cut short by a tragedy close to home in Buffalo, and then a rough month of recovery from the October storm. Carol got a chance to walk half marathon with Theresa Laffey in October, and Joe visited DC for an NSF review, but spent a great afternoon with Henry Blount. Too short a time, too little time to spend with our friends.

There have been many recent academic achievements, but they all pale compared to the best of our family. We hope this letter finds you and your family well, and that our new year brings us more family time and more warmth together. If 2007 brings you near Buffalo, please join us!



Love from Joe, Carol, Claire and Joseph