



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Buffalo, 2002-2003

Dear Friends and Family:



I begin this letter on Christmas day, 2002, impressed by the many messages from friends and family who missed this letter last year. Wow, we never really believed this message was so popular! Thanks! We took a year off for many reasons, the house project and a busy year for Joe as a consultant/expert witness in Federal Court in New York City. For much of 2001 and well into 2002, Joe was shuttling to NYC to work with a team of lawyers on a generic drug patent infringement case; we made many new friends working closely for those months; and as one year passes since spending 24 hours on December 26th, 2001 trying to return to snowbound Buffalo (8 feet, really!), eventually by train, Joe notes that he misses his friends made during that time. The trial was in February 2002, and was a learning experience for all of us. Well, on to family news! Claire and Joseph continue to grow and delight their parents in all their exploits. Joseph and Mom are both involved with Tae Kwon Do, Joseph is now almost a blue belt, while Mom is close behind with a green belt. Joseph finished his stay at School 54 in Buffalo, after two years with Mrs. Mandel and Mrs. Geraci, and has moved on to School 67, Olmsted School in South Buffalo, where he is involved in Choir, a GT program and has made many new friends. Claire moved on from Mrs. Metzger's class last year to Mrs. Cordero's class this year at School 84. Claire has worked very hard in assistive communication with Mrs. Grill, and has a nearly three year perfect spelling record, now doing spelling tests on her Dynavox. Claire was recently student of the month in her class, and more importantly, was recognized at school for taking 1000 steps in her walker during PT. We are deeply proud of how hard she works. She's made wonderful girlfriends, Jackie Rodriguez and Brianna Calvin in her class, and had a sleepover for her friends this year. Claire made it through Cradle Beach camp for a week last summer on her own, in the Susquehanna camphouse, where she shared her love of Friends, Matthew (Chandler) Perry with her camp friends. As a reward, Claire has begun her collection of DVD's with Friends Season 2, complementing her other Friends videos. (It complements Dad's Star Trek collection). The kids both enjoyed baseball the past two years. Over the past two years, we've had two wonderful family vacations; the first in August 2001 in northern California with Jerry Brennan and Evelyn Hauser; it was beautiful to tour the coast, mountains, lakes and Redwood Forests, and to hear Rosie and her Blues Brother perform live. In March of 2002, we visited Sarasota Florida for the first time having an Easter vacation fit with UB's spring break. We were given the run of a wonderful vacation home from Claire's orthotist, Jim Pankow for a week and enjoyed the beach, a Pirates spring training game and the west coast of Florida. We also took the kids to see the Lion King in Toronto in July 2002, it was a wonderful event. We've tried to visit Detroit and Pittsburgh as often as we can; Carol's dad Pete Kizis had health problems in August, 2002 and we've been back to stay in touch with him during his recovery. We had a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner at Aunt Sandy's house, it was Grandpap Pete's first real trip out and we all enjoyed the company. In other important family events, Aunt Sarah and Uncle Chris Wisner welcomed Tyson Joseph into the world, and Joe was one of the Godfathers, shared with Uncles Ed and Dave. Sarah and Chris visited Buffalo before Tyson came and spent the weekend with Joseph and Claire so Joe and Carol could enjoy a weekend in Ontario at the Shaw Festival. Finally, we've enjoyed another glorious year at St. Joseph University Church, where Joseph will make his first

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



communion this year, and Joe works on the Social Justice Committee. So, on with the House report. We moved to year three of the six month project this year; we hope the end is in sight. We have a wonderful kitchen, the elevator has been a true godsend and we've got the third floor storage and work space. We hope that the grand opening will be in 2003, with completing the big job of the second floor reworking of hallways and bedrooms. Carol continues managing this huge project and still works one day/week at MCEER Information Service. Joe continues with his position as Associate Dean for External Affairs in the Dean's office in the College of Arts and Sciences. His research group continues to transition with many new Ph.D. graduates the past two years. Drs. Denise Carney, Limin Sun, Rafael Alicea Maldonado, Joo Woon Lee, Yuanxue Hou, most recently, Christine Mahoney. Denise teaches at D'Youville College in Buffalo, Rafael at Geneseo Community College, Limin is postdocing in Vancouver, BC at UBC, Joo Woon recently left with his wife, Dr. Eun Jeong Cho for the University of Texas, joining former colleagues Drs. Jiaying Chen (Dow) and Jin Zhao (Texas Instruments) in the Lone Star State. Yuanxue is in Massachusetts, working for Battelle environmental laboratories. Christine just left for an NRC Postdoc at NIST in Gaithersburg, MD. Former visiting scientists from Italy, now professors Ilario Losito (University of Bari) and Maurizio Toselli (University of Bologna) celebrated new appointments this year. Dr. Won Ki Lee accepted a position in Chemical Engineering at Pukyung University in Pusan, Korea and Dr. E. D. Jeong returned to the University of Pusan. Dr. Kent Zhuang married in 2001. Dr. Jiaying Chen moved to Dow in Texas, and Dr. Jin Zhao left AMD for Texas Instruments. Dr. Carolyn Wechter visited from Dow for a seminar as did Dr. Larry Salvati. A big event for Joe this year was the award of the 72nd Jacob Schoellkopf Medal of Science from the WNY American Chemical Society. The award dinner in May brought many friends together, and Joe's mom and brother David traveled from Detroit and Edmonton and Carol's sister Sandy came from Pittsburgh for the event. Many friends and colleagues wrote beautiful letters and the recognition from the community and colleagues was overwhelming; although the notation recognizing Joe's work in the community included the statement characterizing him as a "diplomat"! Hard to imagine. The award also was a great way to celebrate 20 years in Buffalo for Joe. But the recognition for work in the communities in Buffalo and Western New York is now expanded beyond Seneca Babcock, Hickory Woods, to include Cheektowaga/Bellevue, Lewiston Porter, the East side of Buffalo near an old Lead smelter. These efforts continue to be difficult and inspiring, allowing us the good fortune of making many new friends in these communities, and fighting for environmental and social justice is a family avocation. Another big event was Dave Hercules (Joe's Ph.D. mentor) 70th birthday celebration in August, 2002. Joe edited a special festschrift issue of a journal for Dave's celebration, and although the weekend was interrupted terribly by Lucinda Cohen's accidental leg fracture during the symposium, it was a chance to visit many many old friends. Larry Salvati, who also visited Buffalo for a 20 year celebration of our landing in Buffalo, was among many Herculoids from Juniata College, MIT, Georgia, Pittsburgh and Vanderbilt, the points of light in Dave's career. For the Pittsburgh Herculoids, and Peter Sherwood (honorary Herculoid) there were so many chances to catch up; and we all enjoyed the chance to toast David and Shirley as thanks from his extended family of colleagues. It is clear where Joe learned true mentorship and to see it returned by so many people is the great joy of an academic career.

Well, we come to the end of this missive. We hope that 2003 gives us more a chance to visit with friends and family. We invite you all to Buffalo and hope we make our way to visit some of you soon. With all our love from Buffalo