

Happy Holidays To All Our Family and Friends!

Well, it's that time of year again. And this year we hope to get this publication out before the start of the third millenium (yeah, right!).

What a year this has been for us! We started out by moving into our beautiful new home on January 12. Needless to say, we are still thrilled about that. Within a month after moving in, our deck/porch was under construction, and completed by the end of March. We enjoy having breakfast outside from late spring through early autumn. The '99 summer here was excruciatingly hot, so we did no planting. But we did have an irrigation system installed. We hope to plant trees and shrubs and do a bit of landscaping in the spring of 2000. We also had the rear walkway and patio poured, so Rachel can be navigated to the basement. We simply love this house and our new neighborhood.

David continues in GT at Sunrise Valley Elementary, where all three children still attend (one of the nicest features of moving only about one mile from our previous home). Now in the 6th grade, he continues to excel and thrive. He has developed a true passion for playing the violin and now participates as first chair in the summer Strings Camp and the school orchestra, and also is a member of Area Orchestra. He has been taking private lessons since early summer, and it shows! This fall and winter, David has been participating in a local area cotillion, which culminates with a dinner/dance in January (with girls!!!). He continues to attend Hebrew school and Youth Group at Congregation Beth Emeth (our synagogue). And **MARK YOUR CALENDARS...** David's bar mitzvah will occur on August 8, 2001. And from the look of things, we've all got our work cut out for us.

Rachel is now in the 3rd grade! She was doing just fine this year until November, when she developed pneumonia and a collapsed lung and was hospitalized for eight days. Her recovery (mostly at home) took several weeks. She seemed fine until just today (12/22) when another small case

of pneumonia appeared. Rachel's spirit is as strong as ever. She is growing very fast and is becoming quite a nice young lady. We are in the process of having her room fitted with a ceiling lift, which will hopefully spare us all any further back injuries. She also got a new wheelchair in June...a nice purple one (finally, a real girl color). It seems we may have found about the best anticonvulsant medications we'll find in the near future for her. Lately it is uncommon to see more than one or two large seizures during any given day. But the medication has its side effects as well. We still pray that one day there will be a way to stop her seizures altogether.

Andrew is still Andrew, but even more so than ever before. He's now in 7th grade and is reading fluently, well beyond his grade level. He also seems to enjoy math (David likes that). Over time, he and David have grown closer and only fight about the half the time now. Andrew participated in the Hunter Mill Swim Team and Vienna Little League Teeball in the spring. Of course the latest obsession is Pokémon, and Andrew finally received his own Color Gameboy for Chanukah. So now he and David can compete head-to-head. Now, if we could just get him to eat vegetables...

Eileen's big accomplishment this year (besides making it to age 40 and fooling everyone into thinking she's still 30) was achieving her bat mitzvah in late March. She spent two long, hard years studying for it and performed admirably along with several of her close friends. It was a big time afterwards at our home as we celebrated all night with about 80 of our closest friends.

Later in the year (early summer), Eileen quit her jobs at the school and the synagogue and started working as a receptionist for the National Confectioners Association and Chocolate Manufacturers Association in Tyson's Comer. The original idea was to get her out of the house, but at the same time do something she would enjoy. Well, nobody can deny the great fringe benefits her new job has to offer. Candy, candy, and more candy! She speaks regularly to the presidents and other top execs from companies such as Mars, Nestle, Hershey's, Tootsie Roll, Godiva, and all

Happy Holidays To All Our Family and Friends!

the other top and not-so-well-known candy companies. It's a small, close-knit group of very nice folks. And we've all gained something from her association with NCA/CMA...poundage!

Bruce left the Air Traffic Management project at Lockheed/Martin (Rockville, MD) in July and returned to Orbital Sciences Corporation (Germantown, MD), still working as a contractor. The commute is 10 miles farther, but while at APL, Bruce developed a real liking for working on spacecraft flight software. At Orbital, he is developing flight software (attitude control and command/data handling) for a geo-synchronous digital TV satellite for Japan. In 2001, the entire Orbital Space Systems Group will relocate to Dulles, VA, and the commute will be only 15 minutes (hooray!). In spring, Bruce was the team parent for Andrew's tee-ball team and even developed a website for it. Bruce also attended his 25-year high school reunion in Connersville, IN, in June. That was so inspiring, he developed a website for it also. During the year, Bruce had minor arthroscopic surgery to repair torn meniscus cartilage in his right knee.

Our au pair for 1998-99, Lea Nomme returned home to Estonia in August. We all miss her dearly and we are staying in touch with her. We also occasionally hear from other past au pairs Bodil Groop (93-94) and Funda Agirbas (94-95). **Taryn Matthews** is our new au pair, from South Africa. She arrived in late November after two others did not work out. She has a genuine charm about her, and the boys enjoy her company very much. We are very glad to have her with us for the coming year.

And what a year 2000 will be! Maybe we'll finally get some decorating done around this all-white house. Except for the bedrooms, it still lacks window blinds/shades and treatments. A few more shrubs, some trees, and flowers would also be nice. Maybe we'll even get the basement finished. Bruce already has this designed and can't wait for that billiard table, 50" TV/home theater, and **organized** storage. At least this year, Bruce painted the inside of the garage. Ahhh, a fresh-built home; the ultimate fixer-upper!

We hope this letter finds you all happy, healthy, and prosperous.

Have a great year!

Our new address:

Bruce & Eileen Scherzinger
10514 Coving Cross Lane
Vienna, VA 22182-1880
Home: 703-264-5259
Fax: 703-264-0868

Electronic Addresses:

Bruce: zinger@bigfoot.com
e-Fax: 978-246-2564
Eileen: not@myself.com
e-Fax: 978-246-2550
David: mythmath@yahoo.com

Web Pages:

Family: <http://bigfoot.com/~zinger/family.html>
Bruce's HS Class: <http://geocities.com/chs74class/main.html>

Happy Holidays To All Our Family and Friends!



David – Grade 5



Rachel – Grade 2



Andrew - Kindergarten



Bruce and Eileen in DC boarding the Odyssey
(actually a 1998 photo, but a good one)