

The year 2001 came and went with little of any significance to note for the Scherzinger family. That's a definite improvement for our family, indeed! We know the past year has had its low points, what with the terrorist tragedies and the stock market (not that they're in the same league). Our year was otherwise so good that we tried to look beyond these events and be grateful that we are all healthy and safe. This year we only have good things to tell you, so try to stay awake, okay?



David became a bar mitzvah on August 18. It was a very festive occasion as members of the Goldstein side of the family came in droves. It was great to see

everyone again and I hope I speak for all those who came when I say the occasion was momentous and significant. David had a lot of fun, too. His party was at the Ashburn Ice House. Our group had an entire hockey rink to ourselves. I was surprised to see so many people, adults and kids alike, skating. And David got to ride on the Zamboni machine! Eileen and David even took skating lessons a few weeks before the occasion

David is now in the 8th grade at Langston Hughes middle school. He's still in the GT program and is now on the "All-A" honor roll. He finished #7 in the State of Virginia on the State Math Exam! His violin playing continues to progress and he has advanced to the district elite orchestra. David took the entrance exam for Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology in Arlington. Despite the 45-minute bus ride he'll have to bear, he really wants to go there. Admission is extremely selective and competitive. We should know in a couple weeks whether he is one of 800 semi-finalists. Only 400 students are admitted each year. By the time you read this, we'll know.

As we predicted, Rachel had a spectacular year. The new medication is still quite effective, though not quite as



much as when we first started it. Rachel is happy most of the time and is really becoming a lovely young woman. She interacts more and seems genuinely interested in playing with certain toys. She also seems to comprehend conversation better and responds quite appropriately much of the time. She has been vocalizing more lately also, as if she is ready to tell us something. It is a relief and a blessing to be able to say that we made it through an entire year without any major or even minor incidents with Rachel's health. Thank God!

Rachel is in the 5th grade, still at Sunrise Valley Elementary (SVES). It's hard to believe she'll be in middle school the year after next. She definitely seems to enjoy school and her teachers have reported unquestionable progress with her interaction and cognitive capabilities. She's still quite the trooper.

Andrew is now in 3rd grade and entered the GT program this year. Though he is struggling a bit more than David did, he seems to be coming along fine. His interest in math appears to be following the lead of his older brother and he now enjoys things like math puzzles, flash cards, and calculators in his spare time (when he's not surgically attached to a game controller).

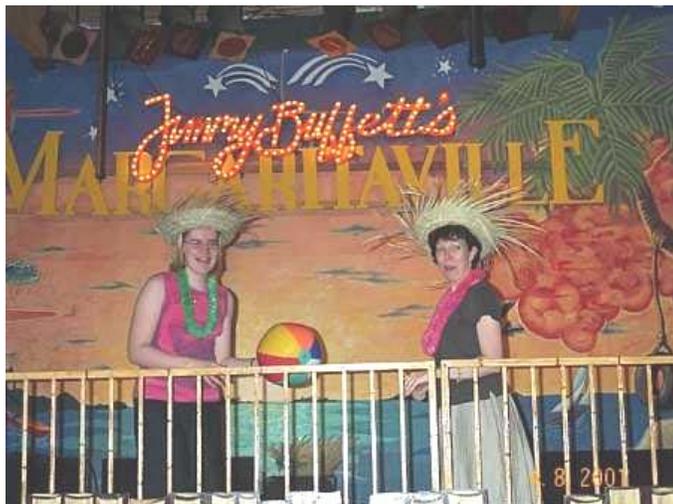


Andrew felt the wrath of the orthodontist this year, braving both a palette expander and now a Herbst device. This is the same hydraulic-like hardware David wore for about a year. I guess it works, but I am starting to wonder about the orthodontist.

Eileen is still working at NCA/CMA and recently was offered (and took) a permanent part-time position there (or as she calls it, "a real job"). Her official title is "Administrative Assistant for Technical and Regulatory Affairs" (whoa). She'll need to expand her computer skills by becoming fluent in Microsoft Outlook, Word, Excel, and Access. You go girl!

Eileen is also still with EurAupair and continues to welcome the constant challenge of it. She's now totally dependent on the Internet to communicate with her host families, siblings, and parents. I got her a Palm 500 PDA for

Chanukah, so she's becoming quite the geek. She's also co-president of the PTA at SVES with her dear friend, Elizabeth Cline.



Bruce is still working at Orbital, but now in Dulles, VA, only 12 miles from home. The BSAT-2a spacecraft he was hired to work on launched in early March and was a total success. BSAT-2b launched in July, but unfortunately did not obtain proper orbit due to a problem with the Ariane 5 rocket and had to be disabled. He is still working on NSTAR, which should launch in summer 2002. He has also been contributing on a consulting basis to the PanAmSat project, which is another spacecraft in the Starbus lineage that is also supposed to launch in 2002.

I guess this satellite stuff is getting under our skin. We are now subscribed to Starband as our internet provider. Starband provides a two-way satellite connection that is fast on the downlink side but mediocre (okay, crummy) on the uplink side. Can you believe we live in the preeminent technology region in the country and cannot get better internet service than this? Oy!



In April we all trekked down to New Orleans (NOLA) to visit the family of Capt. David J. ("Dave") Vogel, Bruce's half brother. Our "vacation" was four days driving in the van and three days visiting with the Vogels. Everyone

seemed to enjoy the trip, but it was exhausting. The boys got along great with their "new" cousins and want to go visit them again soon. In February 2001, Dave will retire from 27 years in the Navy to pursue a personal life. I was fortunate to be able to attend the Change of Command and Retirement ceremony in December down in NOLA. It was quite an event; one I'll remember for a long time.

The house got a minor upgrade in 2001 when Gary Kunkel came to visit in March to help build shed doors and again in early August to help finish the shed. Gary and Bruce worked feverishly for three days in drizzle and 95° heat but accomplished their goal.

Our au pair for 2001 was Christina Nilsson, from Sweden. She's been a wonderfully helpful addition to our family for the past year. Her mother and stepfather visited us for a week or so during the summer. They are very nice folks and we truly enjoyed their company. There will most definitely be tears in January when Christina returns home to start her career. Our next au pair will follow right on her heels arriving from South Africa in the same week Christina leaves us. Even though these many years having au pairs have been enlightening and even enjoyable at times, I look forward to the day when we no longer need the service. But along the way we have made several lifelong friends.

Thanks to everyone who sent us cards this holiday season. We love reading all those newsletters and keeping up with all your busy lives. We hope to hear from you more during 2002.

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**HAVE A
SPECTACULAR
2002!!**

Eileen, Rachel, Andrew, David, & Bruce