



Winter Solstice 2002

Dear friends and family,

It's been a scary year in world politics, but happily we've had no personal disasters. Probably the best news of the year is that we have successfully negotiated the process of finding a high school for Nora. She is happily enrolled at John O'Connell Technical High School and for the first time in her life can easily walk home from school. Not only that, but she's maintained her high grade point from middle school.

We've had several interesting trips this year. We all went to Japan in January. While Tokyo weather is almost exactly as damp and cold as New York that time of year, we all enjoyed the magical energy of the city. We also had three days of rural retreat where we viewed wild snow monkeys from a mountain *onsen*. We had a family reunion in Orlando with several of Bob's Southern relatives during Mary's annual employment law convention. We all went to Detroit together for Thanksgiving, and caught up with Mary's family.

Bob's career has resulted in some further speaking engagements overseas. He and Mary took advantage of a speaking invitation to enjoy an adult weekend in London: art, theater, and nary a rain cloud. He got his pilot's license at last and is continuing to study Japanese in his spare time. He's been trying to hook up friends with new jobs, but that is extremely difficult in the current economic climate in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Mary defeated a summary judgement motion in her long running USGS reduction in force case and the case is now set for trial. She made an argument to the Ninth Circuit on a VA case. She won a \$2.3 million dollar victory against the Postal Service which is now tied up on appeal. The Bush administration continues to dismantle employment rights while it tramples on civil rights and civil liberties. Mary has done her share of speaking out against these abuses, most notably on the Employment Law Round Table. She continues to enjoy the collegial atmosphere of her Union Square office.

Nora resembles us more every day, in her increasingly sophisticated sense of humor and fondness for Asian foods with untranslatable names. She is now a babysitter, and no longer a babysit-ee. Through her, we have gotten to know more of our neighbors than ever before.

We fervently wish for peace in the year ahead, and wish especially that our government does not unleash a pre-emptive and possibly nuclear war just to maintain its opinion poll numbers. Not being vengeful people, we wish Trent Lott a happy, and early, retirement.

Despite minimal care consisting of only fertilizer and water, our fruit trees had a good crop this year, and the lawn neglected to die. Our pets eat regularly and remain unaware of the fluctuations in the world's markets and the nagging threat of deflation in the US. Our best wishes to all of you in the year ahead.

Love,

Mary, Bob, and Nora

309 Montcalm St. San Francisco, CA 94110 (415) 550-1019

email: Bob, [bahir@pacbell.net](mailto:bahir@pacbell.net) Mary, [mdryovage@igc.org](mailto:mdryovage@igc.org) Nora, [noracarasi@aol.com](mailto:noracarasi@aol.com)