

December, 2001

Dear friends and family,

The holidays have started: cards, family letters and photos are arriving – reminders of each of you and all our experiences over the years. Your new news and our shared memories are what tie us together in an uncertain world and we savor all of it. (I'm not sure when the holiday spirit reaches the nanotubes where Bob puts much of his attention, but he is always connected to his loved ones, as we all know and rely upon.)

Even apart from world events, this year has brought us great delights and grave sorrow, and we have embraced both, as part of the same course of life. We are proud that Sally graduated from Kenyon College. She is in Evanston, working, taking some science courses and considering graduate programs. I graduated from law school, published a law review article (on HMOs) and passed the Illinois Bar (Bob is proud, I am relieved). The job market is uncertain right now, so I'm doing research on the legal implications of bioterrorism and enjoying having time to work out and read for pleasure.

Bob has gained more acceptance for his ideas about those natural nanotubes and what happens inside of them. This has, as in past years, entailed many trips to universities and conferences. My part-time work has allowed me to travel with him at times, and to see faraway friends, which has been great fun for both of us.

Both Jill and Emily purchased their first homes this year, in Honolulu and Chicago, respectively. Jill is finishing work on her undergraduate degree in psychology, and has done so well that the university awarded her a full scholarship (without her applying for it – or *sua sponte*, as a judge would say). John is working on his Ph.D. and has advanced to writing his thesis. Emily is still working at Ivan Noel and I am still enjoying the fruits of her labor as an esthetician.

Ben and Crystal will have their first home in the spring – another condo unit in the building we live in. This will allow us to continue to enjoy dinners together and to help Ben with child care (always a pleasure). Ben is still building buildings in downtown Chicago, despite the economic turndown. Crystal is now seven, a second grader and in love with Aaron Carter, based solely on his singing. Ben and we have been working to encourage Crystal's mother to spend more time with her, on a schedule that Crystal can count on, which is a work in progress, much to our puzzlement.

The passage of time defines each generation in a family and not always with joy. In January, Lucy, Bob's mother, broke her hip. She spent almost four miserable months in bed before she died. We all miss her terribly, but the loss has fallen most severely upon Harold, of course. Without her, the years have caught up with him, and in October, we moved him to the Hebrew Home for the Aged, near New York City. Despite some mental and physical aging, he is still using his wits and his World War II Army experience to out-manuever the nursing home bureaucracy and still sharing a piece of his mind with his sons on occasion.

Bob and I are returning to a real life, now that law school is over, although we don't quite know what that is! We still go to the symphony frequently. Bob has discovered it is possible to order any food in the world through the Internet (he has tested this premise often enough that we may safely say it is a rule, although he points out that it at least works for Lebanese halawa and the much harder to find domestic Swiss chocolate bars). In April, we are going to Cambridge, England for three months, where Bob will be the Schlumberger Visiting Professor of Chemistry, quite a recognition for all that time he spends pondering nanotubes and electricity.

We wish you all well in the coming year, and send our love and cherish our ties to you.

## Ardyth Passes the Bar

*Ben T., Emily, Bob, Ardyth, Ben and Crystal  
Sally was with Pops*



## Crystal in Martial Arts



## Sally in Hawaii



## Jill, Holly, John and James in Hawaii

