

October 8, 2005

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Dear Friends and Family,

We hope that the start of the New Year 5766 finds you and yours in good health. For us the past year has been full of many good things and to help you catch up with the Kantors, here is a short summary.

In Madison, Mattie has entered Kindergarten, and reports that she loves it. Since there is no homework yet, she fills her spare time with Irish dance lessons, piano lessons and Sunday school classes. Liam is now three and a half, and he too has started school – Gan Hayed. Each day when Kim picks him up after school, he says “I had a good day at school today.” Kim continues to work in pediatric immediate care at one of the U of Wisconsin affiliated HMOs, and Dave is still with Hyperion Press. They continue to share child-rearing, each working a tad more than half the time. Dave (playing gayda, clarinet and kaval) leads a wonderful Bulgarian ethnic music group called Malo Selo that we get to hear every year at the Madison Folk Ball.

New to our family is Ben (Benjamin Schettler Kantor, or Nachman ben Michael v Ashira), born on the very last day of March. He is measuring the world with his eyes and his mouth (of course) and his only acrobatic trick so far is to roll over. Christina and Mike are enjoying parenting, and doing quite a good job of it to judge by Ben’s outgoing nature and growth curve. Mike has moved from the U of Wisconsin to a new job, as a software developer with Epic, which makes software for managing every aspect of medical care. Christina works part time with a U of Wisconsin clinical trials group enticing patients to enter the trials, and she is getting back to her knitting avocation (designing and teaching) now that Ben needs less constant attention.

Back home at the empty nest, Carole continues as Associate Director at the New

Jersey Center for Biomaterials, which moved into a spanking new building on Rutgers Busch Campus this year. They have a gorgeous space, where her cell phone does not work. Well, no one promised us rose gardens. She has moved to emeritus status in the Body Recall exercise program, and gave all her teaching materials to her successor. The time thus freed is devoted to some Yoga every morning.



Paul is still at Rutgers, and is now a few months into a full year of Sabbatical, which he plans to spend in New Jersey, with occasional trips to conferences and meetings. He continues his amateur flying, growing asymptotically closer to an instrument rating. (When asked what it is for he explains “so I can choose not to fly in bad weather, rather than being forbidden to fly in bad weather”). While on the ground he uses a brand new used car, bought when the beloved old red Paseo gave up the ghost.

Our sisters have been on the move this year. Sue moved from California to Kentucky, where she heads a health care foundation. Phyllis moved from Seattle to Phoenix, where she works at an environmental consulting firm.

Fred is still in New York, working from his apartment on various topics in physics. He and Paul have collaborated a little this year

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on some research related to machine learning. This grew out of some tricky problems arising in research on detecting terrorists by the messages they send. Paul's other research stream is about indexing the data developed in fMRI imaging studies. These data will one day form a world wide library of immense importance to medicine. But right now, nobody knows where to "shelve the books" and how to make the "card catalog". He continues to write many proposals whose brilliance is not quite apparent to the decision makers. But you can't win the lottery if you don't buy a ticket.

Most of our trips have been to Madison, of course, but this summer we traveled to Israel for a wonderful visit. We spent a little time at Be'ersheva, where Paul met with some collaborators. And they included us in a wonderful tour of the desert there, and a quite unbelievable Moroccan dinner feast. We spent most of the time in Jerusalem, and visited several times with Sue and Joe Lerner. We saw most of the Lerner kids and grandkids on the occasion



of Sammy Fisher's bar mitzvah at the Wall in the Old City -- An experience that words alone cannot describe -- but we took lots of pictures.

As usual, we ended the year at a gathering of old college friends. As folks pass on, or divorce, our numbers change. But this year we had 15 from the generation of the

alumni, 10 from the next generation and 9 from the "grand-alumni".

So, from where we see it, the year has been good. We continue to wish that peace were easier to achieve. We are guardedly optimistic about our country's involvement in Iraq -- hoping that success will follow, even if not so promptly as first imagined. To bring a country or a people from the situation of medieval Europe to the a modern form of self-governance is nearly a miracle. But perhaps the people of Iraq had suffered so much under Saddam that they have earned their miracle. Their courage in going to the polls stands in embarrassing contrast to our nation's preference for staying home and bemoaning the results. We are also guardedly optimistic about Israel's bold withdrawal from Gaza. Our hope is that this move will let the whole world see where the responsibility for so many deaths really lies. And that the Palestinians will find a way to rise to the challenge, and seize the opportunity for peace. If every Palestinian had his or her fair share of the money the world has given to their leaders, they would surpass Kuwait in per capita wealth. That they live in relative poverty is the doing only of those self same leaders.

We watched with some amaze as the struggle for the heart and soul of the Supreme Court took off with such ill concealed venom as Roberts was assessed and appointed. It was not so long ago that every single one of the Republicans in the Senate voted to confirm Ruth Bader Ginsburg, despite her ties to their hated enemies in the ACLU.

We wish you and yours health, happiness and peace in the year to come.

Love

*Carole and Paul*