

Season's greetings to you and your family.

Our children are doing well. Adam is in tenth grade and taking some very difficult courses this year. One is a college credit American History course. He is very busy with both sports (football and now swimming) and homework that he has very little free time. He also got his driving license in November. This helps us since he can now drive himself to sports practices, and Sarah to her activities.

Sarah is in the last year of middle school and taking two high school credit courses - French and algebra. She loves French and finds the math very challenging. Sarah had her Bat Mitzvah this October, reading from the Torah in Hebrew the story of Adam and Eve. Over the Thanksgiving Day weekend her soccer team came in second place in a countywide tournament. Her soccer season is finished for now, but basketball is starting, and we begin soccer again in the spring.

This summer we had over Clair Ledricke, the 15-year old daughter of the couple in Strasburg, France, with whom we exchanged homes with in 1990. We took her all over Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C., seeing some places even we had not seen.

Jeff finished five years on the Board of Directors of our Homeowner's Association, and then this July was elected president of the local District Council of Citizen's Associations. At work, his company merged his department with another department, and although he's still with Hughes, he's looking at alternate opportunities. Jeff is also the starter at Adam's high school swim meets. He's practicing his commands so his New York accent won't cause the Virginia swimmers to false start.

This fall we went to DC to see a Firesign Theater performance during their 25th anniversary tour. In a surprise, two other people at Jeff's office saw him there. You'd be amazed, as are others who aren't Firesign freaks, by the conversations now overhead between Jeff and these Hughes employees.

Daria's father had a stroke at his home in Hartford, Connecticut, the end of September. It was mild, mainly affecting his speech. Since then he has relocated to a home nearby in Reston and Daria and her brother are in the midst of selling his home in Connecticut. The house went under contract in October, with closing scheduled for the end of December in Hartford. The week before Christmas we will drive up and sort through the house and belongings. This will not be a happy task -- but one that must be accomplished to close a part of our lives. Unfortunately, we never went through Daria's mom's things after she died in February from Alzheimer's disease. We had postponed it; now it is due.

Cameron Glen, an adult assisted home, where Daria's dad is now staying is just 15 minutes away from our home. We have him over as much as possible. It will take time for all of us to become accustomed to this new situation.

Meanwhile, Daria's brother Paul and sister-in-law, Linda, moved half a continent away - to Lincoln, Nebraska. From where they used to live only 80 miles away in Baltimore, they're now very far away. We all miss them, especially now.

This year has been very exhausting emotionally for us. We pray that next year brings us all peace, health and prosperity! Take care.

Fondly

Daria, Jeff, Adam and Sarah