



# A NEW YEAR 2002 GREETING MARILYN & GUY

December 2001

*Happy Holidays from all of us in  
Pittsburgh!*

It has been an eventful year for our family, with both happy and stressful events. Scott and Cheryl's **Hanna (6)** enjoyed and excelled in kindergarten this fall, but in November, she was stricken by an autoimmune affliction called Henoch-Schönlein purpura (HSP), the most common connective-tissue disorder in children. It is characterized by purple blotches on the skin and internal tissues, painful swollen joints, and abdominal pain with vomiting. In Hanna's case, the tissue breakdown associated with HSP caused a collapse in her intestine, requiring surgery to remove the blockage. She is recovering well, and returned to school a few weeks after her surgery. A new "American doll" from Nana helped to provide a new focus for Hanna's interests as she recuperated. In a minority of patients, the kidneys become involved and nephritis develops; this is the only complication that may cause permanent damage. In general there is complete recovery. Hanna will have checks on her kidney function for sometime to come.

Sandra and Neil's ninth-grader **Kimberlee (15)** has switched to a computer-correspondence school, and Sandra is home-schooling fourth-grader **Kaitlyn (10)** and second-grader **Kevin (7 3/4)**, while working half-time as a midwife. **Colleen (4)** has developed a winning personality, and **Cassandra Rose (2)** is a

charmer (most of the time—she is two, after all). Kaitlyn, Kevin and Colleen are in bell ringer choruses at church. Kaitlyn and Kim are both afflicting with "horse-citus", following their mother in that disorder; Kim has a horse of her own in Pittsburgh, and Katy is anxiously in the market for one. Kevin enjoys the cub scouts, and playing on a basketball team (coached by his father). Sandra's children have inherited (or acquired?) their mother's affinity for animals; the current menagerie includes a rabbit, two birds, a dog, a cat, fish, and the horses. Neil continues his work as a private investigator, while finding time to be with the children part-time. They moved to a new (for them) home in Forest Hills, to gain bedrooms for all, office space for Neil, and larger living quarters overall. They repeated their annual camping trip to see the home of Misty, the wild pony (alas, now a stuffed and mounted wild pony) on Chincoteague Island at the Assateague National Seashore in Virginia, accompanied by Neil's mother.

It was a special year for Susan and Carmon's family with all of them, along with Marilyn and Kimberlee, spending four weeks in Cortona, Italy, a hill-top village near Florence, taking side trips to Florence and Venice. Carmon is associated with an art school branch of the University of Georgia in Cortona and hosted an International Printmaking Conference there. Guy came along for a few days following his trip to Japan. The fam-

ily rented an apartment in the center of town, and got a good taste of climbing the hills as a part of daily life, along with the local culture. The girls were able to participate in a festival, including wearing costumes from the 13th century, and enjoying a community dinner. Meanwhile, during the more



*Susan & her girls, with  
Kimberlee in Florence.*  
mundane life on return home to Athens, GA, eighth-grader **Ashley (13 1/2)** is singing and dancing in various performances this year. Tenth-grader **Jessica (15 1/2)** is on her school swim team, looking forward to college, and trying to get a car out of Mom & Dad. Second grader **Chelsea (8)** is enjoying tap, ballet and jazz dance classes and orchestrates her own versions of various Broadway musicals in her garage. Susan is working for the Georgia Council for the Arts and the local school district's Cultural Awareness Task Force, and on a children's art exhibition, "A Flag for Athens", to welcome the mayor of Cortona when he visits Athens in

March. Carmon will have a January painting exhibit at the Sandler-Hudson Gallery in Atlanta.

We (**Marilyn & Guy**) have had a busy year. While Marilyn was in Italy with Susan & family, along with Kimberlee, Guy was in Japan for meetings, and to participate in the retirement festivities for To-shiro Masuda, a colleague of long-standing, then off to Italy. After a few days in Cortona, we went to Rome with Kimberlee and Jessica, then on to a couple of days in Athens, and a week at a resort in Crete, the venue for a meeting for GCB. The girls would consider a return to the resort, but they're not so sure about Rome, and definitely not Athens! The trip to Rome included the girl's top choice: the Rome Hard Rock Café! Aside from that top attraction, we visited the Vatican, the Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain, and the Coliseum among other sites, and took an evening tour of the city hills.



*Guess who, guess where!*

The visit to Athens took us to the Parthenon and some of the other major attractions in the city. The resort in Crete provided the girls with their own room and a meal plan with unlimited desserts, along

with a beach for boy viewing (and being viewed)—well, at least they didn't mimic the more extreme examples of minimal coverage beach "attire" (or, at least we don't think they did!). It was a major downer for the girls when that portion of the trip ended! Later in the year



*At the resort swimming pool* we (MJB & GCB) visited Telluride, in SW CO, now a ski resort area, but formerly a mining town. We enjoyed the scenery the relaxation, and the dining during the free times at the meeting Guy attended. Marilyn continues as a Church Elder, leading a weekly women's prayer group, and the mission of arranging monthly entertainment evenings and communion services for residents of a nursing home.

Marilyn's mother **Mary** enjoyed active good health for most of the year, even earning second place in a bridge tournament in the Seneca Village complex where she lives. Unfortunately, she ran into some problems late in the year. A bout with bursitis in her hip in November was essentially resolved when she suffered compression fractures of two of her vertebrae. The fractures occurred as she was in the process of moving to an apartment

closer to the elevator in her independent living unit, to reduce the length of her walks to the dining room and social activities. After a few days in the hospital, she moved to the nursing care facility of the Seneca Village complex which includes the apartment in which she usually lives. It appears that she will be there until around Christmas, but at least the prognosis is for an eventual return to her independent living apartment.

Guy's mother **Wilma** joined us in Pittsburgh for Christmas this year. She continues to live in Troy, Michigan, in her house next to the home where Jinnine lives. She enjoys the services of a companion provided by a company named *Seniors for Seniors*, three times weekly. This service provides local transportation as needed for shopping, physicians, lunch, etc., and the welcome opportunity to have someone to talk with on a regular basis, and to get out and about in general.



*On the Crete resort beach*

Finally, here's wishing you a

**HAPPY & HEALTHY**

2002

**AND BEYOND**

Merry Christmas and Happy  
New Year from

*Marilyn  
&  
Guy*

For those with an insatiable appetite for trivia, archived greetings from prior years, along with other items re our family may be found at the url:  
<http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/~gcberry/family.html>.