

Dear Everyone,

12/7/95

Hello again. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We hope all is going well and that this letter finds you healthy and happy.

It has been a difficult year for us here, but it will soon be redeemed by a joyous event on December 30th. More on that soon. Many of you know that our son Jonathan was born with a heart defect in 1978, which was successfully corrected with a series of three operations, the last of which happened when he was 16 months old. Jonathan was generally healthy and normal throughout these many years, with only mild physical limitations in endurance and shortness of breath with exercise. This last winter and spring however, some problems began to show up, mostly irregular heart patterns. Tests were done which determined that a large gap had formed inside his heart between the two upper chambers. Corrective surgery was scheduled at University of Minnesota Hospital for August 7th, 1995, just before his senior year was to begin at South High School in Minneapolis. The surgery was performed, and was considered a success, but at the conclusion of the operation his heart failed to respond properly. He was placed back on the heart-lung machine, and for the next five days, the medical team tried every treatment, medication and possible procedure that had a chance of helping him, but to no avail. His heart, while continuing to beat, would not return to normal function, and Jonathan died on August 12, 1995. He never regained consciousness after the operation. A beautiful memorial service was held at First Universalist Church on August 16th, with instrumental music for piano and recorder, a flute solo by Jonathan's cousin, Mischa Park-Doo, choir music and a comforting eulogy by our senior minister. Warren's brother James, a former Methodist minister, also participated. Jonathan was buried in Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis. We feel privileged to have known him and been close to him for these 17 years. Jonathan enriched our lives immeasurably. He left behind a quantity of creative work which we will cherish, including many drawings and other art works, photographs, poetry, short stories, video projects and a one-act comedy for the stage. He will be sorely missed. To those of you who already have heard this tragic news and helped us with your cards, letters and comforting words, we again thank you for kindness and sustenance.

Our other son, 15-year-old Daniel, is now 6' 4", a 10th grader at South High and an excellent student, especially in math and English. He is also a sportsman, participating in the sophomore baseball team in spring as a outfielder and first-baseman. He recently took up cross-country skiing as well. Warren continues to work on pianos, tuning and repairing pianos for individuals, schools, churches, etc., and, during the warmer months, he reconditions and resells used pianos from home (nearly 20 pianos this year). He is also occasionally occupied with composition on the music computer, where he is learning to write music for several instruments at once. Patty is really enjoying her job at the 'Center for Global Education', a department of Augsburg College that deals with educational opportunities for students and adults in places such as Mexico, Nicaragua, Namibia, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Patty's father recently suffered a mild stroke which put him out of commission for a while, but he now seems to be well on the road to recovery.

The positive news mentioned earlier concerns daughter Catherine, now 29, who has just finished her work for a Master of Fine Arts degree (in creative non-fiction) at Columbia University. December 30th she and her long-time boy friend will be getting married in St. Paul. The ceremony will be held at the St. Paul Friends Society with Warren playing some original piano music, and Catherine's uncle John performing on the bass mandolin. The wedding dinner and party is planned for over 100 people. A fine jazz quartet will be performing for the dancing after dinner. We are all looking forward to this happy event which in many ways helps to balance the sadness of Jonathan's passing.

Best wishes to all of you for a very Merry Christmas and a happy and productive New Year.

Warm Regards,

Warren, Patty and Daniel Park