

Holiday Season, 1998  
2059 Flamingo Drive  
Costa Mesa CA 92626

***Greetings, all!***

Due to popular demand, here is a return performance of the Gutman/Schonauer family Holiday letter. I sincerely hope this holiday season finds you all very well and cheerful.

First, the bad news. We were deeply saddened by the passing of George's beloved mother Friedl on August 10. She had just returned to New York from a visit with us, and was among loved ones. As one friend put it, she just "walked right out of her body". This was a comfort to us all, as she had often expressed her wish to "go peacefully". She did, and we will all miss her and keep her in our hearts.

Despite the grief and general confusion this caused, everything has been going relatively normally. George is still hard at work teaching at UCI and continues to be consumed with his classical guitar lessons. Jan is, as she puts it, is "on a year-and-a-half job interview," and is still Acting Ombudsman (look it up) at UCI. Dan is 17 and continues to consistently improve in his schoolwork and his athletic skills as goalie on the Varsity Water Polo team at Estancia HS. He got his driver's license in January '98, and has been perpetually gone ever since. As for me (Liz), I am *finally* 15 and have been struggling to find an alliance between school, tennis, the drama program at school and my classes at South Coast Repertory. I am also looking forward to spending New Year's in Italy with some of my friends from school, as I leave the day after Christmas on a teacher-organized trip. In whole-family news, we *finally* got cable TV...we are now officially into the 80's!

Well, that's about it for us. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season, and the warmest of wishes to all of you and yours for a happy and healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

George, Jan, Dan & Liz

*Postscript: So here it is, halfway through the year, and this letter is finally getting mailed! There have been some changes since Elizabeth's note. Dan and Elizabeth have just finished the school year (E's whirlwind trip to Italy was a great success), D has started summer water polo, and E is working on getting her driver's license(!). Elizabeth is also taking Chemistry in summer school to give her more time to pursue drama during the school year, both at Estancia and South Coast Repertory. Jan resigned from her job at UC Irvine in April, and has been enjoying a well-earned period of rest and relaxation. The additional time she has had to spend in her garden has meant that our home is even more than usual filled with the color and fragrance of wonderful flowers. Jan has already accepted several short-term work projects, and she will certainly have a lot to choose from when (and if) she decides to do so.*

*Perhaps if I start next year's letter right now, it will get sent on time!?*

GG, June 1999