

Greetings from  
The Bird's Nest II  
Christmas, 1981

For this family, 1981 has been the year of the Broadway musical, which Marie (now 4) discovered with enthusiasm, and she has overdosed in succession on Oklahoma, Carousel, Fantastics, Oliver, and others. The effects of repetition are evident, not only on often desperately bored parents, but also on 21-month-old Julia, who now asks for her own favorites: "Morning" (as in "Oh, what a beautiful . . .") and "Ria" (as in "Maria" from West Side Story). Since the fall Marie has been taking dancing lessons (mostly improvisation with a little technique infused) and is very proud that she goes to two schools (dancing and nursery). The girls have finally learned to play together quite well and Marie's loquaciousness has resulted in a Julia who astonishes her parents with her verbal abilities.

It has been an exciting year for us: April brought a two week visit from our British friends, Viv Edwards and Chris Morris and their little boys Dafydd (6) and Ceri (2). We spent eight weeks this summer at Anne's parents' camp on Lake Damariscotta in Maine. The girls enjoyed almost daily contact with their doting grandparents, and Anne and Tom were able to spend long hours in pleasant study. Anne worked on a translation of a 17th cent. French pharmaceutical text on which she is collaborating with a M.D. in Wilmington, Del., while Tom read the Odyssey in Greek. We took advantage of the summer to travel through Quebec, with visits to Anne's old haunts in the Cite and to Tom's cousin Helen in Montreal. Our Maine stay also gave us a welcome opportunity to see old friends, such as Paul Sullivan, Linda Cunningham, Debbie Negosis, and Marilyn and Vincent Courtney (whose daughter Katie is a charming 6 years old).

With some help from friends, we were still able to work a garden in Mount Rainier and managed a good crop of zucchini, tomatoes, eggplants and other summer delectables, well into October. Our return home in July brought, in quick succession, the news that Tom had been tenured and promoted to associate professor at Howard, and that he had been awarded a sabbatical for the spring semester of 1982. The consequences of these events are that all four of us shall spend Feb. -- May 1982 in Edinburgh, Scotland, where Tom has been invited as an honorary research fellow. Marie, under the

influence of Brigadoon, is looking forward to tartans and bagpipes, while little Julia has no inkling yet of what we plan to do to her well-ordered universe in a few weeks time.

This fall we also visited Joel and Sally Gagnon in Ithaca, N.Y. They astonished us, not so much with their magnificent garden, as with the amount of work Joel has done on their lovely little Victorian farmhouse (virtually rebuilding it up from the foundation). Our friends upstairs, Shelley and Adriam, are buying a house in Lanham, Md. We are sad to be losing such agreeable tenants, but wish them happiness in their new home.

The Waterman and Sienkiewicz clans are flourishing, literally, in the case of Toni and Steve, who are expecting the birth of their first child around Christmas. Eddie is still dealing in Atlantic City. Doris, who traveled through Scandinavia this summer, is now teaching 3rd grade and has taken a part-time job as a travel agent. She expects to receive her M.Ed. in May. MaryBeth earned her B.S. in Geology this summer at Univ. of Utah and will be back East for a visit this Christmas. Tom's Dad and Josephine are doing fine and visited us for Thanksgiving, while Anne's parents were also here. The girls were elated to have so many grandparents around at the same time.

Now that Jack is practicing in Walpoleboro and is settled down with Debbie, his bride of one year, Anne's father spends his free time chopping wood to exercise and to beat those well-oiled Arabs. Jack and Carl's farm has acquired a pair of industrious beavers who have made themselves a magnificent pond and lodge. Carl has not lost his anti-nuclear fervor and spends his free time demonstrating and petitioning.

"May 1982 bring you all peace and prosperity. Please note our new zip code: 20712.

Anne Tom

Anne, Tom, Marie and Julia Sienkiewicz

MARIE