

Dear Friends and Family,

Sorry we missed Christmas again, and New Years. In fact we failed to report on all of 2003. So much has happened in the two and a quarter years since our last "holiday" newsletter that we didn't have time to write about it. Let's face it, the Pemutzles can't go that long without some major change, and this was no exception.



*Walden transformed our new yard into Water World!*

Our big-ticket item: we moved to Philadelphia. Yes, we now consume massive quantities of cream cheese, worship Benjamin Franklin, and bask day and night in brotherly love. Actually, we've done all of these already, which is why Philly was, in retrospect, an inevitable destination. Seriously, though, we love it and we're here to stay. We love our jobs at Penn, our neighbors (Gary was in the local newspaper french-kissing his dog), our kids' school, travel by train, beautiful scenery (who'da thought?), and being a popular tourist destination (having already had twenty out-of-town guests, eight of whom managed to visit in the first two weeks we were here).

Another highlight of 2003 was Robin's surprise fortieth birthday party. Diana surreptitiously assembled Robin's best friends from childhood, high school and his adult life for a weekend at Grandview Lake, where they surprised him moments after he threw off all his clothes and jumped in the lake. Everyone got along swimmingly, and no one got a hangover, thanks to Jeff's magical 100% agave tequila.



*The motley crew at Robin's Surprise 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday weekend at Grandview Lake.*

Old friends  
and new



*Gary the animal smoocher strikes again!*



Fight  
Quakers  
Fight!





Walden is now eight. Last summer Diana taught him how to water-ski, and he's looking forward to more this summer. He has become quite an adventurous cook -- the combined influence of his godfather, Ken, and his new favorite computer game, "Restaurant Empire". When his second grade class was raising money for a well-drilling project in Kenya, Walden put on an enormously successful bake sale, which was even mentioned on the local TV news. He is pictured below in the school Halloween parade, as the infamous Turbo Toilet 2000.



Maria, since you last heard from her, gave her first piano recital, was mistaken for Lizzie McGuire, and had her first wild and sleepless slumber party. She has made friends in Philly very quickly!



*Don't forget to flush kids!*

*Maria as a reliable Sears-Maytag dryer in the Halloween parade at Friends Central School.*



*Simi and her good friend, Nellie (aka Snow White), at their school Halloween parade.*



Since our last writing Simi has doubled in age, stopped using diapers, and started learning to read. She has also picked up the habit of growling like a tiger when angry, which we think she got from her sister Maria. She loves her new pre-school, which has a pool and swimming lessons in the summer. She also had her first on-stage performance this past December as a singing, dancing snowflake.



In the pet department, the most surprising news is that Rory is still with us. Despite the four cancer surgeries under his collar, this loving, blind, diabetic, immuno-suppressed feline was the first of all of us to chart out his new territory and declare it home. This past Christmas, a tenth vertebrate joined the household: Maria's bunny Nibbles, who came to us by way of Anne Kenyon when Anne moved back to France. Our bunny is now officially "free-range" and litterbox trained, and she enjoyed watching the Pacers this past season.



*Rory and Simi enjoying the spring weather.*



*And the Hare shall lie down with the Hound.... A peaceable Thanksgiving weekend with Chuck, the turkey, Moxie, the dog, Rory kitty and Milo kitty, Nibbles the bunny, and Barney, the skink. Oh yeah, and a bunch of contentious humans too.*



*Bunny and Boomer take in a game.*



*Robin and Diana at an office party.*

For further photo-documentation of the Pemutzle household, be sure to visit <http://www.pemutzle.com>. Or better yet, come see us in person. Our only renovation thus far on our new home has been to turn the third floor into a guest suite with its own bath, so we now have two spare bedrooms so there's always room at the inn! We're also just a few blocks from a train line, so it's an easy 4 stops to Penn, or 1.25 hours from NYC and many other popular destinations. We hope to see many of you soon, and if not, we promise to write sooner next time.

*With love from Diana, Robin, Walden, Maria and Simone*

