

This year, 2003, may be the last

Lefton-Steinbart Holiday letter!

Why are we going out of the lucrative holiday-letter-writing business? Well, let's just say we hit a JACKPOT this year! Here's the scoop... it turns out that we were specially selected to participate in the TRANSFER OF \$45.5 MILLION UNITED STATES DOLLARS from Mrs. Mariam Abacha, the widow of the late Gen. Sani Abacha, FORMER NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE. WOW! \$45 Million dollars! Do you have any idea how many TONER CARTRIDGES full of V.I.A.G.R.A. that will buy?! We'll finally be able to ENLARGE our savings by REFINANCING OUR MORTGAGE at LOW LOW RATES... Ooops, I was reading my email while writing this holiday letter and I got distracted..

Yes, it's 2003, the year of multitasking. Please read this letter while you are doing something else: preferably driving while using your cell phone to check your email. Since you, like us, are undoubtedly too busy to read the entire 16 page holiday letter (available at http://www.math.gatech.edu/~llefton/holiday_letters), we present

An Executive Summary of our 2003 Meeting

From January 1, 2003 until December 31, 2003, the Lew Lefton and Enid Steinbart family met at 141 Shadowmoor Drive in Decatur GA. In attendance were board members Lew, Enid, Hannah, Natalie, and Monica. (Note: Hannah, Natalie and Monica sometimes prefer to be called "bored" members.) The girls were sometimes excused to attend other meetings such as girl scout camp, science fair, swimming, or catching up on old Simpson's episodes. Ex-officio members Willie the gerbil and Coco and Peppi the goldfish were in attendance but not permitted to vote.

Enid presented her annual mom report which included a broken wrist in the first quarter followed by a diagnosis of osteopenia in Q2. She now takes her Actonel weekly and has promised not to go roller skating again. This summer, Enid informed us that she has accepted the PTA co-vice-presidency. The board feels that, as long as it doesn't interfere with her baking we will allow this. Enid also reported an unscheduled car accident on Natalie and Monica's birthday. Fortunately, no one was hurt and the driver of the other vehicle was apprehended. This was not a foregone conclusion since said driver was already on foot at the time of the accident, having abandoned the stolen car while it was still in motion. Enid is encouraged, for the future, to seek approval by filling out the car accident request form (CA-845-16) BEFORE the accident.

Hannah's daughter report highlighted her trip this summer with Aunt Irene. This was a special 10th birthday present which consisted of lets-meet-anywhere-you-want-in-the-continental-US. Hannah naturally chose Hershey, PA. Irene tacked on a few days in Amish country, which was great except when Hannah was bit by a dog. It was even more challenging getting the dog owner's contact information back to the senior board members since the family had no phone. Doh! They're Amish!! Hannah continued her report and stated that she has taken up the saxophone! She is now both a "patrol" and a student council officer. She continues to pursue her goal of being the first US woman president, informing the board that she already has 14 votes. Apparently that is enough to take Florida.

Natalie bounced a soccer ball throughout her report, reminding us that she was recruited to play on "Coach Bob's" all star team this year and they, of course, went undefeated. She has joined the chess club at school and showed true courage by wearing a funky pink wig and telling jokes during the Winnona Park Elementary School Variety Show. This year, Natalie has probably read more books than all the other board members.... combined. And she can dance a pretty nifty little jig.

Monica' s report was given as a piece of performance art. We all had hand painted tickets. She demonstrated that she has met one of her personal goals this year of learning to ride a two-wheeler. She is excited about the new art studio which is being constructed in a corner of the family basement. Her parents are excited too since the old tables and shelves making up the studio will mean that all the paper, pens, markers, crayons, glue, miscellaneous doo-dads, yarn, glitter, and other art paraphernalia can now have a place to live other than the living room floor. Even better, projects can be started and then left to dry without holding the kitchen table hostage. Monica is not taking ballet this year, but she is signed up for a NASA science camp this spring.

All three girls repeated their usual plea to hire additional pets, specifically a dog. This request has been stalled in the PR (Pet Resources) department for many months, but it seems likely that we will be interviewing several animals from the local pound, sometime in the first quarter of 2004. We intend to feed the new dog with lots of homework.

Lew reported that he is becoming more experienced in computer security. This is not simply because he manages a network of several hundred computers for the Georgia Tech School of Math. It is equally motivated by the fact that he has three daughters and DSL. He landed a nice juicy grant to buy a cart full of laptops and build a mobile wireless lab this year, which is good because budgets are tighter than usual this year and he was having to play with toys that were over a year old.

The board got together with many of its strategic partners (a.k.a. friends and family) in 2003. We had a fact finding trip to New York in the summer to visit Dione and her new husband Ben. Among the facts we found were that it is relaxing to hang out in the Hamptons. Our junior board members also found the fact that, even in July, the Atlantic beaches are cold and, much to their dismay, "the sand gets everywhere." Another highlight of our travels was Scott Lefton' s Bar Mitzvah in Austin in April. It was wonderful to see family on a happy occasion for a change. The weekend-long party hosted by Lew' s cousins Hal and Judi have set a new standard for the word hospitality. We had a great time with Enid' s sister Ellen and Lew' s sisters Linda and Irene during their visits to our main branch office in Decatur, GA. As an interested shareholder, you are entitled to stay at our lovely bed and breakfast (and lunch and dinner) facility for free if you bring a signed copy of this holiday letter!

We broke a lot of ground in 2003 (we broke a lot of wind, too, but we' ll save that for the scratch-n-sniff holiday letter next year!). The groundbreaking was due to a major outdoor ' remodel' that included temporarily replacing our front and back yards with several tons of dirt, sand, and brick as well as a couple of bobcats, the kind with gears, not claws. The broken sewer main created a lovely pit toilet in our front yard. We thought about keeping it because it nicely matched the chemical toilet on our curb which was frequently used by random passers-by. However, we decided that the "Superfund" motif was just too 1980' s and besides, under the Bush administration, no one would even notice another environmental eyesore. At the end of it all, we now have a driveway in which we can park our van and actually open the doors! We also have a new retaining wall on the creek that runs through our back yard, a beautiful porch over our front stoop, and landscaping with plants that ALL have Latin names (pretty upscale, eh?).

The year adjourned at 11:59 PM on December 31. Copies of this letter can be obtained by emailing lefton@math.gatech.edu or steinbart@math.gatech.edu or calling (404)-377-5631. You may now hang up the phone and drive.

Happy Hannukah!

Merry Christmas!

Happy New Year!