

December, 2006

Dear friends,

We hope this letter finds you happy, healthy, and enjoying a restful and restorative holiday season with loved ones. This past year has brought some much-anticipated changes into our lives, one of which is that our holiday letter was drafted by John, rather than Ayelet. You'll notice that a decision was made to undertake the technically demanding inclusion and reproduction of vivid, black & white photographs and other graphics, but rest assured that we remain committed to bringing you a high-quality letter on an annual timetable that corresponds to end-of-year festivities.

Perhaps a more significant change in our lives is that, at long last, we are homeowners. We moved from our apartment in Harrisburg, PA to a new home in Yardley, PA this summer (see Exhibit A). After 13 years of renting—during which one or both of us lived in a total of 7 different apartments in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia—we are excited to be putting down roots in a quiet, green, suburban neighborhood about 25 miles northeast of Philadelphia.



Exhibit A: Our new home, plus our realtor's car.

We love our new home and are glad that more than a decade of patience and saving have given us this opportunity to settle down. The house has four bedrooms, so we are well-positioned for future growth in the "family" domain at some point down the road. We hope that it will take less than a decade for subsequent installments of this holiday letter to report on developments in this area...

We can anticipate a question that has probably occurred to you: Having moved 120.91 miles (source: MapQuest), from central to eastern Pennsylvania, how do we manage the commutes? Fortunately, we have not had to absorb an extra 200+ miles of driving each day. Instead, we navigated successfully a challenging, coordinated, national job search, and this fall we both began new academic positions.

A productive and rewarding 2-year post-doc at the Harvard Medical School draws to a close Ayelet's formal training period, which also includes 1 year of kindergarten, 12 years of primary schooling, 4 years of college, 2 years of a post-baccalaureate research assistantship, 5 years of graduate school, and a 1-year clinical internship. These 27 years of education and professional training enabled Ayelet to achieve her goal of joining the ranks of premier university faculty. She is now an Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department at the University

(over)

of Pennsylvania (see Exhibit B). Her quest for tenure is off to a good start, with grant support for her research, a new clinical psychology laboratory, a full-time research assistant, and a stockpile of filing supplies large enough to indulge even her most extreme organization fantasies.



Exhibit B: From <http://www.psych.upenn.edu/bio.php?id=248>

Despite fewer years of formal education and training, John was able to leverage his 8 years of experience on the faculty at Elizabethtown College into a job as an Associate Professor of Psychology at The College of New Jersey (see Exhibit C). TCNJ is a larger and more selective college, and John's new position enables him to continue his teaching and research with emphases on research design, statistical methods, and decision making. He remains an enthusiast of reading while speed-walking (now at home on his own treadmill, and currently at 7.0 MPH), tends a small aquarium with a pair of clownfish, and fritters away the occasional hour with his violin.



Exhibit C: Not shown are John's new glasses.

Our parents are doing well and continue to impress us with their devotion to and support of family, both nearby and extended. Ayelet's brother Shachar married his fiancée, Amy, in August, and her sister Ifat and husband Ben will be celebrating the second birthday of their daughter, Maya, in February. John's brother Nick and his wife Jenn are expecting a baby in April. We feel fortunate to have settled in a part of the country that allows us easy access for sharing in the joys of these and other family members. Both Ifat & Ben and Nick & Jenn are in the Washington, DC, area (about 170 and 180 miles by automobile), and John's parents are in western Maryland (200 miles). Ayelet's parents and Shachar & Amy live in the Chicago area, which is a short direct flight (2 hours, 16 minutes on an Embraer 170 aircraft) that makes visiting easy and convenient.

We wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a wonderful new year. We feel fortunate to have you in our lives and look forward to keeping in touch in the years ahead.

All our love,

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