

Like most years, there have been some good time and some bad times. The worst news is that Frank's mother Bea died October 13 after battling cancer. I have friends who sang "Ding Dong the Witch is Dead" when their mother-in-laws died. Bea's death was totally different. She was a kind and supportive mother-in-law. She was brilliant, the first woman to graduate in chemical engineering from Cornell. She adored the kids. When the kids were little, she was an invaluable help. She will be sorely missed by us all.

The best news is that the ulcer on Frank's foot is healing and his neurological disease doesn't seem to be progressing. Although pain is always an issue, he continues to enjoy his work, studying languages and traveling.

I also continue to adore my work. I have the world's greatest clients, not only easy to work for, but doing work I respect and appreciate. The ham in my loves the big keynotes, but the retreats are also rewarding. I did about 40 retreats including a group which was primarily deaf, an organization which had the same board president for 31 years, and a very special retreat in one of the most beautiful places in the world, Sequoia National Park. I'm joining the board of the Sequoia Fund. For a major mall rat to fall in love with a park with bears is fairly amazing!

I'm working on *Secrets of Successful Executive Transition* with Dick Goldbaum, to be published by F.E. Robbins & Sons Press in February, 2002, *Secrets of Successful Retreats* with about 15 other authors to be published by Jossey-Bass in February 2003 and a few other little books and booklets here and there. *Tips on Successful Major Donor Solicitation* has really taken off. All this book stuff has really taken a toll on my needle pointing!

May was a big month around here. Frank turned 50, Jono turned 21 and Teddy graduated from NYU. Teddy is making his way in New York as an actor. I mean, really, how hard could that be! In April he played the title role in an NYU production of The Merchant of Venice. His first paying gig is as an actor is the new movie "A Beautiful Mind" with Russell Crowe and Ed Harris. He is either soldier 1 or soldier 2 in a hallucination sequence.

Jono is finishing his senior year at Alfred University. His senior show is May 11, if any of you are going to be in the area. He spent the summer working as a counselor and art teacher at Buck's Rock, an incredible camp for super rich, artistic kids. He loved the work, hated the lousy pay.

Carol turned 13 in November. The phone has been ringing nonstop since she moved in last year. One day in August, I counted 50 calls before assuming my Edvard Munch scream face and running out of the house. The high point of the year for Carol was singing at Carnegie Hall with the St. Louis Symphony Children's Choir. She also sang a solo in the Junior High Talent Show. It was a Brahms's lullaby which she sang in German. My Mom, her German Oma would have loved it.

I have recruited three other "big girls" and have formed an elite group of plus sized runners called "The Chafing Dishes." Our training regime is one day yoga, three days walking and running and four days of carbo-loading. If you're free the weekend of October 7, 2002 come to Chicago to cheer us on or join us in the Chicago half marathon. Our goal is finishing in under 7 hours. This might be overly ambition since Sciatic Spice doesn't like porta-potties, so we will be bopping into restaurants and hotels to find appropriate facilities.

Life is good. If Frank felt better, it would be perfect!