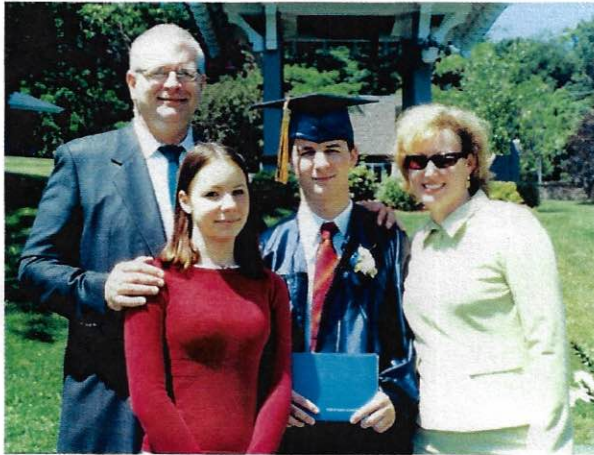


Christmas 2002

Well, it's been a year of transitions for us Hoekemas on the Hudson, what with the changing of jobs and schools, and the passing of dearly beloved pets.

Livia, the incurably cute King Charles Spaniel we had since our first year in Europe ('93) died in May of congestive heart failure, not uncommon, it seems, for her breed. Strangely, Joe B (aka Gomez), the wonderful Abyssinian cat, only a year younger than Emily, disappeared the same week that Livia died. We all miss them very much, but we comfort ourselves with Max, a very furry cat raised by Livia and thus part dog, and Baby, a lithe, thoroughly feline creature who arrived last Christmas.



Wendy lost her job at the local college last summer, which did not amuse her at the time, but she has now begun selling Real Estate, which suits her much better, as evidenced by a sale in her first week! She enjoys people, houses, and follow-through, so this job fits like a glove. She continues to monitor Emily's schooling with attentive zeal. She also remains active in two garden clubs and Newburgh Chamber Music, which puts on several concerts each year.

Jim is still working at Philips Electronics, but not for long. Faced with a downturn in the Semiconductors business, the company is closing down the entire 60-person department in Briarcliff Manor. He is looking at options both within and outside of Philips. Jim also continues as president of the Dutch Reformed Church Restoration Committee, which this year won a \$15,000 grant (the largest this year) from the Preservation League of New York. The grant will be used to fund a Historic Structure Report – the first step in a proper restoration of the building. For all the details, see the web site at www.newburghdrc.org.

Colin, now 20, discovered in January that college didn't suit him, or he didn't suit it. Not being one to rush into things, he has been considering his next move since

then. After due deliberation (and a few short-lived jobs), he has enlisted in the Army and will probably ship out for basic training in February or March. Aside from "hanging" with his girlfriend, he enjoyed a trip to California, where he house- and dog-sat for Wendy's brother and family.



Sanford, 19, happily graduated from Storm King high school in May, where the burdens of being class president weighed heavily. After spending the summer (and much of his pay) as a camp counselor in Virginia, he is now a freshman at Alfred University, in the wilds of western New York (www.alfred.edu). He loves it, despite a gloomy roommate and the inconvenient demands of academics. In his spare time, he plays guitar and hosts a show on "hardcore" music for the campus radio station.

Emily enjoyed summer camp in South Carolina, where she met up with friends from Maryland. In September she celebrated her "Sweet 16th" with a party attended, it seemed, by every youth in Newburgh – including some boys of 19 and 20, who Emma reckons must have zero social life to come to 16-year-old's party. There were fewer cupcakes and brownies in the crevices of the family room than on previous birthdays, but – perhaps a sign of her growing maturity – this was her first birthday party brought to a merciful close by the local police. She is now in her first year in high school (10th grade), with a group of excellent teachers (thanks to Wendy's guiding hand). Emma is also taking a Saturday course at SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City – it's great to get into the city on a more regular basis.

We continue to enjoy living in our "gingerbread" house next to the golf course. This summer Wendy actually used the clubs she received for her birthday a year ago, with impressive results.

We face 2003 with some uncertainty, but we trust that all things work together for good. We wish you the best in the coming year.