

Ring House, Apt. 441
1801 E. Jefferson St. 2
Rockville, MD 20854, USA

December 2003

Dear Friends,

Many of you have not heard from us for two years. We offer our apologies for this gap in our links with the people who mean so much to us, but the situation causing it was beyond our control. We'll try to explain.

Almost exactly three years ago, Justin was diagnosed with a rare malignancy of the bone marrow. He became weak and short of breath, and began to lose weight. He had to give up many of his usual activities, including gardening, walking, woodworking, and anything involving exertion. He was (and is) under the care of a fine hematologist/oncologist who treated him with powerful medications designed to overcome the failure of his bone marrow to produce new blood. However, we could not continue to maintain our life style and we decided to sell our house and to move into a senior living community.

Meanwhile, Robbie has been able to more or less hold her own as far as her health is concerned, but she also has suffered the effects of growing older and has had to give up such ordinary but difficult activities as housekeeping, heavy shopping, and cooking. Recently she has had a recurrence of back pains of the kind she had three or four years ago, and she may have to undergo corrective treatment for these pains. She's having a hard time walking. Fortunately, we both have maintained our mental health, although sometimes we can't recall someone's name without a great deal of thought. In cases like this we are sometimes able to combine our memories. Does that sound familiar to any of you?

The house was sold just one year ago and we rented an apartment in Ring House, an "independent living" facility serving about 300 residents. It is very conveniently located in downtown Rockville, about three miles from our former home. We have a living room, kitchen, two large bedrooms and two large baths, and are very comfortable. Ring House provides us with two meals a day (breakfast and dinner) and it also offers many forms of entertainment and education to the residents. Its shuttle bus service takes those without cars to shopping centers, museums, concerts, etc. We still have our cars and we continue to drive wherever we need to go.

We readily admit that the process of selling our house, disposing of surplus furniture and other belongings, moving what was left to Ring House, and making our apartment comfortable was a huge task for us, and this came just at the time of year when we would have been busy preparing our annual card and letter that went out to you. We simply could not carry out that task. However, some of you have been aware of our problems

through phone calls, e-mail, and even visits to us, so this does not come as a surprise to all.

Now for some better news. The medical treatment Justin has been receiving has begun to have a strong positive effect. He has been recovering his strength and endurance, and best of all, he has not required a blood transfusion for the past seven months. Before that time he was receiving a transfusion once a week. How long he will continue to enjoy this nice state of affairs is uncertain, but his doctors are very pleased with his progress.

We also want to report that our son Mark has been promoted several times at the District of Columbia Fire Department. He is now a battalion chief in charge of several fire stations and something like 300 firefighters. His district includes the White House and many government buildings, hotels, and monuments. He has turned down a higher promotion because his present job gives him the free time he needs to pursue his interests as an airplane pilot. He works part-time for an air charter service and holds a commercial pilot's license. In recent months he and his wife flew us to Syracuse, New York, on two separate occasions to attend family weddings. Now that is the way to travel!

To all of you who correspond with us by e-mail, you have been notified that we now have a new e-mail address:

bloomjl@comcast.net

We encourage those of you who use the Internet to send e-mails. We always answer quickly. We can handle messages written with Japanese characters also.

The years 2001 through 2003 have been difficult for us personally and in fact for the world. We hope devoutly that you have been spared pain and suffering and that you will join us in wishing a brighter future for everyone in the year 2004.

With great affection and devotion,

Robbie and Justin

Dear Mori-san,

Best wishes!

Justin Bloom

✓ JUSTIN L. & ROSLYN BLOOM
RING-HOUSE, APT. 441
1801 E. JEFFERSON ST.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20852



AIR MAIL



Mr. Kazuhisa Mori
Japan Atomic Industrial Forum
1-2-13, Shiba Daimon
Minato-ku
Tokyo 105-8605

0185/2000



Justin Bloom 夫妻には
2001~2003年の間に種々
の困難が生じた。

夫 Justin は、悪性の骨
腫瘍のため、治療に専念し、
妻 Robbie は 背中が痛みが
ぶり苦しむ。

家を売却して、現在は
300世帯の入居する
Ring House に住む。
アパート

長年ぶりにしたのは
このような事情による。

新しいメールアドレスは
次のとおり。