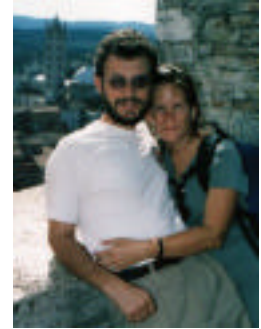




***MERRY CHRISTMAS 1998 AND HAPPY 1999  
FROM THE MENCZERS!***

This has been a red-letter year for Filippo. We are happy to announce that Filippo finished his Ph.D. in Computer and Cognitive Science last June. His program was interdisciplinary due to his interest in Artificial Life. He accepted a teaching and research position at the University of Iowa in the Management Sciences department.



Our summer vacation was the move to Iowa, which included brief but memorable stops at the Star Trek Experience (Vegas), the Grand Canyon, and Santa Fe.

We are very happy living in Iowa City amid four seasons. We have been pleasantly surprised by the wonderful rolling hills, fresh air, beautiful trees, and lifestyle of the heartland.



On a house-hunting trip in June, we found a terrific newly built home on the outskirts of town with a pond nearby and lots of space surrounding it. Home ownership is a new concept for both of us, and we are enjoying all the trials and tribulations that accompany it. We laugh often finding ourselves doing things we never had to consider in our San Diego condo. Life has taken another turn for us, and we are enjoying it.



Although I hated to leave my teaching job in San Diego and miss everyone terribly, we know this has been a great move for us. I am not working yet, but I am taking a class in Italian. I will be out of the country for 5 weeks over the holidays, which somewhat interferes with job prospects.

We will be in Rome for the holidays visiting all of Filippo's family with one sad exception. We are sorry to say Filippo's nonna Iris died suddenly in late September. She has been a great inspiration to Filippo, and his love for her is truly profound.



Shortly after New Year's, Filippo must head back home to prepare for classes, and I will meet my family in Istanbul for a Mediterranean and Greek Island cruise! (Poor Filippo.) This has been a family goal for several years and everyone is looking forward to its fruition.



1998 brought wonderful things to our family, namely: Riley Kathleen. The little angel was born in August to Erin (my sister) and Don. Great things come in small packages.

We wish you holiday peace and simple joys. Listen to music, laugh out loud, read a book, and treat yourself to something wonderful. Merry Christmas!

