

親愛的孫兒女們：

上月，"光輝的十月"，很快過去。海外華人稱"光輝的十月"是因十月一日是"中華人民共和國"的國慶，十月十日則是"中華民國"的國慶。雖然中國大陸反對"兩個中國"之說，上述事實上的兩個中國即已存在了半世紀之久。這兩日在洛杉磯華人社團都有盛大節慶。各有不同的人群團體參加。華人有兩者都參加的，也有都不參加的。這十一月已經過了超過一半。隨後人們將有更多季節忙碌和慶賀。聖誕節，陽曆年，陰曆年是其中特別重大的。奶奶和我將參加至少兩次家人團聚。一次是12/25-30，庭堅和庭永兩家多數人來洛杉磯我們家過聖誕節和新年，另一次是2/1-7/2001日全體，除工作和學業不能抽身者外，在庭林家過舊曆年。詳細節目和人數在計劃中，尚未完全確定。

我們每次給你們的信，除了講大家有關的消息外，還講些勉勵你們的話。這次也不例外。這次講的是我記憶中在中學英文課本一句關於"自我教育"的話。首先要告訴你們，我們小時以學習中文為主，學習英文的環境和條件很差。我至今尚能背誦相當多的中文古文詩詞楹聯等，但對英文至今能背誦的非常少。祇有一句常在記憶中，但也不十分完全。這句的意義是"孩子們，不要忘記要你們必須自己教育自己。父母，老師，學校，和朋友；都祇能給你們幫助。真正的教育要靠你們自己..."我的一生受益於這話。現在告訴你們，希望也從這話受益。

10/28 明琇的電子郵件附有 20 幅圖片和說明敘述一次和三位男友騎單車沿一運河河岸假日旅遊的經過。你們看過的想必都歡喜。類似這樣有文有圖的電子郵件，我們想必將多有多見。年尾近了，有很多事要做，這信寫到這裡為止。賀年的話下月再寫。祝健康,快樂,進步。

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Dear Grandchildren:

The "brilliant October" has just past away. The reason why October is praised as brilliant by most oversea Chinese is that the first day of October is the national day of the People's Republic of China (PROC) while the tenth day being is that of the Republic of China (ROC). Here in Los Angeles both national days of China are celebrated by a group of oversea Chinese dwelled here.

The year 2000 has less than half a month remaining. People now become busy on preparing for the seasonal holiday activities of the year. Christmas day followed by new years day are two of the big events of a year by most people in the world while we Chinese still have the lunar new year's day to celebrate thereafter.

As I always like to write you some admonishing words in my monthly letter to you, this time is not an exception. This time the subject is "educating by your self". From the time when I was very young, I have a strong memory on Chinese verse but poor in English words and sentences. Among the several tens of selected articles in my English reading I had tried to memorize in my junior high school, I now only well remember one sentence that is "Boys and Girls, never forget to educate by yourselves. Schools, teachers, parents and some related facilities are your help. You have to educate and learn yourself....". Not only remember but act most the time in my rest of time. Since I admit that I have greatly benefited from the above short sentences, I now bestow these to you with the hope you would be greatly benefited.

Thanks to Michelle for sending us an email attached with some 20 pictures with notes showing her recent bike ride tour with three boy friends along the Delaware-Raritan canal bank road full of beautiful autumn sceneries nearby. This reminds me to attaching some pictures in my email to you.

A lot of things to do as the year 2000 approaching its end. Let me stop here hoping you all healthy, happy and progressive.

By grandpa (reviewed and concurred by grandma)