

Erika's World

Christmas, 2007

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Founded
January 1972

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Dear Friends,

We find ourselves at the end of a year, which has been both wonderful and very frustrating. Our marvelous new head writer, Ron Carlivati, whom I thought was doing such a brilliant job, has been sidelined by the writers' strike. I so loved the stories he was writing: the diner and the marvelous characters there; the whole Todd, Marcie, Tommy and Michael story, and all the rest; Natalie and Jared and Asa's death and funeral, which brought back so many lovely characters – in short everything that he has written. We are now having to tread water until this ends, which I hope will be soon. I am saying all of this because I sincerely hope that you will all stay with us and keep watching.

It's been a great year in many other respects. Our newsletter went online for the first time, something I found quite astonishing. I don't do much on the computer and I never go to the Internet, except occasionally to shop, so I was quite stunned by the response to our first online newsletter, and the number of people who read it. And it's free – except for the fact that you have to have (access to) a computer! I think it has been a huge success, and I hope that you are all enjoying it.

On a personal note, it's been quite a year for us too. We have settled into our home in Connecticut, which took a lot longer than we had anticipated, as there were myriad hidden problems with the house, which had to be dealt with. But we are done now and are very happy here. Our son, Michael, decided to go back to graduate school and is getting his MBA at Oxford University in England – a most prestigious school, and we couldn't be prouder of him. Amanda is still auditioning and bartending and having a great time. We had a marvelous family vacation this summer in Africa. We spent a week in London first, and then went to Kenya and Tanzania on safari. It was a fantastic experience; I wouldn't have missed it for the world, and it made me realize once again how very lucky we are to live in this great country, the United States! In November I went to Super Soap again and thoroughly enjoyed it – again! It was great to see so many of you in person, and I look forward to next year when I will hopefully be invited once more.

This is, I believe, the 36th year for the fan club - I might be wrong - Walter remembers much better than I do. How remarkable that this little club, which he started when he was still a teenager, is still going strong. It is all to his credit, and I want to thank him profusely for the time and energy and heart that he gives to the club. Also, a great big thank you to AJ and Kit for the amazing work that they do. If it weren't for AJ, you wouldn't be reading this!

Finally, I wish you all, as always, health and happiness and a peaceful Christmas and holiday season, and the very best for 2008.

With love, Erika

