

[To Alan & Diane's Home page](#)

## Happy New Year 2001

Well, I believe we're reaching the critical mass of friends and relatives with e-mail and web access--a web-card is in order for this year. Looks like our output of paper cards will be somewhat less as a result. Hope you don't mind that I'm sending this web-card instead of paper. Last year at this time, Diane's mother was struggling with multiple health failures which she was unable to overcome--she passed away February 28, 2000. As you may guess it was tough, but we're slowly recovering and learning to live on. Diane was working at Hayward Kaiser hospital when in May she was notified that the Chief of Pathology in San Francisco (one reason Diane left there) had resigned and moved to Illinois. They offered the job of Chief of Pathology in SF to Diane, and after some deliberation, Diane accepted. For a while she was doing double duty since the Hayward facility would not let her actually start working in SF until Hayward found a replacement for her. Replacement was found in August and Diane has been working there ever since. It has been EXTREMELY demanding on her, but she says that she feels much more alive than when she was working in Hayward. (It's killing me she says.) Part of the stress is a bit of a turnover of staff that has left them understaffed by 2.6 people (FTE--out of total staff allocated: 6.6 FTE). Hopefully, things will improve some once the vacancies are filled in July. There are several good applicants, but most are not available until their fellowships are finished at the end of June. Meantime, she has excellent moral support from remaining staff, the lab, her bosses, and her husband.



[Click on this picture for larger version and explanation...](#)

Alan is keeping off the streets with about 5 projects at work. What I really want to do is help convert society to more benign, healthy technologies, e.g. a hydrogen economy, solar cells, wind power. My next car should be electric or hydrogen power (same hardware needed as for natural gas). I really wish I did not have to battle our new neighbors plans to pave over a creek! But if we don't, who will?

For now, at work I'm:

- author of a new Great Explorations in Math and Science ([GEMS](#)) Teacher Guide that has just been completed and published: *The Real Reasons for the Seasons*. It is described in the most recent issue of the GEMS Network News (text of that article is [below](#))
- coordinator of the GEMS Commercial Kit effort which is making all materials for teaching GEMS activities available in kits through [Sargent Welch](#).
- Project Director of the Global Systems Science (GSS) High School curriculum, which now has four volumes (student books and teacher guides) downloadable from the [GSS website](#). In this project, we're trying out a new concept called JOHDI--Joint Online and Hardcopy Design Interface--which will make documents that are BOTH easy to read online AND in paper print.
- Co-director of the [Hands-on Universe \(HOU\) project](#) that enables teachers and students to request their own images of celestial objects via the Internet. Images are available from our online library and from the international network of HOU telescopes. Students analyze the images with HOU image processing software, learning concepts in science, mathematics, and technology.
- Director of the [Lawrence Hall of Science -- Holt Planetarium](#).



This picture is from our second floor room, overlooking what would be the proposed Beth El parking lot.



AND...My niece, Abbie, graduated from nursing school, University of San Francisco!!!! [click on picture to double its size and see more pictures...]

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**The Real Reasons for the Seasons**  
[excerpt text from [GEMS Network News](#)]

The sequence of activities has been designed to help students arrive at a clear understanding of seasons as they investigate the connections between the Sun and Earth. ...The new GEMS guide presents a series of eight main activities, in which students take a "Trip to the Sun," determine the real shape of the Earth's orbit, evaluate actual data on world temperature and hours of sunlight in different locations, discover the crucial effect of the Earth's tilt, and model how the angle at which sunlight hits the Earth affects its concentration. Students gain important standards-based science and mathematics content, and develop abilities essential in scientific investigation.

The Real Reasons for Seasons was developed and authored by Alan Gould, Carolyn Willard, and Stephen Pompea....