



DOLLS BY BOYZ TOYZ
BOX 218, DALY CITY, CA 94016



My dad's name was Kevan. He had goldish hair and green eyes.



Now he is up in heaven
watching over me.

August 19, 1996

Dear Stefan,

I am really glad we have started working together. I hope you can use this crossword puzzle in your newsletter. Thanks again for letting us use your mailing list. The Rock n' Roll Party was a success; 44 kids came and did gymnastics and indoor rock-climbing. It sounds like your organization is doing a lot of valuable work, and building support in the community.

Sincerely,



Stacey Li Collver
Special Events Coordinator

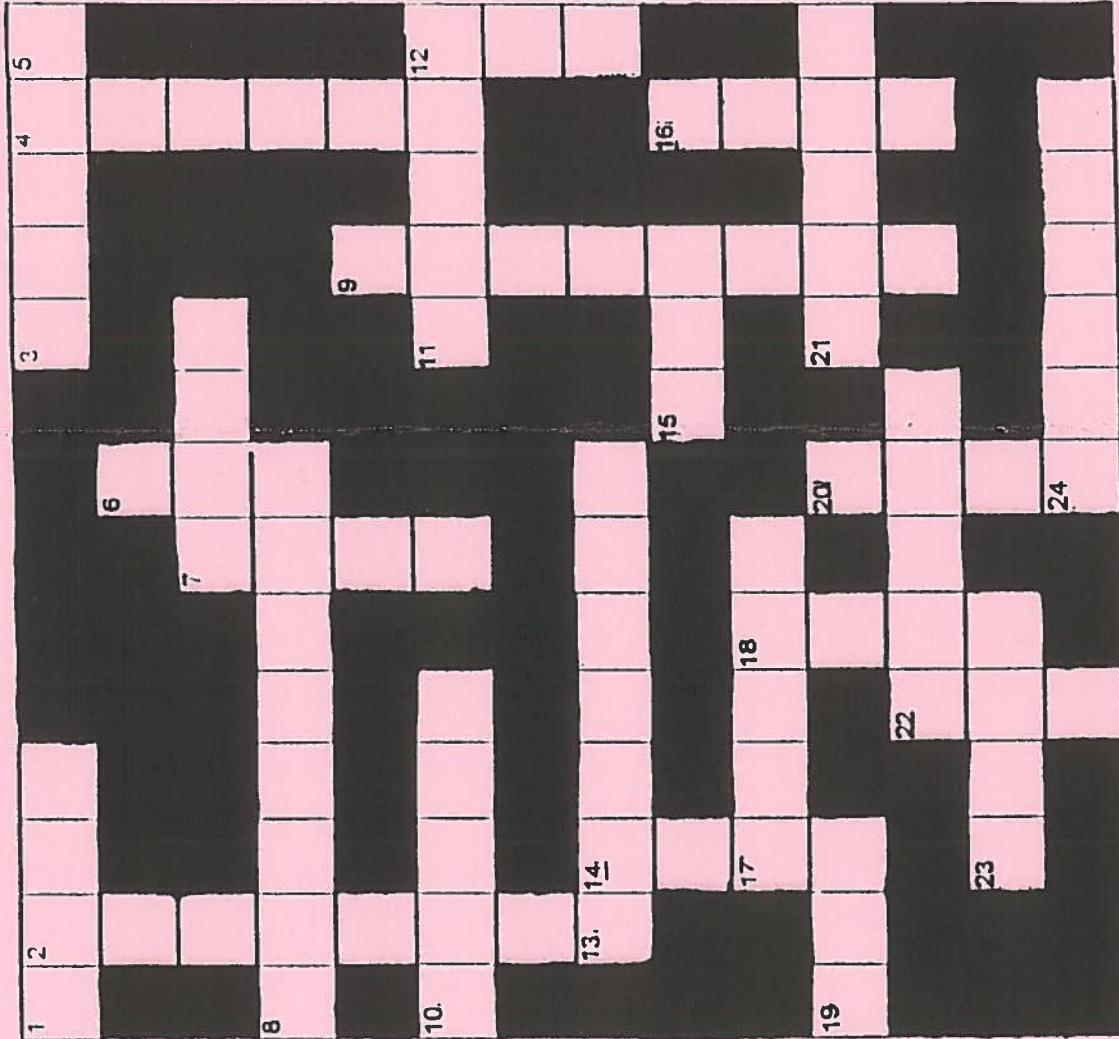
Olympic Gymnastics Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Color of a first place medal
3. Olympic gymnast who stuck the winning vault for the U.S. women's team
7. Balance _____
8. Women's gymnastics team that won the 1996 gold medals
10. Circular equipment used by men
11. Rope toy which sends kids flying through the air
13. What gymnasts must do before doing gymnastics
15. Big, soft cushion
17. Body part which Kerry Strug injured in the Olympics
19. Total amount of all scores
21. Equipment which is fun to bounce on
22. Horse (in gymnastics)
23. Somersault in the air
24. Jaycee _____

Down

2. International athletic event held every four years
4. _____ parallel bars
6. People who compete on the rings in the Olympics
7. Men's event: parallel _____
9. A gym where you can do gymnastics, dance, rock-climbing, and Tae Kwon Do
12. Building where athletes practice
14. Athletes who work together toward a common goal
16. To move with both feet together
18. To hop from one foot to the other
20. Back-handspring: flip-_____
22. Very important person



TWISTERS GYMNASTICS, INC.
2639-A TERMINAL BOULEVARD
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIF. 94043
(415) 967-5531



Gay & Lesbian Parents
Coalition International

P.O. Box 50360
Washington, DC 20091
(202) 583-8029
Fax: (201) 783-6204
FamValues@aol.com

Celebrating our third decade of services to gay and lesbian parents through chapters around the world

Stefan —
for a future issue of Kid's Club Fun Pages

Stamp collecting —
a neighbor (2 blocks away) is the
author of this article.

His collection is amazing (and I
have 100 or so international stamps
I've been saving for some kid.

Please return the insert if you
want me to pursue —
else chuck it.

L,
T.

PAUL HENNEFELD

THE BIRTH OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

THE GAY AND LESBIAN
HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB

Stamps—those little pieces of paper that you paste on your envelopes—have always fascinated me. I'm also an avid reader of historical biographies. In 1976, with the publication of Jonathan Katz's *Gay American History*, I found a way to combine my hobbies. Using Katz's book as a guide, I compiled a list of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people depicted on U.S. postage stamps. As my library grew, so did my stamp collection. When I discovered Noel Garde's *Jonathan to Gide*, I was able to enlarge my collection to include international stamps.

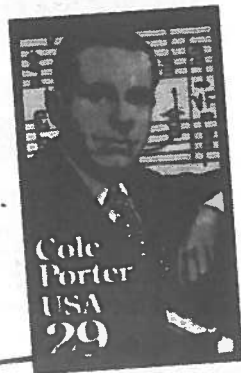
I've always been extremely annoyed by historians and biographers who blatantly ignore, distort, or actively try to suppress our gay heritage. All along, people have tried to wipe out gay history: Sappho's poems were burned, Michelangelo's sonnets were distorted, and Alexander Hamilton's letters were altered. Today's breed of bigoted authors continue their alterations. Irving Stone's claim that Michelangelo was not homosexual led even Dear Abby to write, "Perhaps Irving left a few stones unturned." Horatio Alger's biographer Herbert L. Mayers deliberately distorted the writer's life, portraying him as a philandering woman-chaser. Doris

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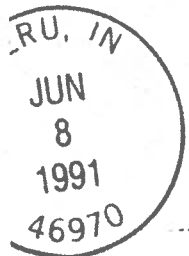
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My first attempt to start a gay stamp club was in 1980. I wrote a letter to the editor of *Gay Community News* in Boston, asking those interested to write to me. The editor of *GCN* contacted me, suggesting that I write an article for the paper. This I did, and the article appeared January 17, 1981.

By spring of that year, I'd heard from "Lambda Stamps" of Philadelphia (a gay First Day Cover dealer) and from



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FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

who returned home. Melville scurried off on a long tour of Europe with another male companion, leaving his wife and family at home. Other well known gay literary notables found on American postage stamps are Walt Whitman, Henry David Thoreau, William Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, and Willa Cather.

Federico Garcia Lorca, the great Spanish poet, can be found on stamps of several countries. Lorca was brutally murdered by the fascist Spanish civil guardsmen, who despised him because of his political views and his homosexuality.

Thomas Mann, author of *Death in Venice*, fled Germany during World War II to reside in the U.S. and Switzerland. He wrote of his homosexual desires in his diaries, which were published in 1982. Mann can be found on stamps of Germany and Switzerland.

The world's greatest artists are abundantly represented on stamps. Many of these geniuses were gay. Leonardo da Vinci spent time in prison—twice—for acting on his lusty homosexuality. A friend paid his fine, and he was set free. In 1987, computer expert Lillian Schwartz made the unexpected discovery, while running a program of Leonardo's paintings, that the identity of the Mona Lisa is actually a self-portrait of the great artist in drag. Raphael, the "Divine Painter," shared his apartment and his estate with his two favorite pupils, Giulio Romano and Gianfrancesca Penni. Caravaggio's paintings of his boyfriends are extremely suggestive. Giovanni Antonio Bazzi chose the name Il Sodoma. His portrait does not appear on any stamps, but his religious paintings are on stamps of several countries. Sculptors Benvenuto Cellini and Antonio Canova and their creations are on several stamps of Italy and other countries.

In addition to Peter Tchaikovsky, other gay musicians in my collection include Francis Poulenc, Camille Saint-Saens, Maurice Ravel, Manuel de Falla, Percy Grainger, and Edward Grieg. Franz Schubert had many male admirers and lovers, one of whom was the painter Moritz Schwind. Both men can be found on Austrian stamps. The American entertainer Wladziu Valentino Liberace is on a stamp of the Commonwealth of Dominica. There is one thing wrong with the

stamp: It was issued with his first name spelled incorrectly. That doesn't make the stamp any more valuable, it's just an oddity. Stephen Foster, depicted on a one-cent Famous American of 1940, deserted his family in Pittsburgh and moved to New York City to be near his lover, George Cooper. The newest addition to my collection is the 29-cent Cole Porter stamp, issued in June 1991. Porter was married to Linda Lee Thomas, a very happy marriage of convenience. The couple lived and traveled together, each occupying a separate suite wherever they went, thus allowing Porter the privacy he needed to entertain his male companions.

Recently, a number of countries have begun honoring members of the acting profession. Charles Laughton can be found on a series of Tonga stamps celebrating the movie *Mutiny on the Bounty*. Unlike Porter, Laughton married believing he would be cured of his homosexual desires. His wife Elsa Lanchester wrote: "If I had known all this before we were married it might have been different. . . . The deception is what hurt so deeply."

Rock Hudson, who was forced out of the closet by AIDS, is shown on a stamp of Antigua and Barbuda. Cary Grant is on a stamp of Gambia; his long affair with actor Randolph Scott was no secret in Hollywood circles. Grant's several marriages did not interrupt the actor's bisexual love affairs with other notables.

Statesmen and women are well represented in the philatelic world. Gay and lesbian Roman emperors, kings, queens, presidents, and generals all can be found on postage stamps. To name a few: Julius and Augustus Caesar; Emperors Titus, Trajan, and Hadrian; Kings Richard I, James I, and William III of England; Queens Ann of England and Christina of Sweden. It was Queen Christina who abdicated her throne for the love of another woman. Unfortunately, her lover did not follow her into exile. Senator William King was taunted by his peers for his close relationship with President James Buchanan. Buchanan is shown on several stamps, and his home "Wheatland" appears on an American stamp issued August

5, 1956. Senator King was branded as "Buchanan's better half" by Andrew Johnson, and was known around Washington as "Miss Nancy."

Dag Hammarskjöld's biographers deny that he was homosexual. They write that he was an asexual who didn't crave or need sex, and that he loved only flowers and his job as Secretary-General of the United Nations. I used that excuse years ago when I was in the Air Force. I loved my job; I loved my country. I didn't need sex or love from anyone else. Even when I was first coming out of the closet, I claimed, even while making love to another man, that I wasn't gay. Like myself, Hammarskjöld never dated a woman, never married, nor is there any evidence that he had any desire to do so. In fact, the evidence of his homosexuality far outweighs any other conclusion. Throughout his life, Hammarskjöld jotted down his thoughts in a notebook. Several years after his death, the notebook, entitled *Markings*, was published. In it, the Secretary-General writes several times of his love for another male friend. Hammarskjöld has appeared on stamps of numerous countries. But a most unusual incident occurred in 1962. A New Jersey resident discovered an error on the Dag Hammarskjöld stamp issued by the U.S. postal department. The government decided to print millions of this "error" with the yellow background inverted. This is the first time in history of philately that this was ever done, and Congress has since passed a law making it illegal to reprint errors deliberately.

With regard to black gays and lesbians, there seems not to be much research on the subject of black gay heritage. At present, the only black gay person in my collection is George Washington Carver. I am currently researching the lives of Paul Robeson and Josephine Baker, who are both depicted on postage stamps.

There is a women's study unit of the American Topical Association that is devoted to collecting "only women" stamps. And every philatelist knows that the first person to appear on a stamp was a woman, Queen Victoria. As difficult as it is to

do authentic research pertaining to gay men for my stamp collection, I have found it twice as difficult to research the lives of lesbians. The homophobic mentality of heterosexual authors is unbelievable.

The first lesbian woman in my collection was none other than Sappho, who is on a German stamp; accompanying her is a Greek stamp showing a scene and map of the Isle of Lesbos. Madame Germaine de Stael and Madame Juliette Recamier were lovers. Because of her political views, de Stael was banished from France by Napoleon. Juliette abandoned her husband to share a life of exile with her lover. Both are on French stamps. The great French writer Sidonie Gabrielle Colette was married three times and also had several lesbian love affairs during her lifetime. She is well-loved by the French, and has been honored by stamps of France and Monaco several times. Most of us were surprised to read that anthropologist Margaret Mead was a lesbian. Mary Bateson revealed this to us in *With a Daughter's Eye*, published in 1984. Mead is on a stamp of the Commonwealth of Dominica.

One of my favorite pages in my collection is the one devoted to Martina Navratilova. In her autobiography, Martina writes honestly about her lesbian lifestyle and the difficulty her parents had in accepting it. St. Vincent, Gambia, and Nicaragua have all depicted this great tennis star on their postage.

The most unusual stamp in my collection is one given to me by one of our Canadian stamp club members. This is a cover that was sent from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, to a Vietnamese student in Canada. For little valid reason, the U.S. government has declared stamps of certain countries off-limits to American citizens. We are not permitted by law to buy or sell any stamps from a country that has been blacklisted by the State Department, but they may be accepted if given as a gift. The stamp in question is one issued by Vietnam, honoring Picasso, depicting his portrait of Gertrude Stein.

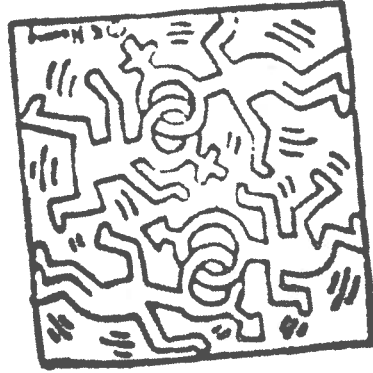
Dr. Mary Walker, the gallant Civil War hero, Gettysburg veteran, and women's suffragette, refused to dress in female





STONEWALL 25 20 YEARS 1969-1989 LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE

JUNE 25, 1989
NEW YORK, NY 10199



attire. Arrested several times for this indiscretion, she was never prosecuted; by an "Act of Congress," she had been granted permission to wear pants. She is the only woman ever to receive the Medal of Honor. In 1917, she was asked to return her medal, but she refused. Her dream to build a colony for spinsters only was unfulfilled due to her untimely death, from a fall in 1919. Dr. Walker was buried with her Medal of Honor. The photo of her on the U.S. postage stamp shows a feminine woman. This was certainly not her image. The postal service has admitted to "improving" the doctor's looks to make her look less masculine.

When most people receive a letter, they tear the envelope open, without ever noticing the stamp on the envelope or what the cancel on the stamp says. A philatelist opens mail very carefully. Sometimes we keep an envelope not because of the stamp, but because of the cancellation. There are many times when a person or an event is noted by the use of a special cancellation. Willa Cather and Jean Cocteau have been honored in this fashion, as have thousands of other famous people.

In 1983, Sweden became the first country in the world to celebrate a gay event, with the cancel slogan "Gay Pride Week," showing the Greek letter Lambda. They have since used gay cancellations several times. Who would think that this might happen in America? Certainly not any of GLHSC's members. Apparently, members of GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) were thinking along these lines, and they designed a cancellation using the Keith Haring "Gay Pride" drawing. They submitted the proper forms to the postal service, and they were successful in their endeavors. They contacted our club for information on which philatelic publications they should contact; it was a pleasure for us to meet with them. On June 25, 1989, Gay Pride Day, a U.S. Postal truck drove to Christopher Street, set up a table, sold stamps, and cancelled thousands of pieces of mail that day with GLAAD's gay postmark, which read: "Stonewall Sta., 20 years 1969-1989, Lesbian and Gay Pride, June 25, 1989, New York, NY 10199." The *New York Post*

headlined a story, "Pro-Gay Postmark Infuriates Helms"; other papers throughout the country followed suit. This bit of lesbian and gay history was also covered by the leading stamp newspaper in America, *Linn's Stamp News*, with a story on the front page that resulted in letters to the editor for several weeks after. Not many people realize that Keith Haring is no stranger to the philatelic world. Three times during his short career, Haring designed lithographs and first-day cover cachets for the World Federation of United Nations Association. Ironically, his last UN design was for a set of stamps issued concerning AIDS; he was to have been an honored guest at the first day of issue ceremonies, March 16, 1990. But Haring died one month before of complications from AIDS. His obituary was in the leading philatelic news publications.

The twentieth anniversary of the Universal Postal Union was in 1989, and the U.S. postal service invited every postal administration and stamp organization to participate in this grand historic philatelic event. Our club was asked, along with other stamp clubs, to assemble one frame (16 pages) of stamps and covers pertaining to the club's topic. These were on exhibit at the convention center in Washington, D.C., at World Stamp EXPO from November 17-20 and November 24-December 3. The Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club was listed in all philatelic literature prior to and during the convention, and was given one third of a page of text in the official U.S. Post Office program. The postal service even designed a logo for our club, making us the first gay organization in America to have its logo designed by an official government agency. GLHSC also held a meeting of its members at this event.

It's interesting to stand back and watch the reactions of the people who come to view my stamp collection; the majority of those who view it seem fascinated. On three occasions, people came to me and asked, "Where is Pu Yi?" or "Where's Ataturk, the president of Turkey?" or "Tsar Ferdinand of Bulgaria, he should be in your collection, where is he?" After checking the sources provided to me, I have ad-

6 / CHRISTOPHER STREET

PAUL HENNEFELD

ded these notables to my collection.

In San Francisco, a distinguished gentleman approached me, saying, "Is the gay collection your exhibit?" When I replied that it was, he gave me a hug and with tears streaming down his face exclaimed, "I never thought I would see anything like this in my lifetime! Thank you very much." A similar incident occurred in San Diego.

Surprisingly, negative reaction to the collection has been minor. Besides being banned in Jacksonville, Florida, the collection was picketed in New Jersey by a lone protestor, who made a disturbance in front of my exhibit several times, screaming at the top of his lungs, "Deviates! Deviates!" He was escorted out of the stamp show. Members of my own religious faith complain that there are too many Catholics in the collection, but there isn't too much I can do about that.

My stamp collection, "Alternate Lifestyles... Out of the Closet," received its first National Gold Award on Gay Pride Day 1987. I had mailed the collection to the ATA show of the year, which was being held in Columbia, South Carolina. I did not go to the show because I wanted to march with the Gay Veterans in the Gay Pride Day parade in Manhattan. It had been a wonderful day, and when I arrived home feeling great, the phone rang. I answered. It was a call from one of the judges in South Carolina, who gave me the good news that my collection had won a Gold and the Reserve Grand Award of the show.

In 1991, Joe Petronie of Dallas, Texas, volunteered to be the editor of *Lambda Philatelic Journal*. It was through his efforts that GLHSC became an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society. Both our membership and our journal have doubled in size.

And the U.S. postal service issued a stamp in Peru, Indiana, on June 8, 1991, honoring Cole Porter. Ed Centeno (GLHSC president) contacted illustrator Michael Willhoite, and they created a most unusual and strikingly enjoyable first day cover.

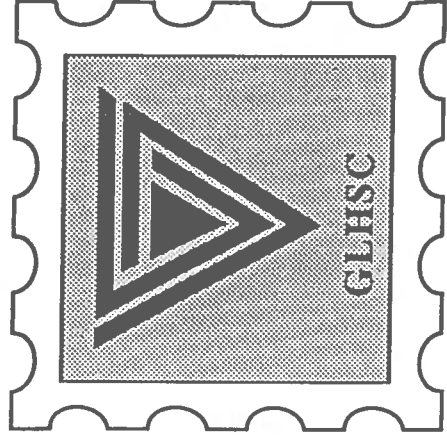
In 1991, I was also proud to be one of the persons honored by the New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition at their annual awards dinner. Another surprise was being contacted by the BBC to be included in a documentary on homosexuality. The segment pertaining to my stamp collection was very creative. It was shown in Britain and will be viewed in the U.S. at the 1992 Gay Film Festival.

In February, the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club celebrated our tenth anniversary, and March 1993 will be the tenth anniversary of my first stamp exhibit. Looking back, I ask myself, was it really worth it? The answer is an emphatic yes. I have made a great many friends. I've learned a great deal about gay and lesbian culture, and it has been a joy to be able to pass this bit of history on to others. It is very important for us to be proud of who we are and to have gay and lesbian heroes. □

To join the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club, and to receive a quarterly newsletter, send \$6 (\$8 foreign) to Ed Centeno, President and Secretary, at P.O. Box 230940, Hartford, Connecticut 06123-0940.

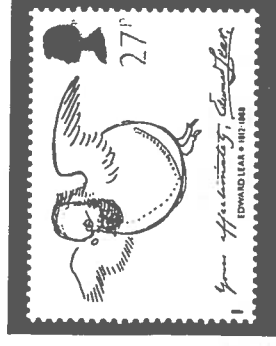
Celebrate!

PHILATELY



GAY/LESBIAN HISTORY STAMP CLUB

Founded in February 1982, an international non-profit organization devoted to the promotion, study and collection of worldwide philatelic material depicting gay history and awareness.



Topical collecting is the specialization of worldwide postage stamps and other philatelic material with emphasis to the subject, rather than country.

PAUL HENNEFELD

THE BIRTH OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

THE GAY AND LESBIAN
HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB

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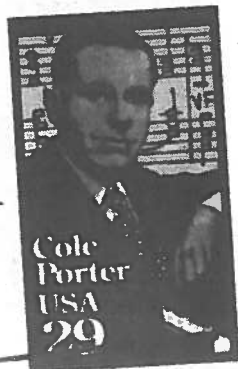
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FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

RU, IN
JUN
8
1991
46970

Stefan/Denise -

W

Abby Lawton

This is the interview Abby did with Stefan (she got a 100% on her report!). If you think it would work, we'd like to submit it for the Fun Pages.

**Why are you interested in why your parents are gay?
What was it like to live in most parents?**

Because they're both gay. My first memory was always of my mom since I was always with her. She's been a lesbian since she was a young girl, definitely.

Kim Lawton

387-9886

What was it like to live with your father, and what was it like to live with your mother?

Living with my dad was extremely hard. He was extremely strict. Everybody knew in my neighborhood.

Living with my dad was sometimes hard because he was a very scary person. He had a lot of authority and he had a very definite way that things were supposed to be done. So sometimes he and I didn't always get along because I didn't always like the way that he wanted me to do things. But overall it was pretty good because he also was really fun and he liked reading to me and he liked going out and walking around and showing me neat things about the city.

Interview

by Abby Lawton

1. Could you explain to me why your parents are a little different than most parents?

Well, basically because they're both gay. My dad ever since I remember was always with other men, and my mom since I was seven, her lovers have been women. So yeah, that's the biggie, definitely.

2. Was your father open about being gay?

Yes. He was very open. He was extremely open. In fact, everybody knew in my school and in my neighborhood.

3. What was it like to live with your father, and what was it like to live with your mother?

Living with my dad was sometimes hard because he was a very scary person. He had a lot of authority and he had a very definite way that things were supposed to be done. So sometimes he and I didn't always get along because I didn't always like the way that he wanted me to do things. But overall it was pretty good because he also was really fun and he liked reading to me and he liked going out and walking around and showing me neat things about the city.

Living with my mother was great. She and I got along really well. The one problem was that my mom was pretty closeted so not very many people knew that she was a lesbian. I had to keep more secrets than I would have liked to. Whereas with my dad, I could tell all my friends and it was pretty okay. But she and I did a lot of fun things when I was a kid. We lived in Marin County, which is north of San Francisco, and we would drive, we would go out on big long drives every weekend and we had a really good time.

4. Was it easier being open like your father, or was it easier to be closeted like your mother?

I think it was much easier being open with my dad because he did a lot of the work for me. I didn't have to come out to everyone because everyone knew, so I didn't have to be wondering does this person know, can I bring this person home, are they going to be surprised by all the gay books on the coffee table? I didn't have to play that guessing game of what's their reaction going to be? Whereas with my mom, sometimes with friends I would run home ahead of them when they were coming home with me, and

Abby

Lawton

Spelling

4/23/96

| | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| knee | knee | knee | knee |
| knew | knew | knew | knew |
| knife | knife | knife | knife |
| knot | knot | knot | knot |
| know | know | know | know |
| shine | shine | shine | shine |
| slide | slide | slide | slide |
| smile | smile | smile | smile |
| price | price | price | price |
| prize | prize | prize | prize |
| skin | skin | skin | skin |
| slid | slid | slid | slid |
| slip | slip | slip | slip |
| spin | spin | spin | spin |
| history | history | history | history |
| arithmetic | arithmetic | arithmetic | arithmetic |
| brown | brown | brown | brown |
| window | window | window | window |
| follow | follow | follow | follow |
| slowly | slowly | slowly | slowly |
| clownish | clownish | clownish | clownish |
| willow | willow | willow | willow |
| shadow | shadow | shadow | shadow |

I'd turn the posters around on the walls and I'd make sure that all the gay books were off the coffee table. Because she was pretty closeted, and she didn't want people to know.

5. Have you ever had a good friend die?

Yeah, I knew a lot of people that have died of AIDS that I grew up with. All of them are older than me. But I still considered them good friends. They were people that used to baby-sit me, people that used to take me out to the park, or just people that were around a lot at parties or for dinner.

6. What was it like, taking care of your father while he was dying?

It was really hard. It was like all of a sudden I was the parent and I had grown up, and he had always taken care of me. My dad had always taken care of me and then all of a sudden I was having to take care of him. That was really hard to have to take care of him, and you know for a whole bunch of things, like physically and emotionally, I had to take care of him and it was very hard.

RULES

- 1. Only three people can play.**
- 2. Each person takes drawing the cards, and then moves to the square that has the answer to the problem in it.**
- 3. The way you get a musical instrument or money is that you have to land on the square that says you have it.**
- 4. If you land on 0 you can move to the end and win the game.**

7. What happened after your father died?

There was a lot of things to do. I inherited a house that I had to learn how to take care of. I had to learn how to handle money and pay bills. Basically I took a crash course in being an adult. So I had to grow up really really quickly after he died. I had a full-time job for the first time, as an AIDS educator, and just had to all of a sudden become this adult overnight.

8. Have you done something that helped a lot of people that might be having some of the same problems you did when you were a kid?

I like to think so. I got involved in this organization called COLAGE, Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere. When I got involved there were maybe a hundred kids who knew about it, and in the three years that I've been involved there's now about three thousand families that are involved, which is great. And so hopefully it's a good thing. I like to think so.

RULES

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4. If you land on 0 you can move to the end and win the game.

9. Are you straight or gay?

~~That's~~ a complicated question. Actually not. I'm straight, but because I grew up in the gay community around a lot of gay people, going to gay events, reading gay books, I like to think of myself as culturally gay. You know, I feel like I have this gay culture that I've absorbed. I'm not like my straight friends in a lot of ways. They don't know very much about gay people or what it means to be gay. I'm much more comfortable in some ways with gay people because that's what I'm used to. So, I'm straight but I'm also kind of gay, in a way.

10. Who do you admire and why?

My personal hero was always kind of my dad. Even though he was difficult for me to get along with, he also managed to be really loving and really strong in good ways, and devoted his life to helping other people, mostly other gay people. And he's my personal hero because of that.

RULES

- 1. Only three people can play.**
- 2. Each person takes drawing the cards, and then moves to the square that has the answer to the problem in it.**
- 3. The way you get a musical instrument or money is that you have to land on the square that says you have it.**
- 4. If you land on 0 you can move to the end and win the game.**

11. If you could pick one event that really changed your life, what would it be?

When I was in high school I hated high school. Because it was so homophobic and my dad had AIDS at that time and it was really tough because none of the teachers understood, none of my friends understood what it was like. They were scared of me because they didn't understand about AIDS. They didn't understand about gay people. Normally, you go to four years of high school, but I only did two years because I hated it so much. And I was failing out and just, I was really, I was just about to drop out of high school. And just on an off chance I found out about a college that is designed to take people who have only done two years of high school. And so I ended up going to college two years early, and I think it probably saved me life. I don't think I would be nearly as sane and healthy and together as I am now if I was forced to stay or drop out of high school. And so, I never finished high school but I finished college because I found one that would take me early and it was great. It was fabulous.

RULES

1. Only three people can play.
2. Each person takes drawing the cards, and then moves to the square that has the answer to the problem in it.
3. The way you get a musical instrument or money is that you have to land on the square that says you have it.
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We thought an intro was in order...

Hi! My name is Zack Gelnaw-Rubin. I'm 11 years old in the 6th grade. I live in Montclair, NJ. I like to listen to music, hang out with my friends, read books, and I like to sing and dance. I'm the lead singer in a band.

My family consists of me, my mom, my mom's partner Margie, my cat Nicki, and my baby sister Dewey. I'm doing this interview for COLAGE for kids. They asked me who I'd like to read about and I said Greg Louganis. Then they asked me to do this interview. I hope you'll answer the following questions:

Let's start with your childhood...

* When did you discover that you were gay?

When you did, how long was it until you came out?

* When you did, did kids make fun of you?

How did your parents react?

What kind of advice did you receive from family and friends when you had troubles with being gay?

When did you first take up diving?

Did you come out to your teammates?

* What was it like being in the Olympics?

* Did the fans like you?

* Were your teammates supportive of your diving and did they come to you for advice even though you were gay?

What is your most prideful achievement?

* When you found out you were HIV-positive, how did you feel?

Who did you tell first?

* Do you have any advice for kids who have gay parents?

* Any advice for kids who have someone in their life who is HIV-positive or has AIDS?

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Zack

PS

The questions with "*" are the ones I'd especially like to know

Submitted
by Kim
Lawton.

For JFU
+ KC

David ~~David~~ RUSH
554-9039

Cause and Effect Essay Stereotypes

I have a lot of stereotypes in my life. They are used when people think they know me but they don't. In the American Heritage Dictionary a stereotype is defined as: A conventional formulaic, and usually over simplified conception, opinion or belief.

Stereotypes have a huge effect on me. I've lived with stereotypes all my life. No matter who you are there are always stereotypes. People who are not educated often come up with stereotypes about other people.

When I was younger I had a friend whose mother would not allow her to come over and play because my dad was gay, she assumed that he had A.I.D.S because of his sexuality, and that her daughter would be at risk. At that time my dad did not have H.I.V and it effected me greatly. Many people think only homosexuals get H.I.V. Or that they all act a certain way or dress in drag as a hobby. That is using stereotypes and its not true.

A recent stereotype was that my friend and I were going to turn out homosexual because of our parents. Basically saying if your parent is gay your going to be also. Stereotypes show cause and effect in my life.

Erin Amelia Ruch, San Francisco, 1996

Cause and Effect Essay

Stereotypes

There are a lot of stereotypes in my life. Stereotypes are used when people think they know someone but don't. In the American Heritage Dictionary they define stereotype as: A conventional formulaic, and usually over simplified conception, opinion or belief.

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A recent stereotype was that my friend and I were going to turn out homosexual because of our parents. Basically saying if your parent is gay your going to be also. Stereotypes show cause and effect in my life.

Hans Christian Andersen

Josephine Baker

Sir James M. Barrie

James Dean

Amelia Earhart

Anne Frank

David Geffen

Billie Jean King

COOL PEOPLE FOR KIDS CLUB

recommended by

brionna acher

Phone script for House Parties

"Hello my name is Emily and I'm a volunteer with COLAGE, is ___ There? Hi ___ Can I speak for to you for a minute?" Pause.

"thanks. Are you familiar with COLAGE?" Pause. Answer basic questions if you need to.

"As you probably know we've launched this great new club for young kids with lesbian and gay parents. The club is really exciting and having a big impact already, and we want to ask for your help to make it even better. We're doing a series of dinner parties and people's homes to tell people about the club and help raise money to support it. I'd like to ask you to host one of these parties sometime in the next year, do you think you'd be interested?"

"what do I have to do??"

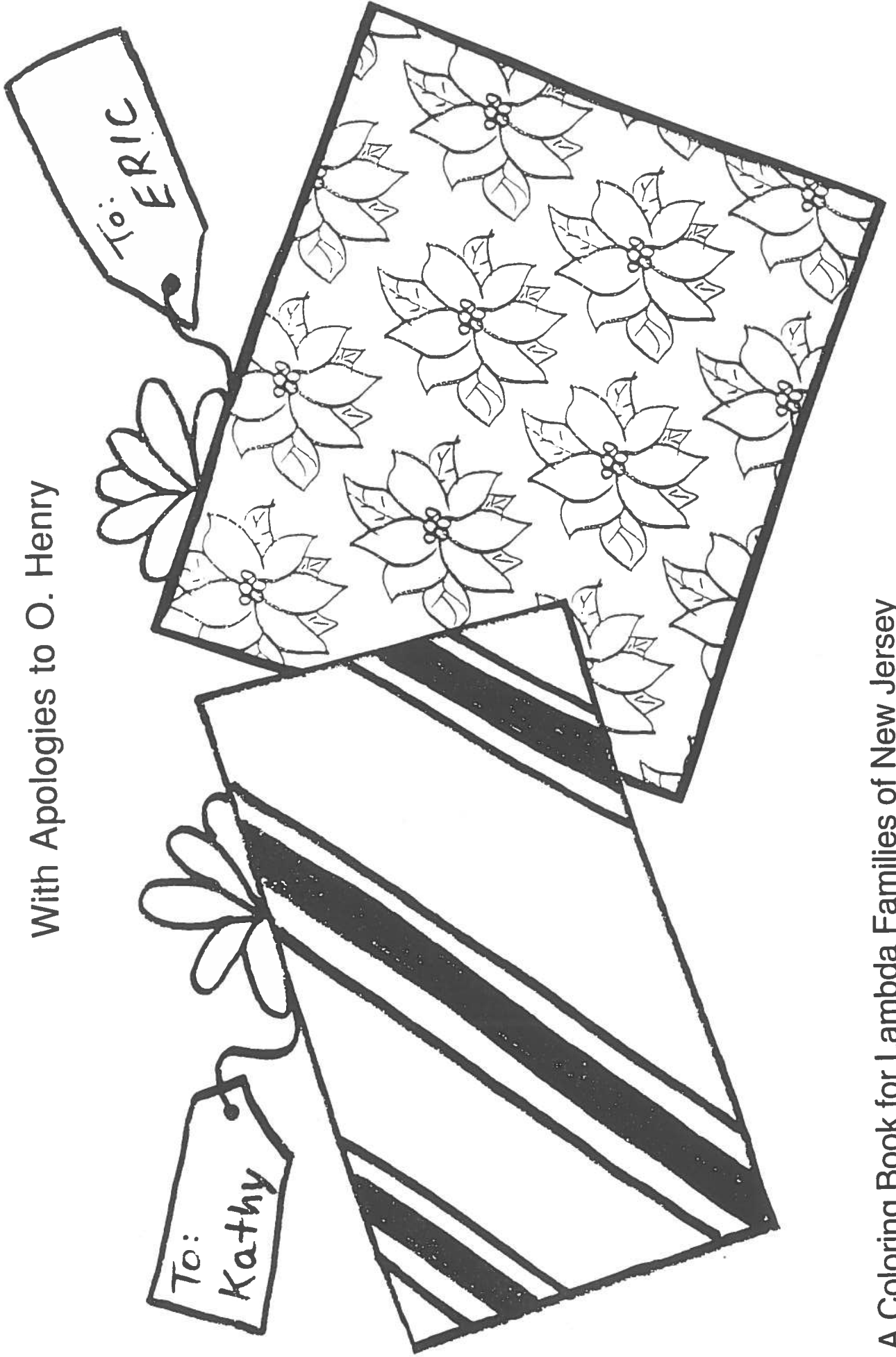
"Well it's very straightforward, we both plan a dinner party for your friends, make sure they have a really good time, tell them about the Kids Club and show them the short new video, Both My Mom's names are Judy, which is being used in schools to educate teachers and students about homophobia. We also ask them to make a donation of an amount which is meaningful to them, whatever amount that may be. Actually, I have a detailed description, why don't I send it to you, and we can talk after you've looked it over?"

If they ask, "do I hafta pay for the party?"

"Some of the expenses we'll pay for, some we ask you to cover as a donation. The information I have explains it in detail."

A Special Gift for the Holidays

With Apologies to O. Henry



One day early in December, Kathy and Eric were playing together after school.

They were best friends.

It had just snowed for the first time that winter.

So they were having lots of fun making a snowbunny together.

Even better, the holidays were just days away.

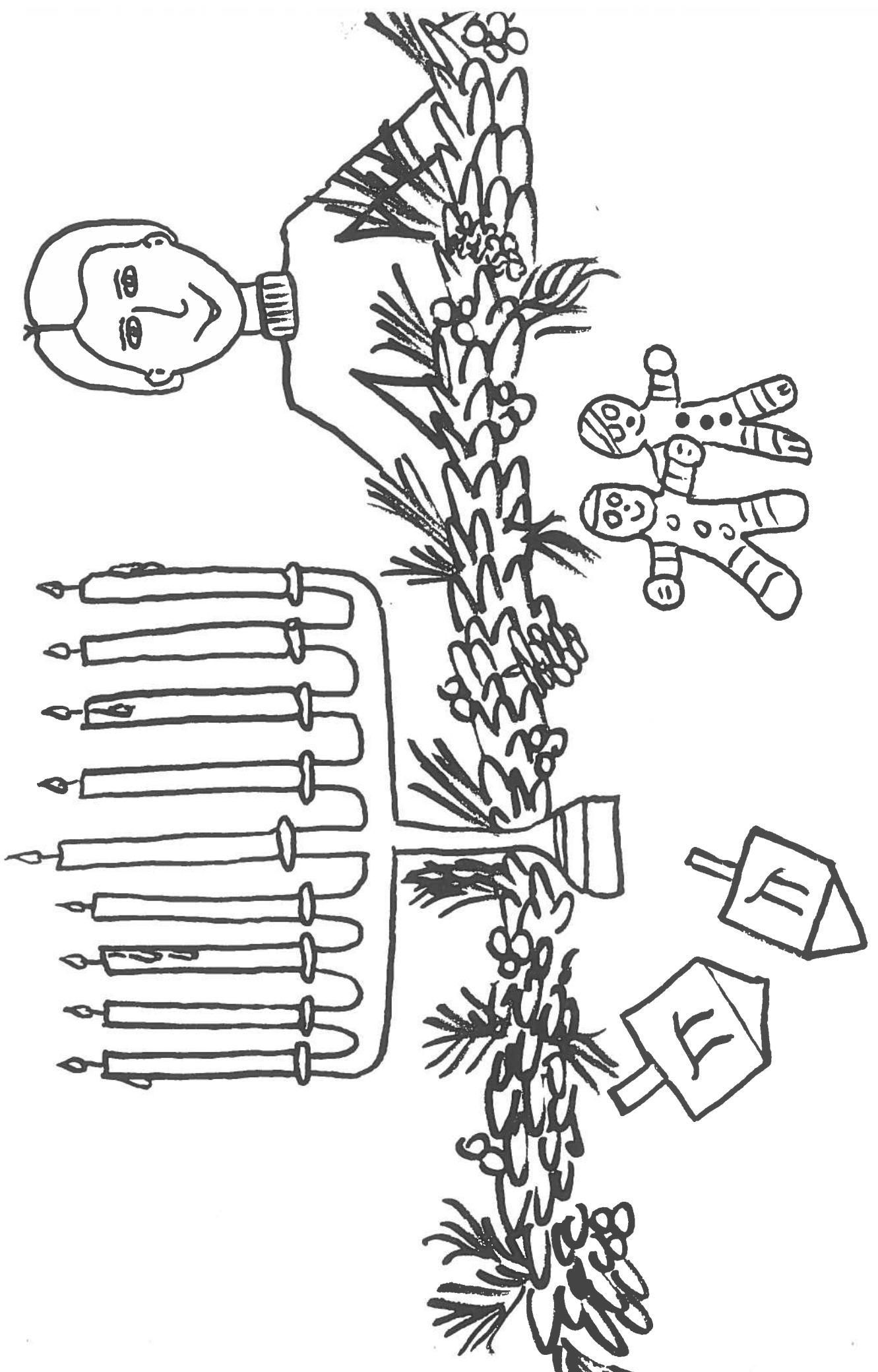


Eric told Kathy about his favorite part of the holidays.

It was lighting the Hanukkah candles with his two moms every night for eight days.

He also loved the special gingerbread cookies his Mommy Lisa baked.

And he especially liked that he would get a different present each night.



Kathy told Eric about her favorite part of the holidays.

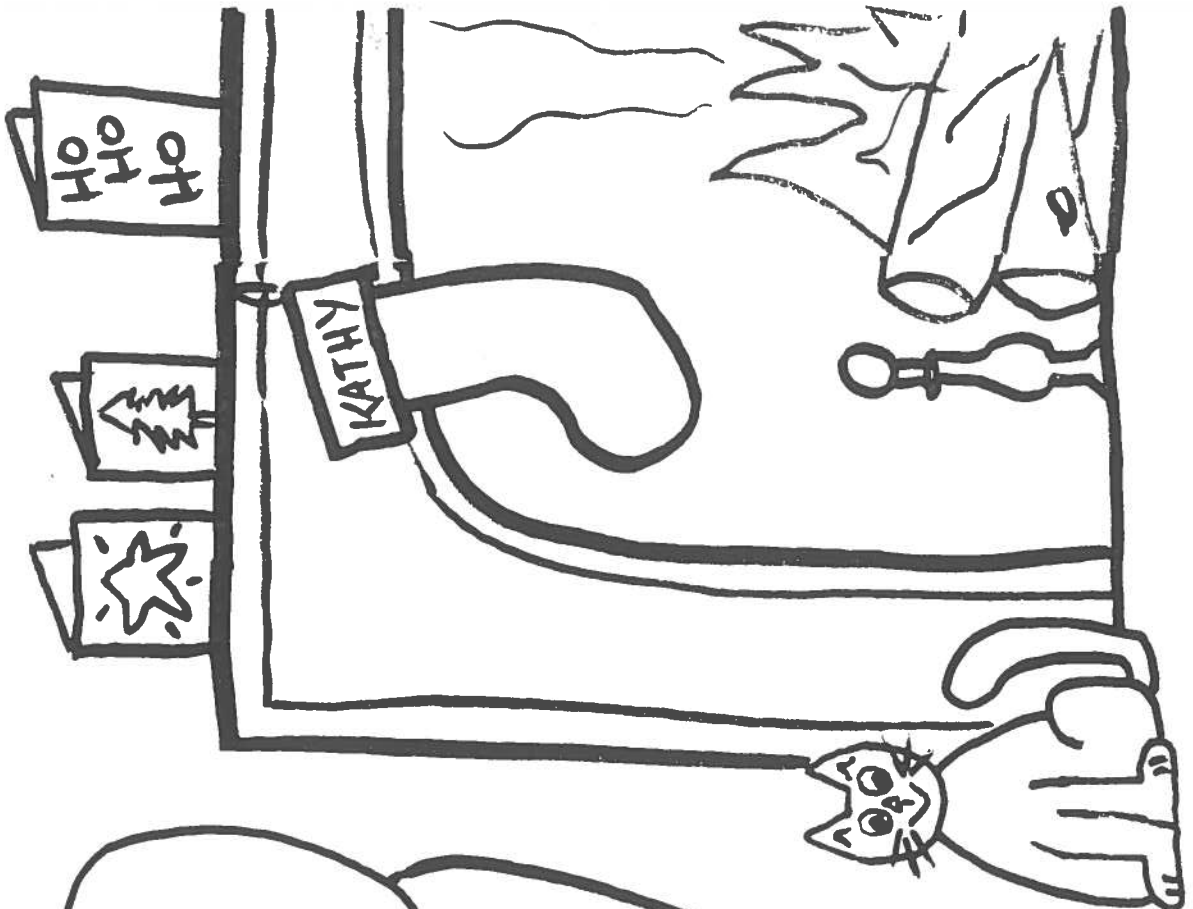
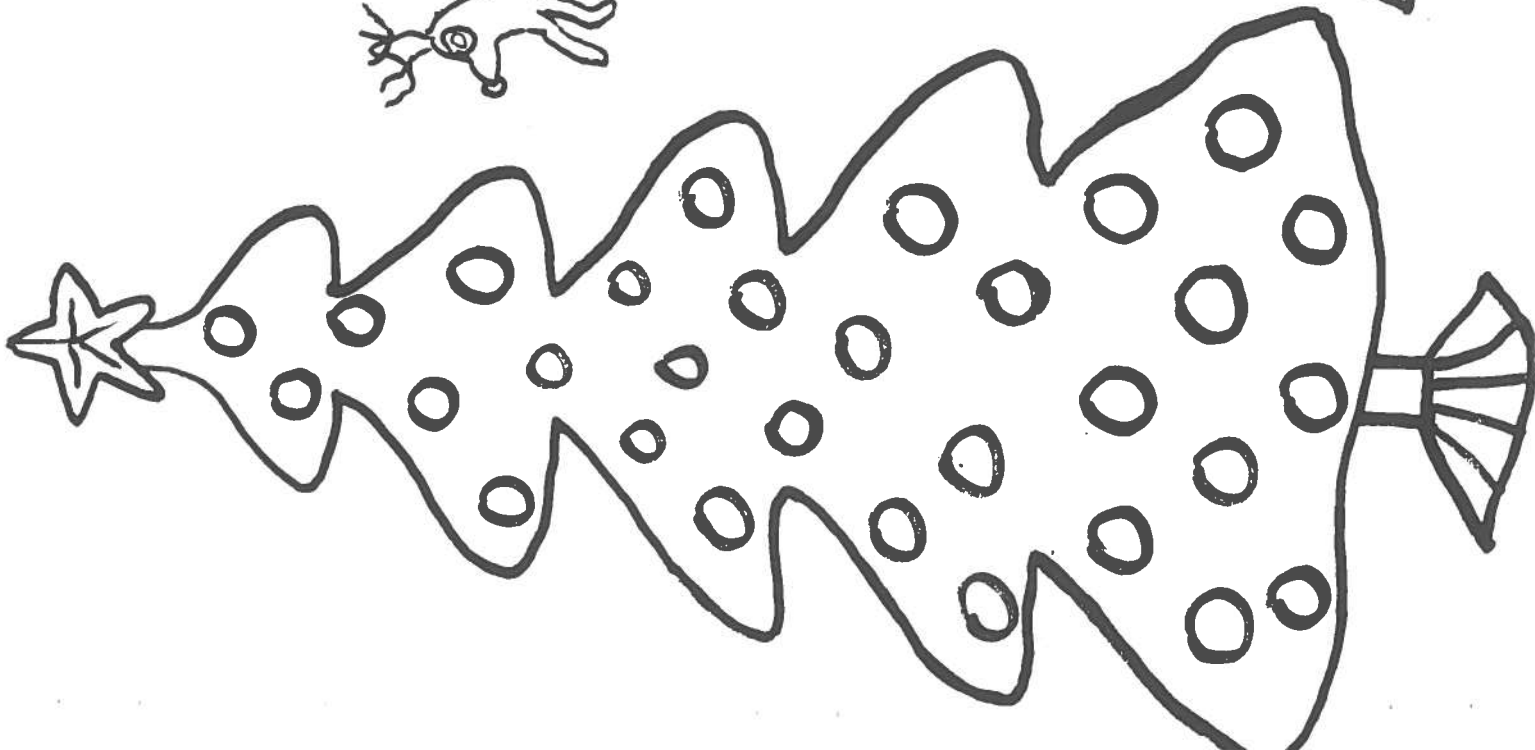
It was going with her Dad and Poppa to get their Christmas tree.

When they brought it home, everyone would help decorate the tree.

Kathy would put her favorite reindeer ornament on the tree.

It had to go in a special place where their cat Buttons couldn't knock it down.

Kathy especially liked waking up with all the new gifts under the tree.

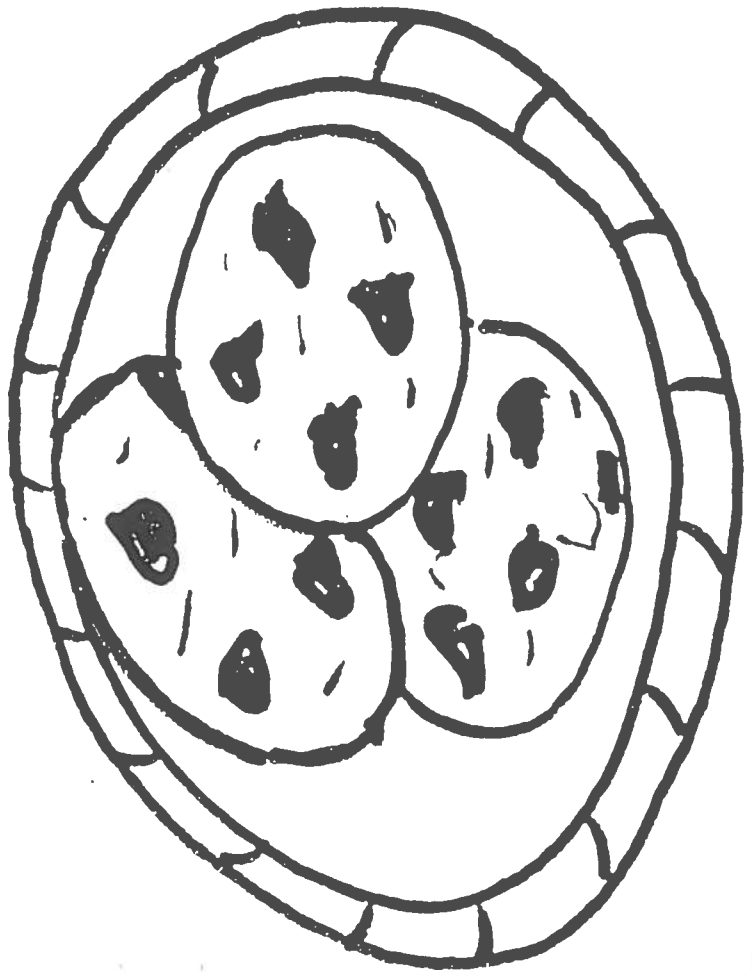
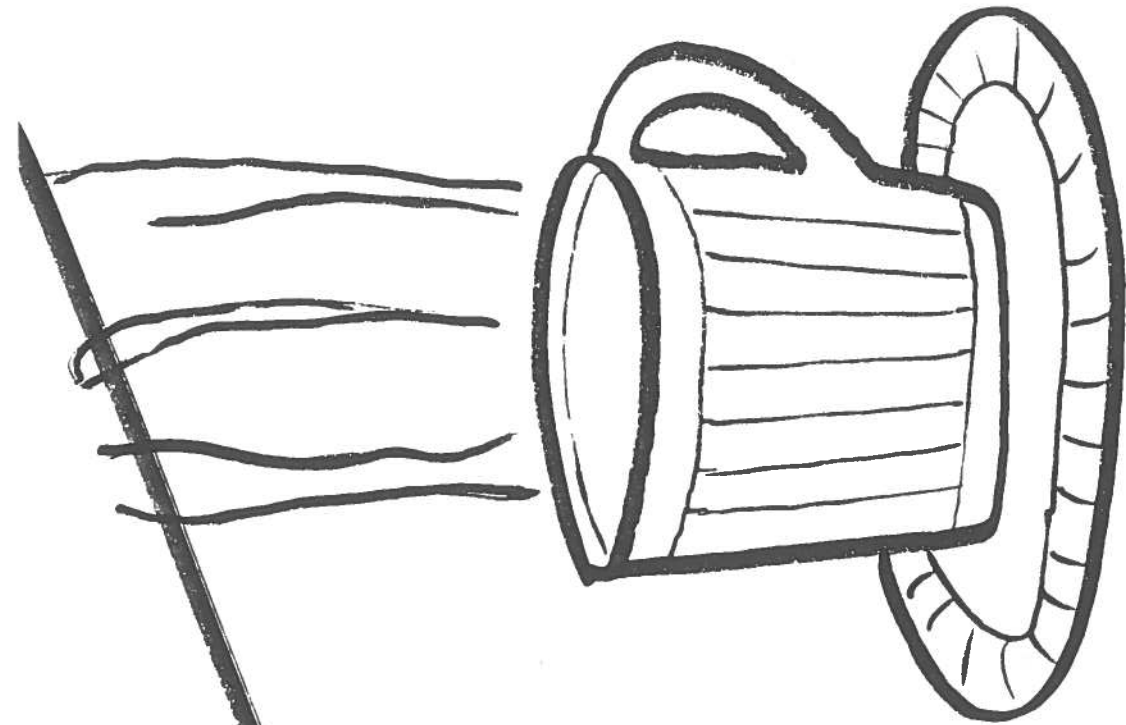


When Kathy went home, she told her Dad about her talk with Eric.

She wanted to make Eric a special gift since he was her best friend.

Over a cup of hot chocolate, they talked about what kind of present to make.

Kathy remembered the great beach vacation their families had taken together that summer.



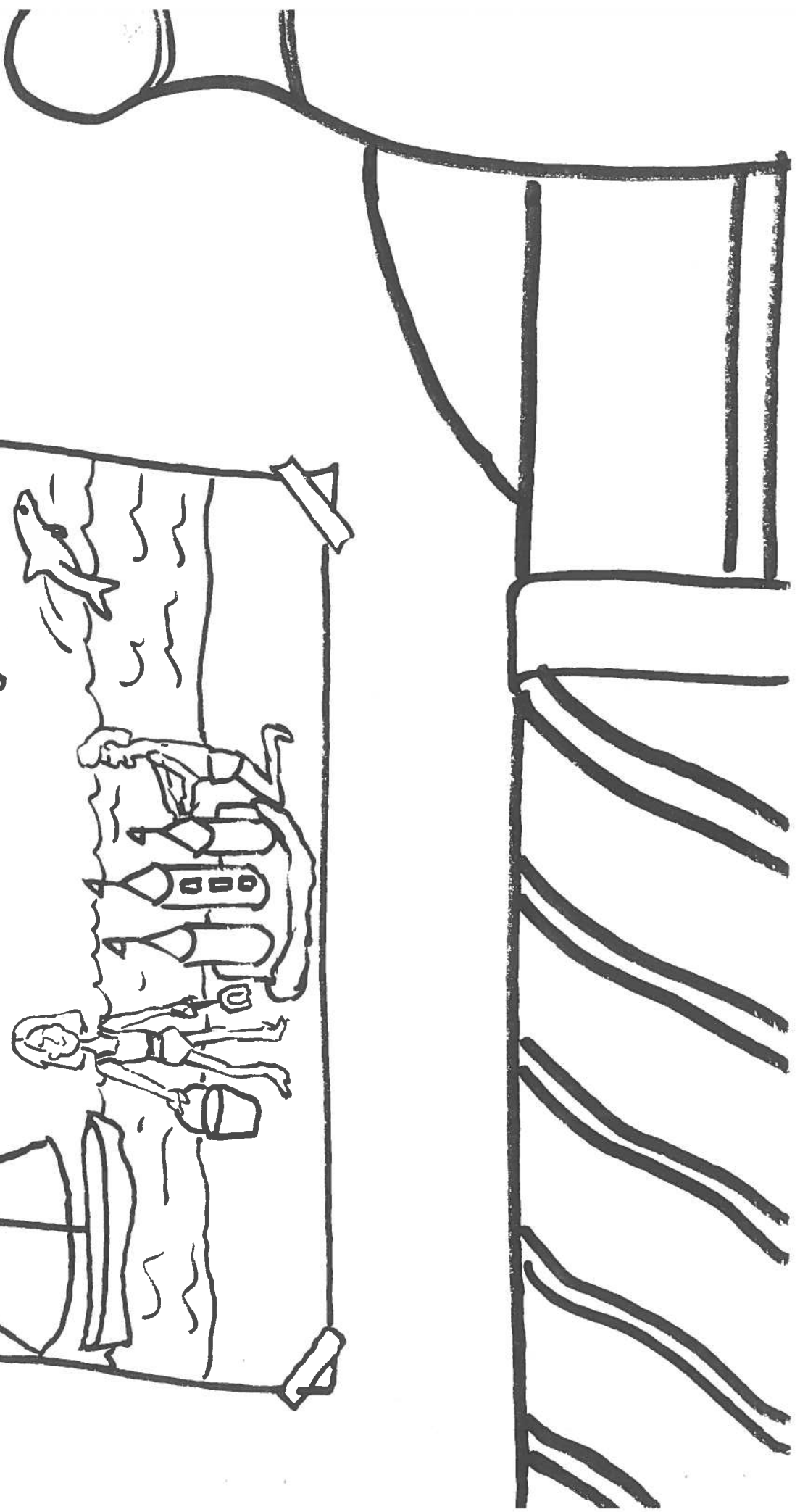
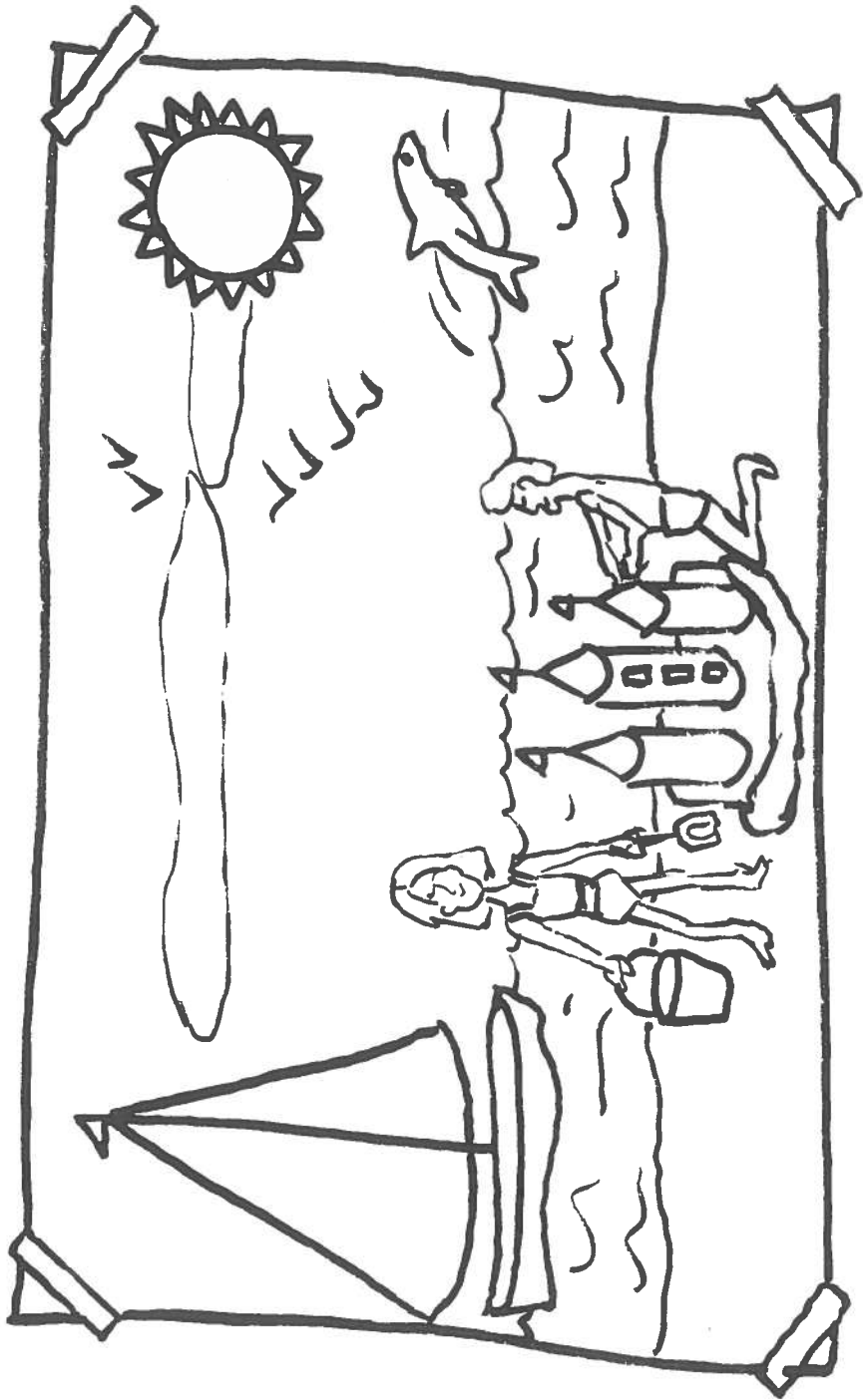
Eric loved to draw and wanted to be an artist.

On their vacation, Eric had drawn a picture of himself and Kathy playing at the water's edge.

It was just like the ones he had seen in the beach town's shops.

Eric was very proud of his picture.

He kept it hanging on the wall of his bedroom over his bed.



Kathy decided she would make and decorate a frame for Eric's beach picture.

That would be her special gift for Eric.

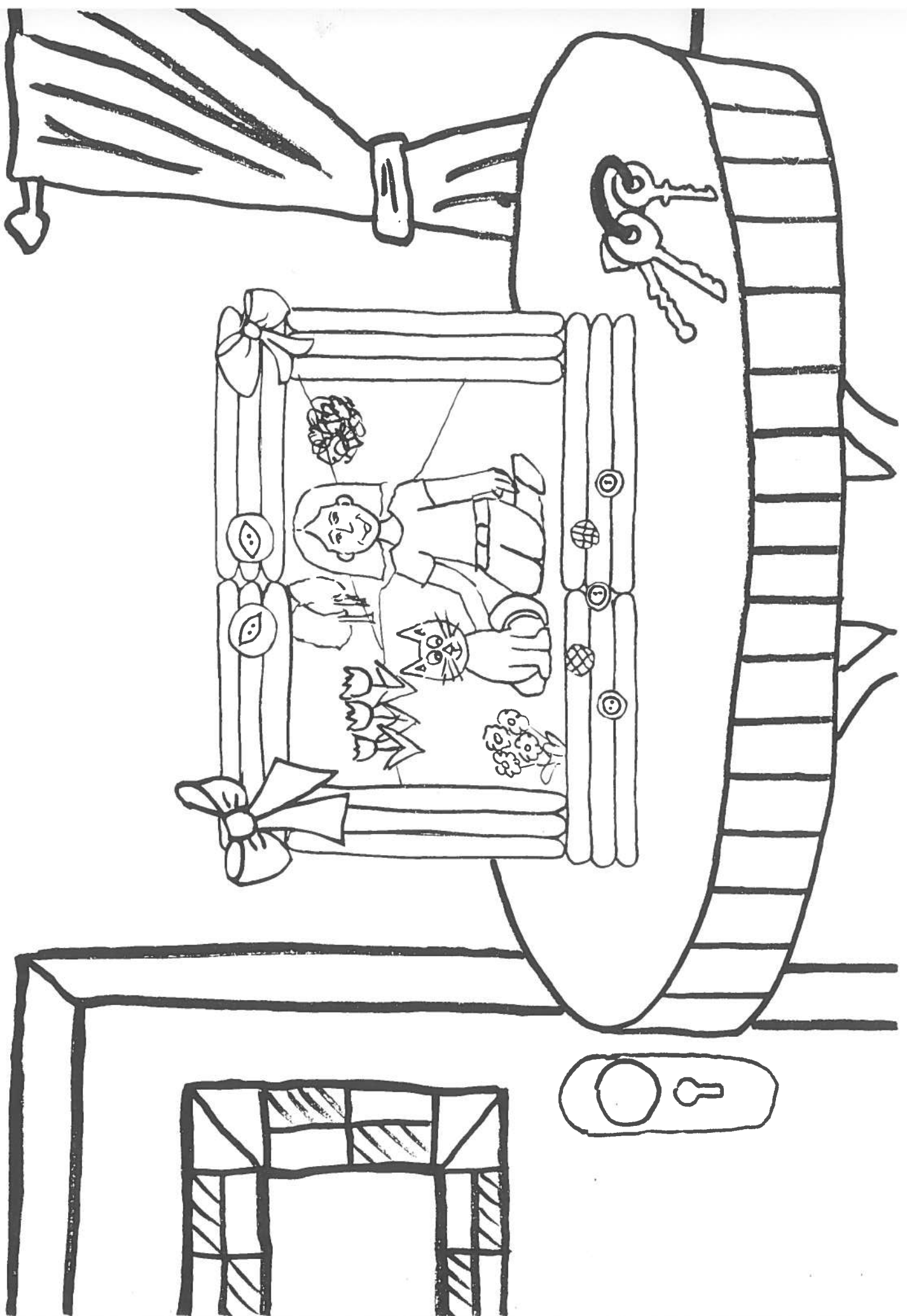
She had made a frame in Art class at school and had decorated it with buttons and ribbons.

Kathy had given it to her grandmother.

It had a photo of her and Buttons in it that her Poppa had gotten out of the family album.

She knew her grandparents really liked the frame.

They kept it on the table by their front door so they could see it every day.



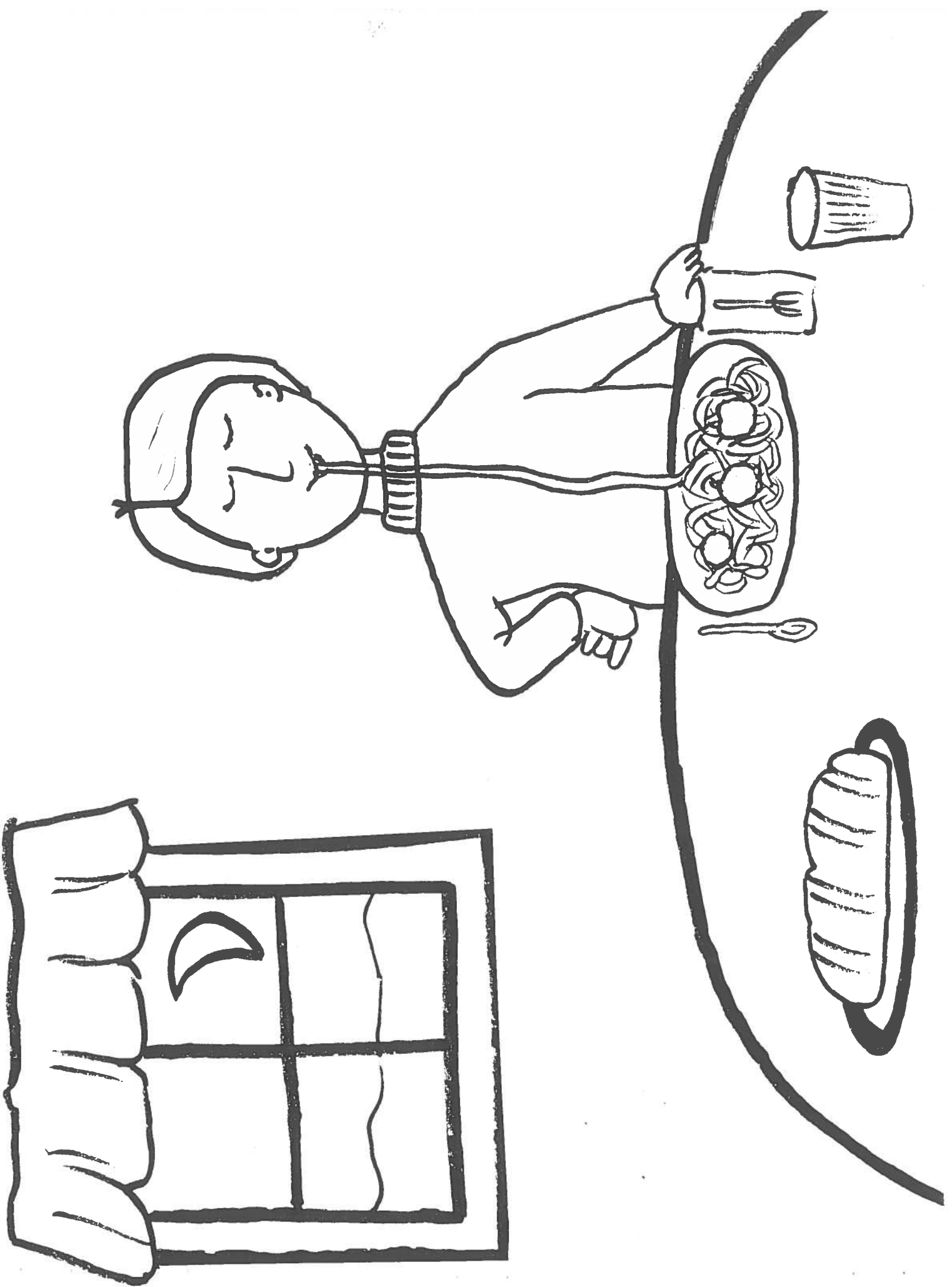
Eric and his moms had spaghetti and meatballs that night for dinner.

They also talked about what special gift he could make for Kathy.

Just like Kathy, Eric remembered their beach vacation together.

He knew it was special to her.

Every time he played with Kathy at her house, she would bring out the shells she had collected.



Kathy wanted to be a scientist and study the plants and animals of the sea.

She loved looking at her shells and matching them with the pictures in her book about shells.

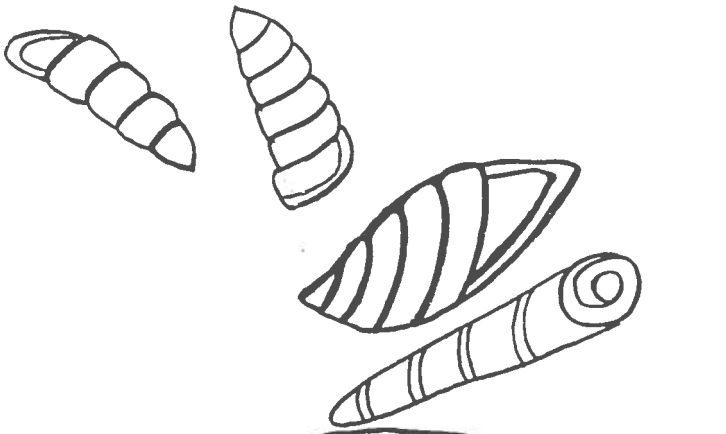
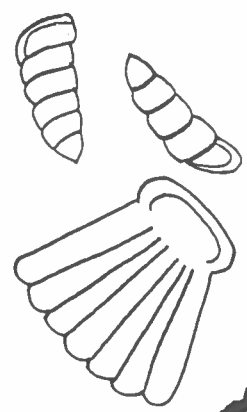
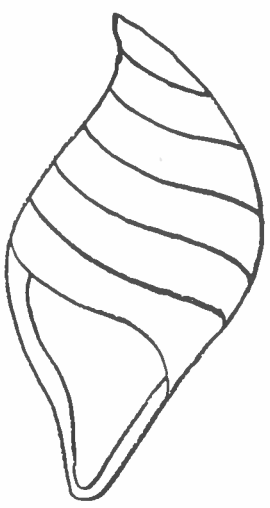
Kathy kept the shells wrapped in special pink tissues.

She always put them away in the same corner of her sock drawer.

She didn't want to lose them.



SHELLS
of the
SEA
by Dewey
Jones



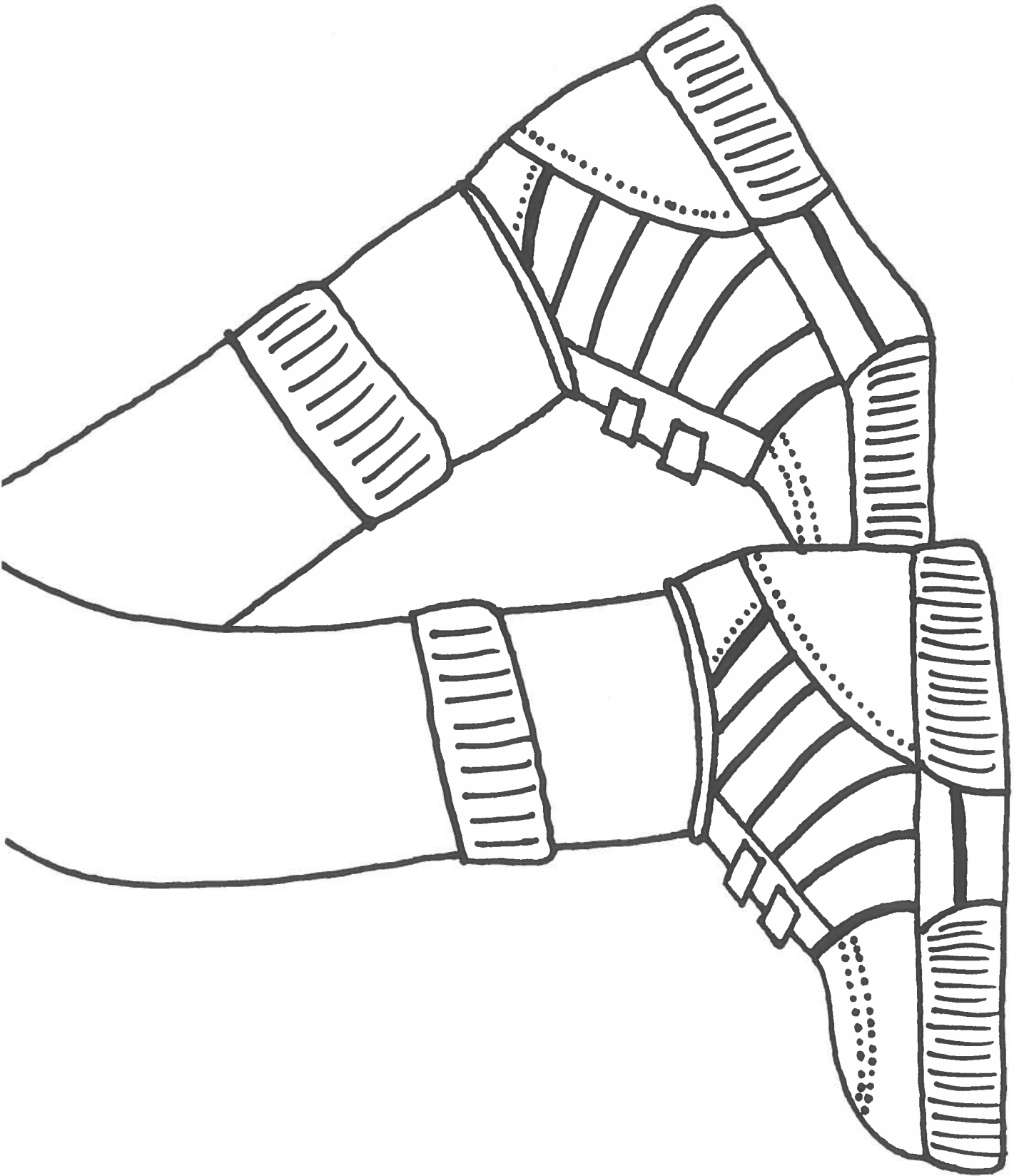
Eric decided to make and decorate a treasure box for Kathy to keep her shells in.

That would be his special gift for Kathy.

He could use the leftover shoe box that his new rainbow sneakers had come in.

He had really wanted the new sneakers.

When his Aunt Sally had given them to him for his birthday, he had jumped for joy.



That night Eric began to make the treasure box.

He and Momma T dug out the craft box from the closet, while Mommy Lisa found the sneaker box.

Eric glued pink construction paper on the outside of the box.

It looked just like the paper Kathy used to wrap her shells.

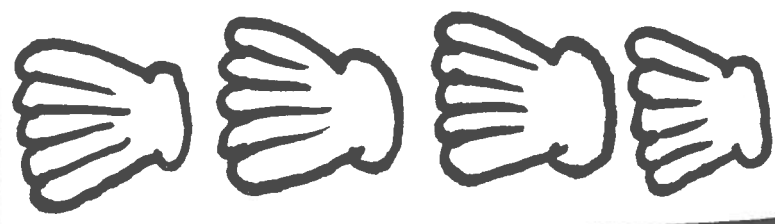
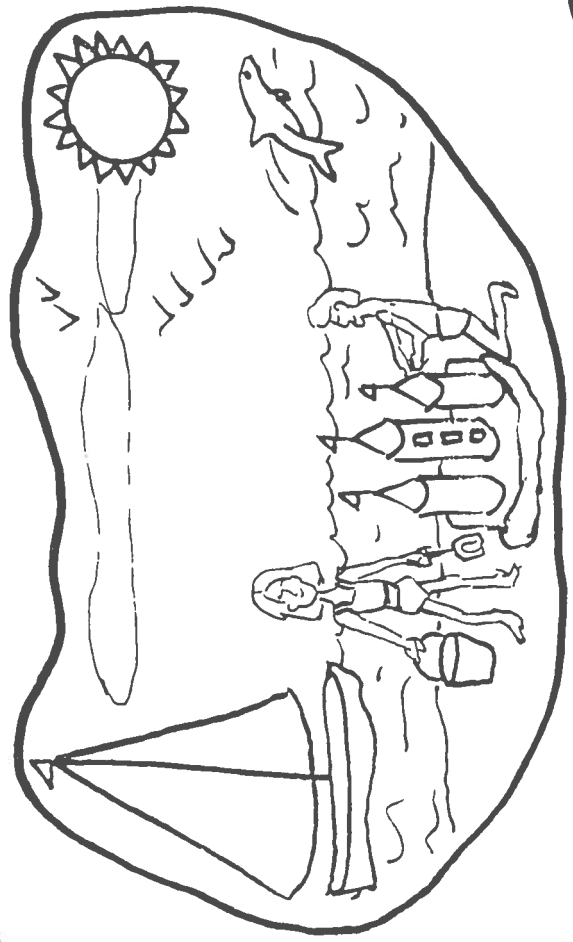
Next, he used his glitter markers to draw shells and waves on the paper.

Then he printed the words “Kathy’s Beach Box” neatly on the bottom.

And then to make it a really special gift, he took his favorite beach picture down off his bedroom wall.

He cut the picture to fit, and pasted it on the lid of the treasure box.

That would remind Kathy of their vacation together.



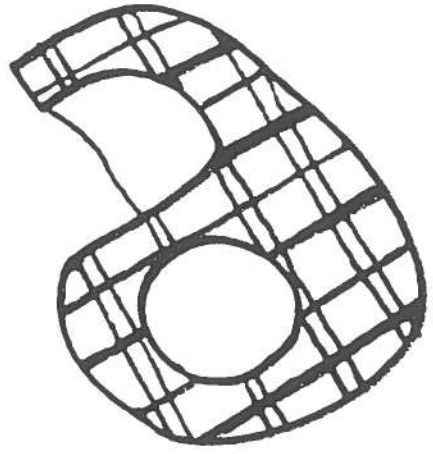
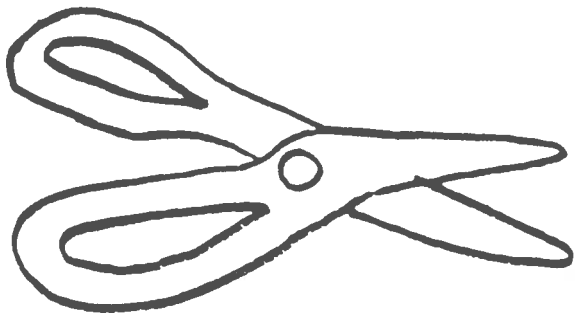
KATHY'S BEACH BOX



When he was finished, Momma T got out the blue and gold wrapping paper.

Together they wrapped up the present.

And Mommy Lisa tied it all up with a great big yellow bow.



To:
Kathy

It was a busy time at Kathy's house that weekend too.

She and her Dad were working hard at the kitchen table.

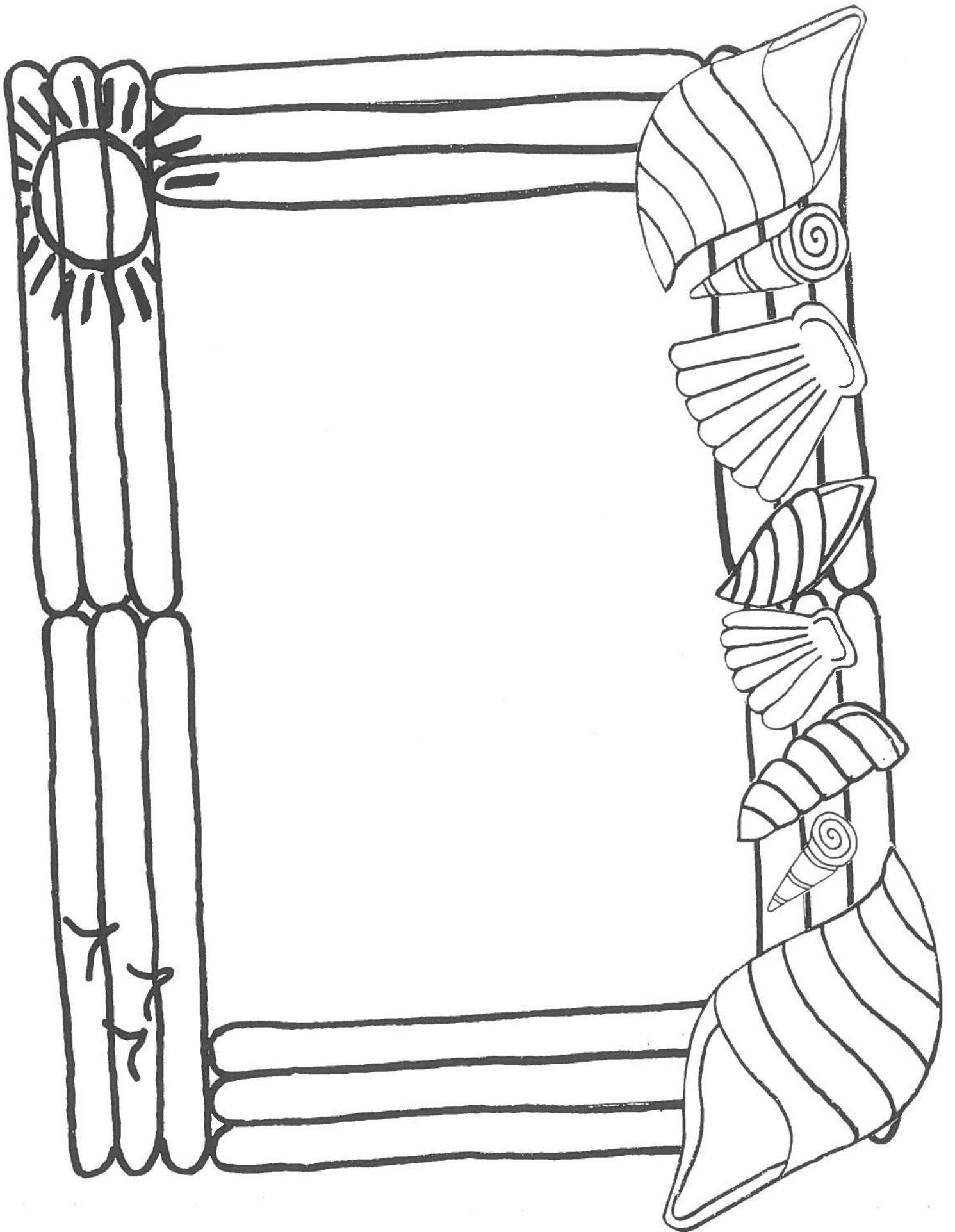
They were making the special frame for Eric.

First, they glued three rows of popsickle sticks around the edge of some leftover cardboard.

Kathy colored them blue for the color of the sea and drew in a sun and sea gulls.

And then to make it a really special gift, she decided to glue on her shell collection.

That would remind Eric of their vacation together.

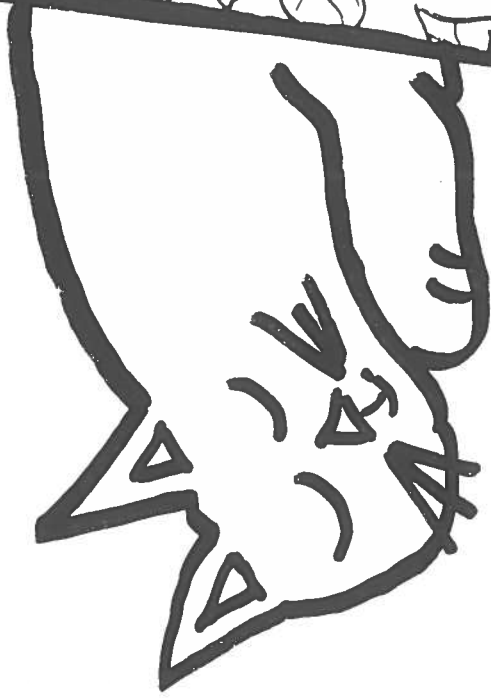


When she was finished, her Poppa pulled out the Christmas wrapping paper.

The paper had big red poinsettias on it.

Together they wrapped the present while Dad found a big green bow.

TO: ERIC

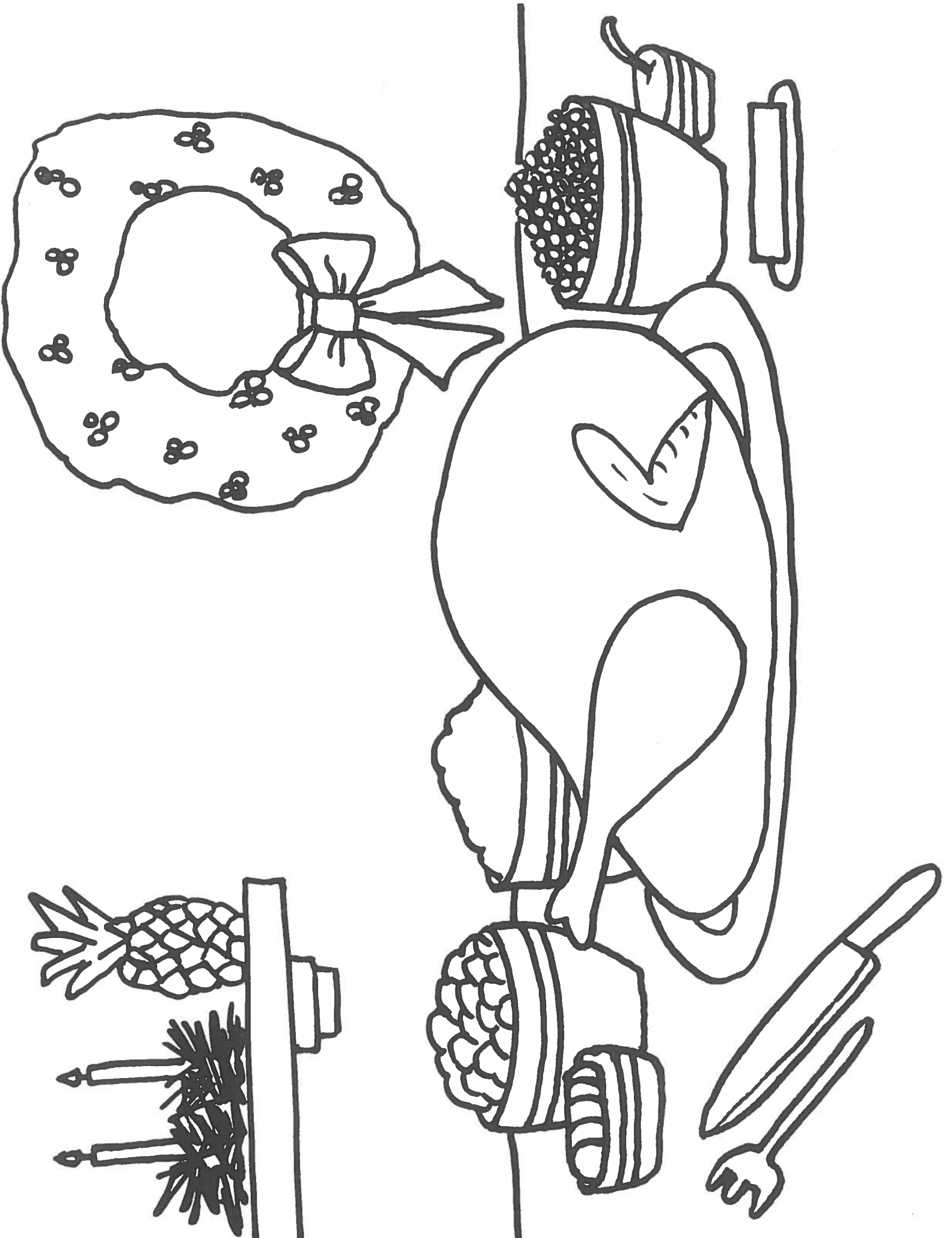


Eric and Kathy were both excited when their families got together a week later for their traditional holiday feast.

This year it was at Kathy's house.

Kathy and her Dad and Poppa had been baking the turkey all day.

While they all ate dinner, the special gifts waited to be unwrapped.



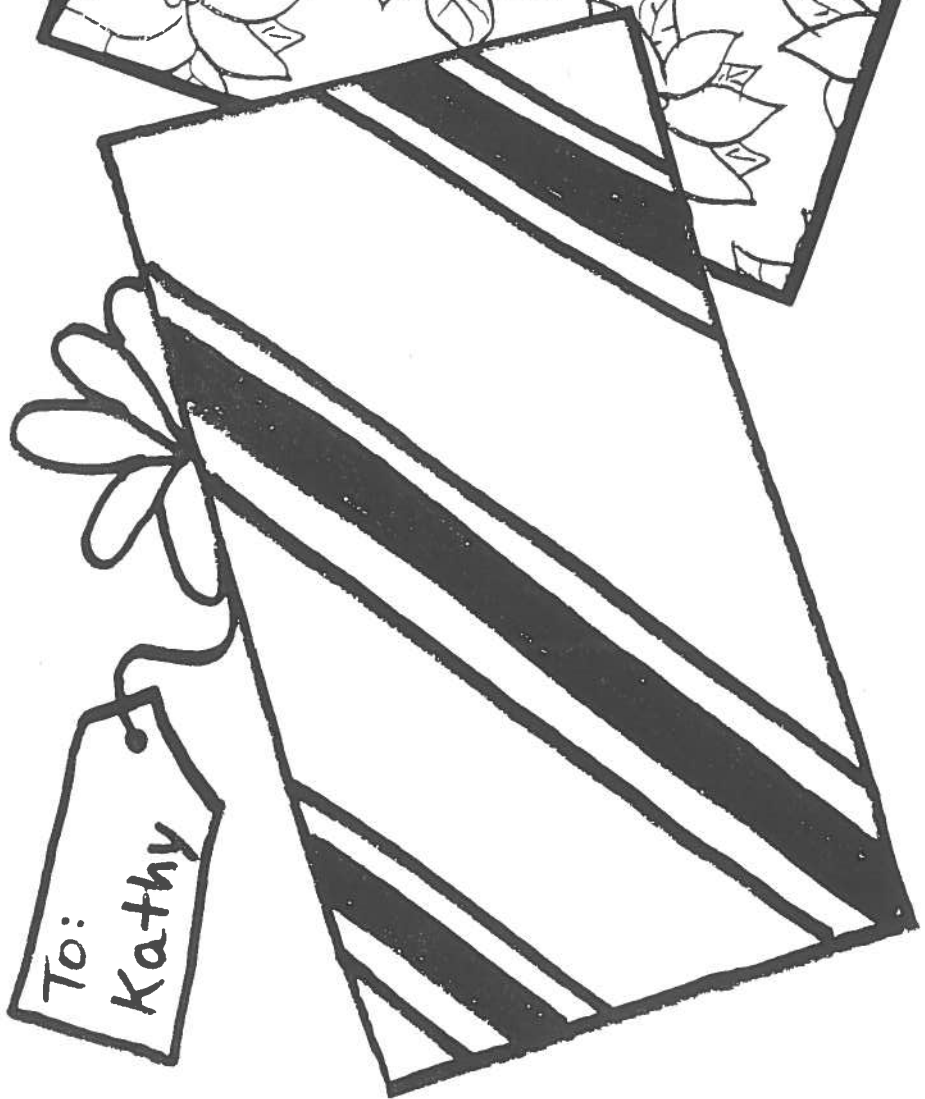
Finally dessert was finished.

Then, everyone settled into the living room to exchange presents.

Almost at the same time, Kathy and Eric said, "I want to give my present first."

So it was decided that they would exchange gifts first.

Then they opened their presents at the same time.



Kathy and Eric eagerly tore the ribbon and paper off their gifts.

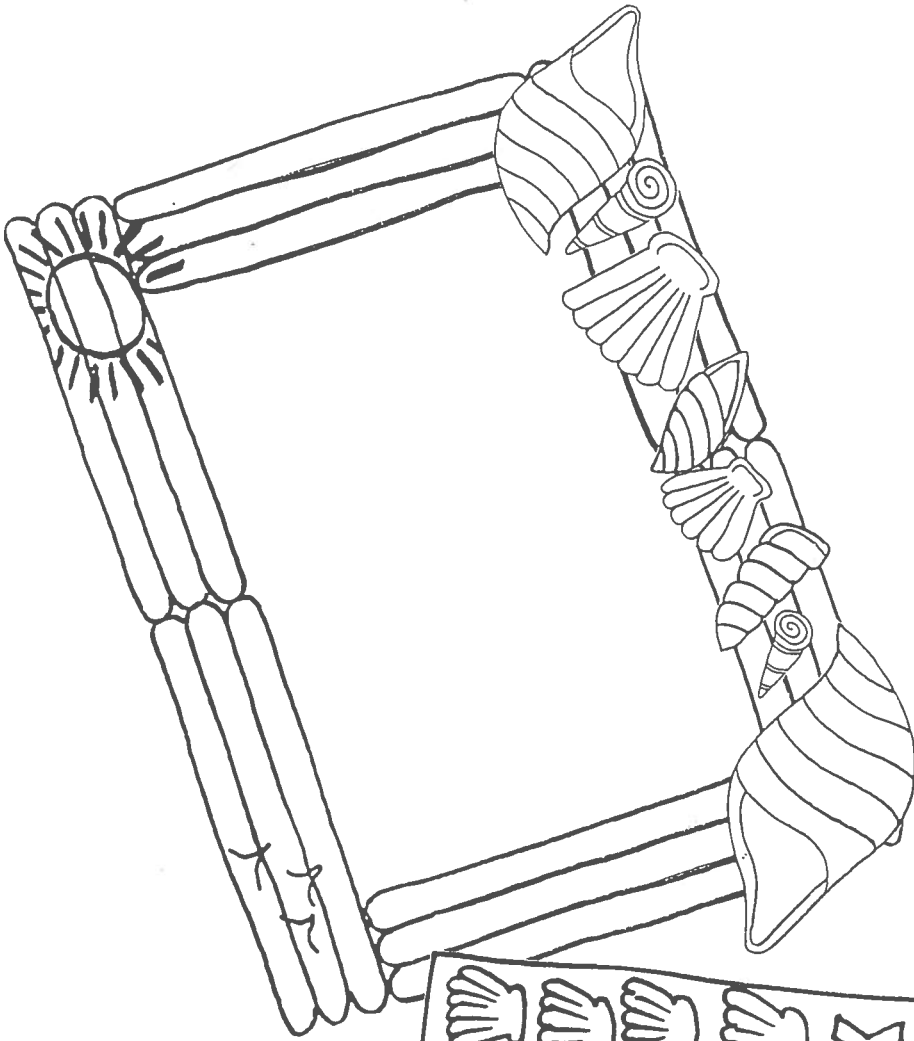
At first, they were quiet for a few seconds.

Then Kathy said, “Eric, I made the frame especially for the picture you drew of our beach vacation --

But you used the picture to decorate this beautiful Beach Box.”

And Eric said, “Kathy, I wanted to make you a treasure box to put your shells in --

But you glued the shells to this great picture frame.”



Then, they both burst into giggles.

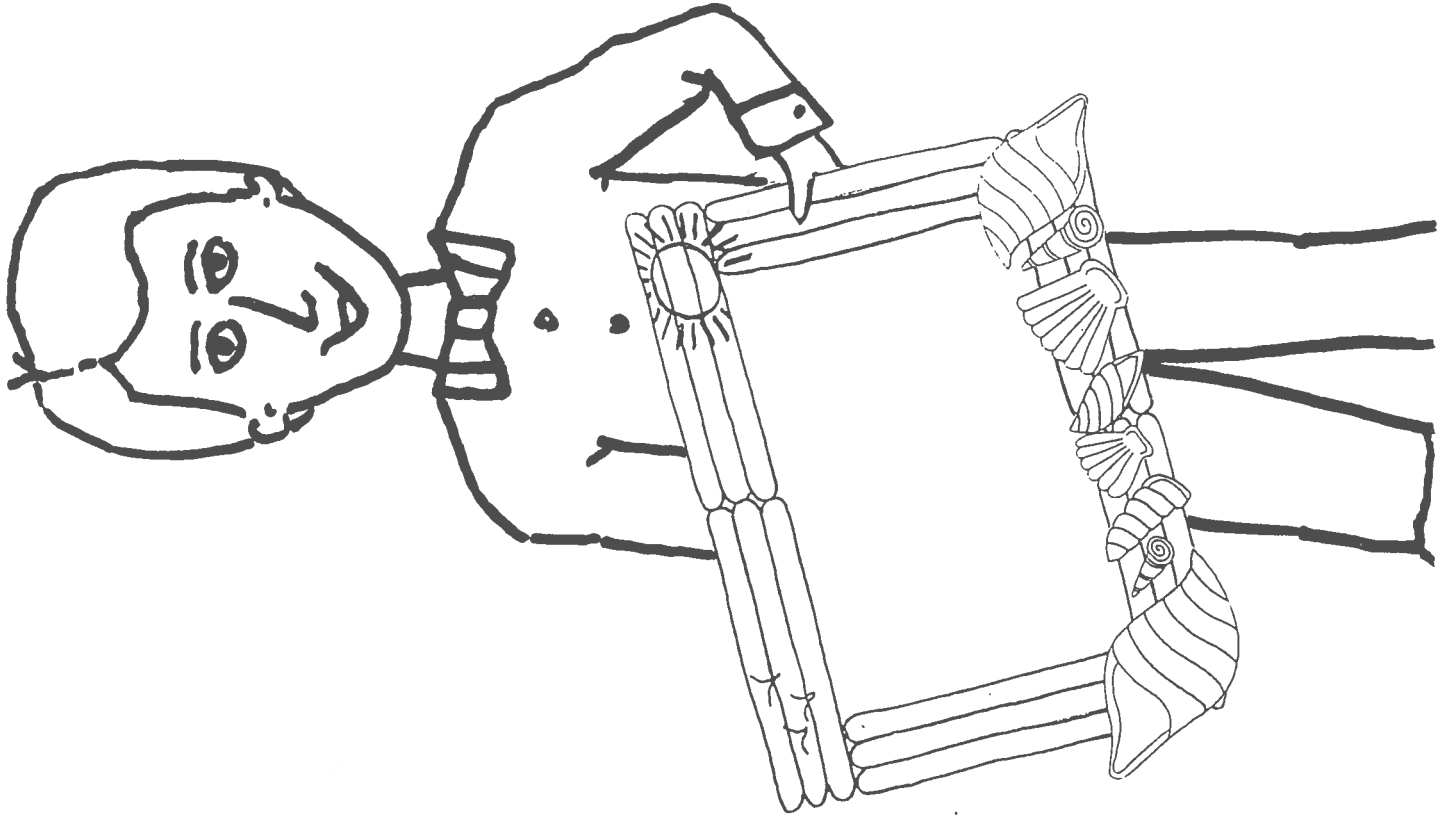
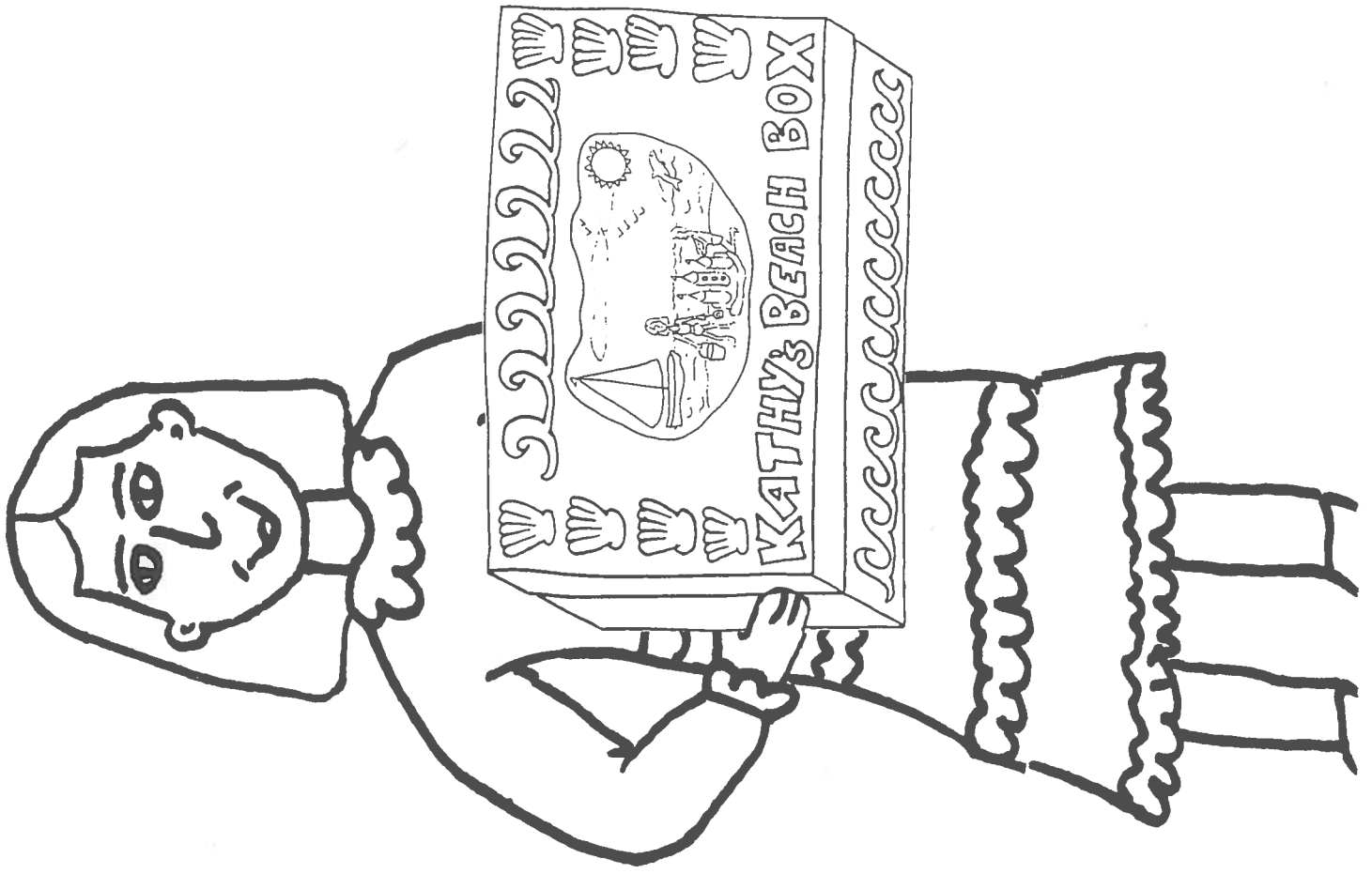
Finally, Kathy said to Eric, "It's OK, we can collect more shells together next year,

And I will know just where I'll keep them safe."

Then Eric nodded and said to Kathy, "And you know what?

I can draw another picture of us at the beach next summer.

And now I know just how to frame it."



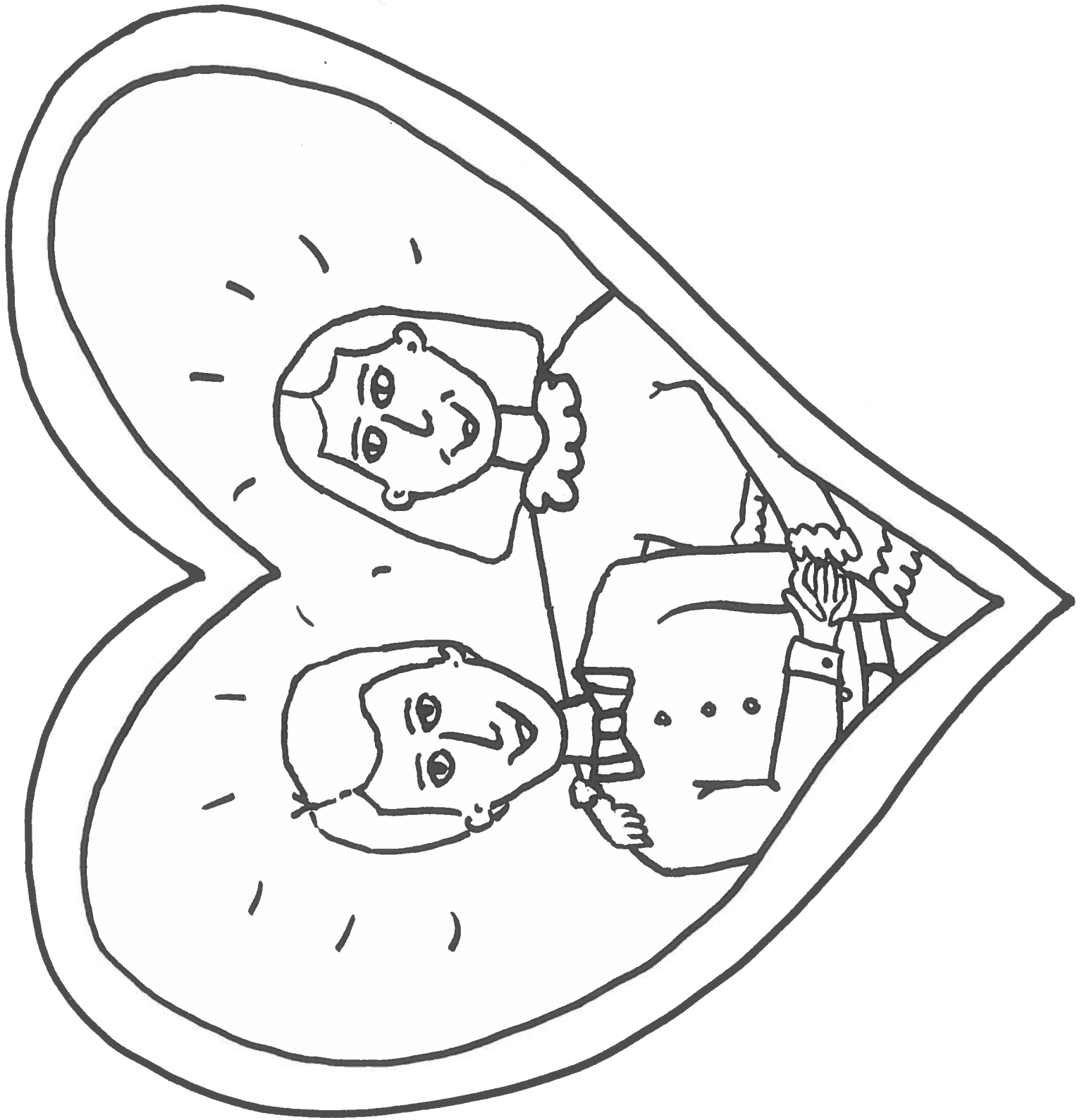
“You’re my best friend, Kathy,” said Eric.

“And you’re my best friend too,” Kathy replied.

And they gave each other a great big hug,

They realized they had exchanged one truly special gift that holiday season --

The special gift of being best friends.



Created expressly for Lambda Families of New Jersey
by Scott Davenport and Tim Fisher

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND KIDS

By Karen Sundquist

I became a mother in 1991, when I moved in with my partner and her two daughters, then ages 6 and 8. If I had known about the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI) back then, I might have discovered other lesbian and gay families to talk with about coming out to the kids' teachers and friends about being their lesbian step-mother. A social and activist organization started in the late 1970s by gay fathers, GLPCI now has more than 100 chapters around the world. In living rooms and community centers across the country, lesbian and gay parents grapple with coming out, an ongoing issue when every year there is a new teacher, new after-school activities, new classmates. GLPCI parents share their fears about their children being persecuted because of having lesbian or gay parents. Mothers of donor-inseminated children and fathers of children from surrogate mothers share anecdotes about how they explain their children's unorthodox origins to extended family. Some GLPCI members are heterosexually married and come to meetings for the sheer relief of talking about what it's like being a closeted lesbian or gay parent.

GLPCI chapters, like the one executive director Tim Fisher belongs to in Montclair, New Jersey, usually meet once a month to hold social activities for the kids, perhaps host an educational program for their members or in the schools or community. Some chapters rally their members around political actions aimed at protecting the rights of gay and lesbian families—for example, alerting members to changes in the law regarding co-parents' rights to adopt a partner's child. For lesbians and gays who are interested in becoming parents, some GLPCI chapters also offer "Maybe Baby" groups, forums for discussions on all aspects of becoming lesbian and gay parents—everything from where to find sperm donations, to which are the most gay-friendly adoption agencies, to how to talk to extended family members about their decision to have children. One lesbian went to a Maybe Baby meeting because she wanted to explore her motives for becoming a mother. A gay man spoke about the ethics of bringing a child into a family where he or she might face prejudice and hardship because of having a gay

father. One couple came with a question for other couples in the group about what kind of paperwork they should do to guarantee the rights of the nonbiological parent.

GLPCI offers a kind of safety in numbers, says one lesbian mother. "I would never have had the guts to go to my son's school and talk to the teachers about lesbian and gay families, but under the banner of GLPCI, a few of us went and it was surprisingly civil and even friendly," she says. The teacher told her, "I consider any of my students fortunate if they have two caring adults in the house paying attention to them, helping them with their homework, no matter what their sexual orientation is." Fisher, the father of a 5-year-old girl and 3-year-old boy, believes that increased visibility and open discussions can only help unravel the social stigma attached to lesbian and gay families. "Through GLPCI, our communities come to see that we are really no different from any other family," he says.

To join a local GLPCI chapter, contact Tim Fisher at GLPCI Network, P.O. Box 43206, Montclair, NJ, 07043, or call (201) 783-6204.

•••

At the 1990 GLPCI national conference, the daughters and sons decided that they needed their own conference to talk about their own issues, and

Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) was created. These kids described feeling isolated from other children of lesbians and gays in their hometowns and communities. When kids join COLAGE, they are connected to a nationwide network of families just like theirs. They can talk directly to 1,500 other kids who might also feel confused about whether it's wrong to keep a parent's homosexuality a secret from a heterosexual parent who might deny custody or visitation rights if this information was revealed. Some kids want to talk about their anger at living in a society that makes them feel ashamed of their same-sex parents. All COLAGE members receive the newsletter, *Just for Us*, and kids ages 6 to 12 receive the *Kid's Club Fun Pages*. Another group of COLAGE kids publishes a newsletter a few times a year called *Second Generation*, which talks about what it's like to come out as lesbian and gay yourself when you have lesbian and gay parents.

To join COLAGE, contact Stefan Lynch at COLAGE, 2300 Market Street, #165, San Francisco, CA 94114, call (415) 861-KIDS, or email Kidsofgays@aol.com.

Karen Sundquist is Consulting Editor of *In the Family*.

COLAGE member Emily Martin-Alexander, age 14, (with some help from her younger brother) wrote the following essay:

Barbies I Would Like To See

Barbie is supposed to represent the American Girl. Here, in 1995, Barbie comes in a variety of racial and ethnic shades and costumes. You can even get childbearing Barbie. But Barbie's newfound diversity neglects a large segment of the population. She doesn't do it for me.

I'm a 14-year-old girl with two lesbian mothers. I know more gay people than straight people. It was a long time before I heard that some kids have heterosexual parents. I'm also a real teenager, dealing with real teenage problems. Why is Barbie always smiling? Most teenagers I know are sad at least some of the time. Why does Barbie never have a bad hair day?

I don't think there's anything necessarily wrong with the idea of Barbie, I just want to expand the options. Here are a few of the Barbies I would recommend: Acne Barbie: comes with a small bottle of Oxy-10. I Love My Lesbian Mother Barbie: complete with T-shirt and COLAGE newsletter. I Was Just Dumped Barbie: she really cries.

And while we're at it, how about Barbies and Kens that look like the real people I know and love? Drag Queen Ken: comes with a rainbow assortment of eye shadow. Sister-Woman-Spirit Barbie: reads herstory and eats tofu. Butch Barbie: comes with motorcycle. HIV-Positive Ken: Mattel sends periodic printouts of his T-cell counts.

When Barbie truly represents the lives of kids like me, I'll become a collector. Meanwhile, you'll find me living my perfectly normal life.

—EMILY MARTIN-ALEXANDER



Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: Maggie Stern
Company:
Phone:
Fax: 818 788 0820

From: STEFAN LYNCH
Company: COLAGE
Phone: (415) 861-5437
Fax: (415) 255-8345

Date: 3/19/96
Pages including this
cover page: 2

Comments:

Maggie -
pursuant to our phone conversation,
Here are the questions for Greg
Louganis from our 11 year old member
Zack Bellnaw-Rubin.

I know we missed Mr. Louganis before
his road trip, but our deadline is flexible.
Thank you so much for your help.

Stefan

Please Post
and call your friends

③ new groups for daughters and sons of lesbian, gay and bisexual parents.

San Francisco: A group for 12-17 year-olds meets 3rd Sunday of every month from 3-5pm starting September 18th.
A group for 7-9 year-olds meets the 1st Sunday of every month from 3-5pm starting October 2nd.

East Bay: A group for 12-17 year-olds meets 1st Sunday of every month from 3-5pm starting October 2nd.

For more info, please call: For SF Liz Haas @ (415) 282-9966
For E. Bay Steph James @ (415) 292-4499

South Bay: please call Shannon @ (408) 369-9565

IMPORTANT NOTE: *If you or your kids do not fit within these age ranges or are not close enough to attend, but you feel they might still fit in, or you want a group in your area, please call to discuss this. If you don't fit in, but are still interested in a group, PLEASE call to tell us. We have some age ranges and areas which are very close to having enough members to form a group so it's very important you call.*

For daughters and sons 20 and over, the COLAGE Coffee Clatch is an informal group which meets periodically. Call Stefan @ (415) 206-1930



These groups are run by adult daughters and sons of lesbians and gay men with experience and training leading youth groups. They are offered at no charge to members of COLAGE. Annual membership is \$10 and includes newsletters and other benefits. For more information about COLAGE, please contact the Director, Stefan Lynch, at (415) 206-1930.

COLAGE 2300 Market St. #165, SF, CA 94114 (202) 583-8029
Groups • Newsletters • Conference • Pen Pals • Resources • Education

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Breana is six years old and is moving to California with two dads, David and Greg. She likes to play dress-up with her friend Brenna, who is seven and her best friend. Breana is looking forward to going to the ocean and taking underwater pictures. It will be sad for Breana to leave Denver, but she will come back to visit her friends at Bromwell.

FAX
GREGORY E. LOUGANIS
P O BOX 4130
MALIBU CA 90264

TO: Zack Geinaw-Rubin
c/o Stefan Lynch

FA #: 415-255-8345

FROM: Maggi Stern
Assistant to Gregory Louganis

RE: MICKEL'S & Zack's Questions

DATE: APR 11, 1998

Enclosed is Maggi's text, and Greg's responses to most of Zack's questions.
Maggi's text is on the first page. Any questions, please call me at 310-457-3910.

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS PAGE: 2

DELIVER IMMEDIATELY

PHONE: 310-457-3910

FAX: 415-255-8345

April 12, 1996

Dear Zack:

Here are the answers to your questions:

1. Growing up, I just felt "different." I didn't put sexual orientation to that feeling until later, around 16. Some kids made fun of me, yes. I came out to the world (friends and family knew pretty early on) so to speak, at the Gay Games. My mom's reaction was great.
2. I took up diving at age 9. Yes, I came out to some of my teammates. Being in the Olympics is nerve wracking! Some teammates were supportive, but there was a lot of jealousy, primarily because I won so often. My most proud achievement is my book, because it seems to be making a difference.
3. When I found out I was HIV-positive, I was numb, but my doctor and a friend, John Christakis, encouraged me to continue training. The first coach I had was Debbie Shon--she's like a big sister to me.
4. The advice to kids who have gay parents is know that you are loved and we all want you. It's not easy being gay and a parent. If you have someone in your life who is HIV positive or has AIDS, give them lots of hugs--we all need them.

C. M. Ralph
Writer & Illustrator
904 1/2 Vera Avenue • Redwood City, CA 94061-1520 • (415) 364-0516

to: Stefan Lynch
423 Capp Street
San Francisco, CA 94110

re: Samples of work

November 16, 1994

Dear Stefan,

I enjoyed talking with you on the phone this afternoon. As promised, enclosed you will find various samples of my art work and an article that was published back in 1991.

These samples are yours to keep or discard at your discretion; their return is not necessary. I do require that you give me advance notice should you want to reprint any of them in your publication. I have also sent along a sample of my typical Licensing Agreement for publications. Since my work for you will be on a volunteer basis, no fee will be charged.

I have worked as an artist and writer within the Gay community all my life. My credits include the programming and design of the world's first Gay Computer Game, "Caper in the Castro" and the design of the AIDS Response logo for Orange County, CA. An estimated 250,000 copies of the game "Caper" has been downloaded worldwide since its debut in 1989.

'Spike Butch', my cartoon character, was published as a series by the newspaper, 'Lesbian Contradictions.' Spike also had the honor of being inducted into the Lesbian National Archives, Washington DC. This cartoon strip is currently "on-hold" while I tackle other projects.

One addendum: The article I am sending you was written during a time in my life when I was strongly affiliated with AA. Since that time much water has passed under the bridge. Although I remain sober (into my 6th year now) I no longer have any affiliations with AA, or any other 12-Step programs. However, that's another story for another day.

I hope that you find these samples to your satisfaction and that I will be hearing from you in due course.

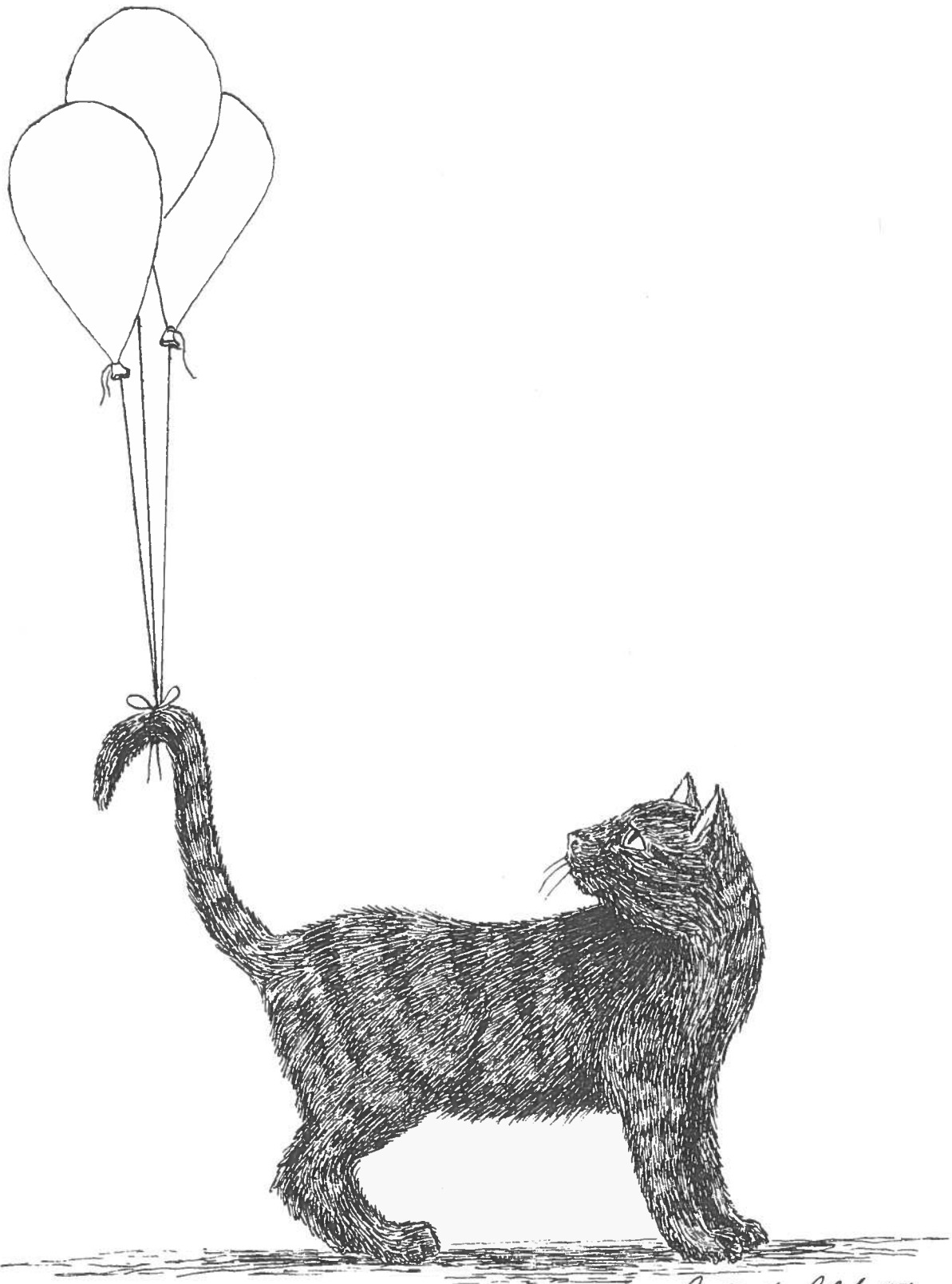
C. M. Ralph
Writer & Illustrator

Mythologist • Storyteller
Specializing in Children's Literature

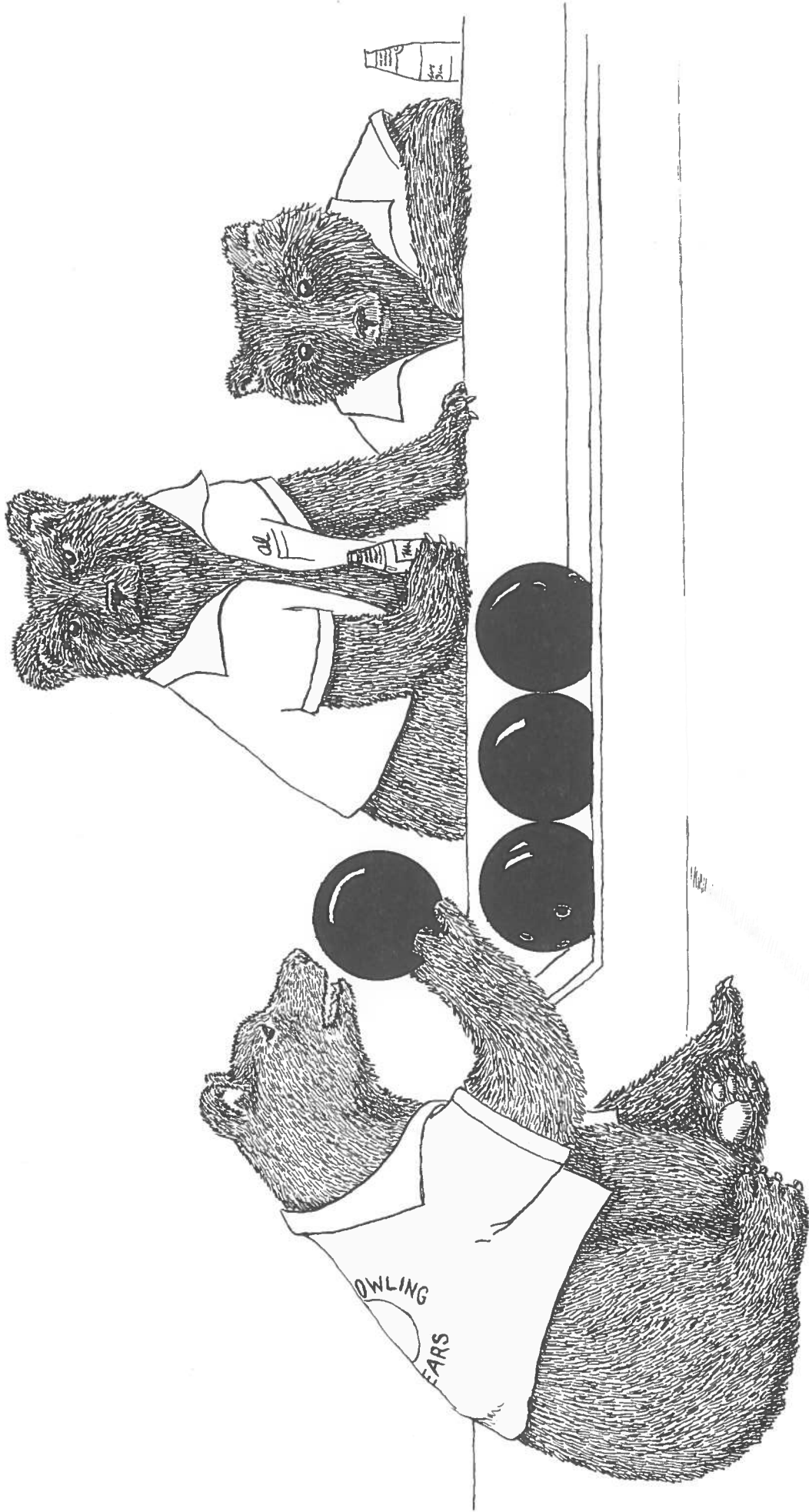




© Cathleen M. Ralph 1986

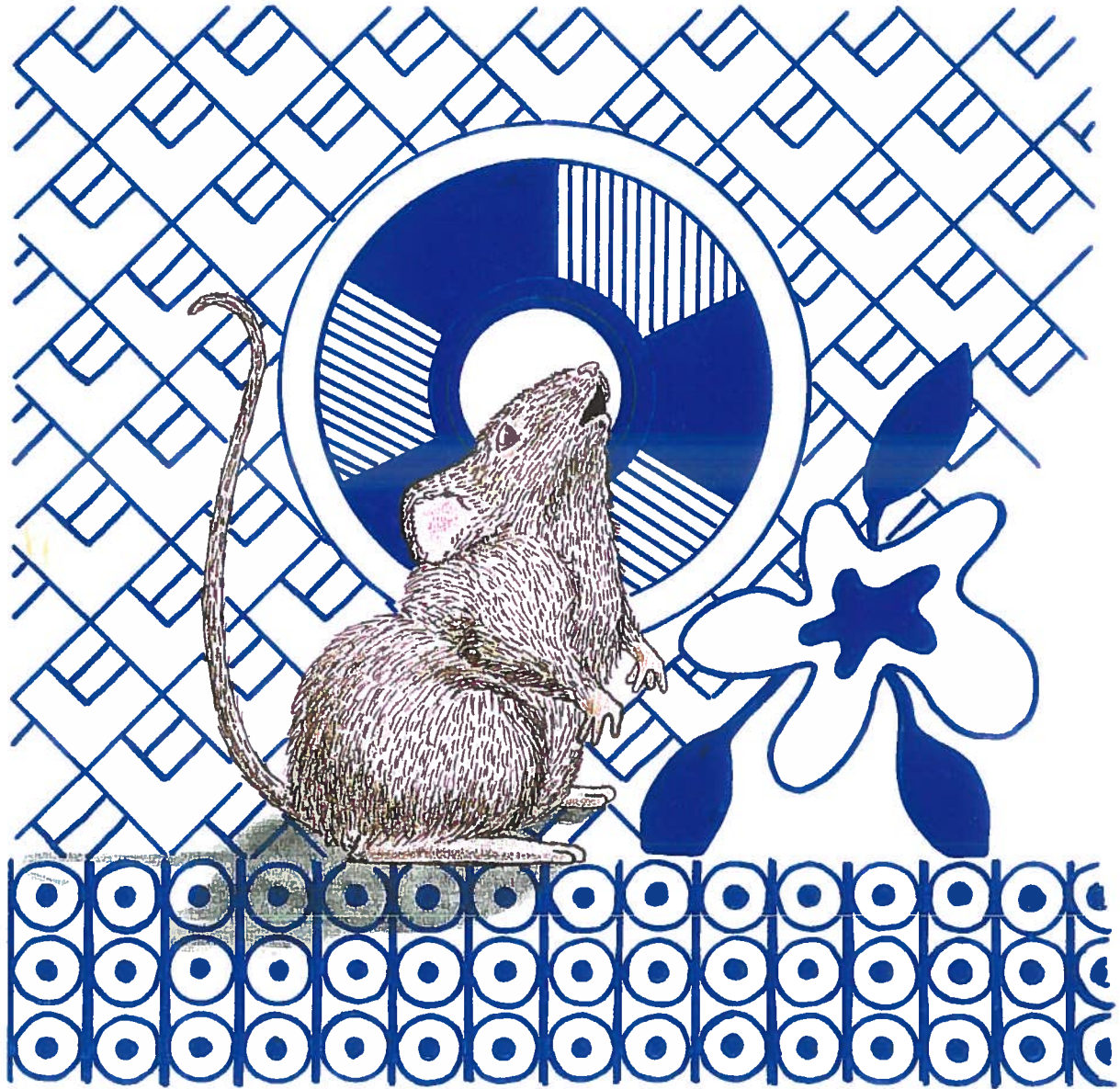


HIGH-TAILING IT



© Cattle M. April 1986

This is a color copy of an illustration from my upcoming book for children.



"Help! I must get back to my cupboard!"
He hollered, but no one could hear him.

Illustration Number: 13
For Project: Willow Mouse
© C.M. Ralph 1994 (415) 364-0516
904 1/2 Vera Ave.
Redwood City, CA 94061-1520

Finally.....

A Computer Game for the rest of us...

it's not just a game....

.... it's a Gayme!

**CAPER ^{in the}
CASTRO**



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**A Gay and Lesbian Based Adventure Mystery Game
compatible with HyperCard®1.2**

Featuring: Animation, Graphics, Text and Sound.

HyperCard is a trademark of Apple Computer, Inc.

Find out.....

Who kidnapped Tessy LaFemme, renowned drag queen...

**What is Dullagan Straightman (notorious villan)
really up to??**

Who is the mysterious "L.L." that Straightman works for?

Become Private Detective 'Tracker McDyke' and you'll know!

To obtain a free* copy of 'Caper in the Castro' contact:

Fog City BBS

Modem: (415) 863-9697

**A member of GAYCOM, the Nationwide Gay & Lesbian
Communications Network**

*This game has been described by it's author as "CharityWare", if you enjoy playing it
please make a donation to the AIDS Related charity of your choice for any amount
you feel is appropriate.

— SAMPLE —

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CHILDREN OF LESBIANS AND GAYS EVERYWHERE

June, 1995
For Immediate Release

Contact: Stefan Lynch, Executive Director
(415) 861-5437

New Club for Kids with Gay Parents Has 100 Members in First Month

The COLAGE Kids Club is the first and only organization for young kids with lesbian and gay parents, and it is created by daughters and sons of lesbian and gay parents.

Since the club's debut in May, 1995, over one hundred kids with lesbian, gay and bisexual parents have joined, getting the numerous benefits of the Club, including pen pals and free children's books like What Would You Do If Your Dad was Gay?

"The Club is an important way to serve kids," says Stefan Lynch, Executive Director of COLAGE and himself the son of a lesbian mother and gay father. "According to the American Library Association, books for kids with lesbian and gay parents, like *Daddy's Roommate*, were the most censored genre in 1994, being pulled from the shelves of libraries all over the country, ."

Instead of dwelling on other people's ignorance, the Club emphasizes the diversity of our family structures, racial backgrounds, economic levels and how kids came into the world in fun and engaging ways. "Kids just wanna have fun," says Lynch, "so we want them to enjoy themselves while feeling good about their families."

COLAGE was created six years ago by children of lesbian and gay parents, focussing on the needs of teenagers. Over a year ago, a number of parents and younger kids approached COLAGE to ask for something for younger kids, out of which grew the COLAGE Kids Club. Building self-esteem early on is important and necessary for kids to connect with others and develop tools to deal with the ever present homophobia that children of gays and lesbians face.

COLAGE currently has over a thousand members and two dozen affiliated peer groups around the U.S., Canada, and Northern Europe.

#

Reporters:

Looking for a fresh Father's Day story?

Or an interesting angle on lesbian and gay families? Call us for more information.

(202) 583-8029

2300 Market St. Box 165
San Francisco, CA 94114
USA

Box 187, Station F
Toronto, ON M4Y 2L5
CANADA

e-mail: KidsOfGays@aol.com

Tear Sheet

Please feel free to use any of these images in your publication, as long as you leave them as printed (except for re-sizing).

Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere



NEWSLETTERS • PEN PALS • GROUPS
CONFERENCE • WRITERS PROGRAM
• LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
MEDIA INFORMATION AND CONTACTS
New! KIDS CLUB FOR KIDS UNDER 10

2300 Market St. #165, San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 861-KIDS email: KidsOfGays@aol.com

2" x
3.5"

2x3"



KidsClub



KidsClub



Caption:

7 year-old Maraya tells her teacher she's worried about telling her classmates about her two moms.

illustration credit: Angelo Lop



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There is no minimum quantity of cards that have to be embossed at any one time. There is no time period in which you must use all your cards and there is NO REFUND for plastic cards or prepaid embossing if you fail to use them all. If entire order is not prepaid, a charge of 1.00 per card must be sent with each embossing list. We guarantee embossing information if it is received as legible typewritten material or computer printout. All embossing lists are destroyed 30 days after shipping date.

A 50% DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED WITH ALL ORDERS. CARDS ARE SHIPPED C.O.D. FOR THE BALANCE.

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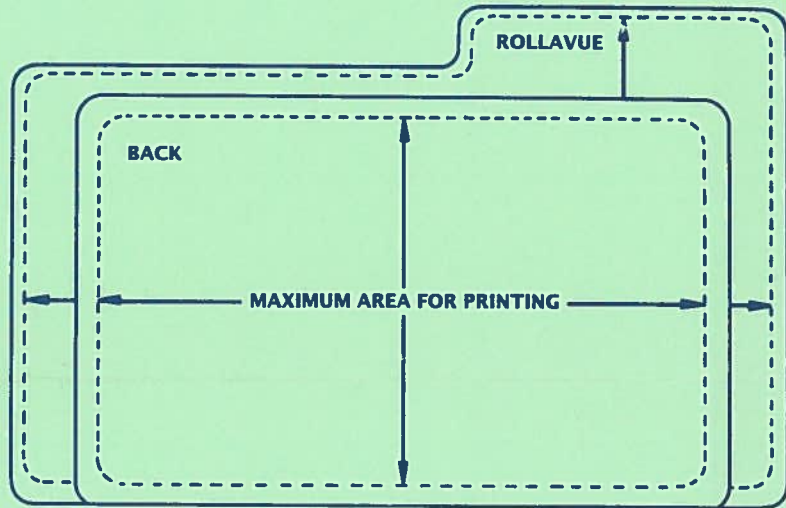
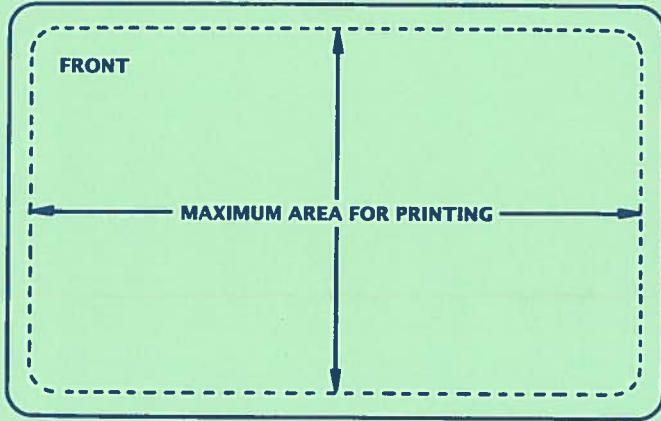
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Do not staple, tape or fold.

Show **exactly** what you want on your card and indicate each color.

CR80 .030



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| <input type="checkbox"/> White | <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Blue | <input type="checkbox"/> Black | <input type="checkbox"/> Red | <input type="checkbox"/> Gray | <input type="checkbox"/> Maroon |

Indicate color of ink: 1st color front _____ 2nd color front _____ 3rd color front _____
1st color back _____ 2nd color back _____ 3rd color back _____

Signature Panels: Front Back

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Front: 1st ink color \$ _____ + 2nd ink color \$ _____ + 3rd ink color \$ _____ = _____
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Signature Panels: Front.....\$ _____ + Back.....\$ _____ = _____

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Plastic Systems Inc.

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Whatever your specifications and whatever the quantity, your order receives individual attention from start to finish and in record turn-around time. Our plant has been designed, built and equipped with one objective in mind - the rapid, efficient production of high quality plastic cards. Quality control is a continuous operation as every card is inspected to guarantee proper printing, dimensions and appearance. We want you to be a satisfied, steady customer - so we are always extra careful.

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Embossing is the process of raising the surface of the plastic card to produce various characters. Embossing is often a critical part of a plastic card system, as with credit cards and door entry cards. In these cases, tolerance of the raised characters must be within thousandths for a clear machine-readable impression.

Embossing may be used in a less critical, yet prestigious fashion, such as individual names, account numbers, addresses, etc., on identification, membership and business cards.

Tipping is the process by which color, usually gold or black, is applied to the raised characters to make them more easily readable or simply to add a touch of class.

We have the know-how and facilities to provide embossed plastic cards to meet all your requirements.

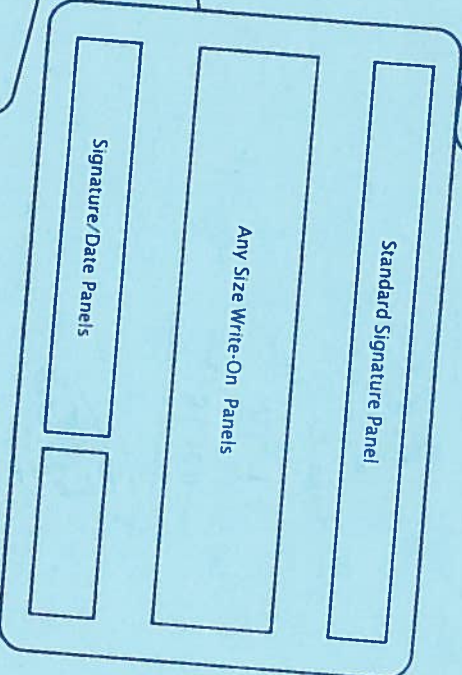
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We also carry stress-whitening stock (embosses white) in standard styles, rolodex and rollavue notched file cards and with hospital hole. Stress-whitening cards are used in hospitals, libraries, government, etc., for identification and imprinting of invoices, records and other data.



SIGNATURE PANEL

The need for personal identification is aided by the addition of a signature panel to the card. This provides space for a sample of the authorized cardholder's signature for verification purposes. Panel areas may also be used for entering medical or other handwritten information.

Mr. Stefan Lynch
1040 Dolores St. #106
San Francisco, CA 94110

May 27, 1994

Dear Stefan:

Regarding the newsletter we talked about -- prices shown below are for 1000 copies. I have quoted 4-color process printing on one side, black only on the second side, and 4-color process on both sides.

4 over black: \$1386.00
4 over 4: \$1961.00

SPECIFICATIONS

11 x 17 70# enamel stock (glossy white) folded to 8-1/2 x 11 (folding to 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 adds about \$12.00 to the final cost.)

Camera-ready art required. Cost includes color separations, but artwork MUST be on FLEXIBLE backing or paper. (Artboard will NOT work.)

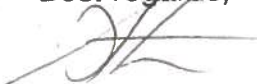
Prices DO NOT include any bleeds. (I have quoted "no bleed" art because 11 x 17 is a standard size paper - if there are bleeds, a larger sheet (not standard size) would be required, adding substantial costs to the project.) (A "bleed" is when the image runs off any side of the sheet.) Non-bleeding art requires a blank border of about 1/4" on all sides of the sheet.

Turn-around time is approx. 2 to 3 weeks from receipt of artwork. UPS ground freight to San Francisco is included in the cost. (Or to any one address, regardless of where, in the Continental U.S.)

10% over/under will be allowed and billed accordingly.

Well, Stefan, that's about it. There are no real appreciable price breaks until 5,000 or so are ordered, so, this may seem a little steep. As we discussed over the phone, you may well be able to get this printed in the Bay Area for less - I don't know. Anyway, if I can be of further information, or should you have any questions, please feel free to call. Also, if you should decide to use me for the printing, I will donate a percentage of the profits to COLAGE. That will bring the price down a little.

Best regards,



Steve Vorbeck



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