

Dear everyone,

It's been a long time since I sat down to write to you about life in this side of the world. It's not that there was nothing worth writing home about, but home was so very depressing. I couldn't write about a great conference in Chicago, my work and my students, the wonderful trip to the bay area with Dafna, Magic Johnson's come back to The Lakers or even the presidential campaign, after we were awakened day after day to the sound of terror.

Five days hence I shall be in the other side of the world. I certainly hope to find a calmer Israel and happier people. I will spend in Israel four weeks and will be elated to see all of you who are in Israel. Please make note of my parents' phone number where I can be reached - 03-393741.

One last thing: The Academy Award ceremony has just ended. My neighbor from upstairs, Itzik, invited some other Israeli UCLA-affiliated neighbors to watch the pictures from The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. It was like meeting together to watch The Eurovision Song Contest (which I hope not to miss this year; or have I seen it last year? I can't remember). Anyway, allow me to turn your attention to the most important thing in that ceremony which I hope that you'll watch tonight. When Susan Sarandon gives her "I would like to thank..." speech after receiving the award for 'best actress' in 'Dead Man Walking', she thanks her partner in life and the director of the movie - Tim Robins. The camera focuses on his face and one cannot miss the stylish glasses that he is wearing. Glasses that reflect good taste, elegance, style and intelligence. Do you SEE what I'm trying to say?

SEE you soon,
Tamir