

Chapter Ten

Joy and Sadness

Two and a half years after Alan's birth, Bennett and Josie presented me with a second grandson, Ryan, named after Gil's Hebrew name. The Rabbi said Gil must have been a very special person for Bennett to have named his son after him, and Bennett did refer to Gil his second father. Sidney and I went to California for the Bris. Bennett and Josie bought a house in Oak Park and we visited as often as we could. Ryan was the sweetest little boy one could imagine. He was so cute and had a wonderful personality. Josie always called him "Sweetness." He did not have Alan's outgoing personality, but he was so loving and warm.

Another joy was when my oldest son, Richard, married his wife, Raina, in June of 1988. She is a wonderful partner for Richard and I love her dearly. She said many times she got the best of my boys. Richard has a great big heart and it is very obvious. It is so good to around him and enjoy his warmth and care. He has been a very good big brother to Spencer and Bennett and a very loving husband.

I have survived many tragedies in my life and another happened all too soon. Ryan was diagnosed with cancer at age three. I got the news on December 28, 1989. Bennett called and had trouble saying the words. He was in tears. Ryan had a brain tumor for quite some time before it was found. They operated right away, and the diagnosis was very hopeful.

The surgeon said he was confident he had removed the entire tumor and he just might live a very long life. Unfortunately, it did not go as well as we had hoped. Ryan fought a very courageous battle against the disease for six months, but he died on June 6, 1990.

Bennett told me of his favorite moments with him. When he was sick he had a private nurse, who spent the entire day with him while Bennett and Josie worked. Bennett was a salesman and worked out of his house. This gave him the luxury of time with Ryan every day. Ryan would come into his office and sit on his lap while he worked. This time with Ryan was very special for Bennett.

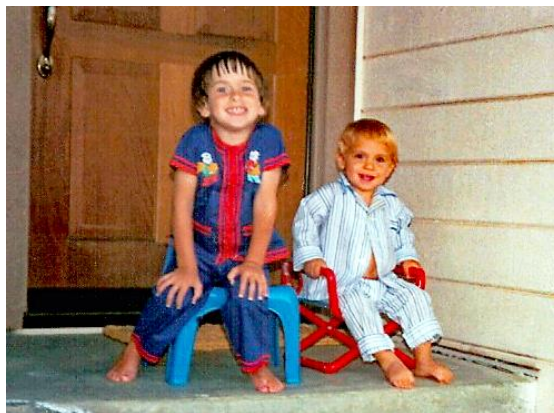
This was one of the worst things ever to happen to our family.

The early 1990s were a devastating period in Bennett's life. Shortly after Ryan's death, his marriage with Josie ended. Alan suffered through much of this with him and I believe it made them closer. Alan chose to live with Bennett full-time after a period of going back and fourth. I believe this was a good thing for Alan in the long run. Bennett was such a wonderful father.

Spencer got married to Kim in the summer of 1993 and bought a house in Closter. Kim worked for a pharmaceutical company in New Jersey. She had a very responsible job and did it well. Unfortunately, her company was sold, and she was not retained. With the new abundance of spare time, she built a fish pond in the back yard, which is beautiful.

Kim eventually went back to work in her field and everything went back to normal. The two of them each made a very nice income and they lived very well.

After a having a sea of boys in my live -- three sons and two grandsons -- Kim presented us with the first girl. My granddaughter Alexis was born on January 13, 1997. Like Alan, Alexis was named for Al.



Grandchildren Alan and Ryan in from of their home in Oak Park, California.