

April 5, 1954

Dear Aunt Lala;

Zina read us your letter a little while ago. We were so happy to hear from you. It comforted us very much. We have your other letter which we will open later.

We just can't understand how such a thing could happen to so strong and healthy a man like father. But one must not question the ways of the Lord.

Father was very poorly the last part of March, but for a few days now he sleeps fairly well and looks a little better. But his eyes have that far away look. He was such a good father and friend! There are still so many things we would like to ask him.

He has been on intravenous feeding now for eight weeks! He is so thin! He seems to be quite comfortable except sometimes phlegm gathers in his throat and he has difficulty in coughing because he is so weak.

Zina got us a very nice male nurse, Mr. Dayton Bolin. He takes very good care of father and is serene and calm.

Zina told us that he decided to become a nurse and serve humanity that way after he was in the war and spent himself eleven months in the hospital. We wouldn't know what to do without him.

People have been very kind to us and a few things happened that show us that we're being taken care of from above.

How are you feeling? How are Yurick and Svetick? And how is Devica Rani? We hope her arm is quite alright now. We thank Yurick for his information about the or~~o~~

igin of the gypsies. We are in charge of the program for this month in our club. The play is about gypsies. We are going ahead with it because father was the one who wanted to give this program.

Did Aunt Sonia write you about Aunt Myra and Aunt Della?

We'll keep writing you. Lots and lots of love to you all-

Sana and Gail

October 1, 1954

Dearest Aunt Lala,

For a long time we have been wanting to write to you and time flies so that before you know it months pass. We will write you more regularly in the future.

We have been very busy all summer. Our friends have been very good to us and we have been invited to some one's home practically every week end. We have also had quite a lot of company at home. This is all very fine but we certainly have been neglecting things around the house! Now we will settle down and do some necessary jobs.

We have decided not to do anything drastic for at least a year and are continuing the same mode of existence as we had with Father. Of course, our income is not sufficient to keep everything going and we have to draw a little on our small capital. We have thought about getting a roomer as you and several of our friends suggested. However, there is something we want to ask you. Why do you in your letters speak about a male roomer? Although we are not exactly eager to have any roomer, a man would be more inconvenient than a woman. It would be quite restricting and although we are home together most of the time, each of us is alone too, and we would not like to have a stranger in the house. We know a very nice Russian girl who works at Westinghouse and lives in an apartment. From the way she spoke, she would like to have a room in a house. We did not say anything to her yet because we wanted to ask you what you thought of the idea. She might prove to be the ideal person. What do you think? Although this country is very advanced in ideas, you would be surprised how many people think it would not be proper for two girls to have a man roomer unless he is quite old! This does not bother us too much, but we know that having a man in the house does influence you quite considerably in the way you have to dress in your leisure moments, etc.

We miss Father very much and the house is still very empty without him. At first we didn't like to be alone but it is gradually getting better now. Sometimes we still can't believe all this happened. It is hard to understand such things. It is so strange that both Father and Mother, two such brilliant people, passed on without being able to speak. Sina Fosdick has been very helpful to us in trying to make us see why things happen so. She and Dudley are coming to visit us tomorrow. They are lovely people.

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Sina probably wrote you about Dayton Bolin, who took care of Father. He is very much interested in the teachings and saw the three portraits of the Masters which, we believe, you sent Father. He asked us what we were going to do with them. He wanted very much to have them but we said we would ask you about them. Do you think we should keep them or could we give at least one to Dayton?

All our winter activities are starting up again and we will be quite busy. Marina and her family are all well but she is so nervous! She cannot relax for a minute. We are very glad for her that she is so happy with Bill. The only thing that bothers us is the way Marina and Aunt Sonia do not get along. They are both somewhat to blame but we feel that Marina, being the mistress of the house should be nice to her mother first. We hope things will straighten out eventually. Marina still hopes her son, Marck, will return although the government has declared him officially dead. Of course, there is still a chance that he is a prisoner.

We wish that we could see all of you. Sometimes we think we should take what money we have and go for a trip around the world! However, that would be very rash and highly impractical. Who knows, maybe some day we will get to India.

We know you are very busy, dear Aunt Lala, but please write us when you can. We hope George and Svetik and his wife are all well and we send our love to all of you. We can read Russian quite well but have to write you in English as we cannot spell correctly in Russian.

Much love,

Sana
Lail

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March 10, 1955

Dearest Aunt Lala,

Please excuse us for not writing you such a long time. We were sort of involved in various things. I started to write you a little while back but decided to rewrite the letter again. We promise to write more regularly in the future,

How are you and Yurick and Svetick and his wife? I hope you are all well. We have been keeping pretty busy, both in work and pleasure - having company and going for visits. We certainly have a lot of things to do yet such as disposing of father's magazines and books and keeping up the house etc. We might sell some of the magazines to places which deal in second hand scientific magazines and books. Some, we'll donate to different libraries and schools in many parts of the world. There's quite a demand for them by Greece, Fiji Islands and many other places. Our Cosmopolitan Club of Montclair is sending a lot of magazines and recently I helped to wrap and address them. We gave a lot of ours already to father's engineering friends.

We still are not quite sure what we should do about the house. We have to decide fairly soon now. But somehow we can't seem to reach anything definite. Everyone says that it would be a good thing for us to get a roomer but wouldn't that tie us down too much? We have been fairly free to come and go as we please but it seems to us that we wouldn't be able to have a roomer alone in the house too much, especially a woman. Most of them dislike to stay alone in a big house, and to have a man stay alone - will he remember to set the thermostat on the furnace or see to other such minute details in a house where he just rooms. Of course, these little matters are really unimportant and could certainly be worked out but you see we never had to think of roomers before and we feel having a stranger in the house would inhibit us a bit too. We hope though, that everything will fall into place eventually. Either we'll have some one staying with us or we shall sell and move into a smaller house.

We had a very nice visit with Zina and Dudley not long ago. Zina had a delicious supper for us and then we sat and talked about a lot of things. We enjoyed the evening with them very, very much.

Some time ago, I had a most interesting dream. We still miss father very much and sometimes his absence makes us feel very lonely. Father was a good friend besides being a wonderful father to us. One night when I felt very unhappy, I had a dream that I was crying and weeping for father. Suddenly I heard a voice saying "why are you crying?" (By the way, the same voice spoke to me in a dream after mother passed on.) I answered, "we were so happy with father in this life. Why did he have to go away from us? He was so good to people. I wish we could meet again in another life." The voice answered and said "I will show you a scene with your father in the future life", and a picture opened in front of my eyes. It was a Roman scene with people reclining on couches and eating and father was standing in the midst of them dressed like a Roman senator in a toga. People were crowding around him and I cried "but this is not the future, it is the past, it's a Roman scene", and the voice said, "no, it isn't. Things come back again and your father will be more useful and helpful to the people in the future than even he was in the past!" Then everything became hazy and I woke up weeping. Wasn't that a strange dream?

Dear Aunt Lala, how we would love to see you! Surely some day we shall see you.

If only Gail and I could do some traveling. Well, who knows, wonderful things happen in this world at times.

Again, I hope you are all quite well. Lots and lots of love to you.

Sana

Dearest Aunt Lala,

We should have written to you ages ago but as Sana said, we promise to be more regular in the future. As Sana also wrote, we have not reached a decision about the house. I am not so worried about all the details of having a roomer as Sana is, but I don't particularly like the idea. I like our life as it is but I guess we will have to do something soon.

Marina and her family are well but Marina is terribly nervous; she just cannot relax. At times she looks awful but then, again, she perks up and looks fine. She is still thinking about Tookie and I think she rushes around so much so she won't have time to think. She and Bill and Karen (her step-daughter) are flying to Europe in April. Bill's mother is old and she has never seen Karen so they want to see her. They will be gone just five weeks. Aunt Sonia is doing quite well with her singing lessons and "baby-sitting".

We are keeping very busy. Now that Spring seems to be on the way, we will have to do some outside work. We don't have too much of a garden but we do have some lovely tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths. We forgot to tell you that some very good friends of ours, who are extremely nice to us made us a proposal in regards to the house. These friends live in Long Island and we frequently visit them. They suggested that we sell our house and buy one together with them. We thought it was very nice of them to want us to do this but we don't think it would be such a good idea. Although we are very fond of these friends (a man and wife), Sana and I feel that if we did that, the house would really be more our friends' than ours and the wife would have the most to say about everything. I am afraid we would lose our independence. What do you think?

Another thing I have been thinking about lately is my work. Although my job is very good. I feel I am in a rut. I have always liked the idea of being a teacher and am seriously thinking of taking some evening courses to obtain a teacher's certificate. It doesn't hurt to have "more than one iron in the fire" as the saying goes.

Well that is about all the news we have now. I hope all of you are well and I send much love to you, dear Aunt Lala, and our cousins. Please write to us when you can. I have been dreaming quite a lot about both father and mother lately.

lots of love

Sana

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August 29 1955

Dear Aunt Lala,

Its such a long time since we heard from you. We wonder if you got our last letter?

Hope you are feeling well. How are Svetick and Yurick and Svetick's wife? We think of you often and wonder how you all are.

We had a very nice vacation this year: we took a boat trip across Lake Huron and Lake Superior. We had our car aboard the boat. We went to Minneapolis, Minnesota to visit friends. On our way back we went through Chicago, Ill. and saw cousin Lala Chebikin. She is awfully nice. She works in an insurance office but loves to teach, so we told her she might just as well try to get into the teaching field again. She was a teacher in Egypt.

Aunt Lola (Kutusoff) Basil was in New York at that time taking a Library course at Columbia University. When we came home we had a lovely visit with her in N.Y.

At the end of vacation a very sweet little Chinese girl from Indo-China came to stay with us for a month till school starts in the fall. She goes to Upsala College here where father taught. Her name is Denise. Right now she isn't too happy because a nice Chinese boy here asked her to marry him but her parents back home found out that his great great grandfather was a Canadian. It seems that in old Chinese families they have to have a pure race.

The weather is the chief topic of conversation these days. Fortunately, now its settled somewhat but in July and most of August the heat was really something! Everybody just "sweltered". And then we had torrential rains which caused such terrible havoc in some of the eastern states. Our part of the state escaped damage..Just some water seeped into our cellar, and we were quite annoyed at that. Then we heard over the radio about the loss of life and property that lots of people suffered and we felt very much ashamed for complaining about a wet cellar floor. This was the result of the hurricanes which now come our way instead of Florida where they used to be before. Well, Florida had enough of them.

We still haven't made up our minds about a roomer. There is a young Russian woman a "displaced person" an engineer who works in Westinghouse; she wanted to move from her apartment, so we thought maybe she could live with us. She is nice and we know enough about her but here she is going to get another job--teaching in another state. Maybe the right person will soon appear.

Another thing, maybe our house is too big for us. Should we try to find a smaller one? Though the prices of small houses now seem to be just as high and even higher than ours.

Aunt Sonia has quite a bit of trouble with her shoulder. It pains her very much. She keeps herself busy with baby-sitting and giving music lessons, and now she has a job of talking french with an old blind lady.

Marina does too much; wish she could relax a little. She gives so many dinner parties, she's doing something in the kitchen practically every time we see her in her home. But in her way she is happy.

We still miss father very much and we still have to look over father's papers and books. But somehow we can't set ourselves

to do it.

All in all we keep pretty busy both with work and pleasure. Gail right now bears the brunt of all our expenses so Sana simply has to find at least a part time job for somebody has to take care of the house also. But surely everything will be solved just as it should be.

Dear Aunt Lala, we send you and your family lots and lots of love. Still hope to see you all someday.

love...

Gail
Sana