

24 March 2013 - Letter for Dad

Steve Heller, letter to nagypapa

Dear Dad,

I'm glad we were able to talk a little today. I'm more glad that we have had many chances to talk, especially over the last few decades. It has been a priority for me to be in touch with you and mom on a very regular basis. I very much have enjoyed hearing all the stories, all of which are best told more than once.

I don't know if you are dying or not. I hope you climb the wall on your 90th birthday. In any case, it is never a bad time to express appreciation and love, so I have a few things to say today.

I am very proud to be your son. You have provided such an example of caring and determination and humility (as no one else could); it has been a special gift. Your love could only possibly be exceeded by your wife's love.

One of the great pleasures of my life was working with you to document [your story and legacy on hellers.ws](#) so that the stories and images can be shared with others. I hope we continue the project.

I have in my hand right now a copy of Deborah Tannen's book, "You just don't understand." Your study of interpersonal communication has been inspiring to me as I strive to be a better communicator.

When I mention you to my wife and children, they smile and are excited. They love you very much, and you have made a positive difference in their lives.

This letter is not intended to be "goodbye." It is intended to be a thank you and an I love you. Since it is hard to communicate on the phone, I've asked Neil to read it to you. You are lucky to have Neil nearby, and the rest of the family is lucky to have Neil as well.

I wish you good health and long life. I look forward to drinking Tojaji Aszu with you on your 90th birthday.

We all love you very much.

Love,
Steve and the Acton Hellers