

2/12/01

Dear Family,

I'm so glad to receive this RR before heading south to visit Ray, and Lorraine for a short visit. Got to keep this RR moving along - it's so interesting.

Last year was an incredibly epochal one for us with its ups and downs. The big event of course was our "moist" family reunion which we hope to repeat and improve upon in 2002.

On the plus side were some very nice trips to FL, LA, TN & NC in Jan., a repositioning cruise from Copenhagen to NY with some very interesting ports in between in August and several brief forays locally and to NC in between. I spent a month with the Kleins around the birth of Kaylin, while Ed kept the fort defended at home, then we both returned for Kaylin's christening.

On the minus side was our break-in in Jan. with all of the ramifications and of course, the deaths, within one day of each other, of Ed's mom and brother in Nov. The fallout from that (particularly dealing with NYC) in the case of Ed's brother, Lou, took over a month and many trips back and forth to NY.

2001 started off with a bang - or should I say, snowstorm, which prompted us to come down to Queens 2 days' early to catch a Jan. 1 flight from JFK. The trip to Thailand, Malaysia & Singapore, a week of which was spent aboard a sailing ship, was fascinating, save for the grueling long flights half way around the world.

Don't wait for 2002. Come up and see us on sunny Lackawack Hill.

Love, Uncle Ed + Aunt Claire

2/24/01

Hiho from the Dreheres. We're all doing ok and eagerly awaiting the arrival of spring. Glad, as always to get the updates on May family doings. We're sorry we missed the reunion this summer, but we had a wedding to attend (which was also driven indoors by the monsoons).

We are scattered and busy these days. Kate is in Davis, CA at the UC campus there studying plant biology on a graduate fellowship. She is investigating whether she wants to embrace a lab rat lifestyle full-time. She is enjoying the mellow CA scene (10 miles west of Sacramento) - and even likes being back in school after her year off. Matt left Vassar (a bad fit) and is now going to Drew U. in Madison NJ. It's a smallish liberal arts school. He is enjoying that campus much more and even doing some serious studying (so he reports!). Ian is still living here. He's moving upward at his import/export firm, but also hopes to move out to graduate school for psychology in the fall. Does anyone shop at *Casual Corners*? Ian brings in most of their goods!

George made a move this summer. He left Malverne HS where he had taught for 17 years and is now teaching physics at Garden City HS. This should prove a less-stressful environment to continue teaching until retirement in ?? He's going to coach a young boys soccer team this spring, too. Can't keep him off the pitch! I am still doing my library thing. At least we finally hired another librarian (doing the Civil Service dance all the way) to help with the workload. Bun and I hit the big 5-0 this spring. We gotta laugh! Who would have thought all us cousins would actually get *middle-aged* and start becoming *grandparents and retirees*!

So - we wish congrats for all the good developments, and prayers for the challenging ones. Wishing you all a glorious spring. Hang in there, Ray and Terry Clines! Go, Mets!

Blessings to all - Barbara et al

P.S. I photocopied this page to keep the envelope skinnier!

2-93

Dear Family,

3/13/01

As everyone else has said, it was so great to see everyone up at the reunion. The deluge of rain only made it more memorable.

Our new granddaughter, Samantha, arrived on Dec. 6th (which was my Mom's birthday). I babysit my "girls" on Tuesdays and have been enjoying them both so much. This grandparenting thing is the greatest. This time around I'm doing more of the hugging and kissing and playing and less of the dusting and cleaning plus I get a full night's sleep after they go home!

Our next big event here will be Karen's wedding on Sept. 8th. Since she is now living in NC, Augie and I have been doing a lot of the leg work for the preparations as the wedding will take place up here in NY. But before that we will be traveling down to Key West, FL for Brant's wedding. It seems the only visits Madeline and I will be having over the next couple of years will be when we watch one of our kids walk down the aisle.

I always look forward to the arrival of this letter and rereading it several times.....till next time.....

Love, Ronnie & family
3/22/01

Hi Y'all - As always, we're pleased to hear about the *mostly* positive events of the May family. Our lives have changed quite a bit since we saw most of you at "the farm." On September 22, 2000, Kaylin Rose was born. (Today is her 6-month birthday.) Of course, leave it to me to NOT be able to do anything the EASY way -- she was a breech delivery. We were through quite a bit in the last few weeks of my pregnancy once we found out that Kaylin was breech. First we tried an "external version" in an attempt to turn the baby from the outside. It was very painful and unsuccessful. Then, since I didn't want to get a C-section, I needed to get a CAT-scan, several ultrasounds etc. After all was said and done, I was able to have her without a C-section, but she was delivered in the operating room with two doctors (and about half the hospital staff present) so that just in case anything went wrong, they could do an immediate C-section. Apparently, "normal" breech deliveries are extremely rare these days as C-sections are the common course of action since they are generally easier for the doctors. Although Kaylin came out hiney-first, she was born beautiful and healthy, thank God.

Arianna turned 3 on March 6 and she's doing well. She's registered for Preschool in the fall, 3 mornings a week. She's definitely ready! Right now, besides a few neighborhood kids, the only time she gets to play with other children is on Wednesday mornings at the church while I go to Bible study. She really enjoys that so I know she'll like school!

~~Now that we have the two kids, I'm only working part time and my job has changed slightly. I no longer actually write the apartment reports. Now I oversee the whole process by proofing the reports, updating the apartment portion of our company website, writing a quarterly newsletter, etc. I work a total of three days a week between going into the office two days and floating the other 8 hours on project oriented work from home. John's job is going fine...he's working on 5 years at Panalpina.~~

That's it for now. God's blessings to all and congratulations on the new babies and upcoming weddings!

Love, Ronnie, John, Arianna & Kaylin

P.S. Sorry about the messy print job. My printer got stuck since the paper was folded.

2-94

April 1 (no fooling)

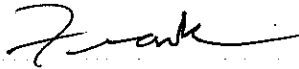
Greetings from Milwaukee!

Just back from a visit to niece Kate (Barbara's little baby), out there in graduate school at the U. of California-Davis. Great place! Nice campus town where lots of folks get around on bikes, and where the temperature was in the 70s in March -- about 40 degrees warmer than here! We took some day trips to Santa Cruz on the coast and Lake Tahoe (just gorgeous, except for the casinos).

Then it was back here for the opening of our fabulous new baseball stadium, Miller Park. I continue in the Sports Department at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and although I'm mostly a desk guy I'll get to cover a dozen or so Brewers games, which will be fun. The new place has a retractable roof, which will make things a lot more comfortable for everyone in the spring and fall.

Anyway, that's about all. Trips to NY are coming up in May, July, October and Christmas-time.

God bless, all!



April 7, 2001

Dear Family,

This entry completes the round since the Reunion 2000. I'll ditto the sentiments of those who commented before . . . It was great seeing everyone who attended, in spite of the less-than-optimal weather conditions.

After attending the reunion, we went to pick up Claudine from Evansville IN, where she prepared costumes for three productions during the summer season for the New Harmony Theatre. She returned to Radford in the Fall for her Junior year. She earned a part in the performance of Jungle Book in December and played the Queen in Shakespeare's "Winter's Tale" in March. She will be trying her hand as assistant Stage Director for the performance of "The Perpetual Patient" in April. Following this busy semester, she will be going on a three week trip to England this summer. Then it's back for senior year, but this time, she'll share an apartment with four friends.

Chris returned from his orientation at the Campus Crusade for Christ headquarters in Orlando in July and decided to move back home to save money as he worked to raise support for his "calling." After months of relentless phone calls and meetings, he came to the realization that he would not achieve the required level of support, so he called a quits on the effort. He started working in a gourmet bread / sandwich shop (Panera's) while he re-organized his portfolio and is now looking for a full-time job as a Graphic Designer.

Danie had been considering quitting the cleaning business to spend more time working on her quilts. However, she was bitten by the gadget bug and spent \$3000 of her hard-earned (and not yet hard-earned) money on a new sewing machine. Now she has to work to pay off the machine and therefore doesn't have time to sew. Go figure!

I just finished up chairing my K of C Council's annual Beach Night event for the sixth year. With that behind us, we're looking forward to another softball season. Once again I'll be playing on both a St. Mike's coed team and the K of C men's team.

The Bill May branch of the family is celebrating several key milestones in the year 2000. Milestone birthdays are Claudine's 21st, Monica's 50th and Mom's 75th. It's also our 25th wedding anniversary. (Interesting note: we celebrated our 23rd anniversary sitting in the first-turn stands at Richmond International Raceway, watching the Fall Busch Series race. During a break in the action, I leaned over to Danie and shouted into her hearing-protected ear: "Would you have believed when we were married, that 23 years hence, we would be in RICHMOND, VIRGINIA? And that we would be spending our anniversary at a NASCAR race?? And that we'd both be enjoying it???" She shook her head in disbelief. "Never!")

The utility business is a-changing! With the purchase of Consolidated Natural Gas last year and the just-completed acquisition of Millstone Nuclear Station in CT, Dominion is growing by leaps and bounds. There is no clear indication yet how any of this will affect our department's mission. But what we have heard is that the company intends to sell the building that we now occupy on the outskirts of suburban Henrico county (2 miles and five minutes from my house) and plans to move everyone to downtown Richmond (22 miles and about 35-45 minutes from my house in rush hour traffic, followed by a fight for a parking space - #S%&@!). It will take at least three years to find a buyer and make the move, but the facilities crew is hard at work repairing and re-painting in preparation for showing the place.

That's about it! Lets keep the letter moving!

4/27/01

Eric & Danie

Dear Family - I have read this letter twice and I find it more interesting each time. And every time I do read it I say a special prayer for Aunt "Nana" (special clues name for her) and ask for her prayers for the rest of us. The really was one in a million! I still work at the West Hempstead Library (where Barbara is the big boss) about 6 hours a week - just enough to keep my mind and body busy so I don't rust away. Besides, I am really close to my favorite things - books - especially a really large section of mysteries! Now I can read anytime I want to at home (of course I sometimes do some work at home, like dishes, prepare meals (open a can of chunky soup?), etc. Oh well! I figure I've earned my enjoyment of retirement - in other words "I've paid my dues." Keep by the good news - I find it fascinating to hear all about your different lives - children, jobs etc.

I do love you all!
 Aunt Helen
 Madeline - Congratulations - what a lovely family you and
 Ralph have -

2-96

Dear Family,

May 7, 2001

The beautiful warm weather has arrived just in time for Nicoles First Holy Communion this past Saturday. She was so proud of herself because she was asked to bring up the gifts for the ceremony of 26 kids. Even Megan felt special wearing her new dress for the occasion. Both kids are doing well and finishing 2nd Grade and Kindergarten next month. No special camp plans yet for this summer after Megan broke her arm last year at the YMCA day camp.

Gina continues to work about 30 hours a week at a courier service close to home, but is getting bored with it and considering getting a 'real job' now that the kids are getting a little older. I've been in my new position here at the Times almost a year already and doing well, even as the company is offering buyout plans and threatening layoffs. We are taking a break from the kids and going to Cancun for a week with a few couples we are close friends with and Aunt Claire will have the honor of taking care of her grandchildren. Just like old times, making school lunch in the mornings, dropping them at school, then helping out with homework when they get home.

Everything else is great.....so nice to hear everyones good news.....we're already looking forward to another get-together in July, 2002!!!

Love,

Stew, Gina, Nicole + Megan

*(+ Barbara, too,
of course!)*

5/24/01

Hi to all!

I'm sorry I kept this an extra week, but I have a good excuse — old age!! While the Round Robin was in my possession, I actually turned the big 5-0. But while others spend their time around their 50th birthday having adult celebrations or, as Ronnie mentioned, enjoying some time playing with their grandchildren, I spent last weekend camping out (literally!) with a bunch of 8 + 9-year olds in Michelle's Girl Scout troop. Fortunately we all survived!

Nothing too new & exciting for us this time around. Bill is travelling more & more for his work, which makes life difficult for us all, & makes it impossible for me to go back to work at this point. But I keep busy with plenty of unpaid work, including PTA work & my own CCD class this year (for which Kristen was my official aide). Kristen adapted pretty well to Middle School, & she doesn't get too upset with all the police cars & media coverage. (Yes, her school was one of those in which a disturbed kid printed a "hit list" & bomb threat on the Internet. What a world!) Michelle (9) has made progress in many areas, but it's sometimes hard to focus on the positive when the "gap" between her & other children continues to widen. Danny has inherited the Clines gene for loving sports & also has a very active Cub Scout troop, so we're always on the run with him. Take care, all! Bernadette & gang

2-97

June 3, 2001

Hello again, from Williamsburg, VA.

Gosh I really had to read the RR again and again before some of the facts sank into my head. The little nieces and nephews getting married and having children! I looked into my card file to see the ages of some of you. I don't know why I was so surprised to read the ages - all I have to do is think of my own grandchildren's ages: Chris who will be 24, Claudine is 21 and my second set of grandchildren: Billy, 11, Gillian, 9 and Shannon, 4. I was just 75 and Monica was 50. Gosh, where did the time go? But it really is great to read of all the good things happening to each of the May families.

I had my second cataract surgery in April - now everything is the same color. I still have to wear glasses because both my eyes are different - one, near-sighted and the other, far-sighted. Monica is going to physical therapy 2x a week to get her muscles going and getting back to walking with the aid of her walker. In the last RR I said that Monica got new splints/braces. Shoes were made to order for her and she had to pay the whole price of \$500. - Medicare doesn't pay anything toward shoes!

We are busy with the summer bowling league, being secretary and treasurer. Also busy being secretary of the variety show being presented in our parish in just about 3 weeks. I am also ticket committee chairman. Keeps me busy. I like doing that kind of work.

Our parish is having the groundbreaking ceremony next Sunday, June 10 in preparation for building our new church which may be ready for Christmas 2002(?) - We'll see how easy it is for Monica and me to get into our new church. The handicapped parking is not close and then there will still be a pretty long walk into the worship area itself - there will be a commons area to go through first.

The last time I wrote in the RR was 9/9/00 - almost 9 months ago. We can do better than that! Monica and I can't wait long for the next chapter in the lives of the May Families now spread over 8-9 states. We can't wait to hear who became grandparents - who had a girl or boy - who got married - who is engaged - what college or where he or she is working doing what, where. We'd like to know of these things as they happen or pretty close to when they did happen.

Everyone be healthy - keep happy - keep in touch. Have a great summer. Love to all

ROSEMARY

8/21/01

GREETINGS FROM MONTREAL -

MARY JO & I HAVE TAKEN THE KIDS ON A "WHIRLWIND" VACATION: LAKE GEORGE, MONTREAL, THE LAURENTIANS & COOPERSTOWN in 9 DAYS. LOTS OF SWIMMING & SIGHTSEEING and Mommy CAN PRACTICE HER FRENCH. WE'VE SO FAR GOTTEN SOME RELAXING IN, TOO, WHICH IS IMPORTANT AS SCHOOL BEGINS IN 2 WEEKS. MARY JO IS ONCE AGAIN TEACHING FRENCH TO GRAMMAR SCHOOL KIDS IN THE SYOSSET DISTRICT. I AM STILL AT FOX 5, WITH YET ANOTHER NEW BOSS (6 NEWS DIRECTORS IN 7 YEARS!) AND I AM STARTING TO SERIOUSLY LOOK AROUND FOR A NEW JOB, OR NEW LINE OF WORK. ANYBODY HAVE ANY IDEAS? JOSEPH (9) SPENT THE SUMMER PLAYING BASEBALL, HIS ONE TRUE LOVE BESIDES EATING. THIS FALL, HE, TERENCE (6) AND KIRA (5) WILL ALL BE PLAYING SOCCER. INCIDENTALLY, THEY WILL ALSO ATTEND ST. THOMAS -- THE SECOND GENERATION OF CLINES KIDS TO DO SO. HOPEFULLY, THEY WILL TAKE AFTER THEIR AUNTS & UNCLE, INSTEAD OF DADDY. THAT ABOUT SUMS IT UP.

Love - Joe Cline

Dear Family,

9-8-01

AV guideniti / most things off

Life is good for me here in Delaware. Both of my roommates have now been here 2 1/2 years, which always helps financially. I've been successful in finding more enjoyment in life this year. Some highlights were: A 2 day ski trip to one VT with Ken (sleeping at the base of the mountain, which is suburban as far as Jan. nights). Got together with 3 former Navy shipmates for a little reunion in D.C. one weekend... Spent a few days planting/transplanting trees at the Farm in April. Attended the first meeting of the Mets & Yankees since the Subway Series and hit an Astor thru concert at Jones Beach with Steve the next day.

I just returned on 9-5 from a 10 day trip to California.

Now I have to find myself a job, since Matlack went out of business after 113 years! Job searching takes a huge amount of time!

Websites to visit: <http://lackawack.tripod.com> - Farm site being updated now.
www.geocities.com/grannypeace - Honors Grandma Christensen
<http://tbs.net/matlack> - My new Matlack "company" site.



Dear All - Sept 15th 2001

Take care,
Rays

Well, we just got back from NY for Karen Kiefer (now Skewes) lovely, lovely wedding. As we passed the NY Skyline from JFK I nudged my future son-in-law Chris to show him the Twin Towers etc. I can't believe 2 days later it was gone. Found out Debbie May was on the 27th floor of the 1st tower & got out safely, while firemen on their way in never came out. My cousin on my mom's side also would of been in harms way as he was a fireman w/ Co 211 one of the 1st to go in, but was promoted to Capt 2 weeks ago & in another location. I know all our ancestors (May Saints) are looking after us. Brant's & Heather's wedding went wonderful in Key West & now we plan for Saleen in March & James & Stephen (you remember him at the re-union) he kept passing himself off as whomever asked "you must be ---" he's a great fellow & we're happy with all their choices. Congratulations on all the new babies, Birthdays (you're catching up to me 57) etc Love you all so much our special unique family!

PS. The RR only took 5 days to get here considering all the schmoozing w/ hurricane & airplanes etc. Also, Enclosed is a photo of the kids for the photo file.

♡ X O

October 7, 2001

Dear Family,

Life is starting to feel more normal here and we are settled into our Fall routine of soccer, soccer, and more soccer. Every year I get more efficient at handling the running around, but every year there seems to be more running around to do. This year we have added Colin to our list of soccer players, which means that there are some days when we have three soccer games to attend. The other new wrinkle this year is that Brian is playing for his middle school team in addition to his weekend recreational team. This means more games and practice every day!

We also have two kids starting at new schools this year. Colin has started kindergarten, which is very exciting for him and working out very well. He has also discovered another five-year-old whom he can reach via the three-year-old neighbor's backyard, and he spends a lot of time playing with the five-year-old, the three-year-old, and a four-year-old who visits grandparents next door. This has really expanded his world and he's learning to play well with a variety of kids without me hovering around.

Brian has started 7th grade, and in our school district this means he has moved on to a very big middle school (1400+). We've been very happy with our public elementary school, but I've always been worried about how things would go at the middle school. So far Brian seems pretty happy there and he does have opportunities there that he wouldn't at a smaller school, but it is aggravating dealing with such a big place. It will not be possible for me to get to know the teachers and staff the way I would like.

Brian's middle school let the kids watch CNN on the day of the attacks, but they told Emily and Colin nothing at the elementary school because they wanted the parents to explain it to them. That caused some problems when they got home, because Emily was mad that Brian seemed to be in on something that she was not. None of my kids are really upset, which is a good thing, but I am a little disappointed that Brian didn't appreciate the impact of this at first. Last year he had to do a project in which he wrote about a news story from each year he's been alive. For 1988, he had picked Lockerbie, for 1993, the WTC bombing, and for 1995 the Oklahoma City bombing. This story didn't seem too much worse to him until he saw the way that everybody was reacting. Maybe the next time we go over the Verrazano and he sees the skyline for himself he will understand better, because I always pointed out the World Trade Center and the Statue of Liberty, etc.

The picture is from Emily's First Communion last April. We do that in the third grade, so she is now in fourth. She is continuing with viola and soccer, and has gone back to gymnastics classes after some time off. She wants to be a purple crayon for Halloween, which has me scratching my head to figure out how to make the costume! I hope the rest of you are having a great October.



Colin, Emily, Brian
Kerch
4/28/01

Love to all,

Eileen and Family

October 15, 2001

Life has hardly been the same for us since September 11. While the kids are only somewhat aware of all that has happened and blissfully ignorant of what it means for their future, D and I are not. I work at Deutsche Bank, and was in the 130 Liberty Street building (across the street from 2 WTC) when the planes hit. The first plane caused a flickering of lights and a thunderous rumble. Since I face south, I saw nothing of what happened. Then I saw papers, books, and pieces of who-knows-what (some on fire) flying over our building and landing all over the streets to our south. Slowly, I walked around the floor to find the source. Reaching the north face of the building, I faced the reality of a major explosion in one tower, with a large loss of life. Then, as I stood there, the second plane hit (though I had no idea it was a plane - my view was blocked by 2WTC). The debris from this one fell directly on our building. Huge pieces of the WTC facade hit our glass wall, with surprisingly little initial damage. That's when we knew we were probably in trouble if we stayed much longer. The security team was of little help, advising us that the building is safe, and not to move from our floors. So, we left. From our lobby, we were escorted south to minimize our exposure to the still-falling debris. I walked south to Battery Park, then turned east, then north, entering the Lexington subway at City Hall. We got a few train lengths when the signals went out, so we were stuck for a while. We had no way of knowing that the signals went out because the towers had fallen. Rumors filled the train about Grand Central Terminal being hit, etc. We were escorted out at 14th Street, and I walked north from there to the Terminal. With a little difficulty, I got a Hudson Line train to Yonkers and was back home before 1. Even though I had called Deanne from the building to let her know what had happened, and that we were safe and leaving, she was petrified for the hours I was making my way home. Of course, hundreds of others called their spouses telling them they were leaving but were never seen again. So, we were blessed.

We only knew a few of those lost in the towers, but dealing with those losses and the concept that thousands are dead is not easy. At least TV has stopped showing the images of the towers falling, although watching the bombings in Afghanistan is not easy, either.

Since the 130 Liberty Street building is a mess (part of 2WTC sliced the front of the building from the 22nd floor down), I have been one of the "lucky" ones shuttled daily from our midtown offices to a recovery center in Piscataway, NJ. It is a 3-hour trek in and about 2.5 home on a sightseeing bus. Today, I have a desk at our midtown offices, across from where some anthrax threats occurred) which is great for me. But there is an unspoken uneasiness about going to Manhattan at all these days. Police stop most trucks and some buses and vans. We've made several trips across the Hudson in our cars, and had varying amounts of inconvenience. Trains have been stopped because white powder is found. Our way of life here will never be the same from what I can tell.

Overall, it seems most people are taking less for granted, especially the people in our lives. I know that even Shannon has asked me to stop kissing her so much (though hugs are just fine). I don't see attendance at Church improving greatly, but perhaps there is some spiritual renewal, as people as some reflect on "ultimate" type questions.

On the positive side of changes in our life, we were able to sell the coop apartment we had bought when we married, and then bought a house in Pocono Pines, PA. We felt that this was a good financial investment (seeing how the Dow is these days) and also an investment in our future. We'll have a place to go for long weekends and vacations, and will rent it out when not in use. We're in the midst of furnishing and making some upgrades. This has made life hectic, with Alan's commute, erratic schedule and running out there. But, sacrifice now will hopefully lead to rewards in the future. So, our life goes on, even as we remember those whose lives ended.

Bill is thriving in Middle School, and the girls continue to enjoy Montessori School 31. There are fewer activities in their lives this year, as we did not get them into a lot of extra-curricular activities. Scouts and friends take up their free time. Otherwise, we just stick together. We've painted Bill's room, and replaced his bed (his and the girls' went to the Poconos house). He had the least storage, but now has plenty. Now our focus is moving to the girls' room: paint, new beds, storage. Good things to be busy about.

with love to all!

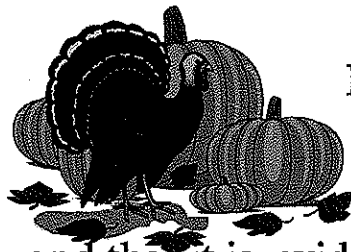
Alan, Deanne, Billy, Gillian
& Shannon

most of the time
gillian, miked
slipped
10/20/01

planned lunch with

2-101

Oct 21, 2001



Dear All,

With all the events in recent weeks, it was a relief to hear that all of us are safe and sound, and that it is evident we have saints in heaven looking after all of us. As far as news here in New Jersey----since we wrote last we have become grandparents again. Stephanie and Corban had a boy on July 11th 9lbs 12oz. They named him Cedar Miles, and on Sept 7th Jason and Tricia had their second daughter Alexandra Marie and she entered this world a whopping 4 lbs 6 oz. That is 3 for us now, and I think this will be quite a busy Christmas. Marc , our 5th is in his senior year at Middletown North, an honor student and football player. He is applying to a few colleges and the dollar signs are in front of our eyes again. Robert started 6th grade (Jr. High) and still is very involved with travel soccer. We are being pulled in many directions with our children scattered and we are uncertain where it will all lead--we just miss seeing the grandchildren very much. We are so happy to hear all of you are well, and hope you all can attend the 2002 bash. Lots of Love,

Maria, Alex and all