

10/2/03

Dear family,

The family letter has turned into a fascinating book. It is overwhelming to try to keep up with all the news of new family members, and especially the doings of all the children. Seems we have quite a group of bright and athletic children to be proud of. When I think back to my own children's growing up, and all it involved, I'm only too happy to look on now, glad that those days are over for me.

We've been pretty much stay at homes over this past summer with all its rain and humidity, doing our usual bit towards keeping the family farm up and running. We did visit Lorraine in Sept. and now we are preparing to tour Costa Rica later this month (for 2 weeks) We'll be back in time for Ray's NY Marathon run on Nov.2.

We're in pretty good health, with creaky bones and all, and Ed's shoulders are giving him agita but we are trying not to let that stop us. God bless you all.

*Love from Uncle Ed & Aunt Claire*

PS Joe, we've banished Fox 5 from our set. But hope the prohibition doesn't include FOX News Channel.

Oct. 2003

Greetings from WHNY. Only two Drehers are here right now, of course. We're certainly used to our empty nest. Ian is into his final full year of grad school. He should have his MSW by summer's end. Right now he's taking 3 classes, doing 2 days of internship and working 2 days a week. It's nice to be young and have all that energy - although he'll be 30 next year! Kate continues on out in Davis CA. She did NOT vote for Arnold! I will be hopping out there via JetBlue in mid-November for a short visit. Matt is in his final year at Drew. As a special treat, he has one of our cars so he's happily mobile. He broke his right thumb playing rugby (no surprise - a really crazy sport), but otherwise is enjoying Senior year and trying to think beyond graduation. No definite plans yet.

George is well into his school year and still playing soccer. He's had quite the green thumb this summer and we still have cut flowers all over the house. Our tomatoes came in very late this year, but they were worth the wait! I'm still slaving away at WHPL. My latest task - to take a CPR/Defibrillator course with the other librarians since the Rotary donated one of those machines to the library. The defibrillator we have is lime green and talks to us. The first thing it says after you turn it on is: "try to stay calm." (No kidding! Easy for it to say!) George and I took a real vacation this summer - a road trip to Tennessee and Kentucky. Why??? Why not? We'd never been there and now don't really need to ever go back. Too far by car, but I recommend that state parks of Kentucky. Many of them have resorts. Check them out if you're in the vicinity. Took our ultra new Accord on the 2,000 mile odyssey and we all did quite well.

Other brief Clines news: Joe has landed a job with WNBC Channel 4 - but right now he's working on the early morning show. So he has the night shift, and will be happy to move out of that asap. My mom is ok - dealing with emphysema and such, but holding her own at home.

Hope everyone enjoys the fall foliage. Blessings on us all!

*Barbara et al*

10/21/03

Hi to everyone,

Everything went off beautifully for Patti & Seth's wedding on 8/31. We felt the presence of Mom, Dad, Tommy & Alia in the perfect weather we had. Next year we all head to Hilton Head, SC where Paul & Leelan will marry on May 1st.

In the meantime I'm in the process of packing for a week in FL with my favorite sister for a little R&R. This coming weekend our first grandchild, Ashby, turns 6!! Talk about time flying.

Glad to hear everyone's good news and our prayers are with all the job seekers in our youngest, Michael, is among them. You can't take anything for granted anymore.

Our love to all. May the upcoming holidays bring thanks, joy and peace to all.

Love, Ronnie & Augie

Hi Folks!

October 28, 2003

We've been living in Raleigh now for over a year and a half and things have finally settled into somewhat of a smooth routine (if there is such a thing?). John is closing in on his first year at Emery (Menlo), and I'm still chugging on at UPS, having been there since we moved here. John's job at Emery is going fine and we're extremely thankful for it, but things *could* be better as a company-wide memo informed all employees NOT to expect a raise this year or any bonuses and to add icing to the cake, that the costs for medical benefits are increasing etc. On the other hand, and completely but delightfully unexpected, I have gotten *several* raises since I started at UPS! I started at \$8.50/hr and now, only 18 months later, I make \$11.40/hr! And, the medical benefits are so good (the plan is absolutely free for the whole family *even* for a part-time job) that John is dropping his and I'll carry the family! Bottom line...while all of you boycott Fox, please, feel free to ship UPS every chance you get (ha, ha)!!!

Arianna, now 5 1/2, is doing well in Kindergarten at Heritage Elementary. There is talk (as there always seems to be around here) of school rezonings, but for now we're just sitting tight and appreciating the excellent year-round school that she's attending. It is amazing to watch them transition from toddler to little girl! Along with the frustrations of her not listening and her occasional sassy mouth come heartwarming experiences such as learning to read and questions about God! As far as extra-curricular activities are concerned, besides CCD (Faith Formation), we've enrolled her in gymnastics. So far she seems to absolutely love it.

Kaylin turned 3 in September. She's still at home with me full-time, but she does enjoy CCD on Sundays and Creative Play with me on Tuesdays. For the most part, she's a happy child and beginning to speak very well.

I'm still teaching CCD at St. Catherine's. Last year I taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and this year I've graduated with my students to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. It's slightly embarrassing to admit this, but I learn so much myself when preparing lessons! Our parish is going through the same growing pains as our Virginia neighbors. Our Pastor has all these grand ideas for a whole parish "campus" including of course a new church. We'll see...

Keep the good news rolling in! Love to all! John, Arianna & Kaylin

11/7/03

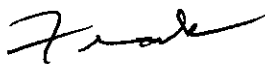
2-136

Greetings from Milwaukee!

Hunkering down for the deep freeze to come, but there'll be one more trip East before winter. The last trip, in October, produced an unexpected highlight. I was in D.C. to see some friends, and went to the National Zoo hoping to have some luck with the zoom lens on my camera. The stars of the zoo are the two pandas, of course, but they're often shy, staying in the back of their area and not real active. But on this day, just by chance, I happened by at a time when they were right at the front of the viewing area and frolicking about, wrestling and rolling and yelping (they sound like dogs, actually). Got some real nice pictures--- and a lot of Christmas gifts taken care of in the process!

The highlight for the upcoming trip -- a St. John's Prep reunion night, with my class celebrating a mere 35 years since graduation. Yikes!

Holiday cheer to all!



Dear Family,

Isabel may be gone, but her impacts will be felt for quite some time to come. Electric power has been restored to 1.8 million Dominion customers who lost it (some for as long as 2½ weeks) and water was flowing again in Richmond metro area 1½ days after Isabel's departure to the north. But so many trees, whose root systems could not maintain grip in the saturated soil (thanks to an incredibly rainy summer) were felled by the gusty winds, that their removal will continue on into spring of next year. There will be no shortage of mulch and firewood in the coming years in this area!

Since the letter was here last, Danie & I took a summer trip to see the state of Michigan. Why Michigan, you ask? . . . Well, for the same reason that Barbara visited Kentucky/Tennessee . . . Why not? As it happened, we were just outside the area affected by the "Great Blackout of '03". The only impact we felt from the blackout was when we stayed overnight in Akron, OH on the way home and noted the waterhammers and muddy water that was expelled from the shower & sink faucets when they were opened for the first time after water pressure had been restored in the area.

Chris finally found a job in his chosen field and is now working as a Graphic Designer for a small advertising company in town. Landing the job was not easy, as he was "interviewed" seven times by the owner and staff (this should have been a omen). They had been looking for a "gofer" to help with various technical tasks around the office. In reviewing his work and talking to Chris, they liked him a lot, but realized that he was much more capable than the gofer they had envisioned, and therefore had to re-think how he would fit within the staff. They chose to offer him a job at slightly higher pay than the gofer as a Graphic Designer. He has now been there eight months and has learned quite a bit about the advertising business. (Go to <http://www.riversideonthejames.com> to see a sample of his work.) He enjoys the work, but the owner has revealed his dark side . . . he's highly critical and his chronic inability to stick with a decision tends to make a crisis out of what should be some of the most routine work, causing higher stress levels in the office than necessary. But for now, it's a job! Maybe we should get our Graphic Designing offsprings to "network" with each other.

Claudine quit her job at Lerner to pursue other local employment opportunities in May, but the day after she gave notice, she was contacted by the director of the costume shop at the New Harmony Theatre in Evansville, IN.

Claudine had worked there during the summer two years ago and they were so impressed with her that they wanted her to come back and work as the assistant shop director. Naturally, she accepted the job and she was off to Indiana for the summer. While out there, she made some contacts that she continued to pursue following her return. One of those contacts led to a position in the costume shop at the Northern Stage (<http://www.northernstage.org>) in White River Junction, VT. So, she was off again. Since Claudine is a true Southern Belle and has had little exposure to the Northeast, Danie and a friend used this opportunity to escort Claudine to her new digs and to do a little quilt shop hopping road trip on the side.

Claudine is doing fine, and, of course, is well liked by the staff. She made it known that her real desire is to act, not make costumes, and upon hearing that, the theatre director suggested that she be given bit parts on stage that would not interfere with her other duties. They apparently have several such parts in the play they are running during the Christmas season. We'll see what happens! We plan to visit Claudine during the upcoming Christmas season

Danie made it through her grieving period following the loss of our dog, Muffin, but could not get over the void she experienced. So, in August, we became the owners of another Shih Tzu puppy, and named her Sophie. While Muffin was black & white, Sophie is white & black (an important distinction). Caring for the dog now fills in the few free moments Danie has between going to quilt classes, quilt guilds, quilt shows and, of course, making quilts!

Softball season turned out to be a real joke this year, as only eight games (four nights) were played by the schedule. All of the other games were rained out, re-scheduled and some rained out again. Attempts to schedule so many games resulted in some very inconvenient times and places, so essentially, just about everyone lost interest. The playoffs were held while we were on vacation and I never really found out how we did!

We are approaching the end of a very interesting year in the Nuclear division of Dominion. I noted in the last round that we had finished the replacement of the two reactor heads at our North Anna site and were in the middle of an outage to replace the Surry 1 reactor head. That replacement was completed, and we are now coming to the end of the final head replacement outage for the Virginia plants; this one on Surry Unit 2. Our assimilation of the Millstone Power Station is going well and last week, it was announced that we have agreed to purchase the Kewaunee Power Station (a single unit site) in Wisconsin (About 100 miles north of Frank's digs). We'll take over the plant only after their next refueling outage where they will install a new reactor head and make changes to uprate the electrical output of the station.

I want to thank everyone who responded to my request to vote over the Internet for our favorite local singer/songwriter, Susan Greenbaum. Because of the overwhelming number of votes she received, Susan won the national contest sponsored by pop/rock star Jewel's Soul City Café and, as the winner, was *supposed* to tour with Jewel this Fall. Unfortunately, the tour never happened. Using the untimely death of Jewel's bass guitarist as an excuse, the tour was greatly scaled back and Susan was cut from the show with a "promise" to include her in a later tour. There is some good news here, however, as winning this nationwide contest has given Susan greater credibility, which caught the attention of one influential talent management firm (the firm that represents Barry Manilow). That firm is now doing some speculative (free) work to promote Susan, because they see a future in her. We're keeping our fingers crossed!

I want to get some feedback on a plan that Ray and I are working on, that we think would be something that our family would treasure. Aunt Claire has forwarded all of the original pages of the Round Robin (both the first chain, which was lost, and the current chain) and I plan to electronically scan all those pages. Our intent is to post these files on a Web site that Ray will maintain, so that at any time, anyone with internet access can review any part of the Round Robin archives. We would update the archive whenever the letter passes through my home.

Eric

11/20/03

2-137a

(Frank serving as guest secretary)

Dear Family,

Another holiday season already? Wow! That's why Frank is writing this - I'm saving my penmanship hand for all those Christmas cards!

Luckily, I and my wonderful caregiver, Leta, didn't blow away in the huge winds of the last week or so. The house will still be around for a while, and open for visits from all those grandkids! Just one rule - Grandma is done as a cook of holiday feasts! And Frank is on his own when it comes to finding a meal at the home of a generous sibling.

God bless and Merry Christmas to all! Aunt Helen

December 4, 2003

Dear Family,

I received this the day before leaving for Thanksgiving in North Carolina with the girls and Mom & Dad. We had a very nice visit with Lorraine and family and Ray met us there also. Everyone is healthy and happy! Things are good here in NY and we've gotten our first burst of winter chill. I'll get my skis waxed and sharpened and plan on hitting the slopes often this year.

Nicole (10) and Megan (8) are doing great! They've moved to Babylon and are adjusting to the new school and new friends very well. They both have very good teachers and are enrolled in Art class (Nicole) and Gymnastics (Megan). I get to see them often and we cherish our time together.

Here at the Times things are more stressful than ever. A new Managing Director is looking to make his mark, and he is intent on having his direct report Managers do his dirty work. I'm putting up with it as I know these things come and go like the seasons. Hopefully I'll laugh about it the next time I read the round robin!!!! That's it for now, everyone have a health, happy and blessed Christmas, and let 2004 be a great year for us all!!!! (I'll keep my eyes open for Graphic design jobs here at the Times!)

(Family party, mid-late August ??) <sup>Love to all,</sup>  
 OK with the Zirkels!! *Steve Christensen*

Happy Holidays to all!

12/14/03

I'm glad to have the RR at this time of year so that I can send our holiday best wishes to all of you! 2003 was not the greatest year for us because of some illnesses, personal tragedies and deaths among our friends, parish families and school communities. For that reason we'll be glad to see the coming of 2004! But we ourselves have all been blessed with good health and are doing OK, thank God. Bill's job has more & more aggravation & travelling, but we're grateful that it's pretty secure. Besides my carpools & volunteer work, I still watch a little boy once a week; he's 20 months old now, & I certainly identify with what Maria said about her grandson. There's a reason women our age don't have their own 2-year olds!! Kristen (14) made a good adaptation to the high school & has become involved a great deal in the performing arts - select chorus & the musical theater. While I don't imagine she'd be able to make a living at it as Claudine does, we're glad she's found an extra-curricular "niche", with a nice group of kids. Danny (9) is still into all the sports, but has also gotten "into" music, studying 2 instruments & singing in chorus. While none of us has a single gene for artistic talent, at least Uncle Gae's musical talent has filtered down to us. Finally, Michelle (11 1/2) has been doing surprisingly well at the Middle School, & is very happy there, with some special ed classes & some general education (with help from aides). So we count our blessings! Love, Bernadette Bill & gang

Dear all -

December 19th!

2-139

Things are well with all of us in Tonkhamock!  
"Lots" of snow! We just keep adding more wood to the fire. Getting  
ready for Christmas that means: Silence, mystery and, yes, "goodies".  
Know our prayers & Masses are with you always but especially  
during this most holy season! God Bless, Love Joan & Theresa  
P.S. Our prayers do extend to the children + grand children!! peace!

Happy New Year to all of you.

12/23/03

This time it took the Round Robin 5 months to get back to me... that's more like it! Keep up the good work!  
Monica and I still have our health problems. I finally saw the orthopedic doctor. He took x-rays of my hips and compared them with ones he took 3 years ago. Quite unbelievable - I have more cartilage in my joints now. We believe that is because I've been taking Glucosamine/Chondroitin tablets. He suggested I get Synvisc injections in my knee to see if that helps my knee which is feeling the brunt of my scoliosis and weight. I just finished having the injections which consists of 3 injections - one a week over a three week period. I go back to the orthopedic doctor in two months and see how things are and decide on what should be done then. I am also planning to go back to the chiropractor - I think he'll be able to help me again, I hope!

Monica is finally accepted for Medicaid - but only for personal home health care. The rest of Medicaid: financial help with medications and handicapped transportation should follow shortly. We are really waiting for that. Her medications cost so much - and having someone take Monica to the doctor, or any other appointments, will help me - I won't have to take her. We are waiting for a healthcare provider to call and set up a program of days and hours for someone to come into the house and help Monica. I hope we'll like all this. I think it will take some getting used to, on my part, to have someone else in my house. We shall see!

Re. Isabel: We were without electricity for three days: from Thursday afternoon to Sunday afternoon. Our neighbor's tree fell between our houses but brushed up against mine. Roof tiles were ripped off, with the fascia and soffit. Also siding was damaged, either bending or bellying up the shingles on the side and front of the house at the garage area. The insurance adjuster came and gave me figures for fixing up the house. The trees, limbs, etc. was taken care of immediately by my neighbor, friends, etc. - but I had a rough time to finally get a roofing/siding company to come and see what has to be done. It turns out that the roofing shingles and siding are no longer available. My house is aluminum shingles and my neighborhood, in its by-laws, does not allow aluminum (I must have gotten in just before they made that rule). The aluminum shingles are not made anymore... the company is out of business. The roofing, too, cannot be matched... so the man said I could get a new house, i.e., all new siding and roofing. That would be something, wouldn't it? I'm waiting to hear from the insurance company. I will surely let you know.

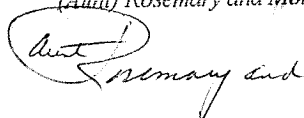
More about my new church. We had 7 Masses (4 on the eve and 3 on Christmas day) Our church seats 1500 people. They have chairs that can be placed around which they did for the 4:30 p.m. Mass I attended - and people were standing out in the Commons area. I heard 2 different totals for attendance at this Mass: 1 usher said at least 1700 and another said 2,000. Getting out of the parking lots was trying on people's patience. I live sort of 'around the corner' from the church and it ordinarily takes me 5 minutes to get there - it took me at least 25 minutes Christmas eve to get from parking space at church to home. We still need more parking spaces, but I hear we do not have all the money needed to make equal parking lots on the other side of the church. I guess I should have stated that our church is set way back on the lot - it cannot be seen from the road. One good thing is that the drivers are being courteous letting cars alternately merge and finally getting into the road out that leads to the main road. Looking to the future - I was at a meeting the other morning and it is being said that all Easter Masses will be in the new church - not in William and Mary Hall, as it has been for years. We always have so many tourists. We will need more Masses - but our pastor wants to have the Masses in the new church... I agree.

On Christmas Day, Eric, Danie and Chris came for lunch which Danie made (a casserole). Of course, little Sophie, their 6 month old Shih Tzu, came along too. Claudine is in Vermont, but will be home January 6th for 6 weeks - time off from plays, etc. They stayed for about 5 hours and then went to Danie's parents for dinner. We had a great time. We called the Yonkers Mays, spoke with Alan, Deanne, Shannon and Gillian. I don't know where Billy was. They are all fine. It was snowing there - we had sunshine.

I'm glad to read all good things are happening with the May Family. I think Monica and I are going to go through each family and write down who got married to whom and if they have children, etc. and hopefully get names straight. We get confused, and we don't often get confused (!?!). Keep the RR going around as fast as you can. All keep happy and healthy. We are hoping and praying the New Year will be a good year for all.

Love to all of you.

(Aunt) Rosemary and Monica





2-140

4/3/04

Dear All:

GREETINGS FROM MALVERNE. A RELATIVELY QUIET WINTER HAS GIVEN WAY TO A BUSY SPRING. JOSEPH NOW PLAYS ON 2 BASEBALL TEAMS. TERENCE PLAYS SOCCER IN ADDITION TO BASEBALL, AND EVEN KIRA SUITS UP FOR LITTLE LEAGUE THIS YEAR.

SPeAKING OF KIRA, SHE WILL RECEIVE HER FIRST COMMUNION, MAY 8th. IF ANYONE IS TRAVELING THROUGH LONG ISLAND THAT DAY, COME ON OVER.

Mary Jo teaches French to children in the Syosset School District, WITH AN EYE TOWARD GOING FULL-TIME IN THE FALL.

At present, I AM WORKING AT WNBC-TV, PRODUCING "TODAY IN NEW YORK," THE MORNING NEWS PROGRAM. THIS REQUIRES ME TO WORK OVERNIGHTS, SO SLEEP IS TRICKY RIGHT NOW. IF ANYONE HAS ADVICE FOR DEALING WITH THESE HOURS, I AM ALL EARS.

THAT PRETTY MUCH SUMS UP WHAT WE'RE DOING THESE DAYS. I HOPE EVERYONE HAS A BLESSED EASTER

Joe Clines, Mary Jo  
Joseph, Terence & KIRA

Happy Easter!

4/11/04

I'm writing this at 7am on a peaceful Easter morning. Sang with choir at vigil mass and will do so again at 11am. Last week I was fortunate enough to attend Palm Sunday Mass at Notre Dame cathedral in Paris! Earlier that day I set a personal record by running 3 hrs, 31 mins, 24 sec. in the Paris Marathon!

"The Lord is kind and merciful." I enjoyed a wonderful week in Paris with 13 other members of my running club, (The story + photos at [www.AttractWeb.com/run](http://www.AttractWeb.com/run)).

Speaking of the internet, please ask all family members to visit [www.AttractWeb.com/may](http://www.AttractWeb.com/may) to update your status and view the entire Round Robin letter history.

While not running or designing websites, I still help QVC pump out jewelry to the women of America! Contact me to take advantage of my discount. I bought a new car, but my brothers and I are getting a portable saw mill which cost even more!! You may see a demo at the Reunion in Aug.

Take care and have a great Spring/Summer! Ray

April 15<sup>th</sup> - 2004  
(74<sup>th</sup> deadline day)

"We are family"

When Ronnie wrote last to say she was going to visit me in October, unfortunately the very week she came down, Ralph's mom (95) <sup>very</sup> passed away. Ronnie helped me get through all the arrangements + prep for Ralph's sister's visit plus all the nieces + nephews + great nephews etc. Ralph was a great son to his mom + took complete care of her up till the end. He'll be blessed for all his patience + goodness to her.

Our family is getting ready to, once again, go to a Kiefer wedding this one on May 1<sup>st</sup> for Paul + LeAnn. (We're turning into party animals) All the couples are doing well here, including the old couple  
Love to all ☺☺ xxoo      Ray + me!

6 May 2004

Dear Family,

I have been looking at the family letters that have been scanned into the May family website. It's very interesting to see what we were all doing years ago and to see letters from Nana and Uncle Charlie. Some are doing almost the same things we were 18 years ago, and others have changed addresses and jobs numerous times. I did get the feeling that "what goes around comes around" because some of us cousins who were writing about school-age kids and their activities years ago are now writing about trips and grandbabies, while others who were writing about trips or babies are now writing about school-age kids and their activities.

Not a lot has changed here since the last time I wrote. My last letter was in September, and we were spending all our time at soccer games. Now it is May, so we are spending all of our time at baseball or softball games. Brian made the 9<sup>th</sup> grade team at his Middle School (Penndale), and will also play for the same local league as Emily and Colin. In addition to sports, Brian and Emily each play an instrument and we perform in two concerts each in May. When you add in all the end-of-the-year school events, this month comes close to December in terms of busy-ness and stress. (I know, I'm not telling the parents anything new!)

We have some extra transitions this spring, because Emily will be ending her elementary school career at Gwynedd Square. She is 12 and in sixth grade. She goes to Penndale next year. Meanwhile, Brian is finishing 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Penndale and will move on to the "senior" high. We've had a slight taste of what High School social life will be like, because our school district sponsors a dance in April for all of the 9<sup>th</sup> graders. It's just supposed to be an opportunity to get the kids from the three middle schools together for the first time, but over the years the kids have come to see it as a mini-prom. The parents I know think it's too much, too soon, but there seem to be lots of others who bought their daughters formals and took them out to get their hair done. I'm just glad that Brian had a good time and I'm glad that he didn't have to get his hair done.

My youngest, Colin, is in second grade this year, so there are no big changes in store for him and no dances! He's still happy most of the time and doing well at school, as far as I can tell. (He gets S for strong or P for progressing, which are the best letters). I see a lot of Colin and Emily at their school this year because I have increased the amount of time I volunteer there quite a bit, in addition to helping out more at church with REC (same thing as CCD). I've had a lot of fun with the projects I've done at school and learned to accomplish a lot, but it has meant that none of the projects at home are getting done! Joe has had a lot more work obligations, also, so all the things we've been talking about doing around the house are still in the talking stages. There has been more restructuring at Merck and the net result is a more complicated work situation for Joe. He can distract himself from that by working with Emily's softball team, now that the weather has finally warmed up. Enjoy your spring!

Love to all,  
Eileen

As was pointed out by someone, it is interesting to see not only everyone else's comments in the RR, but also the last entry that we made ourselves. My comments about the Wall St area remain the same – more permanent obstacles have been put in place, making even foot traffic troublesome. If we ever had to evacuate the area again, we'd have trouble. DB's old building was finally condemned, so it should be razed soon. It would be good not to see it any more.

On a brighter note, we are all doing well.

I remain with Deutsche Bank, but have been looking around, both internally and externally. The job market in Financial Services seems to be a little better, but I have to find a job where my background would fit. I keep trying. I'm still scoutmaster for Bill's troop and am learning things every week. We're setting up next year's program – a good chance to use the lessons learned over the last year (*mostly by making mistakes*). They say volunteering for scouts requires "one hour a week". It's more like one hour per day! The hope is that it pays off for the boys under my care. I'll probably never see the results of our efforts. I recently had the same hernia repaired for the third time (right inguinal). The surgeon this time had to remove a lot of dead tissue, nerves and blood vessels, which left some numbness. But I'm functional again, and hope this is the last surgery – at least for a hernia. There's also some concern about my liver, as I have fibroids. I'm not clear on what it all means, but it's not a good condition to have. Each doctor who observes my blood tests looks at me wryly when I say I do not (nor have I ever) drunk excessive alcohol. Anyone else in the family have this? It may be genetic?!

**Deanne** is finishing her term as parish council president. She also just finished the year at Mercy College. She may be picking up some work from a local real estate group to put together schedules for when they tour each other's houses for sale. She already does this for one group, but may pick up another, larger group. She's Shannon's Brownie troop leader. And Fuller Brush is always there. We watched the CCD class she taught receive Confirmation last month. This included Bill, and will include Gillian next year.

**Bill** is finishing his grade school stint and is really looking forward to High School. He was in a band that gave several performances for the school and parents this month. He's on yearbook, Math Club, Science Club as well as the band. He'll be enrolled in the National Honor Society again this year, ending a great career at Museum Middle School. He'll go to Sacred Heart High School (in the parish) next year. The principal can't wait to get him. He has already showed her that he is a true gentleman (*holding doors for her and others*), a true scholar (*Honor Society and such*) and a visionary (*he wants to start a band at the school and introduced the principal to his current band teacher at a parade*). He is also progressing very nicely in scouting, up to Star rank after a slow start during his first year. I'm not making it easy on him, either!

**Gillian** is finishing up 7 grade at Museum. Yonkers is changing the makeup of some schools, which will ease the crowding at Museum. Classes aren't crowded; there are just too many of them, making the place noisy and congested. So, we hope she will have a more pleasant final year. She may well make honor roll again, though it is tougher for her than it is for Bill. She's in the Math Club (esp. the 24 Game – Math 24) and Art Club. She is a Girl Scout. She and Shannon recently were in the recital for the Margaret Pike School of Dancing (both take Irish Dancing like their Mom did) and she is very good at it. She's just about even with Deanne in height, and will soon be the third tallest in the family.

**Shannon** remains the baby of the family, even though she's 7. She's made strides in her schoolwork (*esp. reading*), though she would still rather socialize than follow instructions or do work. "Free-spirited". She, too, is a girl scout in Mom's troop of brownies that meets at our house. She's doing well in Irish Dancing. We missed her part of the recital - we had a flat, called AAA, had D's brother stay with the car and raced to the recital, but just too late. She was pleased with her performance, and not TOO put off that we didn't get there.

**Mrs. Landy (D's Mom)** still occupies the "East Wing" of our house. While she is weakening more all the time, she hasn't been hospitalized recently. She needs help getting around, but she does get out at least once a week for a meal or whatever. She was with us for the girls' dance recital and Bill's concert.

Hope to see everyone at the reunion!

Love to all!

Alan, Deanne,

Billy, Gillian & Shannon

Hello Family,

2-144

It's amazing how this Roost Robin keeps going and going - tremendous blessing to hear from all. Well here in N.J. there is always something going on. With only 2 of us married you can imagine the busyness of this household.

The Cummings (Steph - Carbon + Cedar) after spending the past year living with us have purchased a home in Pa. in a suburb of Bethlehem. God has blessed them with a great find and they are settled + happy. Jason in Florida is now on the SWAT

team and I thought the police force was dangerous enough.

Krista + Adrienne will be finished with College by this time next year - this a special Ed teacher - Adrienne - English Major - Marc is home from Stevens Institute after 2 years and landed a summer job at the Physics Lab and will be in charge of the project. Robert will graduate on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June and heads for H.S.

He keeps busy - works - plays drums (trying to form a band) and is still playing soccer on a Premier Team.

Alex + I still work (WE HAVE TO) to keep afloat. No wedding yet but maybe soon. Everyone have a wonderful summer - God bless you all + see you in August!

Love  
Alex, Marcia and family