

Dear all,

8/28/12

I'm happy to be writing you in 'cursive' (tho my penmanship would never pass muster with my 1st grade sister at St. Michael's) just imagine - our younger grandchildren will never be able to read this, since cursive is VERBOTEN in public schools today. Ah! progress!

In Ken's absence, I've been tethered to our very productive garden this summer and look forward to our May family party next summer.

Love, & all God's blessings
Gene Clavin

Dear ever growing family ☺,

September 10, 2012

The great news is that the kids started school Thursday! Ahhhhh! Now I can finally finish a complete thought or task without being interrupted a hundred times. Hence, here I finally am!

Overall, things are well here. The kids had me so busy this summer, I could hardly keep my head on straight and as a result, I unfortunately wasn't as available as I would have liked to have been with helping Mom in the garden. However, Mom is a real trooper and plodded along nevertheless! And oh, that fresh tomato sauce is so good...

Arianna is in 9th grade, an official freshman. She has come a long way in the past year and finally has a terrific therapist as well as a whole team of support. Over the summer she's been involved in gymnastics (now just for recreation) and voice lessons as well as, of course, a busier social life than me. She and Kaylin are now also singing alongside the guitarist at Mass every Sunday.

Kaylin is in 7th grade. Over the summer she and the boys all took swimming lessons through the town. I was at the pool the entire morning every day for 6 weeks straight between all the different classes. She also took tennis lessons over the summer through the same parks and rec. and has now joined the school tennis team. She plans to join 4H and FFA (Future Farmers of America because she wants to be a vet) as well as "Stageworks", the theater club that she's been involved in over the past few years. They will start in October and put on a production in mid-January. Then, in spring softball will start up again. And the cycle continues...

Matthew, Mark and Luke are again all in different classes for 2nd grade. Mark is the only one who wanted to play soccer this fall, but now Matthew and Luke are sorry that they didn't sign up! However, they will have no choice but to play basketball in the winter as it will be a good way to get that exercise in when the snow is falling outside. They also all play in Little League in the spring. This coming year they will be making their first Reconciliation and First Communion. CCD starts this Sunday, for me too as I continue to teach the 8th grade Confirmation class.

This summer we kept things pretty low key with traveling. We just visited friends and had company here. We spent a weekend on LI where we went to Coney Island and the aquarium, Jones Beach and The Bronx Zoo, a weekend in Connecticut where we went to Dinosaur Park, and I also took the kids to Dorney Park in PA for one day sponsored through their swim classes. The kids also had fun bringing friends to swim in Blue Hole which is in the Peekamoose State Park only about ten miles from our house. Cold, but beautiful and loads of fun for the kids! We even went to the Ulster County Fair!

John is good. Kohl's keeps paying the bills so we can't complain too much. He spent his summer "vacation" doing handyman duties around the house, the biggest of which was fixing the back deck. Now he's heading into busy season. Hard to believe the holidays will be here before we know it!

Love to all and keep the good news coming! ☺ *Arianna, John, Arianna, Kaylin, Matt, Mark & Luke*

Greetings from Long Island! Autumn finally arrived today with cool temps and rain.

I'm still on duty at the library – officially assistant director now, and George will start coaching track again next month. He was a master gardener this summer (not in the same league as Lackawack Hill, of course) and every night we ate something from his garden. It was a good year for tomatoes. Travel came in short trips – one to VT and one to VA. Saw historical sites for Jefferson, Monroe, Wilson and Coolidge – and sampled 6 microbreweries' fare in VT. Medical concerns kept us local for a few months as George's mother was treated for breast cancer. Mrs. Dreher is 92, so outpatient surgery was the only treatment done. So far, so good.

The "kids" are good. (38, 34 and 30!) Matt and Carolyn are the travel champs: made trips to Argentina and Chile, Budapest and Vienna (with Uncle Frank!) and will travel to Spain and Morocco in November. I'll be visiting Kate in CA soon.

Not much else new. We're one of the quieter branches of the family right now. Always good to read everyone's news; life is certainly full of ups/downs and earthquakes! Hope that all are in good health and spirits – especially Aunt Rosemary. Welcome to the May Family, June, Tim and Billy!

Apologies for the delay in getting out!

*Love to all
- Barbara + George*

10/16/12

Dear one and all,

I was so glad to hear everyone's news. I vowed not to hold on to the letter too long this time....I have had it one day and here I am☺. My thoughts and prayers have been with you Aunt Rosemary since I received your email. I hope you are doing well now. I kept reading about all the college bound and recent graduates and thought, where has the time gone, aren't they all my cousins little kids??? Then I thought some more and realized our granddaughter, Ashley is turning 15 this month and has already started driver's ed. YIKES!!! As Madeline mentioned, our son Michael is getting married one month from tomorrow. Since he is still home with us until then we figured it was time to downsize so we have also put our house on the market and are looking for a new place. Nothing new to report yet but between the wedding and moving and working at Kohl's (Christmas has been set in the store for over a month already) the days are flying by.

Since it will be a while till you hear from Madeline again, I will let you all know that Ralph is doing well from his cancer surgery on his nose, HOWEVER, on his birthday (8/14) he was trimming a tree and one of the rungs broke and he fell on the driveway and broke his knee. A week after the swelling went down they did surgery and he is just now able to start to put a little weight on his leg. He has just one month left now to get back into his dancing shoes!!

Love to all Rose & Augie

Hi Everyone,

10/29/12

- I'm writing this a couple of days after escaping New York just ahead of the hurricane. I wound up getting 11 days out of what was supposed to be a two-week vacation, and had a great time seeing nephew Danny at Princeton, niece Kristen at her (new) Jersey apartment, and all the siblings' families as well as dropping by DC for a couple of days.
- A few weeks earlier, I had the wonderful experience of joining nephew Matt and his wife, Carolyn, on a trip to Budapest and Vienna. What a delightful time with delightful companions! I have three words for everyone: Budapest Wine Festival! Carolyn aimed for it in her extensive planning, and it was worth it! A batmy night, a hilltop view of the Danube, the famed "Chain Bridge" and Parliament building bathed in lights, a band playing dreamy jazz--oh yeah, and a lot of great wine! If you ever have a chance to go, by all means do it!
- Vienna and a side trip to Bratislava were terrific, too. I'm so grateful to Matt and Carolyn for taking the chance that a geezer uncle would work out as a traveling companion.
- Now it's time to hunker down for the lo-o-ong Milwaukee winter. Of course there'll be a Christmas visit back home and a trip to see niece Kate in California sometime after that. And then just counting the days until baseball returns.

Happy Holidays to all!

Kate

November 3, 2012

Dear Family,

While decidedly different from the year, 2012 has certainly not been calm and uneventful as we might have hoped.

First and foremost, in August, **Mom** was diagnosed with Waldenström Macroglobulinemia, a rare type of slow-growing, non-Hodgkin lymphoma that affects the blood-producing bone marrow. The primary effect of the disease is the reduction of blood production and resulting anemia / fatigue. The treatment of choice for the condition includes traditional chemotherapy and the use of the drug Rituximab. Because of her age, the doctor did not want to administer the traditional chemotherapy, as the side effects would likely overwhelm her. Therefore, treatment of four doses of Rituximab was scheduled. During the initial period after diagnosis, mom's blood counts fell three times to a point where transfusions were necessary. After the third dose of the Rituximab, she suffered some kind of event that caused a change in mental status; she became confused, disoriented, lost memory, and suffered weakness. However, after a week, she returned to normal. The doctor was flummoxed by this response, since it is not a known side effect of the drug, but no other cause could be identified (MRI was done to ensure she did not suffer a stroke). Since then, in spite of not having been administered the last dose of Rituximab, her condition has improved greatly. Her blood counts are improving and her mental and physical condition is better than it's been in months. Unfortunately, because she didn't *initially* respond to the drug as quickly the doctor expected, and lymph nodes are inflamed, she underwent minor surgery to remove two lymph nodes for biopsy. That biopsy showed that she also has a related lymphoma, that is slightly more aggressive than the Waldenström's. We are currently evaluating treatment / monitoring plans.

Danie decided to 'step aside' for the summer from her job at Quilter's Corner to allow room for the owner's (incompetent and uncaring) daughter to slide into the rotation and to give her more time to pursue her hobbies (that was the plan). She returned in September, but with the increasing needs of our parents (multiple doctors' appointments and procedures for Mom, as discussed above, and caring for her father (bills, doctors appointments, some shopping)) using up much of her 'free' time, she hung up her logoed shirt for the last time just a few weeks later. From what she's heard from 'spies' at the store, it's just as well, since conditions for the workers at the store are declining (partly *because* of some of the new workers).

Claudine & Laughton continue to do well. Claudine found a new job as the office manager for Fahrenheit IT, which provides contract IT personnel to companies. She joined the company as they were being taken over by a larger company, and moving to the Innsbrook office park, right around the corner from my office. The company will be branching out to provide all types of temporary help for companies. So far, she is MUCH happier working at this new job.

Chris & Kristy are also doing well. Both are stable in their current jobs. We don't hear much more than that.

Monica received a grant from the KofC to have her power wheelchair overhauled, so she is a happy camper.

The second half of the 2011/2012 **Bowling season** went about as well as the first . . . not so great. The most important part of bowling remains the visit to Friendly's (ice cream parlor) after the games. One notable accomplishment is that Danie was given the '(un)Sportsmanship' award for her relentless verbal and physical abuse during the season (*Ah, my sweet, sweet bride . . .*). This season hasn't been much to write about, so I won't.

Similarly, the St. Michael's Defenders coed **softball season** was unspectacular, but enough pizza and beer was consumed to compensate. I must admit that at 59, I probably still have the best batting record of the team.



We had plenty of excitement on June 25th, when a '**supercell storm**' exploded over the Richmond area, resulting in straight line winds of between 85 and 100 mph. The winds sliced the tops off of four trees on the property behind our house and caused another to break near the base, and fall onto a sturdier white oak that fortunately prevented it from falling on our house. One tree on our property broke where the one main trunk split into two branches about 30 feet from the ground. The branches slammed onto the main roof of the house, then rolled over onto the garage. The result was four holes in the roof, all over what was Claudine's bedroom, where her old bed mattress served as a big sponge to take a lot of the rainwater.

I sat out the storm in our office, which has a large open atrium bisecting the building. Most people (including mostly engineers (!)) gravitated to this area, where there is LOTS of glass forming the roof and walls, to behold the rain and debris roaring past the glass wall at the end of the building. Amazingly, aside from the large number of leaks caused by wind-driven rain, none of the buildings in the Innsbrook office park sustained any significant damage.

As soon as I could safely leave my office, I came home and worked to mitigate the damage by removing water saturated insulation from the attic and the bed from the room below. Power was out for three days.

Within a week, we had blue tarp patches on the roof, the tree from my yard was removed from the roof and the remaining trunk cut down. In a good neighbor gesture, Capital One had the other branches and leaning tree that originated from their property removed from our property. While it was certainly not good to have four punctures in the roof, what was remarkable is what *didn't* happen; stout branches missed the skylights, four other windows, the garage door, and the heat pump by inches. Considering that several ranch style homes nearby were bisected by massive fallen trees, we were very lucky.

As an aside, we now have so much more light coming in the back of the house that we'll need to obtain shades or reflective film for the skylights and back window to cut down on the light in the 'nook'.

Getaways this year included a long weekend in Lancaster, PA to attend the Lancaster Quilt Show, and a long weekend at a Bed & Breakfast in Reedville, VA, a week at the beach in Corona, NC with Ed & Janet Ebert and their extended family, and an 8-day cruise in October out of Baltimore to Portland & Bar Harbor, ME and St. John's and Halifax, Canada.

At work, we were shocked two weeks ago by the announcement that Dominion would shut down the Kewaunee Power Station (Wisconsin) on May 1, 2013. The company had tried for two years to find a buyer for the plant, but found none. We are losing money operating the plant the current power agreement (contract with the local utility) that expires at the end of 2013, but with the price of natural gas / coal being as low as it is, future power contracts would be for even less.

In what may seem as an inconsistency, but isn't, Dominion is still working on, albeit at a slower pace, the licensing and design of the third unit at North Anna Power Station.

The countdown clock to my **retirement** had to be reset slightly when I realized that my time in the retirement program began six months after I joined the company. Pension is maxed out after 30 years in the program and the program date starts six months after hire. I will reach that point on July 16, 2014. As the date approaches, I'll have to decide whether my mental state will allow me to go on to January 2015, so that I can get paid for five more weeks of vacation, and full incentive plan payout (assuming there is one) for the 2014 year.

Eric & Danie

P.S. I took Alan's advice and listened to the iPadre podcast #194 featuring Sr. Theresa. It was great! Good job, Terry!

P.P.S. Sandy was a non-event in the Richmond area, and had minimal impact in Williamsburg (Mom & Poppi) and Gloucester (Monica). None of the family lost power. Alan had two broken branches in the front yard, but otherwise was unscathed (power remained on). Maria and some of her family lost power (hers returned after 4 days) but no one suffered damage. That's all I know.

Dear Family,

November 26, 2012

Well, we in New Hyde Park, NY were VERY lucky with avoiding power outages and damage from both Hurricane Sandy and the big Nor'easter that followed in early November. Lots of damage and power outages in our neighborhood, throughout Long Island and the whole Northeast, but we managed to keep power and cable TV, and friends and family in the area did pretty well too. Mom survived in the country with a loss of power for 5 days, but the generator got her through and the woodstove kept her warm.

Nicole is in her second year at FIT and has an apartment a few blocks from school. She's doing well and enjoying the freedom of a 19 yo. living in midtown Manhattan. Few responsibilities besides school and a full party schedule!

Billy started at U. of Buffalo and although doing well has found the schoolwork harder than anticipated. He has managed to enjoy the party experience although he's actually complained that it's getting in the way of homework/papers, etc. June and I had a good laugh over that one!

Megan is a senior at West Babylon High and just passed her road test a few weeks ago. She's really excelled in school continually making honor roll, and is interested in staying local when starting college next fall. She's not sure of her career path, although she has interest in majoring in education, with a minor in language (Spanish).

Tim is now "man of the house" with Billy away at school, and he's continuing with track at Malloy and surprising his Mom with his good grades. In his spare time he's usually BMX biking around the neighborhood, looking for his next bump or bruise!

June switched from teaching 2nd grade to 1st grade this year with a number of retirements at her school, and is toughing it out with an ELL class and little assistance. The class is mostly Spanish and Asian kids, some with psychological problems. She comes home pretty wiped out most days....and hearing of her day usually tires me out too!

I'm plodding along at The Times, always dealing with new management shake-ups and weary of the tough advertising market newspapers have been saddled with.

A vacation cruise to Bermuda with the 4 kids was the highlight of a great summer, and June and I are now just days away from our 1st wedding anniversary. Time flies when you're having fun!

We have a new addition to the family since the girls and June were upstate a week before Thanksgiving and they found a kitten in the field near our sawmill. Supposedly "Boo" was going to be adopted by one of Nicole's friends, but June's animal lover instinct kicked in and now we have another pet to go along with our lovable 70 lb. dog Ginny.

Love to all,
Steve, June & the kids

Hoping to see many of you at the FAMILY REUNION, Saturday, July 13, 2013!!!!

12/4/12



Hi to all!

(We'll be there!)

Well, things can really change from one Round Robin entry to the next! While Bill & I are not quite "empty nesters", we're down by two now. Kristen found a teaching job, teaching math to upper level students at a private school in Morristown, NJ, & was able to get an apartment with her best friend from college. She now lives in Madison, which is where Matt & Carolyn lived before they bought a house in Maplewood, about 9 miles away! Meanwhile Danny is also in NJ, struggling with "multi-variable calculus" as an engineering student at Princeton. He loves it there, and has nice "quad-mates", and is already involved in many activities, including keeping up with his saxophone by playing in a wind ensemble. That leaves just Michelle at home - I say "just", but she sure keeps me busy, since I have to drive her back & forth to all her activities, special classes & doctor's appts. (And then, of course, there's also Kallie, our cute - but definitely hyperactive-puppy.) Michelle did a week's "trial" at a day program for after she graduates in June, so I feel a lot better knowing that we have something for her to do that's not just sitting around doing "busywork". They spend most of the time out in the community doing volunteer work, working on job skills, going to a gym for exercise, and having one recreation outing each week - like a movie or bowling. This particular group has just the younger ages, 21 + a few years, so that's important, too. The program accepted Michelle, & they think she's a good fit, so I'm relieved to have a post-graduation plan now.

We "weathered" Hurricane Sandy without electricity (& heat) for 5 days, & then another few days more without cable TV or internet. I'm of an age that I remember when transistor radios were a novelty (T), so I found it somewhat nostalgic to "do without." But, of course, I thank God that we didn't really suffer too much, & I pray for those who did.

Have a beautiful, blessed Christmas season, everyone!

Love from all the Zirkels

12-13-12 2-285

Dear All,

Today is the feast of St. Lucy. A very popular saint in Italy, for all you "Italians." Not much to say "as usual," for we contemplatives don't live exciting lives by the standards of the world! Joannie is doing well as superior in our house in Baxters PA. and I'm still here in TunKhanock. God has blessed us with a number of new vocations from all over the USA.

How good He is -

Be assured of my prayers for you all!

Love,
Theresa

December 20, 2012

Dear Family,

This is Eric again. The Round Robin landed in Mom's mailbox at Chambrel today, but she is not home to prepare her entry, so I'll handle it. As I noted in the last entry, Mom was diagnosed with both Waldenström Macroglobulinemia and related Marginal Zone Lymphoma. The first is a disease affects the bone marrow, the second affects the lymph nodes. The Marginal Zone Lymphoma, or MALT, is slightly more aggressive than the Waldenstrom's, but both can be treated (held in check, not cured) with the drug Rituximab. We were again faced with the question as to whether to use a more aggressive chemotherapy in an attempt to put both lymphomas into a state of remission, but given that Mom is weak enough as it is, it is thought that this course of action would be too much of a challenge for her. Therefore, we chose to continue periodic (every 8 weeks) infusions of Rituximab and monitor her condition. It was never determined what caused the 'episode' I described in my last entry, but we thought we'd take a chance that it was not caused by the drug.

She underwent the fourth infusion on November 14th. Prior to, and after the infusion, her hemoglobin has been well within normal range; indicating that the bone marrow is back at work. Also, the affected lymph nodes appear to have reduced in size ... all good signs.

However, on Friday, December 7th, she suffered a fall in her apartment, and we're not sure exactly what happened to cause it. Mom cannot remember clearly, but we think she was sitting on her recliner, getting dressed, when she over reached for something and tumbled off. She was not wearing her call button (it was on her walker, which moved away from her when she fell. She also did not have her cell phone or one of the two home phone close to her either. As a result, she lay on the floor for several hours, until several people, who were trying to reach her on the phone (including me), called the front desk to have the staff check on her. She was found by a staff person, who requested help from others to try to lift her. But because she was complaining of pain, they feared that she might have broken something and were reluctant to move her. An ambulance was called and she was carefully strapped to a gurney for a trip to the hospital.

We arrived at the hospital emergency room just after she did. She was disoriented, but that could easily be explained by the experience, and the pain meds they were administering. After what seemed like hours, they took her to have X-rays. Because of her scoliosis, and arthritis, they took shots at multiple angles to try to get a good picture of her hip and spine. And because of these conditions, the radiologist had difficulty reading the films. So they whisked her off again to undergo a CAT scan. In the end, they concluded that there were no fractures.

She was admitted for observation and evaluation at 9PM (I think she arrived at about 11AM). On Saturday, she was still somewhat disoriented, but it was hard to determine whether she was still under the influence of pain killers. She was evaluated by several physical and 'speech' therapists, who recommended rehabilitation. So on Monday, she was moved to the rehab facility in Patriot's Colony (a more complete senior care facility than Chambrel), where she has been undergoing physical rehab and 'brain games'.

The therapists are confident that she'll be ready to walk out of the place as soon as the day after Christmas. Meanwhile, I brought her Christmas cards, labels and stamps to keep her busy when she's not undergoing therapy.

Nothing has changed with Monica. She's happy with her room and her refurbished power wheelchair, but she has yet to be taken for needed dental work.

Dear All...

January 20, 2013

Greetings from Malverne, where we weathered Sandy with limited problems. Actually, I shouldn't say "we," as I spent most of the week in a nice, warm hotel room in the city, while Mary Jo, Terence and Kira were stuck without lights or heat for eight days and nights. I wanted to be home, but my presence was required at CBS News. At least that's the story I'm telling. Joseph was at his apartment near Fordham and never lost electricity.

We actually had a bit of a Sandy "rewind" on Christmas Eve. As I was leaving work for home, I was informed that the lights had gone out again, with absolutely no hope of getting an electrician until after the holiday. (Don't ask how this happened. It's a long story.) We spent Christmas Eve in the dark, and Mary Jo had to run all of her Christmas dinner provisions over to her brother's house nearby—and inform him that he would be hosting Christmas. I, of course, had to work on Christmas.

I have to say, however, that we have been very lucky. Folks just a mile away from us had two feet of sewage in their basements. We are extremely thankful that we were spared.

As for the kids—Joseph is a junior at Fordham. Terence is a senior in high school and awaiting word from colleges. Kira is right behind—a junior, so we are planning to ramp up the process all over again.

We're praying for Aunt Rosemary's recovery. And we hope everyone is well in 2013.

Joe Joe Clinis
Mary Jo, Joseph, Terence & Kira

Hi Great American Family!

2/9/13

I spent more 3 day weekends at the Farm than ever before (every 3 weeks) - where the barn has a red roof (like the house) & there are portions of newly milled Henlock siding. Lots more of Ken's timber framing expertise is on display, which hopefully many of you will see at the 7/13 family party. If you ask mom, she'd say she was in the garden from dawn to dusk in the warm months and now spends 90% of her time feeding the wood stove -- but it keeps her out of trouble. She rewarded herself with a Sept road trip to Wilmington where she assisted me at the Nun Run - my 3rd year helping out the Little Sisters of the Poor. We had 400 participants! Between that and my even larger club race, I devoted many hours each week to their success. Happily, I'll be stepping down as club president in a few weeks to devote more time to paying jobs. Business has been great. Need a website? Unfortunately, business has been all too good for Lackawack Lumber (started just for fun) where we've had to turn down jobs. Sandy was kind to me and Wilmington lucked out by having her eye pass right over us, to miss her nasty side. Many huge trees down ~~even~~ in the Catskills, where we'll have plenty of millings to do. Steve & Ken repaired sap lines, so Ken will be Sugaring when he gets off his ship soon. I ran Hartford Marathon in October and my "Beer Room" once again brought me fame when one of my web design customers wrote an article on me for a local magazine.

As always, I pray for the family while running (try it!)

I really do hope to see lots of you in July!

Love,
Webmaster Ray

Feb 13th 2013

Dear Family,

Unreal how fast a storm can change life as we know it. Thankfully, everyone was safe. I received this RR while my sweet sister Ronnie was here to visit. It was a complete & delightful surprise to me, (she's done this several times now),

Our family is happily celebrating the grand-children's birthdays (all in a row) & Ronnie was here for Sydney's 4th held in John & Chris' beautiful backyard which looks like "House Beautiful" as Chris loves Palm Trees & builds the most amazing Pergola's, outside shower & deck! YEA!

Ralph's leg is slowly healing & even though it hurts, he manages to walk 1 1/2 miles a day at least. He just barely was healed enough to dance @ Michael's Wedding - but don't worry, I more than made up for it - did the "Cuban Square", "Gangum" & "electric slide" except the electric slide looked more like a nuclear meltdown. Not to forget "New York-New York" It was a fun wedding. Just noticed the logo on back of RR address list - so cute. We continue to keep Aunt Rosemary in our prayers & hope 2013 is a good year for all. Love Ralph & Gadeline

Dear Family,

20 February 2013

It's been pretty quiet here in the Philly suburbs. No major transitions for our branch of the family. We had minimal impact from Sandy at our house. We never lost power, although many nearby were in the dark for a week or more. Colin missed 3 1/2 days of school. We also have had minimal snow from the winter storms, although daughter Emily is at Boston College so she got the two feet of snow from the last blizzard.

Brian has been living at home since his college graduation. He received one degree at graduation but was two courses shy of a second degree and is going back to finish those up so that he can have a second undergrad degree (B.S. in Math). He feels that this is the field he wants to pursue for a career. While he's on his old campus, he plays racquetball with the guys in the club he helped start. He is also working at the part time job he's had off and on since high school, but is definitely tired of that now.

Emily, meanwhile, is in her third year at the nursing school at BC. She is having clinical experiences in psych and pediatrics this semester, an interesting combination. She's quite busy outside of classes as well. She has a babysitting job, plays with the college orchestra, and is training to run in the Boston Marathon! She ran a half-marathon over the summer (and talked Brian into doing the same) and now she has joined a marathon club at BC which raises money for charity. Through the club, she can run in the marathon without qualifying. I think this is quite a lot for her to take on, but as far as I know she is making it all work.

Colin is a junior in high school, and continues to be very busy. He has loaded himself down with AP courses, is practicing for his driver's test, and is in several clubs and after school activities. He also has a job of sorts as a lab aide, preparing solutions for the science labs at his high school. He gets paid a token amount, but science is his thing so he would do it for free! He had a neat experience last fall when we hosted a German exchange student who was here for two weeks. They hit it off really well.

Joe's job at Merck continues to be a major stressor. He needs to commute to NJ two or more times a week now, and the company has never-ending reorganizations. For the time being, he plods along, and we are trying to be proactive in planning for the future.

Love to all,

Eileen

March 7, 2015

FROM THE YONKERS MAY FAMILY ---

William is working for Majestyk Apps (see his mug shot @ <http://www.majestykapps.com/about>) while finishing up his Masters in Computer Science @ Iona. At Majestyk, he works with the small team developing Android apps for clients while others develop the related apps for iPhone and PCs. It is a great learning experience for him, esp. since he didn't even own a smart phone till last year! And he has not had classes in Android programming! But he is successful. And being in a small, growing company could be the beginning of a great career. When graduation comes (May 18), then he will have to decide what to do next, since Majestyk is a part time position. There is also some encouragement from Iona to pursue a PhD in CS. Many things to think about. We don't really know how to guide him because of the economy, and we don't know the Computer Science world. He remains active in the Iona campus ministry, playing his Wind Controller at Masses and helping out where he can on midnight runs, etc. You can enjoy his Wind Controller talents at his You Tube channels, bmv5 and WX5ive.

Gillian is finishing up her college career at the Mount. It has been a rough end due to the fact that two of her closest friends did not do well. One dropped out entirely, and the other is taking only a few courses and is on campus (in the connecting dorm room) only one or two days per week. But she looks forward to putting college behind her as she explores options in Masters Programs. She is currently looking at Tarleton State U in Stephenville, TX and Central CT State U in New Britain, CT. She certainly has a gift for Math (from her Mom), so we are encouraging her to develop her talents and put them to good use.

Shannon is busy finishing her Junior year @ Sacred Heart HS. We suggested that she begin considering where she will go to college so that her senior year is as stress free as possible. Her first campus visit was to St. Thomas Aquinas (in Rockland County NY), and she fell in love with it. We have seen one or two other colleges, but she has been steadfast. Even though she can rival her siblings in Math, she wants to study Creative Writing. She has loved writing for some time, so – why not? We'll see what next year brings. She also just applied for her first paying job – at the Yonkers Summer Day Camp program offered at a local school. W & G have been counselors there, and Shannon has been a CIT, but now it is her turn to earn a living! She will also start Drivers' Ed at some point, since she is "sweet sixteen".

Deanne and I continue largely as always. **D** is busy with Sacred Heart activities 6 days a week (at least). The sacramental season will soon be upon her, which adds more pressure to an already overstuffed calendar. Yet it also means that the end of the programs for the year is not too far off. We both remain active in children's programs at SH. I keep plugging along at Deutsche Bank. Another year of cutbacks and the mantra: "do more with less". I had three managers this year.

With an offer to rent the Poconos house for Jul-Aug, we are considering other vacation plans. That is complicated since we really don't know who will be where and when. Most of you know that feeling! We looked at cruises, or heading to Florida (where we own a condo from D's Mother) via Virginia of course, or other options as well. Of course, **July 13** is on all our calendars, and we look forward to seeing a good representation from all parts of the extended May family under the new red roof in Napanoch.

I received news this week that Fr. Walter O'Brien (of St. Michael's fame) finally died. I say "finally" because he was 100: 82+ years a friar and 75+ years a priest. He had lived here in Yonkers at St. Clare Friary for the elderly and sick friars. I spoke with him in 2010, and he recalled memories of St. Michaels and both of my families (May/Metzner) way back. While he slipped away near the end, he certainly lived a full life.

Yesterday, Mom underwent another Rituximab treatment. As Eric wrote, she is tolerating the treatments and seems to be devoid of the main symptoms of her cancers, esp. the severe anemia. (She went to the hospital today because she seemed to be having an adverse reaction, but it seems there was a minor unrelated issue. She should be released tomorrow.) Aside from living well with the cancers, she has also assimilated well into her new Assisted Living arrangement at Chambrel. She's in a much smaller apartment, but she does not need to cook, nor store the food, cookware and other objects previously needed. She seems pleased with her new surroundings (she can see the pool area out her windows) and the level of staff service.

THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!
BLESSED EASTER TO ALL!

with love,
Alicy Deane, Will, Gillian + Shaun

3-18-13

Dear Family-

Seems each time the RR arrives there is another grandchild to report on our end. Krista is expecting baby #2 in 2 weeks (Easter) After trying to conceive for a while (2 miscarriages) God has blessed her with the intercession of St. Therese. This will be #10 for us. The rest of our brood is doing well, although with Adrienne moving to the west coast (Seattle) my heart is heavy with missing them and now there are 6 grandkids far away BUT next month I am visiting them ~~to~~ and babies so that Adrienne + Phelip can go to Florence for a week. Can't wait - still on the same job as nurse part-time and feeling well "PRAY FOR AUNT ROE" God bless you all
Mama + all the Fields