(301) 1/7/14 Dear family, in front of our new woodstore, now I am writing the from my desk, clad in 4 layers of warm clothing, and sipping a muy of delicion hot chocolate. Such is life on the farm - - any takers?? all are welcome! 2013 was long as usual lots of activity and projects interspersed with solo time to get around to doing all the things I had promised myself, but then got too lazy to actually do! Sen was here off and on, between cruises, so there was plenty of garden work that beckoned in his enlarged sarden. If hat do you think of a lady of advanced age, suddenly acquiring I chickon ? Well, they really belong to Kaylen, but reside here near the burn for practical reasons, and are cared for by everyone, they are finally all laying, and the payoff is delicious? Much love to you all co Gunt Clarie 1/28/14 Dear Family, So sorry for keeping this letter so long. I have to admit it got forgotten under the pipe." Thankfully, I finally deaded to go through it and had a nice surprise! This is the first winter that I can honestly say I asked myself why we moved back to the northeast. It's so cold that its downgight, depressing! Even the sun mocks us with its uxless appearance! And of , course, Titis is the year that we decide it would be a good idea to get chickens, As Mom said, technically they're Kaylin's chickers, but since she's a 13 year old with lots of other obtigations, the responsibility falls on yours truly. Overall, everything is okeny here. The kids are muddling through this new "Common Core" curriculum at school. Arianna 15/47/inth grade and Kaylin 13/47/inth grade and Kaylin 1312 8th grade (but in 9th grade regelts moth & science) aren't taking the brunt of it as much as Marthew, Mark & Luke (8 yrs - 3rd grade). Since The boys are still in the basic arithmetic + reading years, they're taking it hard! I can't even help them with some of their homework! The girls continue with their involvement in theater, singing at mass + Kaylin's 4-H. The boys play a sport for every season.

Kaylin's 4-H. The boys play a sport for every season.

John & I continue to run around like Chickens (no pun-intended!)

boulen our various commitments, but it keeps us honest! Thank God,

Kohl's Continues to pay the bills. Love & prayers to all. I keep you all in

Kohl's Continues to pay the bills. Love & prayers to all. I keep you all in

My prayers. Keep the Good news coming Love, Love and Tohn & the Kidi who

2/10/14

Hi, all. Glad to catch up with you thru the RR. Wish more could have gotten to Lackawack Hill. Next time!

The deep freeze continues on LI. But our winter has been warmed by the arrival of our first grandchild. **Matt and Carolyn** are proud parents of **Claire Elizabeth** - born Jan. 14 - 6 lbs, 12 oz. Carolyn had to have a c-section after complications arose. George and I have been able to spend quite a few days reveling in Claire and helping Matt and Carolyn with the newborn challenges. We drive or train to Maplewood, NJ every weekend. George is particularly helpful with the early morning (4 am) shift. Quite a few lives are now going to revolve around Claire!

Not much else is new in WH. Well - that is since my laproscopic liver surgery in June. I had a large cyst (gallon of fluid!) drained and effaced at Columbia-Presbyterian. I have a new cyst growing, but I will ignore it as long as it does not bother me. I continue my so-so merry ways at the library. Yes, even a library can be stressful! There's always more paperwork and grand projects and labor issues. George will become the head outdoor track coach at Garden City this year. Ian is making a long-anticipated trip to New Zealand and Australia. He will visit a friend who on a US government posting in New Zealand. Then he'll find out how the office is being reconfigured and how that will impact his job.

Kate has made a big change. She has taken a job in Mexico- near Mexico City. She started on Nov. 30. She works at CIMMYT - an international agricultural research institution. She has worked there twice before. She'll be archiving research data. This all came about very quickly, and it could be a 3 year contract. Eileen and I did manage to finally take a trip to visit Kate and see Big Sur and San Francisco right before she headed south.

Looking forward to SPRING (50 days from now). Wishing you blessings and gentle joys -

2/24/14

Perfect timing for the letter! It arrived one day before I'm off to New York, so it didn't have to sit in my mailbox for an extra week.

Winter is always wintry here in Beertown, but why did they have to invent this Polar Vortex thing this year? The snow has been tolerable, just a lot of small doses; but everyone's stopped counting the number of days for sub-20s wind chills, or worse. It didn't help that the heating system in my quite large apartment building died at least four times in January, each one requiring the maintenance guys to go unit-by-unit in bleeding the radiators.

Anyway, the highlight for me since my last installment was in early September --- the quick but wonderful trip I made with Matt and Carolyn to sunny, lovely Lisbon! Carolyn was the true hero of the journey, conquering the many hills of the city and its environs even though little Claire was almost five months "in preparation" at the time! I'm so grateful the new parents asked me along on their last overseas trip for a while...

In November I joined my brother's family for a football weekend at Notre Dame, where Terry is a freshman. The weather was iffy for the game but the experience was terrific! And in December there was a trek to Yankee Stadium for Notre Dame's bowl game against Rutgers.

Now it's back home to meet our new little sweetheart, which will officially establish me as a grand-uncle (I like that better than great-uncle). And then it'll be back here to see if things will warm up at least a bit before the baseball season opens.

Happy spring to all, assuming it arrives ...

Trak

March 2, 2014

Dear Family,

As noted in my last entry, **Mom** had a strong allergic reaction to the last infusion of Rituximab, which was being used to attack the cancerous protein cells in her bone marrow. At her next appointment, the doctor vowed that he will no longer use that drug on her. Mom's red cell count, however, was the highest it's been since she has seen the doctor, so the drug has certainly been effective. Rather than start her on another drug right now, the doctor wants to just monitor her until the red cells again begin to decline, at which time they would administer Bortezomib. Unlike the previous drug, that was administered via a multi-hour infusion, once every 8 weeks, the delivery of this drug is by a quick injection in the stomach and would be administered on days 1, 4, 8, & 11 of a three-week schedule. On the fourth bi-monthly monitoring appointment, (January) her hemoglobin fell below 10.0. If the count is again below 10.0 in March, he will begin the new treatment. She's not looking forward to the next blood test!

Monica is continuing to move about Walter Reed Convalescent and Rehabilitation Center with her power wheelchair. To provide her a little bit of stimulation, I purchased a 7" electronic tablet (for those who understand, a Samsung Galaxy 2 7.0 running Android 4.1.1 (Jelly Bean)) last May. It is a Wi-Fi only device, and there is no accessible Wi-Fi at the nursing home, so she cannot connect with the outside world. Therefore, I loaded it up with lots of games for her to play. I was concerned as to how she would handle a touch-screen device, and whether the device would last long before the power cord or the device itself would be destroyed (she is NOT gentle with her stuff, and neither is the staff). Well, she did seem to get the hang of it (although I doubt she could ever type much on the touch screen) and she didn't break it right away, but there was a third thing that I hadn't counted on: theft! Two weeks after she got it, it was gone. Fortunately, since I paid for it with my American Express card, I received a full credit and bought her a replacement. However, before we could bring it to Monica, Danie started using it and came to enjoy on it. So, I went out and bought another tablet. ... this one a cheaper off-brand that does everything Monica will ever do with it. Additionally, when Claudine upgraded to the iPhone 5C, she passed on her iPhone 4S to Danie, who in turn passed on her iPod Touch to Monica. So Monica now has several gadgets to play with. The nursing home provided a locking cabinet in which she could store the gadgets.

Poppi (Danie's father) continued his 'existence' in Williamsburg, where he is barely able to take care of himself, never mind the house. Danie had been trying to get him to move to a senior independent living apartment complex near us (actually very close to Chris & Kristy) but he has was resistant for several months. Finally, he agreed in June, and on August 17th, we moved him. He had difficulty acclimating to his new environment (social aspects and schedule (for breakfast, lunch and van trips to local stores)). Twice, Danie received calls from the management of the community, reporting that Poppi wasn't 'playing well' with the other inmates. Danie had to sit him down and read him the riot act about his behavior, and during a subsequent visit with his doctor, she explained his behavior, and he was given a prescription of 'Poppi-uppers'. He seems to be doing better now. We are in the midst of getting his house in order to put it on the market by the end of March.

Danie still spends much of her time taking Mom to her doctor appointments and caring for her father. Recent check-ups on the 'girls' have been negative, although she continues to fret before each exam. In celebration of another anniversary of her 29th birthday last year, Danie decided to hold a sewing party and a local shop that has a class / club room to make pillow cases for patients at the Children's Hospital. Not sure how straight the seams were, given that there was drinking going on.

Claudine & Laughton continue to do well, and both are 'established' in their respective jobs. Claudine's company, Global Employment Solutions IT, which is growing fast through acquisitions, has resulted in her taking on more responsibilities. She will be spending a week in the Chicago area to learn the processes used at an acquired company, so they can be merged with her company's current processes.

Chris & Kristy are also doing well. Chris recently changed jobs; leaving Timmons Group for a small startup advertising / Web development company, where he received a significant salary boost. Kristy is stable in her job. They continue to monitor the housing market, but a significant change is necessary in order for the value of their condo to increase to near what they paid for it.

The 2013/2014 **Bowling season** is started off slowly, but for some unexplained reason, the "Wastin' Away" team climbed to the top and took the top spot for the first half of the season. Danie has been notified by several others that they are gunning to strip her of her prized '(un)Sportsmanship' award. She has been unfazed by their threats and usually sends them back to their lanes, whimpering. Meanwhile we bowl . . . and then get ice cream. Incidentally, the boxing gloves in the photo were part of a costume one of her competitors wore on Halloween, in which he was trying to mimic her!

Getaways taken since the last entry included a week-long road trip in the Northeast, in conjunction with the Family Reunion, We started with the event at 'the Fam' and then headed east for Sturbridge Village, before arriving in Bean Town for a two-day stay. Then we headed north to the White Mtns (Mt. Washington) before heading south again to stay with Ed & Janet Ebert. We managed to participate in a small get-together with four members of the OLPH Class of '67 out in Hampton Bays on LI. That was a blast! In August, we spent 7 days aboard Royal Caribbean's 'Grandeur of the Seas' (the ship that had a fire on board in early May) on a trip from Baltimore to Bermuda, along with friends from our years in Williamsburg. Nothing much planned in the first half of 2014, as the preparation and sale of Poppi's house demands any 'free' days we're able to set aside. We have made plans for a Caribbean cruise at the end of August.



At work The final shut down the Kewaunee Power Station (Wisconsin) occurred on May 7, 2013 and the reactor was defueled by June. The operating license for the unit was relinquished. Work is being done to expedite the movement of fuel assemblies from the spent fuel pool into dry 'casks' and store them on a concrete pad on site. When that is done in about 4 years, the plant will go dark, and only a few security and monitoring personnel will remain on the site.

The countdown clock to my **retirement** has been reset again; back to February 1, 2015, as the uncertainty related to sale of Poppi's house still looms over us. Since he has no other assets, I am paying the monthly fee for Poppi's apartment, and to have his house restored after 25 years without significant updating. Until the house is sold, closing costs and outstanding loans are paid, and I get paid, we will have a better picture of where he stands, and then I'll see where I stand. In February 2015, I'll be 62 and able to immediately apply for social security (might as well, since no one knows how long it will last!).

Eric & Danie

PS: Let me amplify the comment made by Alan in his entry. PLEASE use the email addresses provided in the routing list to notify at least the next person who has an email address to let them know that the letter is on the way (but why not send a note to everyone?). Additionally, please refrain from using color paper and especially use high-contrast ink for your entries. Why? Because I (and others) make copies of the letter every time it passes through our mailboxes. Color paper and low contrast ink reduce the quality of copies / scans. I scan and maintain an ongoing electronic copy for archival purposes. Be aware that TWICE in the last round, pages from the letter were lost or damaged. Because copies are being made along the way, the pages were replaced and the integrity of the letter was maintained. Thanks!

Dear Family. (the Christensens)

We're all very good here in New Hyde Pork, Ove to downsizing I finally lost

My job at the NXT after 27 years. That trappened in July 2013 but I did

get a nice buyout package and am now searching for my next career move.

Lots of new house projects have kept me busy including new kitchen, buthraom,

heating system, room refinishing, etc.

June continues to be frustrated by the NYC school system and hopes to

retice and change careers when she completes her 20th yr. (one yr. from now)

Nicole finishes her junior year at FIT, Billy his 2th yr. at Buffalo

Megan her first yr. at St. Francis college, and Tim his junior yr. at

Mollay HS. They are all healthy + happy, but continue to cause

a naiety for their parents!!

We're glad that most news in the RR is good, but were sorry to Bear of several medical problems, esp. Just Rosemary's continued treatments of Madeline's recent scare. We're all generally good, thank Lod, but Michelle is currently going through a difficult physical Jemotional period that is too complicated to explain in this letter. However, if any of you have any extra "prayers lying around, we'd be glad to take them for her! Kristen is currently trying to decide whether or not to accept her school's offer for next year. There are reasons that staying for the one more year would be good career-wise, but she'd really rather get a position in a public school in New Jersey. Danny is school in New Jersey. Danny is doing well at Princeton, and we're very ground of him that he was one of the sophomores who were chosen to be RCA'S (resident advisors in the dorms) for his soponomores who were chosen to be RCHS (resident advisors in the dorms) for his junior year next year. Bill is still pretty secure at Morthrop Laumman, and I'm still keeping busy with my home tutoring. Around Christmas, my agency begged mie; to take a first-year Italian student, and I now have two, in begged mie; to take a first-year Italian students. It took me a while to re-learn the addition to my trench & Spanish students. It took me a while to re-learn the addition that I studied in college to years ago (!!), but I figure that any stalian that I studied in college to years ago (!!), but I figure that any exercising of this old brain of mine is a good idea at this point!

Exercising of this old brain of mine is a good idea at this point!

Spring has sprung - t we're waiting for a "nor caster" with snow that's due tonight! Happy Spring & Caster! Love, Bernadette, Bill, Kristen, Michalle, Dan due tonight!

Dear All,

I don't want to hold up this round Robin and since there isn't much news, I'll pass it on. A happy Easter to you all! Love, Theresa + Joannie

4-4-14

Greetings from Gloucester and Williamsburg.

April 13, 2014

Monica tells me all the fixing up at Walter Reed is done – and she hopes it stays that way for a long time. Her power chair is working pretty well after the overhauling it got – but now it needs a new or refurbished joy stick. But until the new one comes, the old one is working okay.....it gets her where she wants to go. That is all she asks! She does not want to go back to her regular non-electric wheelchair in which she has to make it go by her own arm power – that hurts! Whenever there will be a game to play or a Mass to be said or a meeting to attend, she goes around and gets things ready. The older nurses have been there as long as Monica has been there: two were fired and others took early retirement, so she has to get used to new ones in charge. There is always a change in aides – some call in sick or are just not coming to work that day or evening, and that makes it hard on the patients who just wait and wait for the aides to come and take care of them.

I have had physical therapy again for several weeks now and they have 'let me go'. But maybe I can have something better. The woman who does exercises with the group also goes to residents' apartments and does exercises with them there and, free of charge. This may work out better for me. I should keep up with some exercise otherwise I tend to tighten up again. Gotta keep going! One thing that is better: my upper right leg where there is an accumulation of lymphnodes - can be painful - is now much better. I wear a knee brace on my left knee and that knee does not have cartilage between the bones and I feel more pain there, too. At least the right leg is better in that department. The left leg is shorter than the right leg and that shoe is built up to make me stand straight. Ho, ho, ho! I can't stand straight - I have scoliosis, too. I think you know that! I do what I can - slowly but surely! As far as the lymphomas go, I will be having a blood test done the end of May and June 4th I see the oncologist whom I think will say it is best to start another medication whether the hemoglobin is better or not and this one will be given by an injection in the stomach. It is not to think about it too much. Whatever will be, will be!

Well, that's about it for now. It's wonderful to read about what is going on with everyone especially those heading for college, new babies, new jobs, keeping on with the jobs they have, etc. Most of the news in the Round Robin is good. There were some medical problems that were taken care of but with me, it is a continuous problem. So let's keep praying for each other: you pray for me and Monica and we will pray for you.

Love, Aunt Rosemary and Monica, p 42

DEAR FAMILY:

As I WRITE THIS WE ARE RECOVERING from 2 graduations.

Joseph completed his studies at Fordham. As Alvas overseives, we were ABLE TO PRESENT him with His diploma on a BENUTIFUL Day in the BRONX. Best VET, he is employed!

KIRA GRADUATED From KELLENBERS HS., and is off to the Cothole of KIRA GRADUATED From KELLENBERS HS., and is off to the Cothole of Visual ARTS: August to study Animation we HAVE NO DEA where Visual ARTS: August to study Animation we HAVE NO DEA where SHE got THIS THENT. NEITHER MANY To not MYSELE I can draw SHE got THIS THENT. NEITHER MANY To NOTRE DAME and

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MANY JO and I have just PLIEBRATED our Agth UKDDING ATMINERING

SO, WE have MUCH TO BE TEHANKFUL FOR in MALWANE.

Dear Family, June 14, 2014

I got a chuckle that Joe's last 2 entries heralded the start and end of another school year. Congrats to the grads and all of those starting journeys into adulthood, careers, parenting, grand-parenting... My last entry noted a new roommate and now I get to add that she's leaving --- just to show you that us singles can have that "family atmosphere" too.

Wilmington got at least as much snow as the rest of you (setting records), so I'm complaining less about summer temps (so far). Enjoyed my 30th college reunion (Kings Point). Ken retired from his sea-going days at the ripe old age of 46. (feel free to send him a letter-bomb). I realize how lucky I am to get to see most of my family every time I visit the Farm: Mom and her chickens (which now number 16 or so, providing eggs, entertainment, and occasional tragedy), Klein Clan just up the road (enterainment for me, anyway), Ken & Steve and whatever projects they need help with from planing lumber, pulling maple syrup taps, cutting firewood to cleaning up the barn. They've made super progress with barn cleanup in particular, with a goal of getting rid of junk and organizing the plants for the first time ever.

It leak one of my running friends from Delaware to get me to scale the 2 highest Catskill Mountains in one try (Side & Hunter) in snowshoes back in March. More recently, I got a taste of real family life by hosting Lorraine, John & 5 kids for a night each on their trip down to NC and back. I flew to CA in early May for a "Giants" theme trip. Saw a SF Giants game on one Saturday, and the next weekend ran "Avenue of the Giants" marathon through a forest of Redwoods about 250 miles north of SF. Good time visiting some old friends as well.

Running continues to be my most prominent activity. Staying healthy, so I won't complain that one of my worste experiences was making a 10 mile race into an 11 mile race back in October, by making a wrong turn (easy to do when on trails). It's nice to have run with literally hundreds of different people in the last 12 years. Keeps it enjoyable. One of my most regular running partners lately has been a 10 year old boy. His mom brings him out to run with me for as far as 5 miles at a time. (his mom is married, so don't even go there). I did attend the wedding for a friend of mine who's even older than me and got hitched for the first time....so who knows...

Besides web design, I'm now helping customers set up a customer loyalty program through an Austrian company called Lyoness. You haven't heard of them, but you soon will. Let me know if you'd like one of my "Cashback" cards, since they are good at <u>many</u> local and online merchants. See <u>www.AttractWeb.com</u> for that or <u>www.RunMarathonMan.com</u> for running photos. Take care,

Hear Jamily

Just spend 2 weeker with Ronnie & A mine

her already. Congratulations on the new babies

So sweet. I'm feeling well now, try to wack

3 x4 times a week (Ronnie wach Everyday!)

A get to babyeit quite often (Sydney + Taylor are

due in an how) + enjoy every minute of it. Dalphi

doing well too & D'in glad for thet. Hope your

all enjoy a happy, herethy summer. Your

Dear Family, 3 July 2014

I can relate to a lot of the entries I have read in this installment of the family letter. We suffered through the horrible winter that everyone else in the northeast did. And we have had graduations this year too. Emily graduated from Boston College with a nursing degree and Colin graduated from high school. Both exhausting experiences. There were lots of travel woes in Boston (think of all the colleges up there, all having graduation on the same weekend) and even our local high school graduation was a logistical nightmare with a class of 975! But we had some fun, too.

Otherwise, not much has changed for us since my last letter entry in October; everyone in the family is still in a period of transition. Joe did not lose his job during the Merck reorganization last October, but they are already cutting the projects that he was put on after the reorg. He doesn't think he will be let go this time, but...more changes. Brian still does not know what career path he wants to follow. Emily does know that she wants to work as a nurse and she does want to stay in Boston, but the job market is very tight up there for nursing, so she has yet to secure a job offer. Colin is set to go to college at Northwestern Univ. outside of Chicago. His interest in the school surprised us, because used to say he didn't want to go "too far", but he saw that NW was strong in Chemistry, his favorite subject, and that attracted his attention. He is going into the Integrated Science Program, which is a mash-up of all of the physical sciences. He thinks he will really like this major, so we'll see how it goes. Right now he is basking in post-graduation "glow" and going to the Northwestern/Class of 2018/Wildcat Welcome web pages every day. And I am looking for Twin XL sheets and motel rooms near Evanston, IL.



Loue to ell, Eileen Dear Family,

The RR arrived just in time for my birthday. I sat on a chaise in the backyard and read through the family entries. A good way to spend part of the day!

Yes, it was a long, cold, stormy winter, and these days after a perfect July 4 weekend are a hot, sticky summer.

Will continues to do well at Majestyk Apps (W 35 Street, NYC). He is currently "on loan" to a client of Majestyk, an app developer creating internet games: Lucktastic. He is very involved in all aspects of app development and is loving every minute of it (well, mostly).

Gillian returned to us in May. Shannon and I visited her in her adopted home of Stevenville, TX in February. It turned out that college did not prepare her adequately for the intense Data Mining program at Tarleton State, so she left the program, took some additional classes and returned home in May. The year far away was a great growth experience for her and she made some great friends. For the summer, she's chilling and getting her driver's license (tried once or twice between other events in her life) and looking for short term jobs. Then in September she'll focus on the next phase of her life. Selfishly, it is SO good to have her home.

Shannon graduated from Sacred Heart in May. She enjoyed a few weeks rest, and then began another summer as counselor at Camp Rays in Yonkers. With the threats of cutbacks, there was some uncertainty, but she's set now. She'll take two days off in a week to do an overnight orientation at Manhattanville College. Camp will end, we'll have 2 weeks of vacation, then she's off to explore what beautiful downtown Purchase, NY holds in store for her (and vice-versa). She'll be focusing on Creative Writing, but the program at Mville has a lot of interactive programs with other creative fields. She'll be dorming in the new Freshman Honors area, and has already connected with various classmates on Facebook.

Deanne is still running around at Sacred Heart. Summer is supposed to be the calmer time, but there's still plenty going on. We have a newly ordained associate, so she is helping him learn the lay of the land here. And before we know it, the new year of programs will begin and our time will be devoted to others again.

I changed roles at Deutsche Bank, now assisting in the huge regulatory requirements the Bank must meet. It is an insane time of overhauling antiquated systems and developing new ones. Millions are being spent on this effort. It is amazing to me that any Bank makes money any more. I am insanely jealous of my brother with his retirement date (somewhat) set. I cannot wait till I no longer have to ride downtown and deal with this daily grind. Health checks remain positive, so on I go.

Overall, we are a happy, relatively healthy crew. Many nights the kids will look and simply ask for a family game night that brings lots of teasing and lots of laughter. Then the complaints of the day are gone and we all know how just how blessed we are to have each other.

auth love, Alem Deanne, Will, Jellien & Sk

Dear Family - So good to read that are seems to be were July 20,2014 wort all of us. Some of you have already from recently that alex + I have separated for some time now. It has been a difficult time for me but I have adjusted to this fact, and have the suppose of my Chieden and clave friend & xemptons and believe me & am daining week. I love living here a thukor Loke and have involved nigelf in theatre Lowling, teaching (CCD) and my social life new Eads. I hike around the Community often, swine, play tennis, and goddle my If or canne. I plan on wisting my girls & their families in Sept (of grandless there) and they are planning a boat trip (whale watching) before I leave With all of us of stare work pure-time is the office and retirement is starting to My love to sel of you land freety good -Maria