

Dear all,

2/10/07

The wonderfully newsy RR arri~~2-229b~~ a difficult time for me. My L hip was replaced 1/19. After 5 days in hospital, I was supposed to go into Ellenville Hosp for R+R. However, a glitch developed between the surgeon + hospital (I had been given 5 units of blood) and so I came directly home and my loving nurse, Lorraine took care of me. It sure was difficult in the beginning, but we worked it out and I'm now doing nicely. I had a few visits with a home care nurse, & now have a therapist once or twice a week. Much is going on in the Klein family with houses & such, but I'll leave that up to Lorraine to explain.

Much love to you all —

Aunt Clare

Greetings Family!

February 23, 2009

I will start by wishing myself a happy birthday – your “baby cuz” is 40 today! So much has happened since our last entry that I’m almost at a loss for where to start. I’ll give it my best effort so here goes:

All was going well with our content, albeit crazy life, down in lovely Wake Forest, when lo and behold John took a shot in the dark and filled out an application on line for a position at the Kohl’s Department Stores distribution center right up in lovely NY State just 20 miles from the Christensen homestead. Well, long story short, he got the job within weeks of applying and on September 12, the Klein clan was on the road again, this time moving back north (what are we crazy?). We’ve been “cozily” (that is a nice word for cramped right?) living with mom ever since, kicking her out of her bedroom and taking over the top floor. Well, thankfully, this will soon be coming to an end because...

We are in the process of buying a house right up the road on Lackawack Hill, just ¼ miles away from mom! It’s a 1960 ranch total “fixer-upper” but the houses’ bones are good and the location is ideal! We are currently under contract and should close by the end of February or early March.

That being said, we’ve had our house on the market in Wake Forest, also since September, with very little action. Shall we say “bad timing!” However, finally we have been blessed with an interested party and are set to close on March 3. We are taking a bath on the house, but at least we’re getting rid of it.

How has life been on Lackawack Hill you might ask? Besides the beauty and majesty of the Catskills, and of course our happiness with being back with family and friends which we’ve missed so badly, we have had our share of joys and setbacks. These include:

- Lorraine gets a tick bite in late September while picking grapes and needs antibiotics
- Aunt Claire and Lorraine embark on an unbelievably wonderful 2 week vacation together on the Rhine and Danube Rivers with destinations including Budapest, Vienna, Frankfurt, Cologne, Amsterdam... This was a tremendous experience for us especially since we got to enjoy it together.
- Snow, snow and more snow—one storm resulting in Lorraine going into a tailspin while bringing Arianna to gymnastics and totaling Moms car! It’s a good thing she doesn’t need it at the moment anyway since she just had hip surgery and won’t be driving for a while. Wasn’t that convenient? NOT!
- We had a mishap with a shopping cart in the ShopRite parking lot and all three boys went spilling out of the cart head over heels into the black freezing slush. That was bad enough until I realized that blood was gushing out of Marks head resulting in 3 staples at the ER.
- After the hip surgery, Mom was supposed to go to the rehab facility in Ellenville, but due to hospital politics, guess what? Mom had to come straight home and Lorraine got to be her nurse. Boy was that fun! At the same time Matthew was sick with a high fever and stomach virus...need I go on?
- Finally, to ad icing to the cake, Arianna was goofing around and fell off a chair cracking her two front teeth. This resulted in a visit to the Endodontist with a double root canal. That was only the first part. Now we have to go back to the regular dentist (as well as a consult with an orthodontist) to get her front teeth bonded. Thank God that John has a job (for the time being at least) with good insurance.

Fortunately, things have calmed down in recent weeks. This is good because John and I have been concentrating on all the baloney entailed with buying and selling a house. Now it’s more ridiculous than ever to get a loan! Can we blow up all the politicians in Washington?

Overall, the kids are adjusting well to rural upstate living. Arianna and Kaylin have made some very nice friends right here on Lackawack Hill, and Tri-Valley is considered a very good school where they are doing well in 5th and 3rd grades. Arianna is also part of the competitive gymnastics team at Monticello Gymnastics. This is a real commitment as she has occasional weekend meets and practice three nights a week at a distance of 45 minutes each away.

God’s blessing to all and know that you are in our prayers—both to be thankful for our joys and to ask for His intercession in our sorrows. Hopefully 2009 will be a year of just joy for ALL of us!

Mr. Lorraine John Arianna Kaylin, Matthew, Mark & Luke

Greetings, all!

3/2/09

We're snowed in on LI today ... the only big winter storm has finally arrived! It's pretty. I have a day off - and I now can get to the RR quickly. It's good for us to share - be it joys, sorrows, challenges, triumphs or the daily humdrum. Our prayers still go out especially for Camden's family.

We Dreherers are all ok. George and I are most grateful for our civil service jobs! Job security and a pension someday (hopefully!) are icing on the cake because we both do enjoy our careers. We're looking forward to spring when we will relocate our veggie garden to a sunny spot (trees removed in the fall) and get those tomatoes on their way. We are hoping that the huge lilac bush we relocated from Mom's backyard has survived the move and the winter. We'll find out in April! Then we'll give serious thought to a cross-country trip. Our plans last summer fell through.

Of course, the big upcoming event is Matt's wedding on June 20 in NJ. They have made all the plans - wedding at Drew U, and reception at the Morris Museum. Matt and fiancée Carolyn are fine. Matt has even been able to snag a promotion at work. Carolyn works for Penguin Press in the HR department and commutes into Manhattan. They'll honeymoon in Japan (!) in autumn. Kate continues in Palo Alto and still has funding for her science data management job. I'll be flying out in a few weeks for a short visit. Ian has relocated to NY (here!) to save \$ and start anew. He's looking for work, but also contributing labors to the upkeep of 575 and his Grandma Dreher's house. We are all good roomies!

Mom's been gone over a year now, and it took that long to resolve our claim for a refund from the nursing home! It was quite a bizarre battle due to an incredibly inept business office, but we have finally received our final legacy from Mom and Dad.

The May reunion this summer was "fab" - and the weather held up! Hope more can come to the next one. We were also happy to see Ray, Steven, Ken and Aunt Claire at Christmastime. We heard all about the excitement on Lackawack Hill. Glad to hear that John and Lorraine are now on the way to establishing roots "up the road". Hope Aunt Claire continues to mend fully, too.

Let's hope and pray that our family members, and our country can weather the storms of this year. Looks like we are all going to be tested by the economy. We look forward to birth announcements and other happy events to come. Thanks for the photos, too! God's Blessings, Peace and Hope to all

Barbara + George

MARCH 17, 2009

Greetings from the McKelvey clan. We just finished up our traditional corned beef, cabbage + GREEN mashed potatoes with Pat's and her green clad family. Lots and lots of good news going on in the family as per the RR. Didn't hear it. I can add that Madeline + Ralph welcomed into the family their new granddaughter: SYDNEY LEE on 2/8/09. She was 5lb 10oz and 5 wks early!!! Talen, Chris and baby are all doing well. Not all that much is new in my own family - which I guess is good news. Paul will be riding in a 24 hr bike marathon in July in honor of Camden. The purpose is to raise funds for Cancer research and programs. I'm enclosing a donation form for anyone who would like to copy it and participate in this fund raiser. Our love to all of you

Ronnie + Angie

Retirement from the almost-vanished newspaper industry continues to go well. I'm having fun with volunteer work and my weekly visits to the finest Irish bar in the world. Plus I still have a foot in journalism, if there still is such a thing, because I collaborate on a sports column for a weekly paper here in Beertown.

Had a great visit with niece Kate in California in January---timed it perfectly, exchanging a minus-10 degree morning in Milwaukee for a 70-plus afternoon in Palo Alto. It stayed that way for five days as we had fun in San Francisco, Monterey and on the Stanford campus.

Several trips back East will liven things up in the next few months, as well as the baseball season and the fabulous outdoor swimming pool at my apartment complex. I also may repeat the teaching gig that I had at American University in D.C. last summer---love the city but hate that oppressive heat!

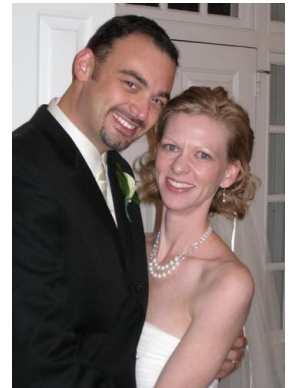
Everyone stay well and happy!



April 1, 2009

Dear Family,

Our big news for this round is that Chris became engaged to Kristy Ogg on December 17th, and, as I predicted, the couple beat Claudine and Laughton to the 'altar'. Chris & Kristy wanted a small wedding in the Spring, but the critical path to the wedding plan was to be the establishment of new living quarters (Kristy lived in a house with her sister, and Chris lives in a one-bedroom condo). However, in these *tough economic times* (drink!) Chris found out that his condo is worth less than what he owes on it, so he can't sell right now. Then, Kristy lost her job. So, since she had time on her hands, (and was without health insurance) they came to the conclusion that they should speed up the wedding. She planned all of the arrangements, and prepared his condo for both of them to live there (they've moved anything they don't need to her sister's house for storage). The wedding was on the evening of March 14th, at a friend's house. After the brief ceremony and some refreshments, the couple departed to prepare for their week long honeymoon in St. Lucia. Two weeks later, a casual reception was held for the newlyweds at the condo complex clubhouse.



In an exact opposite to Chris & Kristy's small wedding and simple reception, Claudine & Laughton's more elaborate wedding plans are moving right along. St. Michael's Church has been booked for a 2 PM wedding on October 3rd, with a reception at the Richmond Marriott West right down the street from my office. The dress has been selected, photography and DJ services have been secured and transportation, flowers and wedding cake details are being worked out. So we're well on the way (*to bankruptcy!* . . . *Hey, what about a government bailout!? After all, we're working hard to stimulate the economy!*)

Danie is enjoying here role as Mother of the Bride; working with Claudine on most details. She helped out with Chris' wedding when asked, but the couple took care of most of the details with their friends. When not consulting on the perfect wedding, she has been helping her mother, who had foot surgery early this year, with doctor visits and other needs. Danie is preparing to teach another quilt class; this one to make a landscape quilt. As always, she can frequently be found at a quilt guild meeting, a quilters' supply store or a quilters' retreat.

This year's bowling season has lacked notable performance by the 'Wastin' Away' team. With the 'kids' moving on in their lives, their participation on the team has been limited to periodic substituting. The regular team is now Danie and me, our original teammate, Clint, and now, his wife, Barbara.

The *tough economic times* (drink!) have certainly impacted Dominion, as operating budgets have been cut across the board. Unfortunately, the Engineering Department budget includes precious little more than salaries so it would follow that cutting the budget would cut jobs. However, the company is spending large amounts to make capital improvements that result in additional 'green' power thanks to financial incentives from the State. Among the projects are the uprating of the Surry & North Anna units by, among other things, replacing the steam turbines with newer, higher efficiency designs. Our efforts therefore have been refocused on supporting (*and charging to*) these projects (displacing outside contractors) to make out budget reduction without the loss of any Dominion employees.

I just want to note and acknowledge that a number of the Round Robin participants are also finding their way into the world of cyber social networking. All of the Eric May and Alan May clans, Ray, Maria, Ronnie & Augie and quite a few of the younger generation have signed up on Facebook(.com). Social networking won't take the place of the old style Round Robin, but it can provide a means for getting out quick news items, and little snippets of our lives, fast. You should try it out and look us up!

Eric & Danie

Dear Family,

April 14, 2009

- Tax day is tomorrow.....and boy have we all been taxed!!! As noted by Frakie and Joe, the Newspaper industry is dying a quick death and the wonderful NY Times is right there with them. We had layoffs and pay reductions a few weeks ago and right now I'm just happy to be employed....for now. It really doesn't look good....but in life there are certainly always going to be ups and downs....so I guess we just have to deal with it.
- Nicole is doing Spring track and will be finishing her sophomore year at West Babylon HS. Megan will join her as a freshman in the fall. Meg has also decided to join track so it looks like their Uncle Ray has rubbed off on them a little bit. (Maybe it's all the t-shirts he distributes from the marathon's he's been running!)
- Since my heart issues last winter I've been feeling great. Lot's of pills (Crestor, Plavix, etc), but back to normal activities and then some. We're preparing a larger garden on Lackawack Hill this year to supplement the "healthy eating". Plenty of forestry work over the winter, and now tree planting in another week. With everything going on in the world right now it seems the farm is the one place I can find my sanity! Everything else with the Christensen family is going pretty well and Lorraine should be into her new house within a month.

Love to all,



5/1/09

Dear Family,

Hi to all! Nothing too exciting going on in Bethpage right now! No "milestones" - at least till October, when Bill & I celebrate our 25th! Kristen is finishing her 2nd year at Marist; she has been involved in so many organizations there that they have ~~now~~ offered her a paying job in the Admissions Office. Michelle is technically in her junior year in N.S., but in her special ed program, the kids can stay till they're 21. It's a mixture of academic & vocational training, and next year she moves from jobs around the school to actually working out in the community. Danny is a freshman in N.S., & he participates in so many activities that it's a rare day when he does come home right after school ~~is~~ over! I continue to be very busy with my home tutoring, although in past years I had more students who were physically prevented from going to school (like after scoliosis surgery or sports injuries). Now, so many of my students were suspended - usually because of psychological problems - especially the students I encounter at the Sagamore Children's Psychiatric Center. It shows how much stress there is on children, as well as adults, these days! Bill's job is stressful, but he estimates that he'll have to work at least another 8 years! Love to all the Berragette family

R

2-234

Hi All,

Capuchin Sisters 5/8/09

Sorry, this is the only paper we have at the moment! I am amazed at how much is going on in the family. Congratulations to all new parents, grandparents, newlyweds... etc. Joannie and I keep you all in our prayers.

Speaking of prayers, let's all pray (continuously) for the state of our country + world. As the Scriptures say "The evil is upon us!" Only Our Lord can save us from ourselves. How sad to know that the first thing Obama did as President was to ensure the deaths of babies - Heaven help us! Pray, Pray, Pray!!

Nothing new here. We are growing and happy in the mountains - Be assured of our prayers for all!

God Bless, Theresa

Greetings from Williamsburg and Gloucester, VA

I just celebrated my 83rd birthday last Saturday. Eric and Danie and Sophie (their little Shitzu - so cute) came over, picked me up and we went to see Monica. I don't get to see much of Monica because right now I'm having therapy because of the three flukey accidents, nothing serious, that kept me from driving. The last time I drove to see Monica was around Christmas. I had the car inspected in February and there were some things that would not pass the inspection - so they were taken care of and then the car was parked in front of my apartment. Eric tried to start the car May 3rd - It would not start - he gave it a boost and it started and we drove to see Monica and the car worked fine. Then again, the car was parked out front until last Saturday. Eric started the car right away and we drove to Monica. I'm going to try to drive my '84 Toyota, which is 25 yrs. old. I have been taking therapy and today the therapist wanted to see how I get in and out of the car (that's the big problem - I can get my legs in - but it takes a little bit of maneuvering with my legs and feet). The therapist has some ideas to strengthen my legs so I'll get in and out of my car more easily and I'll be driving again. Otherwise I play Rummikub with my friends, go to any appointments I have (I am taken to them by the car here) and many kinds of events going on to please everybody and keep us busy and happy.

Monica is still doing pretty well. She is having some dental work done: having teeth pulled instead of getting them filled, etc. She has two teeth on the top that have to be pulled - then all dental work will be shelved until her power chair is fixed and then she'll get her upper plate and then the bottom teeth will be done. This is how things have to be done.

Well, Chris did it. He and Kristy beat Claudine and Laughton in saying "I do." They were married on March 14th and Claudine is getting things ready for her wedding to Laughton on Oct. 3rd. Eric and Danie are doing well - they like to take a few days now and then and go to places they have been to and like - or to a new place. They are taking off this week for a vacation in KY. Eric and Danie believe in "See America First" - and that's great!

Alan and family are doing well. They just spent a 4 day getaway to their cabin in the Poconos. Bill finished 1 year at Iona College and Gillian graduated May 29th from Sacred Heart High School with very high honors. Everything is all set for her to attend Mount St. Vincent College in Manhattan. Shannon finished 7th year, with honors, at her school.

It was good to read about all the things happening. There were some not so good news but everything else seems to be going pretty well with the May family. I hope it stays that way.

Keep all the prayers coming for us - we're praying for you!

Rosemary and Monica



12/21/09

2-235

Dear Family —

So Sorry for the delay. The letter was misplaced in my work bag and when I switched to a different bag, it lay broken for several months.

We're looking forward to an "exciting" 2010. Joseph will graduate from High School, KIRA from grammar school, and Terence will complete his first year in High School.

MARY JO & I will also celebrate our 25th ANNIVERSARY, possibly with a Mass at FORDHAM U., where we were wed.

Joseph had a tough summer, after suffering a serious elbow injury while pitching. After a few tough months of REHAB, he's looking FORWARD to playing BASEBALL in the spring.

Terence just started running track at Chamivade H.S., and is becoming quite a sprinter.

KIRA continues to paint and sculpt at ART school and is looking FORWARD to High School next year.

Merry Christmas to all
Joe & Mary Jo Clines

Dear Family,

12/30/09

Happy 2010! Since I run so much, I do my praying to put the time to good use, & you're in my prayers. I've now run over 10,000 miles since I started in 2002. First big 2009 event was doing both a half and full marathon at Disneyworld. I enjoyed 5 fabulous days with 12 buddies -- and could still walk when it was over.

Always helping with farm projects, like the new room above the garage, built with wood from our own trees. Lots of "forest management" under Steve & Ken's supervision! Even ran around Roundout Reservoir twice. Besides building my 100th website, I wrote an internet marketing eBook, but nobody's buying it. Started 2 blogs and 3 email newsletters. Attended 30 yr HS reunion, but more importantly, the Clines family Xmas party for my 3rd year in ~~California~~ a row! Even fit in a quick visit w/ Kate while ~~in CA~~ in CA in December to run a marathon in Sacramento. Peace + prosperity!

Ray

