

8/2/14 311

Dear family,

As always, it's great to receive the RR, and keep apprised of all the 'doings and goings on' of our busy family. And welcome to the newest additions! It's getting extremely hard to keep abreast of everyone - new "family tree" needed here!

Farm life continues to expand, with Ken 'retired' from the sea, and a full time 'land lubber'. Our vegetable garden has more than doubled in size, there are additional chickens, and a new 2 footed animal - "WIG-LAF" - a 1/4 HAREMMA, 3/4 GREAT PYRENEES puppy to protect us all by the time he reaches an adulthood of 100+ size.

A careless misstep (while I was with a group of adults and children) landed me on my R/H side - nothing broken or apparent - just plenty of OUCH - kept me pretty much out of commission for 2 mos. - still hurt, but much improved.

This summer, after the awful winter we all suffered, seems exceptionally beautiful up here.

Everyone is invited to come and share it with us. No engraved invitations needed.

Love to all,
Aunt Claire

Dear Family,

8/9/14

It's so nice to hear about all the happenings in our wonderful family! I don't know if I spend more time reading this letter or praying for everyone as I flip through the pages. I miss you guys so much!

Things are very busy around here for obvious reasons. Arianna is busy with Drivers Ed + lots of theater engagements. She's been in an updated rendition of "Snow White" (a musical along with Kaylin, Matthew & Mark), a play called "Stop Thief", and is now playing a "hot box girl" in "Guys & Dolls." Kaylin's busy with 4-H and just finished swimming lessons with the boys. Matthew, Mark & Luke already have their first soccer practice scheduled for Sunday!

A couple fun things have happened this summer... While down on L.I. visiting friends + doing our annual family trip to Jones Beach, we bumped into Joe & Maryjoe at church in Malverne! What a treat and impromptu visit! Then my cousin Barbara (from my dad's =

side) surprised us with a lovely visit with her family this past week! We had so much fun & I was thrilled that my guest bedroom got so much use this summer!

Thankfully, all else is pretty routine around here. John is pretty miserable at his job, but Kohl's pays the bills so he puts up with it. We're blessed that it's been a cool summer. We spend as much time outside enjoying (and working) as possible in these beautiful Catskill Mountains! School will start all too soon for the kids + winter will be rearing its ugly head before we know it! Oh! One thing I forgot to mention... John and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary on July 16! Time sure does fly! We're actually going on a cruise in September through Canada & New England. The best gift John's parents can give us is that they're babysitting the kids for us!

I'll end on that happy note! Love & blessings to ALL!
Honoring, John, Arianna, Kaylin, Matthew, Mark & Alice

Greetings, all! Coming to the end of the gentlest summer in years. Have we NYers all been transported to San Diego??

As predicted, our lives revolve around Granddaughter, Claire, who is now 7 months old. We have been on Claire-care duty for 1 - 2.5 days every week since Carolyn went back to full-time work in June. (Carolyn's mother takes her the rest of the week.)

When Claire starts 3 days of daycare in September, we will not be required so often, but I'm sure we'll get to Maplewood every week or so to visit or babysit on the weekends. George is a remarkable grandpa, and sometimes cares for Claire solo so that I don't use up all my vacation days. We're lucky he is retired and will not go back to track coaching until November so he has great flexibility. He can carry her for long stretches in a baby carrier and finds a way to get cereal in her mouth (not just on her hands and face). It will be even more "fun" when Claire gets truly mobile soon. We continue to train over as often as possible. (Half fare for old coots like us on NJ Transit!) Matt and Carolyn are resilient parents - getting used to parenting in all its guises. Much of the rest of our spare time is spent in our vegetable garden. My 50 tomato plants are now in full yield, so I harvest 5 - 10 lbs. per day. We give most away. No, I don't make sauce! I grow about 8 basic varieties, and always have 4 - 8 cherry/grape size plants. George has been harvesting his beans, lettuce, cukes, eggplant, basil, etc. as well.

Ian and Kate are good. They actually met in Sydney, Australia in March! Ian was there on vacation, and Kate was there for her job. Kate has been up from Mexico twice to see Claire and she skypes with us when we are in NJ for more facetime.

As always, the RR is full of the blessed power of **FAMILY**, and we hope all medical situations are stable. Maria, I can actually hear you speaking confidently what you wrote in your note and you know you have all our support. Wishing all a tranquil autumn!

Love to all
Barbara & George

Dear Family,

August 28, 2014

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. Time is slipping by so fast it is hard to believe we are nearing Fall so quickly. Augie and I spent my birthday weekend in Charleston SC, a beautiful city and then this past weekend went to Oak Island, our first time on a NC beach (3½ hrs from home). We have also had some time with Madeline & Ralph both here and at their cabin.

It is hard to believe the grandkids are back in school already. Our oldest, Ashley, just started her senior year. Where has the time gone? Andy and family are doing well. Thinking college for Ashley next year, back and forth with the girls for dance, softball, school activities. Patti and her family are adjusting to the new school year. Aiden & Chloe have just started in a charter school. Patti had to have surgery on her nose on Tuesday. They found cancer last year and other treatments didn't get it so she had to have the surgery done. They had to go deep to get it, but the cancer itself was small. They said they got it all and she saw a plastic surgeon that day. Paul started a new job last year as a rep for an eyewear company. He is doing well and he likes the change from optician. His territory is all of SC and an added benefit for me is once every six weeks he is in Rock Hill and stays over our house for a night or two. But we also go to see them in Hilton Head for long weekends too.

Karen was traumatized this week when she had to send off her oldest, Mikey, to middle school. She said she lost more sleep over it than he did. Too bad we can't keep them in our arms forever. Lastly there is Michael. He lives only about 3 miles away but they have a small house and hope to find something bigger sooner rather than later which means they will be putting more distance between us. But not too much. . . Augie and I are so thankful to have all our children and grandchildren so close. And the kids appreciate us too. . . always available for babysitting and dog sitting (Augie's job).

Our love and prayers to ALL our blessed family

Ronnie + Augie

9/2/14

Hi Everyone,

My last entry was mostly a lament about the ferocious winter Milwaukee had, even by Milwaukee standards. This one, however, is an ode to the summer we're still having here! Hardly a day in the mid-80s, let alone 90, and mostly nonexistent humidity. And the T-storms were so perfectly timed that there was only ONE DAY when my complex's swimming pool had to close. The result: The Ultimate Swimming Summer! And the Ultimate Poolside Reading Summer as well!

There was a quick visit back home to see the lovely grand-niece Claire and the Yankees a couple of times. There may be October baseball to watch out here, but the Brewers are making it a little iffy these days.

Up ahead: Seeing nephew Colin as he begins his Northwestern career, joining Terry and the Malverne gang for another Notre Dame football weekend in October, and at least one more trek east before the usual Christmas visit.

Love to all,

Frank

September 13, 2014

Dear Family,

As noted in my last entry, **Mom's** hemoglobin count was below 10.0 in January, and it continued a slow decline in March. Since it did not drop significantly, the oncologist held off starting the new treatment. Two weeks ago, Mom went for her next periodic visit, and learned that her hemoglobin was down to 8.9 and a protein count, that is an indicator, shows that the Waldenstrom's is getting worse. He is therefore recommending that she begin the next course of treatment (chemotherapy), probably in October. No one is looking forward to this.

Monica, is now wheeling herself around the nursing home via the brute force method, because her power chair broke about 2 months ago, and she didn't have the money in her account to fix it. However, sufficient funds will be available next month to make repairs, so by mid-October, she should be zipping through the halls again. Recall that I got her a tablet computer to use (for playing games) over a year ago, that was stolen, and I bought her another one (much cheaper off-brand). Well, that one was broken last month. So I purchased yet another (good news is that they keep getting cheaper!), so we'll see how long it lasts. When I gave it to her, I found out that she now has access to Wi-Fi in the facility, so I set her up with a Facebook page and an Gmail account. I didn't have enough time during the last visit to show her how to get on line, and she is appropriately cautious about doing so, therefore, she won't be active yet, but look forward to messages (or Facebook posts) from her in the future.

One year, almost to the day, after we moved **Poppi** (Danie's father) out of his house in Williamsburg and into at senior living apartment here in Richmond, we finally closed on his house. So much work needed to be done to empty the house and get it ready to sell, that we only got it on the market in May, although we continued to do work and move stuff out of the garage until the week before the closing. Nonetheless, it is behind us

now, and Poppi has enough money to last him a few years. He has acclimated much better to his environment, and is now receiving more attention from the lonely ladies in the complex.

The aforementioned preparation for sale of the house, care for her father in his apartment, and the occasional trip to take Mom to doctors' visits has certainly kept **Danie** busy and stressed. Additionally, Sophie (our 11 year old Shih Tzu) needs additional attention (multiple daily eye drops) as she recovers from a detached lens on her left eye that required surgery. Danie continues to participate in quilting guild meetings and events, but her time in the sewing machine has been limited.

Claudine & Laughton are doing well, and their jobs are stable. As her company continues to grow and consolidate, Claudine's responsibilities and workload grew to the point that she had to seek and was given an assistant. It's not that the assistant doesn't do a good job, but the staff (mostly the guys) usually come straight to Claudine for their business needs.

They just had new granite countertops installed in their continuing effort to add value to the house. They will be celebrating their fifth wedding anniversary (early) at the end of September with a week-long trip to Denver.

Chris & Kristy are also doing well, having already passed their five year anniversary. Chris has been with the current company, Punch, for over a year and is happily challenged there. A short profile on Chris can be seen on his company's web site; PunchRVA.com. We still don't communicate much with them (sigh), so I don't know much more about what is going on in their lives, other than the love to take long bicycle rides around the Commonwealth.

The 2013/2014 **Bowling season** ended with a whimper after our strong build-up during the first half. Three-quarters of the way through the season, I suffered acute tendinitis in my elbow, and wound up sitting out the rest of the season. The 'Wastin' Away' team played on with substitutes each week (sometimes Claudine, but mostly not), and managed to pull off a second place finish in the second half. The roll-off between the first and second half winners was no contest. The other team creamed us for the title.

At the Bowling dinner, Danie's worst fears were realized, when she was denied a three-peat of the (un)Sportsmanship award. Of course, the award is supposed to be a tongue-in-cheek 'honor', and we're not sure of what happened behind the scene (a super-secret committee decides the winner), but the winner of the award is *seriously* a sour puss, who really *deserves* the award (nothing tongue-in-cheek about it). The winner was absent from the room when the award was made, and I could not image their reaction to it, had they been there. Fortunately, when the winner was announced, Danie made a big stink about being denied the award. Her animated antics defused what could have been a tense situation (gasping and perplexed looks, quickly turned to laughter).

Danie decided that she wanted to take a break from bowling for a while, and because my tendonitis is not yet resolved, we're both dropping out this year. That's no reason *not* to join our former teammates at Friendly's each week, though (as long as the franchise survives) (gotta keep our priorities straight!).

As for **Getaways** this year, as one might imagine, that was difficult. I took one week of vacation in March to work on Poppi's house; power washing the house and deck, cleaning, painting, replacing old lighting fixtures, kitchen faucet, bathroom faucet handles, toilet seats, etc., to update the place a little. We got away for a week at the beginning of June for Danie to attend a reunion of her Stella Maris HS classmates, who were all reaching a certain milestone birthday. During that trip, we visited Danie's cousin and family on LI, took the ferry to CT, spent a few days in Newport RI, and spent another few days in CT while visiting with Ed & Janet Ebert. On the way back, we made quick stops at Alan's house, and Maria's condo before returning to the Old Dominion. Our big trip, which we just returned from, was a 7-day Western Caribbean cruise on Royal Caribbean's Freedom Of The Seas (out of Port Canaveral), followed by a couple of days at Universal Studios, Orlando. That trip ended one day before our 38th wedding anniversary.

The countdown clock to my **retirement** is still ticking. The plan continues to be finessed, with the current plan that the new phase of my life will begin 'officially' on May 1, 2015. The fine tuning of the retirement date stems from the fact that I have to be employed during the month of February in order to receive my bonus (on the assumption that there is one) for this year. And, since we now earn vacation quarterly, staying another month (until April 1) will earn me an extra 1½ weeks of vacation. So, with the 40 hours I carry over from 2014, and three weeks earned for the first and second quarter of 2015, I can declare my end-or-employment as the end of April, but only actually show up for work on the first few days of that month.

All of this planning could be for naught, if the rumors we've been starting . . . , uh, I mean *hearing*, actually come true. It is said that in order to achieve targeted budget reductions in 2015, there will be a package offered in December to employees who are '60-plus'. This would flush out the next wave of retirements. The last package, which was more lucrative and directed at a larger population, was offered in 2010. Therefore, only now are people preparing to retire who couldn't take the package then (like me). Rumor says that the target audience is being looked at carefully, as there are so many people approaching retirement age, that there is fear that the 60-year-old threshold may draw too many takers. The age may be limited to 62+ (that's me in January), the package would be a more modest one year's salary (vs. 18 months in 2010), and the effective date would likely be the beginning of February. If true, I would be heartbroken, and would be seen crying all the way to the bank.

I am not counting the days until retirement as much as I am noting the passing of the final occurrences of the mind-numbing repeated 'events' of my years in corporate America. I completed the last setting of employee annual 'goals' (no one cares), the last update of 'Performance Improvement Plans', (no one cares) the last annual Nuclear Plant Access Training, Fitness for Duty Supervisory Training, etc. On the yet-to-do list is my last Emergency Response Drill exercise (although I will continue to respond to random 'availability assessment' callouts multiple times a month to the end), two refueling outages, and the final employee appraisals.

Eric & Danie

Dear Family,

10/2/2014

We're all good!!! After being unemployed for 13 months and handling many projects on the new house (new plumbing, new boiler, new basement including bathroom, new kitchen) I've finally gotten a new job. No longer with the long commute to the city I'm a short 9 miles by car to Westbury LI. I'm just 5 weeks in and thankful to rejoin the workforce.

June has been battling a variety of nagging illnesses but overall is doing well and still teaching 1st grade....her 20th year as a NYC schoolteacher. One bit of sad news was the passing of her brother over the summer from Pancreatic Cancer.

Nicole entered her final year at FIT, Billy his 3rd at U. of Buffalo, Megan her 2nd at St. Francis College and Tim is a senior at Molloy HS. All are working various jobs and driving their parents crazy in new and exciting ways. Gonna keep this short and end it here....everyone have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas as we enter the holiday season!!!!

Love,
Steve, June + Kids

Dear Family,

10/13/2014

Now that we are officially into the Fall, we're looking back on the last few months as "the summer that wasn't"! Not only was the weather not really very summer-like, but we spent the first 6 weeks preoccupied with my father-in-law's triple bypass surgery & recuperation. When the patient is 85, any surgery is nervewracking, but thankfully he came through it well & is back to his normal routine. The second half of the summer was spent trying to help Kristen find an acceptable & affordable apartment for her latest move. She is now teaching middle school math in the public schools in Mamaroneck, in Westchester County, & finally is settled into an apt. in nearby Port Chester. With the end of the "vacation time" looming, we finally got all five of us together for a short trip to Lake Placid. With very limited time available, we shot right through the Catskills up to the Adirondacks for the kids' first trip up there. Hopefully next time we'll have an extra day to stop on Lackawack Hill!

Danny is doing well as a resident advisor in his junior year at Princeton. Unfortunately Michelle is not doing very well; she has now moved officially into the world of "mental illness". With a "dual diagnosis" of developmental disabilities and mental illness, the future prognosis is bleaker, and the availability of services (that don't cancel each other out!!) very confusing. We are working on medications now & praying for some answers. Her program was cut back to Mon-Wed-Fri., which doesn't help! Today is Bill & my 30th wedding anniversary! We're hoping to get away for a few days in Nov., if his parents are able to stay with Michelle.

P.S. On Thursday, Oct. 2nd, we marked 40 years since my father's passing. Doesn't seem possible!

Love, Bernadette & family
Holiday blessings to all!

Theresa included this note to me as her addition to the RR. She used a stock-note paper - so I typed it up and here is what she wrote:

Aunt Rosemary,

No time to write!

We are praying for you!

God Bless,

Theresa

Greetings from Gloucester and Williamsburg,

Nov. 3, 2014

Monica has had her power chair worked on again - something re. a new joystick. It was fine and everything was working okay until it would not hold a charge. The company who fixed it was called - but they did not call back the social worker yet. Monica and the social worker thought: The chair can be charged from the front, yes? - well, they tried it and it does hold a charge for awhile. It is working pretty well - it gets Monica to where she wants to go.....Another nurse took early retirement - now she has to get used to the new one who was hired. She has the option to keep the doctor she now has - but hasn't seen much of her - or choose another one. Now the nurse practitioner seems to do most of the work - and she was looking over Monica's record of the medications she has been taking over the past 20 years and thought she might have a seizure. She reported her findings to the doctor and her medications were cut back. Monica complained and an appointment was made to see a neurologist. So, she saw a neurologist in Gloucester - the one she had in Williamsburg years ago has since died. The doctor was very nice - he agreed with Monica and put her back on some medications and she is happy about that. The doctor said he believes she is doing well - has had no seizure since she was 17 years old while on a Senior trip to Washington, D.C. (47 years ago).

And about me: I was on another medication given to me via IV: Rituximab. IV #3 did not go well with me and the doctor decided not to continue with that. My blood work was not bad, in fact the medication did some good for me. The doctor gave me and family the choice of continuing with another medication or going on for awhile without medication, which is what we chose until the blood work started to decline. The doctor said it is time for another medication. so now I am on Velcade, a chemo, which is given by injection in the stomach. So far, I am doing pretty well. My hemoglobin is 9.2 (it was lower) and my white cell count is down (it was higher) and that is good. To remind you, I have 2 lymphomas, one of the bone marrow and the other of the lymphnodes. I'll be seeing the doctor soon and find out his thoughts as to how I am doing. Whatever the doctor says about me I can write to you in my Christmas card.

It is so good to read all the good things that is going on with most of you. Special prayers go out to Michelle and her "mental illness" condition.

All of you have a very happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a very happy, healthy New Year. Let's keep praying for each other: you pray for Monica and me and we will pray for you.

Love, Aunt Rosemary and Monica

Dear Family:

12/19/14

MERRY CHRISTMAS to ALL from MALVERNE!

WE'VE HAD AN EXTREMELY BUSY YEAR.

Joseph graduated from Fordham in May and HAS BEEN WORKING in SALES, though he MAY BE READY to jump to a MARKETING job early next year.

Terence is in Sophomore year at NOIRE DAME where HE IS STUDYING ENGINEERING. WE HAD A LOVELY Trip to SOUTH BEND in OCTOBER for a football game.

KIRA is in FRESHMAN year at the School of VISUAL ARTS, where she is STUDYING ANIMATION, and loves every SECOND of Living in the CITY. Looking FORWARD to a frenzied HOLIDAY SEASON.

I HAVE JUST RETURNED to RUNNING, after HAVING knee surgery in OCTOBER.

Love from Aunt Rosemary, Joseph, Terry & Kira

2015

Happy New Year!

2-317

Run, Joe, run! Glad to hear you're getting out there again. For all of you who were/are HS athletes (or coaches), I never participated in any sports, but got probably my closest taste to that atmosphere a few weeks ago. My running club is a member of USATF, which held the National XC Club Championships this year at Lehigh University, about 80 miles from Wilmington. We chartered a bus and in all had 65 participants (forming 7 different teams) in that event. There were 4 races - Women's 6K open & masters, Men's 10K open and masters over a 4 hour period. Our club had our own heated tent (where beer flowed after we completed our respective races). So I finally enjoyed that "team road trip" experience.

In other running news, ran my 25th marathon, just down the road in Dover. The first mile as a lap around the NASCAR track and the remainder was the most boring run ever. Just cornfields and grasslands. Hoped for my fastest 26.2 in 3 years, but instead it was my slowest (just an 8 minute difference). Didn't hydrate enough! In other, other running news, I coordinated yet another successful Nun Run 5k, where we had a record shattering 600 participants, and raised \$20,000. (I gotta brag, since there's no paycheck.)

I appreciate the chain of prayers for each other that this RR helps foster. I have much to be thankful for and contribute my own prayers almost every time I go for a run. I continue to take 3 day weekends at the farm every 3-4 weeks. I enjoy working with my brothers and eating my mom's good cooking (even though she often warns us that her sense of taste is no longer good). I'm turning my family into a bunch of barbers. Since it's pointless for a bald guy to pay \$12-15 for a haircut, I get Steve to buzz me and if he's not available I find whoever is handy. Mom, Ken, Arianna & Nicole have all stepped up to the plate and I still have 2 ears. OK so the rest of you are writing about births, illnesses and jobs and I'm talkin haircuts- It's good to be single!

Between Ken and his hunter friends (who became regular weekend guests throughout November), they got 4-5 deer. Mom got involved right away with assisting in meat grinding duties. None of them were Santa's reindeer, so don't blame Ken if you didn't get your Christmas presents on time. Have a positive and productive 2015!

Jan 14, 2015

Ray

Happiness to all in 2015 & Beyond. That was a special Epiphany greeting Ray, TU. Sad to hear of Michelle's troubles. Hoping A. Rosemary is doing better. Didn't know A. Claire has a baby named for her - so nice - (my dad named A. Claire when she was born) Cute photo Eileen. Speaking of birthdays, Ralph turned 70 in August & as grandpa's oldest living - I'll be 70 in April ugh!!! I feel 17 though so it's ok. Enjoyed reading every word of the RR. - Thank you all. As I said before, we're having our ups & downs like everyone else. Our Jannae is now separated from Stephen & will be divorced this year. It's scary because insurance is so expensive when she's on her own with Kendrae but St Theresa will guide her I know. Otherwise Allen & Chris & girls are doing good - love school & are angels until it's time to go home - HA!

Kai is being home-schooled by Heather & Brent - is active in Scouts & Brent is working on an organic farm weekends & loves it. Skyler is too cute at 2.

almost 3. We had them here for several days as Heather + Brant went on a trip to San Francisco for her 40th Birthday. [You know you're getting old when your "kids" turn 40 - Well Brant is 42!] I keep you all in my prayers till we meet again Love Mabeline + Ralph

Dear Family,

4 February 2015

I received the letter a couple of weeks ago and was just about to write that the winter has been cold at times but almost snowless. Then I got sick (minor illness) and had to put the letter aside. In the meantime, there have been two major snowstorms on the East Coast, with more snow in the forecast. Here in Philadelphia we did not have major accumulation, but the more recent storm dumped a foot on the Chicago area, where Colin is studying at Northwestern U. Meanwhile, Emily in Boston got two feet from the first storm, and another foot or more from the second storm. This has been the snowiest 7 days in Boston's recorded weather history!

Unfortunately for poor Em, she had just started a new job when the first storm hit. After trying for months to find a no-experience hospital job in Boston, she started part-time work in a nursing home in the Boston suburbs, pretty distant from her apartment. A couple of months later, she started a second part-time job in a second nursing home in a different distant suburb. As the first storm hit, she made her way on a long commute to the new job, fully expecting to have to spend the night. She ended up spending a couple of nights and worked multiple shifts for people who couldn't make it in. She also had car trouble the first time she tried to make her way back home. Of course, Emily expected to have these sorts of experiences as a nurse, but it seems like she's been thrown in the deep end of the pool right away! However, she's surviving and can live with the long commutes for now. Her strategy will be to work in these entry-level jobs for awhile and build experience.

Snow notwithstanding, Colin seems to be enjoying Northwestern. Likes the school, likes his major although it is a lot of work. A pretty smooth transition. There will be a lot more decisions down the line as he plans out his coursework and looks into doing research (he's a science major) and/or study abroad, all of that. Brian is still living at home, working at a part-time job while he decides on a career choice. Despite Brian's being close by, I'm afraid that we won't have much family togetherness any time soon. Emily will have limited opportunity to visit, will be working most weekends and holidays. Colin has one week of spring break in March, but goes to school until mid-June (unusual for a college). We only had a couple of days together at Christmastime, but Emily was home for all of Thanksgiving week. We were able to cheer her on in the 2014 Philadelphia Marathon on 11/23. For those who remember, she ran in the 2013 Boston Marathon but couldn't finish. So we were very happy that she finally achieved that goal. The next goal for all of us is to make it through the winter, I suppose!

Love to all,

Ellen

Dear Family,

The RR arrived one of the few days we had mail this week. Generally in this winter of continual storms, mail has been spotty. The storms are disrupting all aspects of our life, limiting travel, causing illness, aches and pains from shoveling, and even (gasp) missing days of work. This week has seen the coldest temps in over 100 years, with colder temps on the way this weekend.

Our family dynamics have changed since Shannon is now away to college. For a while, it was Will & Gillian away and Shannon alone with us parents (lucky her). But now it is just the opposite.

So **Shannon** is off to Manhattanville College and is taking on all aspects of College life. Aside from issues with her roommate which are still unresolved, she seems to be fitting in well and enjoying her courses. As with most colleges, she is required to do service hours, and that has taken her to a midnight run, a children's hospital and other firsts. She's not overly involved in clubs yet, but she will be - probably in the writing fields. She loves her current course in her major, *Creative Writing*, so all is well there. Don't ask her about Math last semester...

Gillian began a new job this week, taking care of 4 year olds at Sacred Heart Grade School all day Pre-K. Comically, her first day was a snow/ice day. Fourth and fifth days, she substituted for the first grade teacher. Great experience! She is subbing for a woman going on maternity leave. Hopefully, this will lead to a permanent position somewhere in the early childhood areas. "They're adorable!"

William has changed jobs, now working for Jump Ramp, creators of Lucktastic which I mentioned in my last entry. He is the "Android Doctor" as you can see at <http://jumprampgames.com/team>. He had been working for Majestyk Apps, working in Lucktastic's offices (*client of Majestyk*). Now he just works for Jump Ramp, located in Midtown Manhattan. He still plays his wind controller at Mass at Iona College on Sunday nights. His dedication to his alma mater is commendable, but it also helps that his girlfriend, Alysha, still attends the college.

Deanne is now the sole assistant at Sacred Heart after her coworker retired after 30+ years there. So she handles everything in the office, the sacramental programs, and a lot of other stuff. As one of the priests is a newly ordained Cap, she (with the pastor) has to temper his exuberance with the complex reality of life at Sacred Heart.

Alan is currently interviewing for new positions at Deutsche Bank. After being in Finance all my life, I thought it time to make a change to another part of the Bank. Nothing definite, but with all the new regulatory work being required of Banks, there are new opportunities worth checking out.

Mom's hemoglobin numbers have actually stabilized for now. She seems to be responding to the chemo. She still has leg pains, and we are all trying to figure out whether she should get a new walker, a scooter, or both.

That's "all the news that's fit to print" for now - - - love to all!

Alan, Deanne, Will, Gillian + Shannon

Dear Family,

2-27-15

As I look at the date, I am excited that spring is coming soon. Most of us endured another harsh bitter cold winter, and how I hated to see the high heating bills. Looking so forward to seeing the snow gone and flowers bloom. I am doing well and so are all my children. Thank God. I will be going to spend a few days visiting Jason + his family in March. I am kept busy with work societies here at Shadow Lake and even joined a bowling league, which I have enjoyed so much. With my son Marc, looking to move to LA. I

will have 4 of my 6 children in all 4 corners of the
Country. Boy has life changed - Remember when we all
lived in the same state? But on the bright side at least
I can look forward to visiting them and getting away from
the East Coast. Not much more to say - Hope you all
have a Blessed Easter + God Bless you all

Lone
Marvin

3/3/15

