

Happy Holidays from the Livingstons

Holiday greetings to all. Thanks for your friendship and support over the many years! 2007 was a milestone year as Karen and Phil turned 50, Sarah moved rapidly toward independence at 16 and Scott became a teenager. That's a milestone for everyone but Cindy - she needs to step it up. Hard to believe we are celebrating our ninth Christmas in Basking Ridge, NJ.

Sarah turned 16 this year. She went to the big Island of Hawaii with her friend Lydia for her 16th birthday present. Traveling to Hawaii alone was a big step. She went to tennis camp at Northern Colorado State on her own too. Going to Manhattan via train with her friends is no big deal anymore. Concerts and dinner in the city are regular events. She worked hard at her tennis game and captained the JV team at school. Sarah started driving this year and last week she showed us how to drive with one wheel on the curb. She seems to think that it's fine to use the curb as a steering guide - scary. She started thinking about college. For some reason she's focused on California. We keep saying, "but it's so far away" she says "exactly". She's studying really hard (not) for the SATs this spring, but overall she's doing really well at school, becoming a beautiful young woman and making us proud everyday.

Scott had a big year, growing in confidence and presence each day. He had a lead role as Sky Masterson in Guys and Dolls in summer drama camp. We think he put some extra practice into the performance. He also competed in the school's forensic competition this year, getting third place in a big field. He went to a leadership conference in DC this summer. Scott's great academic results reflect the hard work he puts in. He's in 7th grade this year and has played on the top-level soccer and basketball teams. His hustle, quickness and motor are amazing. Karen is his number 1 soccer fan. He is still playing the piano and working on the guitar lately. He loves iTunes and texting his friends. As I write this, he's at Madison Square Garden seeing a Knicks game with some too-kind friends.

Cindy - the self-described "angel child" - will be an angel in the Christmas Pageant at church this week. Her highlight of the year was summer sleep away camp for ten days with her buddies. She turns 10 next month - so long to single-digit children; so long to cute and cuddly; hello smart mouth, know-it-alls. "Funny Dad - ha ha". She's an excellent athlete playing both soccer and field hockey. Thinks her father is very annoying and full of not-funny jokes. But somehow she still loves her Dad. She and Dad loved to watch American Idol and Dancing with the Stars together. Cindy called Dad's cell with updates when he was traveling. She's doing well at school and always has her nose in a book. She read Little Women and Harry Potter

and the Deathly Hallows along with about 50 other books. A book a day is pretty common and we're really proud of her reading.

Karen chaired another successful book fair at Far Hills CDS this year. Great team effort that she enjoyed leading. In the spring she ended her year as the 10th grade class mom at Sarah's high school. Running still makes her happiest, she hopes to get in more running miles next year. We celebrated her 50th birthday with a family day at the Jersey shore and a memorable dinner at the Vine in Basking Ridge. She loves the beach, the C Lazy U and running. She rode Gunsmoke again during her week at the C Lazy U, and badly wants the horse to live in New Jersey. Chauffeuring demanding children is still the top priority. But she still arranges our annual subscription to the NYC Ballet with dinner at Shun Lee or Rosa Mexicano - just us, no varmints!

As for me, I was so glad to have my Mom and Dad meet me in Havre de Grace, Maryland, my birthplace, on my 50th birthday. We had a special lunch and a walk around the little house in which they rented a second floor apartment in 1957. The statue erected in my honor was an amazing likeness. But the town couldn't afford to make it life-sized, a small but noticeable error. Many friends from the C Lazy U met for a weekend-long celebration of Graham Durgan's and my 50th birthdays in New York City. It was quite memorable and we hope the group will gather again soon. I made the trip to Augusta for the 2007 Masters golf tournament with a group of friends. I've been to many big-time sports events, but nothing is quite like the Masters. Unfortunately, I hurt my back badly just before the annual summer trip to the C Lazy U. Too wounded to travel, Karen and the kids went on without me. Bummer. But overall it was a good year. Lots of corporate board work led to jumping into an operating role again as CFO of TouchTunes Music Corp. The company is the leading maker of digital jukeboxes with 30,000 installed in bars and restaurants around the country. Very nice group of people and I'm proud to be part of the team.

Lots of love and joy from Karen, Phil, Sarah, Scott and "Angel Child"
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