**2020 MARTINI NEWSLETTER**

Despite all that is going on during this crazy year, thought I’d get this newsletter out to keep us connected despite the reunion having to be cancelled, to strive for “normalcy” and it’s something to fill up time☺! I didn’t hear from everyone this time but decided to go ahead with what I had on hand.

Last year’s reunion was held at Delhi Park on September 7, hosted by Uncle Frank’s family. We were blessed with a lovely day after a string of unseasonably hot ones. As always, there was a large turnout with almost every family represented. It was great to see Phil and Angie who visited from Indiana. Hope they come again next time.

My notes indicated that Max Martini (Lou’s grandson) and C.J. outlasted everyone else in the egg toss; then Max and Phil Wesley proceeded to win the cornhole tournament; Emma Lageman correctly guessed the number of goodies in the candy jar. Paul was once again the oldest present and Denny & Diane’s granddaughter, Brynn was the youngest.

**Joe:** Sadly, we lost Mary Ellen in February. Since Arlene visited her faithfully, I asked her to write about Mary. It is as follows**: “We lost our beautiful red-headed cousin, Mary Ellen, on February 13. She was 89 and had been a resident at Hillebrand Center for the last few years. Since I lived so close, I just started visiting her about once a week. She always had a smile for anyone who came into her room and I loved my visits with her. “Hello Doll!” was one of her usual greetings. We had White Castles and beer one day for lunch. Joe (her twin) gave me some insight on her earlier years. I love this story about her, he said they were in the same grade at Resurrection School but his parents, Joe & Mary, were talked into holding him back a year so he would do better in high school. Mary stayed back with him! That’s the kind of person she was. She went to Seton and then St. X Commercial downtown where she was talked into going to the convent for 2 years. She left before her final vows and worked at Cincinnati Bell for a while but retired after working at the Court House for years. I miss my beautiful friend. R.I.P. Mary.”**  (I appreciate her input.) I still keep in touch with Joe via e-mail; we both enjoy political cartoons. He’s had several medical issues throughout the year but is hanging in there.

**Charley:** Chic & Claire celebrated their 60th anniversary on May 7. (That was also the day Dave & Eileen wed). Their oldest grandson, Michael, from Nashville, is headed to ‘Bama where he’ll roll with the Tide!! We wish him well.

Thankfully, our family is making it through this pandemic. We had another grandson, Andrew (Drew) Colin born on 12/19/19, son of Mike & Cherie. Sophie was thrilled with her baby brother. Our grandson, Patrick Gray, is scheduled to marry Jenny on 9/19/20 but they have scaled back their plans and will say their vows in her parents’ backyard with immediate family present and hopefully hold a reception sometime down the road. We returned from a Caribbean cruise on March 4, unaware of how close we had come to having a very extended trip if it had not ended then!

Arlene & Bob have been staying close to home but do enjoy playing golf on occasion. Arlene always reminds me and everyone to keep praying the rosary for our country.

**Andy:** Tim (Don) & Bonnie have moved from San Diego to Nevada, maybe their retirement home? Best wishes on their new adventure! Ginny & Matt Beckenkaupt are looking forward to the rewards of grandparenthood as their 1st grandchild is due during the holiday season. Best present ever!

Janet continues in good health and must need a scorecard to keep track of her ever expanding family. Her son Andy & Sarah hunkered down at their Indiana home from March to Memorial Day and may have set a new record for Shanghi Rum racking up 100 games☺. Their daughter, Meagan & Matt Ingram welcomed their 3rd son, Charlie Martini Ingram on 12/19/19 (love that name and he was born the same day as our Drew!!). Jace Micheal (Kayla & Mike) came along on 12/18/19; Julie Elizabeth, daughter of Ronnie & Allison arrived on 6/10/20 and Tanner Edward McDowell, son of James & Natasha was born on 12/16/19. Lots of December birthdays to celebrate along with the holidays for their families!

Tony & Barb were called home for the funeral of her Mom in August. Ginny Kumpf passed at the beautiful age of 98. She was blessed with a loving family including many grand/great grandchildren. God Bless her and her family during this sad time.

Mary Jo & Dave celebrated with grandson, Will, who graduated from Mason HS via a decorated school bus which dispensed diplomas to cap & gowned graduates at their homes! He has accepted a scholastic scholarship to Alabama. Well done, Mason. Steve & Krista’s daughter also graduated but sadly with no fanfare; such a strange year for those celebrating special occasions☹!

**Martha:** Edward is doing OK; dialysis going better after a few problems earlier. Joyce has been staying close to home due to Covid; her sons are running errands for her. Audrey and Barb are hanging in there. They are grateful to Alan’s daughter-in-law, Angie, who has been helping them with grocery shopping, dr. appointments, etc. for 3 months until they could again do it themselves. Barb said she is a beautiful person, inside and out. The CUZ card club met in July and plan to do so in August also; sometimes it just good to feel “normal” again! Following in her sister’s footsteps, Jolene Geiman, graduated from NKU with a nursing degree and Jaycee Bucher graduated from the University of South FL and will be moving back to PA, near her Mom; her future plans are on hold, another casualty of the virus.

Several new additions to the Groschen branch of the family. A son, Corbin Edward, was born to Marie & Cole Musial on 1/21/20; Joshua & Rebecca Cooper welcomed daughter #3, Elsie, on 7/14/20. Jim Schmidt married Nancy Centers on 1/25/30 and Greg Bucher was wed to Nicole Hauck. Congrats to all the newlyweds, new parents and graduates!

**Bud:** It was heartbreaking to hear of Dave’s death, a Covid victim before we realized how deadly it would become. I appreciate Larry writing the following in his honor:

**“David Charles Martini, age 82, of Shelton CT, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 21, 2020 “is how his obit began. But there is so much more to the story of Dave. In addition to being a great husband and care giver, father, grandfather, uncle, cousin and friend he was a great brother. He was always planning or doing. His last couple of weeks he was trying to figure out how he could get to Kentucky for the June wedding of our first grandson Matthew (so he could see all my kids and grandkids), make it to the Martini Reunion and join Marge and I in Hilton Head in October. He was planning a very busy summer. Then March arrived and he began having what he thought were minor, but strange, medical issues. “Hey Lar, something strange happened last week, I had trouble swallowing, I went to the VA and they gave me some meds and are going to run some tests. I’m OK now and back on solid foods.” Next time I talked to him we talked about how he was busy closing out his bowling league and as Secretary for his golf league he was busy getting everything ready from setting up handicaps to making arrangements for scheduled tournaments. Then suddenly he was concerned about the “Corona stuff” that was suddenly appearing in the northeast. His concern that it was going to be a real boring spring ‘til this virus passed! A week or so later strange medical situations began to compound…nothing serious in Dave’s mind but just strange things, like, “I am eating well but I have lost 20 pounds (but I can afford to lose a few), I can’t smell or taste things” …each thing he mentioned he would be followed by that little Dave laugh. On March 20, Marge and I called Dave to just catch up and see how he was doing and immediately could tell something was wrong…his talk was very measured, hoarse, and troubling. We told him ..”We love you Dave, sit down and relax and we were going to call your kids to check in with you”. Within 18 hours Dave had passed. I take you through this scenario to not only share with you “the rest of the story” behind the “David Charles Martini” obit that you may have seen in the Cincinnati Enquirer last March, but to also tell you that this Covid-19 is real, it’s ruthless and for whatever reason it took my brother Dave, your cousin Dave, and to many of you reading this newsletter a Dave that you never had the opportunity and pleasure to get to know. Now you can put a name, and in some cases a remembered face, to one of the Covid-19 statistics. Stay safe and keep Dave and all the victims in your thoughts and prayers.”**

Sincere sympathy to Dave & Larry’s families on the sudden loss of their beloved Dad, Grandpa, Brother, and Uncle.

On a lighter note, after much re-planning and re-scheduling, Larry & Marge’s grandson, Matthew, was married to Paige Petroff on 8/8/20, complete with masks, sanitizers and social distancing☺. And a good time was had by all……….Best Wishes to the newest Mr. & Mrs. Payne!!

**Epp:** Diana enjoyed cruising to Key West and Cozumel. Has another planned for February but probably will be cancelled. Her granddaughter, Sophie, will be in 2nd grade (already) at St. Antonius.

**Steve:** I received the following news from Margie. She & Virg are now grandparents of the 5th degree as Karter Ann Goebel (Julia & Kyle) debuted on April 29. Marge’s golf trip out West was cancelled but she & Virg were able to cross an item off their bucket list with a visit to the Greenbrier with Jeanne & Frank. It was part of Jeanne’s retirement gift from her law firm. Virg was furloughed from his job but it turned out to be a blessing in disguise as he had time to ready their house for sale; they plan to move to a smaller home. Everyone is surviving “the virus” as the kids call it while dealing with virtual hugs & visits. Homeschooling while working from home was a challenge for Jodie & Julia but they got through it. Jill had to hold virtual tryouts for her dance team but it worked out and they are looking forward to another great year. She reminds us to keep her son-in-law and all those involved in law enforcement in prayer during these trying times while hoping this country gets back to some sense of sanity soon.

Also, with everyone coping and busy with everything else going, we have to take time to remember and pray for Carol and her family as she continues to deal with her illness.

**Phil:**  Mary Louise and Norm are staying safe and hope everyone else is doing the same. It was good to receive the following from her brother, Phil:

**Lorraine,**

**Hope this finds you healthy and happy!  Our branch of the family tree had so much activity (4 grand-children in 8 months) in the past year that my sister, Mary Louise Chouteau, asked me to do the updating.  Our additions are also complicated by the fact that my children have all adopted the practice of giving their children two middle names.  Add in the unique spellings and names and it can be a challenge.   By the way, I've added some comments about each name for your reading enjoyment, but they obviously shouldn't be included in the family tree:**

**10-19-2019 Twins named Phillip William Charles Martini and Winslet Emery Martini were born to my son, Phillip Joseph Martini, III, and his wife, Sara Marie Singler.  Phillip's second middle name is in honor of his great-great grandfather Charles.**

**11-2-2019 Elise Martini XinXin Xia was born to my daughter, Caroline Elizabeth Martini, and her husband, Brent Taiting Xia. Elise's Chinese second name, XinXin, when pronounced in Chinese sounds like "Cincy", which her Chinese grandparents suggested because she was born in Cincinnati (although they live in New Jersey, which I guess also makes her a second generation Jersey girl).**

**5-23-2020 Graeme Philip Timothy McGee was born to my daughter Mary Alicia Martini and her husband, Patrick Francis McGee.  Graeme (pronounced "Gram") carries on the one "L" spelling I use in my name and not the two "L" spelling my son and his son have.**

**See, I told you it all can be a bit confusing.  Let me know if you need any clarifications.**

**Thanks again for helping carry on the Martini legacy and hope to see you at the reunion in 2021!**

**Your cousin,**

**Phil Martini**

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Congratulations Phil, Angie and all on all your blessed bundles of joy!!

While working on this letter, I was grateful for “copy & paste” feature due to the three large articles I’d received. It was a lot easier than having to re-type the info☺

While proof reading, it dawned on me how much Covid 19 has affected almost everybody in one way or another. When this year began, who would have thought “virtual, masks, sanitizer, social distancing, elbow bumps, etc.” would become such a large part of our vocabulary? So many lives disrupted in one way or another: those who lost loved ones, students forced to stay home, working mothers, graduates, couples planning weddings, vacations cancelled, those who lost their livelihood, police officers, first responders, hospital personnel and all “essential” workers, etc. whose lives changed in an instant. They say “everything happens for a reason” and though we don’t understand why, maybe somehow, sometime we will.

I will send out the family tree when it’s updated. Uncles Andy & Epp’s family plan to host next time so until then, stay safe, take care and God Bless! Love, L (8/28/2020)

The following appeared in an issue of the Delhi Historical Society Newsletter and think it is worth the time to read:

**The Dash ~**

**I read of an old man who stood to speak at a funeral of a friend.**

**He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning…to the end.**

**He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears But said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.**

**For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now**

**Only those who loved them know what that line is worth.**

**For it matters not, how much we own, the cars…the house…the cash.**

**What matters is how we lived and loved and how we spend our dash.**

**So, think about this long and hard: are there things you’d like to change?**

**For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged.**

**To be less quick to anger, show appreciation more**

**And love those in our lives like we’ve never loved before.**

**If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile**

**Remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.**

**So when your eulogy is being read, with your life’s actions to rehash,**

**Will you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?**

 **By Linda Ellis, (Copyright 1996-2050)**