

# The Lettini Newsletter



Kim and Danny



Kona – Kim's Dog



Mexico



Joce at 14



Dom and Joce

## Christmas 2019



Kim



Kara

## Halloween and Mexico.

### 2019 – A Strange Year

We had some strange weather this year. A lot of winter snow - which is very unusual for this area. Spring and summer were mild but we had a lot of rain.

I turned 77 this year – and yes, I'm still alive and Inge turned 75. I had fun with my 3D printer, drone, digital microscope and radio-controlled airplane.

Inge changed her planting plan for tomatoes this year. Found out last year that deer love heirloom tomatoes so this year moved 12 huge planters to back yard which is gated and planted all heirloom tomatoes. Great success and a bumper group we had. Raised beds produced a variety of squash plants, pea pods, string beans, carrots, etc - but needed to cover with nets because the deer, bunnies and squirrels tried to get at her crops.

Inge's summer was spent working in the front and back yard getting things cleaned up. She planted spring bulbs early in November and forgot to net those so the squirrels again had dug some up but now everything is covered with netting. We have an abundance of deer, squirrels, bunnies, raccoons and a cougar decided to visit Mercer Island – have no idea how it got here.

She spent time with all her grandchildren and daughters going shopping for school clothes and having dinners with both girls and their family. In October Inge & I attended the annual Kiwanis dinner and much to her surprise she was awarded the Kiwanian of the Year award from the President of the club. Her

health is good and she's preparing for her Thanksgiving visit to the Homeless to be followed by Christmas and New Year's Day; weather permitting.

Danny, Kim, Dominic and Jocelyn had a fun and eventful year! They took a two weeks trip to Europe and toured around Amsterdam, Bruges, Normandy, Giverny and Paris. Some of the highlights were: Climbing down the steps of the Eiffel Tower, riding electric scooters, eating delicious food (and sweets!), touring Monet's Garden and exploring the various cities.

Right after they returned and wasting no time, they increased their family size by one by adding a sweet cocker spaniel puppy named Kona. During the first two weeks, Danny and Kim wondered if they had lost their minds in starting the "baby" phase all over, but Kona has won the hearts of everyone in that family! She has also helped them stay in shape by requesting several walks a day around the neighborhood.

Dominic started high school this year and he's done a good job navigating the many changes that a public school offers after being in a private school for so long. His love of singing continues and through an application process, he joined the choir council where only a few people were selected to become part of the group. Video games are also a big part of his non-academic life. Jocelyn started her final year of middle school (8th grade) and is already looking forward to starting high school next year. Her love of volleyball has continued and she's requested to pursue further training in hopes of joining the high school team. She's also a fashion

consultant/guru to Kim and accompanies her on many shopping trips.

Danny is still working at Microsoft (almost 23 years!) while Kim has started her 13th year at Bonney Watson. Kona has been going to Kim's office with her once a week so she has many aunts at her office who all adore her.

Darin and Kara recently took the family to Mayakoba on Mexico. They enjoyed all the spoils of their hard work. The room they had came with a butler and they never wanted to leave. They also enjoyed incredible sights and adventures such as hiking through underground caves and seeing plenty of local wildlife.

Darin continues to enjoy his job at Indeed, a job search site. He was awarded the Top Gun award for sales excellence, way to go Darin! He had a great summer of golfing, and spending time with friends and family. This year Darin also was able to finish lots of home projects. During the off season, Darin is on a bowling league. Kara and the kids occasionally stop by the bowling alley to give moral support. Or maybe it's the arcade and delicious nachos? They'll never tell! He looks forward to another great year of skiing! He and Charlie make an awesome father-son team to dominate the slopes of Crystal Mountain!

Kara still manages/supervises a vehicle licensing office. It gives her lots of flexibility to enjoy family life and the occasional vacation! She follows in her mom's footsteps with a great summer garden. Anyone who's seen Stranger Things would say her zucchinis very closely resembled something other worldly! Kara continues to serve on the Board of Directors for the YWCA of Pierce County. She takes part in all their charity events which benefit local citizens affected by domestic violence and abuse. In her downtime she heads up a book (or should we say: wine!) club.

Charlie is now in fifth grade. Boy how time flies. He was very nervous to start at middle school, but after the first week, he was voted class representative, so his fears quickly subsided! But between flag football, soccer, basketball, taekwondo, violin and Xbox (ha!), he stepped down in order to focus on school work. He still loves to practice the piano with his sister and occasionally lets her choose the movie :) He really looks forward this upcoming ski season!

Caitlin is now in third grade and really enjoys her classroom. She loves gymnastics and even joined a competitive team this year. Despite doing very very well, she decided to keep gymnastics as a recreational sport and is now focusing on golf! She continues to love playing the piano and cannot wait for this year's Christmas recital. Caitlin loves reading and has discovered the fun of make-up, hair and bath bombs. Her father is overjoyed, ha ha.



School



Kiwanis Award

