

The Lettini Newsletter

Christmas 2006

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Highlights

Jocelyn is one year old



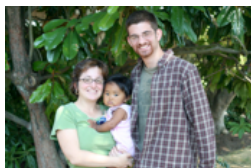
Kara and Darin get engaged



Grandma turns 90 years young



Christina, Anthony and Jocelyn



90 Year Old Great Grandma

Wow, what a year ... where do I start? Let's see: for starters Great Grandma Lettini turned 90, Kara got engaged, Christina and Anthony came out to visit us and Jocelyn turned one year old.

I went back to NJ in March for Grandma's 90th birthday. We had about 30 or 40 people come to the celebration. Got to see some family members that I had not seen in years. Lotsa food and cake ... it was great. Maria did an outstanding job in getting it organized. Grandma is holding her own ... and hanging in there ... not bad for 90. Party pictures are on my web site at mlettini.com. I was only there a few days so I did not get to visit with some of the people I had wanted to see. Next time.

Darin, Kara's boy friend, prepared a commercial that was televised on Comcast Channel 50 in which he asked her to marry him. He was an account executive for Comcast Spotlight so he had an in ... the commercial centered around the company that made the ring for Kara ... it showed them making the ring - then at the end he got down on one knee and popped the question. I was one of the first to see the ring - at a lunch with Darin - It's got a unique cut and is two carats. It's blinding. I think it's actually bigger than Kara's finger. Well, anyhow ... She agreed - actually, they are a good match - they have a lot in common ... like to party, travel and go out and drink beer. The only incompatibility is that she graduated from UW and he from Washington State. Will it cause problems during the Apple Cup football game?

Shortly after the commercial Darin went to work for Microsoft as an account executive in their media department. If you want to see the commercial go to my web site mlettini.com and at the bottom click on downloads ... it's a windows media player movie but will play on all computers as long as you have the player installed.

Christina and Anthony came out for a two-week

visit. We saw more in two weeks than most people who live here see in a lifetime. Mt. Rainer, Alkai, Golden Gardens, the Locks, Seattle Center, the Space Needle, Museum of Flight, Science Center, Pike Street Market (where they toss the fish), Waterfront, Mariner game etc ... Kim and Kara also took them out to some clubs and dining.

Anthony and I went for a hike to Twin Falls ... the falls were glorious that day. Christina and Anthony both acquired a taste for Alaskan Amber ... especially Christina ... she kept drinking the stuff and was turning red faced ... it's documented in a movie. Ashes, one our cats, took a liking to both ... Anthony became her best friend giving her all kinds of attention. But the highlight of their trip was seeing Jocelyn ... they could have cared less about Uncle Michael or Tante Inge. They had fun and we enjoyed having them here. We had exceptional weather ... I think they will come back. Pictures are on my web site. Anthony made a super DVD of the visit with Jocelyn ... though; I don't think I got in the movie.

During our walk along Alkai beach we overheard some people, as they walked by, say "Why would anyone want to live anywhere else?" Very true - we have everything you can think of in about a 20-mile radius. And great weather.

Jocelyn turned one year old in October ... Kim Reserved the Event Center at the Apartment complex where she lives and had a big party ... must of had a hundred people there ... of course Jocelyn showed off ... she sat on the pool table and opened what seemed like three thousand presents. At the time of this writing she is walking and starting to say words. I think she thinks her name is 'No' ... from us trying to keep her out of trouble. She is so quick that we have to watch her every second. She is very perceptive and has a tremendous memory ... I have to watch what I do because the next time I see her she will imitate what I did. Everyone who sees her says that she is the most beautiful baby they have ever seen. She is so

Jocelyn at Halloween

Happy Holidays

Lets be thankful
for what we have



We hope that
everyone has a
Great Holiday
Season and a
Prosperous and
Healthy New Year



Happy Holidays
to ALL!!!



good; we never have a problem with her unless she is overly tired ... then she gets a bit moody. I have to take her for a ride in the Jeep in order to get her to fall asleep. One day when I took her to the park, a little Asian boy came over and played with her ... hummm - could this be a sign of things to come?

We have had to put gates and fences all around the living room and hallway to keep Jocelyn from getting into trouble ... it would make her Mommy very mad at me ... and she might hit me. Joce (her nickname) loves her Oma (Inge) ... she will stand in front of one of the gates and yell out Oma, Omama, Oma, at the top of her lungs ... hoping her Oma will come from upstairs. Whenever she sees her Oma ... she runs to her ... nothing else matters ... and she cries whenever she has to leave her Oma. Seems like every time we go out we bring back a new toy or dress for her. Now that she walks - we go for walks outside and sometimes she pushes the stroller with her teddy bears in it.

I did a lot of hiking with Mark this summer... some of them pretty intense. There was one particular hike to Wallace Falls that I swear was uphill both ways ... I was about to call home to arrange my funeral. Didn't do as much with the Viper (It's not as exciting as it used to be and it gets too much attention when I drive it - people yell and cheer and give me the thumbs up and sometimes stop me to take pictures) ... although I did take a unanimous first prize in the Mopar car show. In all I only attended three car shows and two car parades - in fact I only put about a thousand miles on it since last year. I still maintain the Viper web site (wavca.org) but most of my time is spent babysitting Jocelyn.

The Viper does have one problem - whenever it sees a Shell station it uncontrollably turns into it and heads straight for the Super Premium pump. We have the second highest gas prices in the country and yet we have a refinery less than 50 miles away. Go figure. At eight miles per gallon - it costs almost \$100 to fill the beast. But then even at five years old it can still out accelerate nearly every other car on the road.

I had an interesting adventure one night ... I almost got stranded after a Mariners Game ... went to the parking lot and the Jeep would not start ... the battery was good ... it just would not start. So, I called AAA. They came out ... the mechanic got under the car and tapped the starter with a 'Magic' hammer ... and it started. I gotta get me one of those hammers. I did have to replace the starter but that was minor ... I hope to get another 100K miles out of the teenager.

Inge had her usual good garden ... I don't know how but she had tomatoes growing until a few days before Thanksgiving. Washington has gambling Casinos now ... they raise money for schools ... yeah, sure they do. Anyhow, Inge and the girls or her friends go and gamble on occasion. She even took Christina one time. But I never find out if she wins or loses. Inge is very active with helping the elderly neighbor across the street, doing charity events at Church and helping out at Zydeco dances. Her group of friends called a Coven - wonder what that means - meet periodically for fun and who knows what else. She is the 'rummage sale queen' at her church ... it makes money for a pre-school for less fortunate children. Inge is always bringing and buying stuff for them ... food, furniture etc. She takes about a thousand pictures of the kids ... and of course I have to put them on a CD and print them up. She still does her marketing ... going to local markets on a nearly daily basis and bringing home exotic veggies.

Kara went to work for Chafee Homes in January but recently quit and went to work for Brooks Brothers in Seattle. This will give her more time to party ... oops, I meant to study for the bar exam, which she will take next year. She is busily planning her wedding (probably around Sept 15th 2007) ... so far the bill is up around \$50K and climbing. Oh well I can always sell the Viper. Kara and Darin travel quite a bit ... at this writing they are in Las Vegas ... losing money - I hear tell. Must be a pre-wedding celebration. They also like to party ... a match made in Party Heaven. We all got to meet Darin's family ... they are truly nice people and very outgoing. I think we will all get along just great.

Kim is adjusting to being a mommy very well. She is back at work as the Director of Parkview Group Home. We baby-sit Jocelyn for two and a half days a week and Shannon (Jocelyn's Nanny) watches her for two and a half days. Kim has been taking on line classes in HR in hopes of helping her career ... and she has taken cooking classes and Belly Dancing. Yup, Belly Dancing ... wonder what she has in mind for the future? I've sampled some of her exotic cooking ... it is very, very good. She has some very wonderful friends that are supporting her.

Well, with all the good news we have had there is a negative. Kim and Todd are separated and filing for divorce ... no more need be said.

Our summer was spectacular - the best since I've been out here. I think we set a record for most days without rain. But then November set a record for the most November rain ever. But still - all in all - on a yearly basis we get less rain than NY or even Arizona. It doesn't rain all the time in Seattle.

Have a great New Year!!!

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