

The Lettini Newsletter

Christmas 2008

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Highlights



Pony Ride



Groupier - RIP



Grandson Kobi



Darin with an
Elmo Tattoo on his
Arm



Joce Swimming and at the Spaceneedle



2008 – Another Year Slips By

Jocelyn and Kim moved in with us this year, since Kim is trying to save money for Joce's future. It's a lot of fun having Joce around to play and to see her grow up into a young lady. She loves to take care of her baby dolls and Barbie's. She has a kitchen and a dollhouse and loves to play pretend with them. She takes good care of her baby. She is a real gabber – sometimes talking non-stop. She also likes to jump on her trampoline and play monster in our backyard.

Joce is learning how to swim – Inge and Kim take her to the pool at the club that we belong to and loves' the water. It has a view of Lake Washington and when she looks at the lake she says wow "that is a big pool". She loves to take care of her babies and dolls and loves to dance to music. She loves to ride horses too. Her favorite TV program is SpongeBob SquarePants ... when she comes home from day care she insists on watching it. So we watch it together.

Thanksgiving weekend, I had to marry three Barbie's to Prince Charming. And some of her babies got sick – so I had to give them shots and take care of them while she went shopping.

It's not been a great year – we lost Groupier ... one of our cats - he was run over by a car. I found him in the bushes moaning – but he died in my arms. He was a good cat – always greeted me with a hello meow when I came home and waited for me to pet him and carry him into the house. He was a good friend.

The economy is in the tank ... I no longer have a comfortable retirement – my IRA is now way below what I started with in 2001 – in fact my 401 K has become a 200.5 K. Hopefully it will recover before I have to start taking money out. Turning 65 really sucks ... insurance goes up and as near as I can tell Medicare doesn't cover anything. And supplemental insurance is exorbitant.

I can't talk much about what I do at Boeing other

than it is very intense and stressful – and I have to use my brain a lot – so from that standpoint it is good. I may not need a brain transplant after all. I am involved with some databases and project management and trying to get two organizations to work together – a near impossible task. I still only work 20 hours per week – but sometimes it requires more hours.

But on the good side – we had a good summer and a great September, nice weather and a good time with Jocelyn being with us. And we finally got rid of Bush ... Obama is going to be one of our best Presidents ... I have not felt this good about a President-elect since John F Kennedy. He's intelligent, smart, not an ideologist (unlike Bush who was influenced by the extreme right) and knows how to organize. He is putting one killer staff together – and getting people involved from all aspects – experts and academic and others.

And we now have a grandson – Kobi – a [shiba inu](#) - a Japanese dog that Kara and Darin purchased. He's a show dog and very friendly – we get to baby-sit him when the Robb's are out of town, which is quite often. They love to travel. Being at Microsoft, Darin gets to travel a lot ... he's an account executive. Kara goes with him at times. But they both travel a lot – even if it's not business related.

Kara and Darin go to Las Vegas, Bend Oregon and other places for mini vacations and bachelor and bachelorette parties. They just recently bought a truck - so they now have an SUV and a truck. Darin works from home some of the time and Kara usually takes the bus to work in Seattle. They both participated in a charity event sponsored by Microsoft, which was very successful.

Kara and Kim both got big raises at their jobs. And Boeing keeps renewing my contract. The last time was without telling me or asking me. Guess they



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!!!



Kobi – the next Seahawk?

can't get along without me. I'm doing stuff that I never knew I could do. But with the economy in the tank and health insurance skyrocketing – I need it. However, Boeing will be cutting the work force and Contract employees are the first to go. Oh well, we shall see what the future has in store for me. I am told that they do not want me to leave but they may not have a choice.

Kara is a full-fledged attorney now and has her own clientele and Kim is considered a Senior Manager in her job. I tell her that if she needs a real senior I'm available ... but no takes so far.

Both Kim and Kara are getting more responsibilities as they grow into their jobs. They love their jobs and are getting a lot of recognition for doing outstanding work. Especially with the increased salaries they got.

Kim went to Cannon Beach with her girlfriend and met up with Jason and his sons – sounds like they had a great time there. Jason was a neighbor at the apartment where Kim used to live. His sons love Joce and take really good care of her. Kim also frequently visits other parents with kids Joce's age – Joce has a lot of fun with them.

Kara and Darin are selling their house and hope to move to Tacoma where they may take over Darin's father's business. The house is on the market and is a really nice house but with the market in the tank it hasn't sold yet. They may wind up with two mortgages.

The elderly lady across the street that Inge took care of passed away and didn't have a will. So Inge is acting as the administrator of the estate and struggling with attorneys as to what to do. She is taking care of the house until the State decides what to do.

Another year and another great garden by Inge – I cannot believe how many tomatoes she got – must be near a million. She and Joce planted veggies and got a great crop – especially the carrots. Big and very luscious carrots. Inge still goes to the markets every weekend to get fresh veggies – we even have a Farmers Market on Mercer Island now. Inge goes to one of the local Casinos once a month with friends and usually comes home a winner.

And Inge has become an E-mail and web junkie. She spends hours each day with her dozens of email accounts and seems to be always on the web looking up information or buying stuff. She still is involved with the Prospect Pre-

school charity events and helps out at the pre-school.

The Viper didn't see much action this year – just one car show – and less than 1,000 miles in the whole year. Gas was just too expensive. But I still love to drive it when the weather is good. But it just barely gets up to 200 miles per hour. The new ones are much faster.

Thanksgiving dinner was great as usual ... and of course I ate too much. As a matter of fact, I'm eating leftovers as I'm writing this newsletter. The turkey was fantastic and the stuffing was absolutely superb. We had Joce with us and I had to play with her – as I mentioned earlier - I married three Barbie's and the cookie monster to a gorilla. The next day I had to marry them again. She has a doctor kit and her babies seem to always be sick – so the doctor (Doctor Joce) has to give them shots and medicine. Today I have an appointment with Dr. Joce at 2:30 (after her nap) to get an examination. I can hardly wait.

Joce loves Target and Toys R Us ... because every time she goes there she gets a new toy. She has so many toys that most of the time she doesn't know which one to play with. At Day Care she has two best friends, Sophie and Sophia and two boy friends, Justin and Julian. Hummmmm.

I have been dabbling with photography – Mark (my drinking buddy from before we were married) and I went on an outing to several of the Seattle viewpoints and took photos. Some of them were actually pretty good. The picture that I took of the viper at Mount Rainer several years ago has been published in several magazines, a web store and calendars. Too bad I don't get any royalties.

We took Joce to the Seattle Center where she got to go on several of the rides – she especially loved the Merry Go Round, which was originally from Atlantic City, New Jersey. Not sure how Seattle got it – it is really an antique, but still running.

Went to see the Blue Angels again during Seafair – they are just fantastic. Of course you all know that Boeing makes the F-18's that they fly. Superb airplanes. Kara and I went out on the I-90 bridge, along with several thousand other people. I actually met up with a few people that I work with at Boeing.

Mercer Island is undergoing a construction frenzy ... apartments being put up at every corner of the downtown area. Pretty soon there will not be any sun in downtown Mercer Island. Most of the completed apartments can't find enough people to fill them – and the stores on the bottom floors are slowly going out of business. Go figure. Developers are buying older houses and building Mega Houses on the property – some only have a few feet between them. Terrible. I was asked if we wanted to sell our house – I refused.

Have a great New Year!!!