

# The Kline Family

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THREE RIVERS, MI 49093

## Living Blue in 2020

It's been a blue year at Klines Resort, our home town...



January brought blue skies and clear sailing to Arizona. We celebrated Tama's birthday with mom and dad at Sweet Tomatoes, heard Veronica Swift at the Tucson Jazz Festival, and drove to California to visit our first exchange son, Tam Nguyen.

A few clouds appeared on the horizon in February.

Phil met with his urologist, resulting in some much needed surgery in April. Then our road trip to Florida began with a stop at the dentist. Pain killer knocked Phil out the first day; follow up resulted in his first root canal and cap. But our trip was still a success; we enjoyed visiting Keith & Virginia in TN on the way down, had a relaxing week at the timeshare with the Bippus family, and celebrated Phil's 16th Leap Year birthday in Siesta Key with Joseph, Amanda, Tom and Kevin.

We were home in time for the lockdown, and immersed ourselves in learning to run our business safely during a crisis. The Resort had an amazing year. Surging demand resulted in over 40 units changing hands, creating tons of extra work doing inspections and interviews and processing applications.

We were blessed when Joseph agreed to help. We put him in charge of our Covid policies, the cross connection program, water and sewer tests, helping Tama in the office, and so much more. We're also thankful for Mark Wright, who kept things ship shape, and for our MacGyver, Don Squires. They both helped train Joe. If only he could hear the alarm radio while sleeping at the cottage.

We all felt blue when Joseph broke up with Amanda in April. Phil took the breakup especially hard, and wrote a blue song that will never be sung.



Bluebirds, singing their song,  
nothing but bluebirds from now on...

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

2020



Above: with Tam & parents - Sang and Hanh - in LA. Sadly, Tam's dad passed away in June. Tam is now in Vietnam with his wife & daughter.

Right: Keith & Virginia had daffodils blooming in Feb.

Below: Joseph & Mark taking out docks. This was Mark's 10th year at Resort.

Below right: Celebrating Don's 80th birthday at Viva!



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Above: Celebrating Phil's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday

Left: with Bippus Family in Orlando

Below: With Tim & Staria in Mt. Dora





To help beat the pandemic blues we decided to read books as a family, and then watch the movie together. We enjoyed “Holes,” “To Kill A Mockingbird” and “Murder on the Orient Express,” but got bogged down and never finished “Moby Dick.” Now Phil is reading the Harry Potter series for the first time, followed by a movie night for each book. Will the new James Bond movie - “No Time to Die” - ever be released? At least Sean Connery’s movies are still around... R.I.P.

When our 40th anniversary trip to Paris was canceled in April, we made the best of it with a drive to New Paris, Indiana. The grain elevator was a poor substitute for La Tour Eiffel, and the take-out pizza didn’t compare to a loaf of crusty French bread. We managed the day trip without a pit stop. Sacre’ bleu!

Summer arrived with our usual activities canceled, but we couldn’t have a summer holiday without a resort breakfast! With golf carts lined up for drive thru, we served “to go” with Joseph, Mark & Lisa’s help. We had a great 4th of July parade, and two outdoor gospel concerts. Folks were so appreciative.

In June, Phil & Joseph joined Escape Adventures for a mountain bike trip in Idaho. They enjoyed the blue mountain air of the Sawtooth Mountains, long winding descents on logging roads, and rocky hikes in forest preserves. Their lips turned blue rafting the snow melt rapids of the Payette River, but hot springs revived their icy blue toes. A week of tent camping and good food around a warm campfire was good therapy for the blues.

From Boise they flew to Phoenix to pick up Phil’s folks, who had remained in Sun City during the lockdown. With the thermometer hitting 110 degrees by 10 am, the valley had a smoggy blue haze. It was a big relief to get them home safely.

When Tama was asked what color she wanted on her new golf cart, she chose – what else? – sky blue. Her new chariot is faster than blue lightning, and became the centerpiece of this year’s Christmas card.

The skies have been especially blue, with glorious sunrises and stunning blue water.

Since Phil wasn’t racing off to the gym (closed since March), he could be seen jumping into the blue waters for a swim, or taking out the blue kayak for an early paddle on the peaceful lake.



From top: 40th Anniversary in New Paris , Joseph & Tama serve ice cream after parade, Joe & Phil explore Boise, serving drive thru breakfast



Hot Springs were the selling point for this year’s trip to the mountains NE of Boise. Our outfitter was eager to resume operation, and ran our trip with only three guests. We arrived a couple days early and Joseph enjoyed showing his dad around Boise, site of a WMU bowl game. Weather mid-June was unpredictable; our first day’s ride included sun, snow and mud. We crossed snow melt streams, hiked to remote preserves, rafted a swollen river and slept huddled in our bags to stay warm. We had great guides, good grub. ... and hot springs every day.





The high school track became Phil's gym, where he met friend Joe to walk/sprint on the track or run bleachers, and continued weekly trainings with Coach Kerry. He's joined the YMCA to keep swimming this winter, as long as he's up by 5 am to reserve a lane.

Phil's rental bike in Idaho convinced him of the need for a full suspension trail bike, but new ones were in short supply. He finally found a nice used one, and was sold by its baby blue color. It matches his helmet and spandex, after all. He's logged many happy miles on dirt roads and the SWMMBA trail at Meyer Broadway Park, and he took it up north for a bike weekend at Boyne City this fall.



Phil wasn't ready to ride this part of the "Flow" trail

Fall colors dominated Phil & Tama's UP vacation, where we stayed at an AirBnb in Marquette and explored the Keweenaw. We shivered in outdoor eating spaces, and Phil loved "The Flow" mountain bike trail. We discovered Trenary Toast, Suicide Hill and - Tama's new favorite - Dead River coffee. Visits with good friends highlighted the trip.

Though the election didn't produce the predicted blue wave, at least it ended the torrent of phone calls that left us blue in the face. Phil subscribed to the Wall Street Journal to help him process all the hubris in the news. He loves their editorial page; Tama loves the puzzles. We've just upgraded our Pandora account to avoid the ads, and said goodbye to Netflix. We use YouTube TV now.

Making room for Joseph to park his car at the cottage snowballed into several cleanup projects and a major facelift for the farmhouse on Silver Street. Phil enjoyed running errands for the Amish siding crew, and Joseph is learning to sell surplus items online. Hard to believe the junk we collect...

Tama prepared a fabulous Thanksgiving dinner, which we shared with Phil's folks just before heading back to Arizona for winter. Kevin & Phil accompanied them on the Southwest Airlines flight out of Midway. We're praying they stay happy, healthy and safe while we await the promised pandemic-ending vaccine.

It'll be a blue Christmas without you! May Mr. Bluebird sing on your shoulder, blue birds fly over your rainbow & blue skies smile upon you. And may your window always face south....



Above: The view atop Avalanche Mnt in Boyne City. We rode down the Sidewinder in the dark the night before. What a rush!



Up north friends Garns in February, Whittles in October.



with love from  
the Kline Family  
Phil, Tama  
& Joseph

*My window faces the south, I'm almost half way to heaven,  
well snow is falling, but still I can see those fields of cotton calling to me.  
My window faces the south, and though I'm far from the sun  
I'm never frowning, or down in the mouth  
'cause my window faces the south.*

1937 by J. Livingston, A. Silver & M. Parish  
Kevin & Phil heard this classic played on an outdoor stage in Wickenburg AZ



Phil Kline (left) of Kline's Resort in Three Rivers received the David Armstrong Memorial Award during the Three Rivers Area Chamber of Commerce's annual awards dinner Wednesday, Oct. 7 at New Hope Assembly of God in Three Rivers.



Kline Family News

Two Brueck grandbabies arrived: Brian & Kristen greeted Hayden on April 27. Mike & Shelby welcomed Wyatt on Nov 16. Grandma Kathy is thrilled!

(Right) College grads Matthew & Joseph.  
(Left) Phil was honored with this year's David Armstrong Award at the Three Rivers Chamber's awards dinner.





## *In a word, 2020 was blue.*

Blue is a primary color. And 2020 took me back to the basics. Home. Family. Food. Shelter. Seeking answers to basic questions, such as “is it safe to go shopping? ...get a haircut? ...fly mom and dad to Arizona?” When faced with the impulse to bend the rules and do something “normal,” these primary values set boundaries & defined our choices.

Blue is the color of the sky, and the skies this year have filled me with awe. Heading out for early morning exercise, I often return to grab my phone and take a picture. Sunrise. Moonrise. Clouds. Sky reflecting on the water and in my windows. When we drove to Bridgeman last month to watch a Lake Michigan sunset, I took 67 pictures of the ever-changing horizon. “Then sings my soul....”

In song, blue is the color of happiness. “Blue skies smiling on me,” “Somewhere over the rainbow (skies are blue),” or “My Blue Heaven.” “Bluebird of Happiness” teaches overcoming adversity. It ends with “Be like I, hold your head up high, ‘til you see a ray of light and cheer. And so remember this, life is no abyss, somewhere there’s a bluebird of happiness.”



But blue is also the color of heart-ache. Song standards like “Am I Blue” and “Blue Moon” speak of loneliness and sorrow. Singing the “blues” is our very human way of processing grief. Heartache and longing, hope and happiness mix in the color blue.

Blue is associated with faith, wisdom and truth. Israel put a cord of blue in the tassels on the corners of their garments. The tassels helped them “remember all the commandments

of the Lord and do them, and not follow the lust of your own heart and your own eyes.” Numbers 15: 39

When we visit Florida, my trip is incomplete until we spend time at the ocean. I’m drawn to its depth and vastness. Its sound and smell calm me. I enter the water and feel the power of the surf, become a toy on the waves. I sense God’s power and majesty. I’m reminded that some things are too big to fathom; far beyond my understanding or control. I’m engulfed in blue.

I like blue. You should too...

Thank you for letting me share. Be encouraged. Pray. Have hope. Walk by faith and not by sight. Hang a blue reminder. Merry Blue 2020 Christmas.

*Phil*



View from Brockway Mountain Drive near Copper Harbor



Riding the Vineyard Classic with Amy, Scott & Bruce

## **You might be getting older if...**

- you have appointments with a urologist, dermatologist, and endodontist (and you’re thankful its not a cardiologist or oncologist)
- an emergency stop at your dentists’ kicks off your vacation
- your favorite app is “Good Rx”
- your YMCA lifeguards “Liz” and “Taylor” don’t get why you find their names so easy to remember
- your junk mail is filled with Medicare advertisements
- you only answer the phone if you recognize the caller ID.
- you go shopping for a memory supplement, and you can’t remember its name...
- you’re falling asleep by 8, but you’re wide awake at 2 am
- you want to move to a place that takes siestas.... or that bans leaf blowers... or where everyone takes a break on Sundays...
- you’re known as a “one and done” at your local brew pub
- you depend on your spouse to wake you up... to go to bed



with Shane in U.P.



Marty & Connie visit in Sept.

