

Merry Christmas from the Klines 2023!

December 2023

Dear Friends,

Happy Christmas! Like many things this year, our Christmas letter is late. Seems like everything takes longer than it should, but if it's worth doing....

Family News: Mom & Dad Kline are doing well at Birch Meadows. They had a mostly healthy year; but Dad lost some strength after his hospitalization for the blood clot on his lung. They are both mobile with walkers, but Dad appreciates a wheelchair for longer journeys. Mom enjoys knitting; she had over 50 pot-holders ready to gift to family and the staff at Birches, as well as season salt, naturally.

For **Phil**, the year has been a continuation of the things he loves. Work is good, and working with Tama, Joseph, Mark and the crew continues to be fun and rewarding. He's swimming at the Y twice a week, and riding one of his bikes whenever he can. Phil gave up coffee and beer for much of the year (coffee needs sweets to go with it, after all). He's 20# lighter and hoping to keep the weight off this winter. He loves his insulated mug that keeps his tea hot while he's exercising - no more MacDonald's drive thru's. He enjoys playing Grandma's piano to get out of doing dishes, and complains that the house is too big and empty now. Ya'll come!

Tama is the face of Klines Resort, and loves working with our residents. She relied heavily on Joseph's help to implement new front office software, and they're still learning how to make use of its many features. Tiffany Wenzel is now learning the front office, and will cover for Tama when we are traveling.

To prepare for our Munich trip, Tama began taking Yoga and working with Phil's trainer to strengthen her hips. She enjoys the Resort ladies Bible study, and recently rejoined worship team at New Hope. She walks with Shelly faithfully 3 days a week at 6am.

Joseph is involved in every facet of the resort operation. In addition to running the office software, he maintains water and sewer records and reports, helps Mark on the crew, keeps the lift stations running, helps Phil in the back office, and helps at many resort activities. His youth and enthusiasm are always welcome.

Joseph was best man for Shane, and the Bride's attendant for band friend Cherylyn (the yellow suit looked great). Joseph fills his free time making pizza with Josh, playing D&D with a group from high school days, reading fantasy sci fi, and - occasionally - riding his Surly mountain bike with his dad.

Klines Resort had another great year, welcoming new families amid continued strong demand. Big projects included resurfacing the tennis / pickleball courts (thank you Tim Marlow!), upgrading clubhouse lighting to LED's, adding a generator for the water system, and finally drilling a new water well (we're so close to getting it on line!). Office remodeling continues; as of this week we have new skylights and roofing. We are blessed with great residents and reliable contractors to call

End of a busy day.
The bike ride was fun.
Looking for a good night's rest.
Now my work is done

The bike ride was fun
We finished strong.
Now my work is done
I'm glad nothing went wrong.

We finished strong,
A group of six led the way.
I'm glad nothing went wrong
It would have ruined a perfect day.

A group of six led the way,
I was tired, but held the wheel.
It would have ruined a perfect day
Glad my strength did not fail.

I was tired but held the wheel,
End of a busy day.
Glad my strength did not fail
Looking for a good night's rest.

*This is Phil's 1st attempt at a Pantoum,
where lines 2 & 4 carry forward each verse.*

when needed. This year equipment repairs kept us hopping; thankfully, Mark has a knack for finding the right help when needed.

More than ever this year, the beauty of God's creation has amazed me. The swans and geese rising off the lake as I kayak, the deer grazing on soy beans as I walk Davis Drive, the red fox running through the woods by the old pond. Flowers, birds and bees around the park. Sunrise... hundreds of photos of the sunrise... The snow in Munich weighing heavily on the trees. Riding the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Warner bike trail and Mann Road in any season. For the beauty of the earth... Thank you God! - Phil

May your life be filled with beauty. Merry Christmas!
Phil, Tama & Joseph

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Thinking of you as we review... a year to remember.

- December 2022: Tam Nguyen & Joseph join Phil & Keith in Sun City to get the Hacienda house ready to sell. The road trip to bring Grandma's van home to Michigan is an adventure. Joseph does all the driving; Tam is co-pilot. They live to tell the story.
- 12.30.22 & 1.1.23: Two weddings end a year & begin another. Rachel & Cody's black tie event introduces us to Cody's lovely Vietnamese bride. Autumn & Xan Piper's New Year's celebration is the first "church" wedding we've attended in years. Congrats!
- January travel includes the Louisville Home Show, a stop at Timber Ridge Resort on the way to visit Dan & Mary in WI, & a trip to see Garns & Whittles up north.
- Feb 4 - Chris Thile at Goshen College. Such talent & humility is rare. He asks the Mennonite crowd to sing the "606," then sits on the edge of the stage and worships.
- March 14-21: We join Gregg & Des in Cancun, where Des is receiving treatment. It's a great reunion. Phil & Gregg play in the waves like teenagers. Prayers for Des!
- March 25: We volunteer at the Melting Mann race. It's fun to encourage the racers, but I'm glad I'm not racing in mud & rain!
- April 8: Paris trip cancelled - again - after Phil, Tama & Joseph test positive for covid. I guess 5 vaccinations aren't enough. We recover quickly. Glad we have trip insurance! Maybe next year!
- May 5-10: Ashville bike camp with Joe, Bruce and Scott. We aren't prepared for all the climbing, but what a beautiful ride!
- June 4: Karon Morely passes away. Just days before, her family rents a house and invites friends to visit. We miss you!
- June 10-12: Dow Gardens getaway with friends Jeff & Danielle. The Japanese dogwoods are magnificent!
- July 16: Jeriah Richard Kline is born to nephew Kyle & Ebecah. Kyle won't meet Jeriah until he returns from sea in Aug.

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies...
For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

Fulliott S. Pierpoint

- July 18-25: Visits from Sofia & Tereza - a wonderful time to renew the love we share for these girls. We enjoy a beach day in South Haven and see them off with a visit to the Windy City.
- July 30: Family reunion welcomes cousin Ralph Stafko from Virginia, along with his son's family from Spain. Good times.
- Aug 14: Phil travels to Akron to "rescue" a shipment of new shuffleboard surface, lost when Yellow freight goes bankrupt.
- Sept. 8: Dad Kline is hospitalized with suspected heart attack. Instead it's a blood clot on his lung. He's soon back to normal.
- Sept 14-19: Phil & Joseph's adventure trip to the U.P. We hike, bike and kayak from a base in Munising. It's rough kayaking at Pictured Rocks, and fantastic biking around Grand Island.
- Oct 14: Shane & Jamie marry... again! This time they change their name to "Corman" & Joseph gives a speech. Jasper's adoption is official Nov. 21!
- Nov 21-24: Dan & Mary visit. They're a big help at Thanksgiving. 85# of turkey!
- Nov. 24: We meet Emil Eminov in Iron-ton, MO, midway from his new college home in Tulsa. It's our first visit in 10 years.
- Dec 1-10: Our first overseas trip since covid has it's challenges. Record snowfall closes the Munich airport and shuts down local transit. We enjoy the markets and beer gardens, joined by friends Bruce & Amy and a group from Cedar Springs Brewery.
- Dec. 7: Andras Antal arrives from Budapest with girlfriend Laura. The next day he proposes! She says "Yes!"
- Dec. 9: Max Zirbs also visits us. What a nice young man! This year we have seen 6 of our 7 exchange students. Tama is elated!
- Dec. 12: Resort Christmas Party. Everything is beautiful!
- Dec. 14: We see Shane's brother, Seamus, in the GR Civic's "Beauty & the Beast." He enjoys playing a villain a bit too much!
- Dec. 17: Kline Family Christmas gathering. What fun!
- Dec. 25: Happy Birthday Jesus!

Phil, Tama & Joseph Kline
22570 Klines Resort Rd.
Three Rivers, MI 49093



Wishing you JOY,
Praying for PEACE,
Sending our LOVE.
Phil, Tama & Joseph

Merry Christmas from the Klines 2023!



Clockwise from above:
Paul & Joyce in Riverfest Parade,
Tama with sister Mary,
pizza with Kevin, Sofia & Tereza,
Laura & Andras engaged,
with Max in Munich,
biking on Grand Island,
visiting Emil in Missouri,
hiking with Amanda Skye,
with Shane & Jasper
Center: snow in Munich,
Joseph & Tam leaving AZ,



*Kline Siblings: Keith, Kevin, Wayne
Bob, Kathy, Carol, Phil*



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