



All the news fit to print since 1992

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Oliva Family News

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2005 At A Glance...

Hi everyone! Welcome to the long anticipated 14th edition of the Oliva Family Newsletter. Once again, we will do our best to share our year with you, our friends and family, as best we can in two pages. It was a pretty good year overall.

We did a fair amount of traveling and caught up with several old friends. In April, we rendezvoused with the Edmunds family (from

Lynn, Mass.) in Chicago and had some fun at the "Second City" Comedy Club. In June we trekked up to our time-share in Lincoln, New Hampshire. We had a great time relaxing in the White Mountains and catching up on all the great seafood we can't get in Cincinnati. We also tracked down Loring Stevenson (one of Brian's long lost childhood friends from Winchendon) and did our best to catch up on 25+ years of



You can't get Steamed Clams like this in Cincinnati! Mmmmm Good!



Brian and Loring in Lincoln, New Hampshire

going our separate ways. On the way home, we swung through the Lynn area and did a fast pass through Winchendon to try to show Mike all the places from his past that he was too young to re-

member. We ran into Grammy's former neighbors, Mike and Ester Grimes who invited us in to get up to speed on what's been happening in Brian's hometown.



Steve & Elaine Edmunds, Janice & Brian, in Chicago's Chinatown.



Mike and Ester Grimes in front of Grammy's old house (which hasn't changed a bit!)

2005 was also a year of clean-up and repairs. We refinished the deck last summer and had a few trees removed from the yard to alleviate some over-crowding. We also completely renovated the master bathroom (which was motivated by a little water leak in the wall.) This fall, Janice (with the help of several of her girlfriends) patched up and repainted the family room, dining room, and front hallway. Jan is still pushing hard to get rid of our vintage 1977 yellow shag carpet. We'll see what next year brings.

Brian's Year

Brian had a pretty good year (for an old man.) The biggest event of the year was him reaching the "half century" mark. Jan was able to actually pull off a surprise party without Brian finding out about it, which was even more amazing because she invited around 30 friends! Other than that not much else has

changed. He is still at GE Aviation (32 yrs. and counting) managing programs in Sweden, Norway and England. He made one trip to Europe in April, and still messes around with music and web site design and tries to make time to play Soldier

of Fortune 2 with his friends in the Universal Soldiers Clan.



Christine, Michael, Brian and Jan at Brian's 50th Birthday Party

While 2005 comes to a close, we are all still alive and healthy, and thankful for all that God continues to give us.



Mike in the basement studio.

Mike's year revolved around developing his musical skills. He has been taking voice lessons at the Cincinnati Music Academy all year. He attended a five week program at the Recording Workshop in Chillicothe, Ohio. The program was designed to build a strong foundation in the creative operation of professional audio recording equipment and consisted of a 180-hour curriculum of action-packed presentations of new skills and information. Mike received his Certificate of Completion for the Recording Engineering and Music Production Program on February 11th. Michael also took two online courses from Boston's Berklee School of Music (one in Songwriting, and the other for the "Self Promoting Musician.") Mike's studio saw several upgrades,

Michael's Year

including switching to Pro Tools software for recording and mixing, a new Gibson Les Paul guitar, and a Marshall amplifier. Michael had several solo performances including the Lilyfest Cancer Fundraiser, Latitudes Café here in Milford, the Homestead Restaurant in Cincinnati, and the Uncommon Ground Café in Chicago. Mike did a lot of recording in 2005, but after learning everything he did in school, decided to re-record just about everything, which is delaying the release of a second album, but should result in a much better end product. He is also currently recruiting to get a band started so that his live performances will better reflect his studio work. Mike turned 20 in September.

Christine's Year

Christine, who will be 27 in January is still living in the Chicago area and is still working at Catalyst Magazine. She spent a lot of time this year on the road for a variety of reasons. She went up to the Boston area last New Year's and was a bridesmaid in Jennifer Edmunds' wedding. (Chris and Jenn have been friends for 23 years!) She also had a chance to spend some time with her cousin Gretchen. Her travels also took her to several stops in the Midwest, including Madison, WI, St. Louis, Quad Cities (IA/IL), Kansas City, and Springfield, MO and in August, started dating Ronnie



Christine with Grammy Madelyn (who will be 102 next month!)

(mostly at church) and recently celebrated her 10th spiritual birthday.

Wachter from Springfield. She went to Virginia and Maryland over Labor Day for Tommy Meade's wedding, and hung out with her friends Eyrika and Murang Pak and Rob Eccles. In October, she attended a convention for work in Houston, and had a chance to visit with Grammy Madelyn and Aunt Shirlee. She also went to Las Vegas in October with the Wachters to attend Ronnie's sister's wedding and was able to visit with her Uncle Peter and his daughters Christie-Ann and Stacy. In what little spare time Chris has, she still enjoys singing

Janice's Year

Janice did her best to stay insanely busy all year. She is still working her house cleaning business several days a week, and keeping our own house in top shape, which this year included taking on several renovation projects. She is still busy with church activities, including helping to lead a family Bible Study group with Brian. She also helped teach a class for mature women, was deeply involved in the organization of the teen prom, and

took on several decorating projects. She still takes care of all of us, including planning Brian's 50th Birthday Party, and helping Mike with his career (by watching for opportunities for live performances, staying abreast of the latest music industry news, promoting Mike at every opportunity and finding contests and classes that can help him along.) She is now nearly completely healed from her foot surgery of two years ago (which has been a slow battle getting up to speed) and has otherwise been in great health.

Closing

In closing, we want to send our love to all our friends and family, both near and far. We love you all so much that words cannot adequately express it. For those in faraway places, we miss you and think of you often. We wish we had the time and resources to visit all of you much more frequently. Our prayer is that you may have peace, health, and happiness in the New Year. Merry Christmas!

XXXXXX
 Brian, Jan
 Christine and Mike