

Holiday Greetings for 2010!

May this season find you all in good health and cheer!

For the Parnes Clan here in Northern Virginia it's been a quiet year, centered mainly on friends and family. The most important piece of news is that we added another generation to our family tree with the birth of Isis Marion Lawson-Parnes to Adam and Karla in September. Isis is a bouncing bundle of joy, and we have enjoyed our introduction into the ranks of grandparenthood. We babysat for Isis, and it's true, just as you never forget how to ride a bicycle, you never forget how to change a diaper (of course things are much more modern now-a-days – no cloth diapers with safety pins and diaper pails for Isis or for her parents). In fact, one day when Jeff was home by himself Karla dropped Isis off with him for a while. When Karla called while on her errands, she heard Isis's loud voice, and decided to return and see what was happening. But by the time she got to Jeff and Isis, Isis was sleeping quietly in Jeff's lap, to Karla's amazement and Jeff's satisfaction.

In the winter, in the midst of record snowfalls, we gutted and rebuilt our 25-year-old kitchen. For over a month we lived off a hotplate and Karla's college microwave, moving from room to room in search of a circuit breaker that could handle the load. After multiple snow-related shipping delays, Daria now has the kitchen she designed and always wanted. It was worth the hassle.

With Sarah and Andy in Albany, New York, visiting them is a doable one-day trip, and so each visit is a steady movement of boxes and belongings from Sarah's room and basement up north. Andy and Sarah like to explore, and each trip to them involves a mini-trip elsewhere, once to Montreal where we had last visited on our honeymoon thirty-six years before and another to Cooperstown and Syracuse.

After last summer's gathering of Adam, Andy, Jeff and Jeff's brother and nephew in Flushing to see a Mets game, this year we gathered, along with Sarah, in the Bronx to see the Yankees. Other than it being close to a hundred degrees in Yankee Stadium that July day, a good time was had by all. Having been to Yankee stadium in the heat of the summer, Jeff and his fraternity brother John Litzenberger are planning to make a trip this December to see Syracuse play in its first bowl game in many years at the Pinstripe Bowl. We shall see whether Yankee Stadium is more bearable in the heat or the cold (you can enjoy a cold beer in the warm summer, whether the reverse is true has yet to be determined).

Jeff completed his third and last term as President of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations, emceeding over an awards banquet where the Governor of Virginia was the featured speaker. No sooner had he retired to the position of past-president, then he was elected chair of the Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission, on which had served for the last seven years.

We wish you and yours the best for the remainder of 2010 and the coming year.

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