

# Happy New Year to our family and friends –

## We greet you with heartfelt wishes for your good health and happiness in 2014!

Over the past year, Claudia's consulting business worked with a pre-school serving low-income families and two other organizations, Ebony Horsewomen and Family Life Education, on their fundraising. On the pro bono side, I continued to support the mission of the New England Jazz Ensemble and the Musical Club, an organization in which my mother was and some of my close friends are involved.

We also held our 6<sup>th</sup> Music Camp, featuring a new work for children's orchestra by composer, Will Holshouser.

In 2013, Walter wrote some great arrangements for the Hartford Symphony's jazz concerts, taught at the arts high school in Hartford, and master minded re-painting all the buildings on our property, as well as repairs to shutters and clapboard siding. He oversaw cutting down 6 large maple trees and a 90 foot evergreen and is now cutting up all that wood to burn in our wood stove which he also took apart and repaired in late fall when it began puffing out black smoke into the living room (Vermont Castings, call us before you buy one). Our children provided tremendous help with the woodpile— there was a huge crew working here after Thanksgiving (pictured below).

### PHOTO

Back: Walter, Claudia, Rick, Cathleen, Walter's cousins, David, Larry Levack, Sam, Mike Oehler, Joseph, Sophie  
Middle: Lori, Pam, Stef Summers  
Front: Miriam, Jessica, Alani, Auntie Val Levack, Eliza, Annette Gwardyak, Rachel, Tim and Max

Who is who? Walter and Claudia were married 20 years ago and had at the time 7 children – Elizabeth and Polly, Lori and Pam, on Walter's side, and Sophie, Cathleen and Sam on Claudia's side. Our family has expanded over the 2 decades from 9 people in 1994 to 32 in 2014 (including the Oehlers, our godson's family).

*RIP Tatum, German Shepherd, April 7, 2013*



### News of our Children

Elizabeth – full-time E. R. nurse working nights, managing teens

Polly – Middle School teacher in Brooklyn, driving kids to sports

Lori – Library services at Connecticut College, family pillar

Pam – Smith Insurance, mother of the groom

Sophie – negotiating tenure process at St. John’s University, published article on Uncle Tom’s Cabin

Joseph – Brooklyn College, writing second book

Cathleen – fourth book in contract to be published 2015

Rick – VP for Legal Services, Boom! Health, the Bronx

Sam – free lance web design, back surgery

Jill – Art Director, supported Sam during back surgery



Camp Gwardyak breakfast

### News of our Grandchildren

Kyle – graduated from Syracuse, married Carly Trask, lives in Pasadena

Tim – last year at UConn, studying environmental science, going to South Africa

Andy – second year of UConn, majoring in Allied Health

Jillian – working at a farm stand, applying to college, singing

Daniel – plays saxophone, clarinet, guitar, drums and piano

Christopher – freshman in high school, plays bass, knows everything about movies

Giovanni – plays football, studies dance, knows a lot about history and literature

Nate (our godson) – Thespian, plays guitar and sings

Valera – plays football, flute, competitive gymnastics, likes snowball fights with Larry

Jessica – studying voice, piano, guitar, widely admired for singing

Miriam – studying piano, clarinet, attending arts middle school, loves painting

Max – studying piano, guitar, still loves Legos, remembers math and history facts

Alani – plays violin and flute, loves birds, wildlife, and plants

Rachel – studying cello, loves reading, drawing and horses

Eliza – studies violin, ballet, reading chapter books, loves horses



Alani playing the recorder



Giovanni, Christopher, Jillian, Jessica, Daniel  
beatboxing grace before dinner

### Rest in Peace:

- Lucille Lupinski (February 14, 2013), Walter’s first cousin
- Nicholas Swett (July 14, 2013), Claudia’s first cousin
- Lois Douton (August 30, 2013), Tim and Andy’s grandmother, Mike McKinney’s mom