

Greetings from the Gary, Rosalyn and family

This year's events carry a tragic headline; the unexpected death of my mother. Having just settled in to our home in Northfield in the spring, Mom was enjoying living with a busy family once again and keeping track of grandkids and pets. Her ten-year stay in Hopkins had ended with successful surgery on a pressure sore. She radiated love, and once again became the heart and soul of our home, just as she had during our Rosemount years. We now attempt to carry on her legacy of courage and selflessness, knowing that she set a unique and high standard.

My good fortune, being blessed with wonderful parents, enriched my life immeasurably. Their loss has left a void I toil daily to fill. At times the sight of a chickadee at the feeder, a rose resisting the frost, or the aroma of orange spice tea brings back the intense spirit of the goodness that surrounded them, and I take comfort. We are fortunate to enjoy the support of extended family and friends during this difficult time.

The pattern of loss during the past year included our beloved and venerable Arctic, Jaslyn's longtime companion she raised from a pup, and Bud, Gary's dog.

Anticipating Life renewed has been therapeutic, as we prepare for Tanya and Chad's baby, due in March. Tanya is Gary's oldest daughter. She and her husband live in Farmington, where they also teach school. Crib, rocking chair, and other necessary babysitting requirements are in place at the Pautzke household.

An almost eerie quiet has settled upon the Pautzke household, as the shrieks of sisterly disputes and motherly interventions are but unpleasant distant memories. Jaslyn has been at Madison for 3½ years, Lesanna left

in September to attend the U of M, and Dorissa keeps a full schedule of homework, work, dancing lessons and music events. However, the farm bustles with the activities and demands of four dogs, assorted cats, five horses, a four-foot iguana, four cockatiels, uncounted rabbits, geese, ducks, and pheasants, as well as regular intruders including skunks, raccoons, and coyotes.

Gary serves in his 26th year as foreman with Mathiowetz Construction, most recently building roads in Mankato and St. Peter. He carves out time from his busy schedule to ride his motorcycle, sometimes putting on 700+ miles per weekend --- but never neglecting to fill his birdfeeders.

Nicholas, Gary's son, recently graduated in music education, after performing his Senior Recital on the French Horn, and is looking for that exciting first job! Crystal, Gary's youngest, is in college preparing to teach. She competes in track & field events, including pole vault, for St. Cloud State.

Gary's folks celebrated their 50th Anniversary this fall, with all their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and most of the Springfield (MN) community in attendance! Congratulations!

Jaslyn Jean will earn two degrees from U of W: Environmental Engineering and Soil Science. During the past two summers she has been fortunate enough to work in her chosen field; last summer in research and the previous summer as a Soil and Water Conservation District intern. Although her studies consume most of her time, she plays collegiate women's rugby.

Lesanna Lyn is a high school senior attending college through a special program. While she finds the U of M preferable to high school, she has

opted to attend a small school, Carleton College. Lessy finds time for pottery, violin, photography and volunteering at the Raptor Center.

Dorissa switched high schools from New Prague to Northfield this year, as a sophomore, and finds she prefers the students and the "ambiance" at Northfield. Having obtained her driver's license, she regularly attends plays, concerts and Middle Eastern dance lessons. Weary of her previous name, she is now known as Dorissa Sage Zemirah.

This marks my fourth year with Farmington Public Schools as Director of Technology. I work with wonderful people and continue to enjoy the crazy world of computers. Although chores, homemaking and consulting consume most of my time away from work, I attempt photography, gardening, reading, writing and sewing.

May the spirit of the holidays inspire you. -Rosalyn, for the family.



Dorissa and dog Spritzen, Lessy and friend Jesse, Jaslyn and dog Bo, Gary and Jaslyn's friend Jim. 11/99

Below are excerpts from an essay Lesanna wrote about her Grandma:

As I rush about my house, busy with chores and schoolwork, one sight always slows me down; the slightly rusted chrome and stiff brown leather of my Grandmother's leg braces. Reminiscent of a polio prevention poster, the braces stand starkly in a corner of my living room, no longer required for the daily exercise routine.

Thirty years ago my Grandmother was rendered paraplegic when a 300 pound spotlight fell from the rafters of an arena in which her young son was ice skating. Although confined to a wheelchair and suffering chronic nerve pain, she continued in her roles as wife and mother. Six short years after the accident she was widowed, losing her devoted husband to a heart attack, and left to raise the youngest of her three children alone. In spite of these tragic events, her energies were never directed toward herself, her pain or her limitations, but rather on helping others. Her courage, selflessness and sense of humor in the face of adversity have become goals as I decide how to live my life. My Grandmother touched everyone who knew her with her kindness and respect for others. My compassion for those less fortunate, man and beast alike, and my almost uncanny ability to feel others' pain and joy, can be traced directly to the influence of my Grandmother. Her braces serve as a powerful reminder of the wonderful attributes my Grandmother possessed and of the potential within me to bring my value system into clear focus, undistorted by the superficial and self-centered aspects of society.

.....

Throughout her life she continued to grow and learn; taking up quilting in her seventies, reading voraciously, and also keeping decades of daily journals. Her curiosity never waned. A striking example of her inquisitiveness stands out in my mind. Following the recent remodeling of Grandma's room, I removed a family of bats that had taken up residence in her closet. Aware that mice, rats, bats and such creatures repulsed Grandma, I was in the process of discreetly relocating them from the house to place them in a new home when she called out to me. She asked if I would bring them over to her so she could see the "babies". She said, almost by way of excuse, "I've never seen baby bats before". Stunned, I brought them to her, pulled back the towel so she could see the tiny creatures next to their mother, and watched her tip her head, thereby adjusting her bifocals for the sharpest focus. Her curiosity satisfied, knowing what baby bats look like, she sent me on my way.

.....

My beliefs and activities reflect my Grandma's indomitable compassionate spirit and insatiable thirst for knowledge. She instilled in me the curiosity to broaden my horizons, in all directions, and the confidence and courage to travel to those horizons.

