

An autobiography by



Joseph A. Puccio

This is dedicated to

My Grandparents 4
My School Days..... 13
My Favorite Things..... 17
My Pet Peeves 21
My Favorite Vacations..... 23
Historical Events..... 28
How I Want to be Remembered..... 34

My Grandparents

My grandma, Giovanna (Jennie) Campanella, was born on May 25, 1919, in New York City's "Lower East Side". She grew up during the Great Depression of 1929. When she was only four and half years old her father Antonio died. In 1932 her family bought a house and moved to Maspeth, NY. She moved along with her mother, Francesca and father, her brother Nicky, and her three sisters Mary, Annie and Sadie.



Grandma Puccio

My grandpa, Philip Puccio, was also born on May 25, 1920, and also was born in New York City's "Lower East Side". He also lived during the Great Depression of 1929. In 1929, he moved to Brooklyn, NY, with his mother Lillian, and his father, John, and his sisters Marion and Lenora.



Grandpa Puccio

My grandpa and grandma were born and grew up just a few blocks from each other, but they didn't actually meet until they were in their twenties. In 1939 they met at Webster's Dance Hall near where they were both born. They dated on and off for 4 years because he was in the war. They got married on February 27, 1943. Once they were married they traveled to many states within the United States. When grandpa went overseas to war, grandma went back to live with her family in New York. While in the service my grandpa was promoted to second Lieutenant and then Lieutenant. Before he left the service he was promoted to Captain.

In 1947 their first child, John, was born. They had three more children, Tony, Mary Ann, and my dad Philip. My grandpa went back to school and earned his law and CPA degrees. They bought a house in Maspeth and lived there as a family until 1977 when they moved to Garden City, NY.

My grandpa Puccio died on June 15, 2000. I don't remember him much, but I wish I did. My grandma Puccio lives in Garden City, NY, along with her son Tony and her daughter Mary Ann. They also have a dog named Amber, whom they love very much. My grandma is 85 years old and still goes bowling 2-3 times every week. I don't get to see her much because she doesn't travel, but when I am in New York, I always go to see her.

My Grannie, Jacqueline Sweeney, was born in Boston on August 22, 1937, nearing the end of the Great Depression. She grew up in East Boston and was very poor. One of her memories as a child was going to the pizza parlor to purchase pizza ends (sides of the pizza) for 5 cents. She remembers this as a very special treat.

In 1946, my grannie's sister, Marjorie Ann, died of Cystic Fibrosis when she was only 13 years old. This was a very sad time for my Grannie's family.

In 1964, she moved from the projects in East Boston to Dorchester, Massachusetts, with her father John and mother Marjorie, along with her brother Terrence and sister Belle Marie. When my Grannie was 16 her parents adopted her brother John. John had been with my great-grandparents when he was only 6 months old and they adopted him because no one came back to get him. Years later, my great-grandparents also adopted two more children. Paul was born in Korea and was adopted when he was 7 years old, but because he had tuberculosis was 9 years old before he could travel to his new home. Ted was adopted through an adoption agency when he was a baby. It wasn't until later in his life that they discovered that he was deaf.



Grannie and Grandpa Joe

My grandpa, Joseph D'Amico, was born in Dorchester, Massachusetts, on April 6, 1928, also during the Great Depression. He grew up with his father James and mother Antoinette. He also had two brothers Neno and Paul. They all worked in their successful family construction business. They were very lucky to be the first family in their neighborhood to have a television.



Great-grandparents

James and Antoinette

My Grannie Jacqueline and grandpa Joseph lived next door to each other on Ellison Avenue in Dorchester. This is how they met, and one year later, they were married on November 16, 1956. They first lived together in West Roxbury and later moved to Milton, Massachusetts. They had four children whose names are James, Elizabeth, Suzanne and Antoinette. My grandpa Joe died on November 24, 1991.

I never met my grandpa Joe because he died before I was born, but I was named after him because I would have been his first grandchild. However, I know my Grannie very well. When I was born as my mother was recovering, my Grannie was the first to hold me after my birth.

My grannie moved to Florida in 1994 and met my step-grandpa, Al Duhaime, in 1998. They were married May 19, 2001. I love my Grannie D'Amico very much. When I was little I would see her in Siesta Key, Florida, nearly every month. She would hold me and walk me for hours along the beach. She even taught me my first word which was "hot", because she would always say that her tea was "hot".

Because she can travel more often than my other Grannie, she visits me at least three times a year and every other Christmas she comes to my house with her husband, Al Duhaime (my step-grandpa) and her little dog Samantha. I try and visit her in Florida at least once or twice a year. When I do, we always play in their pool and we go and visit places near where she lives.

My Family

My family and I live in a cedar house in the woods outside Chapel Hill, NC. I live with my Dad, Philip, and my Mom, Beth, my sister, Julianna and my dog Logan.



My house

When I was born my dad and mom had to move to Minnesota for my dad's work. We lived there for one year, but I don't remember very much of it. Then we moved back to North Carolina to build our house. While we were building the house we lived in Cary. Two years after we moved into the new house my sister Julianna was born.

My Dad is the most loving person I know. He has brown eyes and light brown hair. He's 5'7" tall. A few years ago, he was diagnosed with Diabetes and since then he takes care of himself by exercising. He works with computers as a programmer and has been using the computer language Java.

One of his main hobbies is photography. During my soccer games he always takes pictures of me and sends them to family members. He also takes a lot of pictures when we go on vacation and when I look at them; I remember how

much fun it was to be there. We have five computers in our house and they all have a screen saver that shows all of the pictures that he has taken. I especially enjoy looking at them when I'm trying to fall asleep.

He helps me with my homework whenever I need help. My Dad worked in Minneapolis, MN, for the first 10 years of my life. Right now he works in Holly Springs, NC, and I see him every night and every morning.

My mom has dark brown hair, dark brown eyes, and is 5'4" tall. She loves to cook, and I love to eat her food.

One time she was a finalist in a meatball contest. It was very exciting for me because I love her meatballs. I am very glad that my mom is such a good cook, because if she wasn't, I might have to eat out of a can!

She also sells sunshirts that protect you from over 70% of the dangerous rays of the sun. One time we went to the beach with Lucas, Kaitlyn, and Christine Reed, and lots of people asked about the sunshirts we were wearing. We were there for only 4 days and we sold 10 sunshirts!

My mom hates when I play my Gameboy DS (which she just broke) in the house and wants me to shut it off and do other things. She loves to see me playing outside or other creative things like drawing and Lego. When I get bored she always finds something fun for me to do.

My sister, Julianna, was born in 1998 and has blond hair and greenish gray eyes. She started wearing glasses when she was 2 ½. The day she got her first pair of glasses, she cried, and cried, and wouldn't put them on.

Then, when we got into the car, I asked if I could wear them, and she immediately said, "No they're mine!" She's been wearing them ever since.



Julianna

Julianna loves to play with her friends. She loves to play dolls and collects Care Bears. She likes to play soccer and her favorite thing to do is play on the monkey bars. I love her very much, but sometimes she can get on my nerves.

My aunt Suzanne (mom's sister) lives in Cary with her dog Peanut. She has dark brown hair and brown eyes.

My Aunt teaches 5th grade in Cary. She loves to teach. She also loves to watch hockey, baseball, and football. She was born in Boston, then, in 1998, she moved to North Carolina. She lived with us for six weeks until she found an apartment.

She has always loved baseball, and her favorite team is the Boston Red Sox. My favorite team is the New York Yankees. When they play each other in the World Series semi-finals, its war. My dad and I root for the Yankees and my mom, auntie, and Julianna root for the Red Sox. When the Yankee's lose, my dad roots for the Red Sox in the World Series and I root for the opposing team. That's how much I love the Yankees.

My aunt had a dog named Russell who passed away, and at the time, she was very sad. About three years later, I was walking outside when I saw a dog. As I called for my dad the dog ran under our car. Everyone came outside to take a look at the dog. He was as pale as a onion and as thin as a French fry. He did not want to come out so we had to use our big net to get him out. The poor guy looked like he hadn't eaten for weeks! We called my aunt and she came over as fast as she could. When we picked him up there were at least a hundred ticks and fleas on him! My Dad had to take the ticks out one at a time. It was awful. When all the ticks were out and the fleas were dead, we took him to the vet. The vet said he had a type two mange. He explained to us what the two types

were. Type one was contagious and deadly and type two was a mange that was from his mother and it was not contagious.

My aunt decided to adopt the dog and named him Peanut. A week after she got him we brought him to the groomer. When they were cutting his nails, the cashier asked, "Is he sick?" My aunt replied, "No, but he has mange." The cashier started yelling to the people cutting his nails, in Spanish, and they all started to "freak out". We were forced out of the groomer before we had a chance to tell them that it was type two mange, and it wasn't contagious.

My mom and dad had a dog named Rosie for 13 years until she passed away in January of 1999. It was a very sad time (especially for my dad), and we didn't get a new dog for several years. In November of 2002 my mom went to Boston for her high school reunion. While she was there she found out about a dog that was in need of a home. She went to the animal shelter in Boston and met the dog. She ended up finding out that the dog she saw was not the dog they were suppose to show her. They were supposed to show her an old dog that had health problems. She fell in love with the puppy they showed her, and we ended up keeping him. We named the dog Logan. Logan has two hearts that are black fur on his white and gray color. He has brown eyes and a white spot on his forehead. I love him very much.



Joseph, Julianna, and Logan



Julianna and Russell

My School Days

I started preschool when I was 2 ½ years old. All I remember about my first preschool is that, when you walk into the Chapel of the Cross Childcare Center (C5), you need to take an elevator to the second floor. The elevator opens to the preschool and to your right there is a classroom (my first classroom), and just beyond that, is another classroom (my second classroom.) I remember that there was also an art room just beyond my second classroom. Outside was a playground where I used to play. The Planetarium is next to the preschool. Each classroom had two teacher and about 25 children. When I first started there I must have been nervous, because I would cry when my mother left. When I found some friends to play with I started to enjoy going to preschool. My mom would drop me off every day at 8:30 AM (it was a year-round school) and pick me up at 12:15 PM. One thing I do remember about the preschool was that when we would clean-up we would sing “Clean-up, clean-up, everybody do your share”.

Lucy Dempsey was one of the kids at the preschool. I don't remember playing with her, but I do remember that both of us moved to the Montessori Community School (MCS) when we were 4 years old. When I first started at MCS, I was very nervous but because of Lucy was in my class, I wasn't as nervous as I was at my first preschool.

I started in classroom number 203 and my teacher was Jules Roberts and her assistants were named Ginny and Christine. In my classroom I met many friends that I still know today, like Parker Arnold, Vic Sullivan, Blake Vickers, Jayce Brooks, and, of course, Lucy Dempsey. One of my memories about the classroom was that we always had little boots outside the door. I also remember that every Friday we would go to the big front playground in the front of the school. Not only did I like the bigger playground, I also loved Friday's because my dad would pick me up every Friday.



Classroom 203

I spent two years in room 203, and then I moved to room 301 (Lower Elementary.) In 301 my teachers were Peter Piche, Mark, and a woman named Kristen. The first year I met Mickey Papanikolas, Dan Pungello, Lucas Reed, Max Hoffman, Blake Coleman, Sarah Hoffman, and Audrey Howarth, who I am still going to school with today.

I really liked my teacher, Peter, because he was a fun teacher who made it fun to learn. In first grade, I remember that the gate separating the elementary from the kindergarteners was always broken.

In second grade Peter was still my teacher, but Mark and Kristen left the school. They were replaced by Renee and Lillian. During that year I met Joss Collins-Bradford, Joey Hoffman and Caleb Milliken. During that year the school got a new structure for our playground with monkey bars and swinging handles. One of the memories that I experienced during my second year, in 301, was drawing turtles with Caleb and playing soccer with Joey.

In third grade my teachers were Peter and Renee. One of my favorite memories of that year was when all of the third years; Max, Lucas, Isaac, Lucy, Morgan, and I would eat lunch every day at the world table and listen to stories read on the radio. At the end of that year the third through six graders went to a place called Earthshine in Lake Toxaway, North Carolina (where it never stopped raining!) It was a very exciting trip for me, because it was the first year I got to go away with my friends on my own. We were gone for three days and two nights.

When I moved to fourth grade I was very nervous, but I went with a lot of friends like Max, Lucas, Lucy, Jayce and Dan. I met Bennett, Graham, Marianna, Alex G., Katelyn Graves and many other kids. My teachers were

Sharon Watt and Mary Scholle. During that year two new kids came to our class. One was Santi Arroyo, who just moved into the area from Milwaukee, WI. Santi was born in Spain and spoke Spanish. The other new kid was Jena Howe, who came from a public school. She came to the school because her mother, Sabine Howe, was our P.E. teacher. It was a very hard year for me because the work was hard to keep up with, and I fell very behind. We went on two overnight field trips that year. The first was camping in western North Carolina (the mountains). When Blake Coleman, Vic and Avery, and I were loading the bus, Blake forgot a box that had the marshmallows, hotdog buns, and some soup, and we didn't find out until we were all unpacked and ready to toast marshmallows!

I'm currently in fifth grade, and I was not as nervous as I was going to fourth, but still a little nervous. My teachers are Mary Scholle and Grae Baker, and Peter Piche. At the beginning of the year I met Thomas Borroughs from 303; Ellen Cohn from 301, whom I knew from second and third grade; her sister, Julia, whom I met in fourth grade; Hannah whom I just met, from 303; Kathryn Taylor, I also knew for two years, from 301; Sierra Sims I just met; her sister, Mariana, I met in fourth grade; Grayson Shallo I knew, but this is the first time I actually got to be in the same class; Parker is a very good friend, whom I met very early in my life; Vic Sullivan is good friend of mine, and I knew him early in my life; Jayce is another good friend, whom I also knew early in my life; Blake Coleman is a good friend I met in first grade; Corey Coleman, her sister, I just met; Brynna is a good friend I met in fourth grade; Lucy is a good friend I met in pre-school, and I've been in her class ever since; Katelyn Graves is a good friend, whom I met in fourth grade; Alex Griffin is a good friend in also met I fourth grade; Joey Hoffman I met in second grade; his twin brother, Jonny Hoffman, I met in fifth grade; their older sister, Sarah Hoffman, keeps them in order; Max Hoffman, who has the same last name as the twins, but isn't in the same family, is in the same grade as me, and is a good friend; Audrey Howarth, a good friend whom I met in first grade; Jena, a good friend whom I met in fourth grade; her sister kiana Howe, whom I just met this year; Alex James, whom I met in fourth grade, and we love to make stories together; Abigail Lutz I met in second grade, and is a good

friend. Graham Lutz, Abigail's, brother who is a good friend; Mickey Papanikolas, who has a very long last name, and I'm good friends with; Dan Pungello, a good friend of mine, is a nice fellow; and last, (but not least), Lucas Reed is a very, very, good friend of mine, and I love to go places with him.



My Favorite Things

My favorite sport to play is soccer. Most of the sports I play do not involve luck. I've never had, or been in need of, a lucky "coin" or "marble" or something like them. However, I really love to play soccer. I started when I was three, and I've been playing ever since.



My favorite restaurant is Vespa in Chapel Hill. Unfortunately, I don't go there very often (that's probably why it's so special to me) for two reasons. One is because my mom is a great cook, and we usually eat Italian food at home. The other is because, a couple years ago, my mom was served with a fly in her soup. She didn't notice it until she had already eaten some of the soup, and she will never go back to Vespa again. The reason why I like Vespa so much is because they make the best penne with melted mozzarella on it. Because I'm lactose intolerant, I don't get to have mozzarella very much.

My favorite sport to watch is baseball. The Yankees are my favorite team, and I like to watch them play in the World Series (which they generally are in). I also like to play baseball. I'm not in a league, but I'm pretty good at it. One time, when I was seven, my dad was throwing the ball and I was trying to hit it with the bat,

when I hit it so hard that even when it hit my dad's shoulder it still had enough magnetism to go deep into the woods.

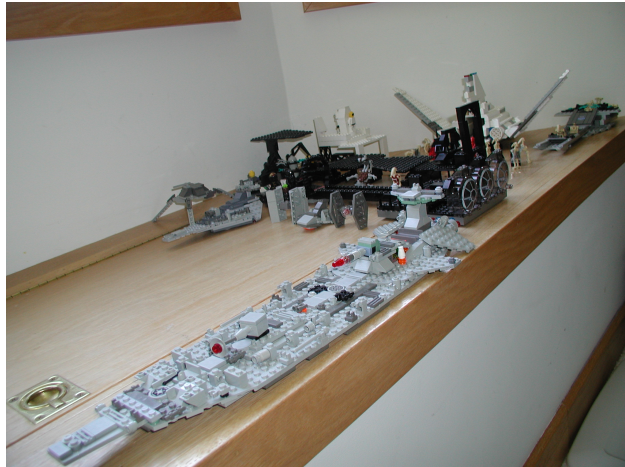


My favorite vacation (and my farthest) was when we went to Hawaii. My first time on a plane was when I was 6 weeks old, and I went to New York to visit some of my family.

My favorite musical instrument is the piano. I started to play the piano when I was 9 years old, and once I got the hang of it, I realized that I'm pretty good at it.

I also like acting and singing. We have an opera every year, and I love to sing in it. I started in an acting class when I was 6 and took it for 2 years. It really helped me learn how to project my voice when I speak or sing on the stage.

One of my favorite toys are Lego's. I like that there is no wrong way to build with them. I can spend hours making lots of different things but eventually, my mom puts them away, and I have to start all over again. She says, "They're just collecting dust. Why don't you put them away and make new ones?"



Lego creations

I love writing poetry. For an odd reason, I like writing poems about death, shadows, darkness, and other creepy things. Other things that interest me (and I can't explain why) are tall buildings, small spaces, fire, and explosions.

I also like going to the beach. We go at least once every year with our friends, Paul and Alicia. Paul built our house and even though Alicia is an architect, she didn't design our house. We also go with Jan and Mike. Mike is a biologist at the Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, and Jan works with computers. And last, but definitely not least, Ed, Linda, and Laura are also part of our beach group. Ed and Linda are musicians, and Laura is their daughter. When we're at the beach music is often played throughout the day. Its fun to listen to them play and sing while we take a break from the sun.



Emerald Isle

Another one of my favorite beach trips was to Ocracoke with all the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. We were assigned to a tent with at least two kids and one adult in each tent. I was in a tent with Joey, Johnny, Lucas, and our teacher Grae. We were there for three days and two nights, and my favorite part of the trip was making a giant sand volcano and building the walls around it.

Another fun thing that I like to do is go to the lake with Grayson and his mom For Grayson's birthday (which is one day before mine). Two years ago I went with them and another friend named Shawn. When we're there we fish off their deck. Grayson is the best fisherman I have ever met (not that I've met a lot of them.)

My Pet Peeves

One of my pet peeves is when my sister gets annoyed with me because she wants what I have and cries until she gets it. I'm her brother, and she is my sister, and I can't do anything about it.

Another pet peeve is that I have to go to soccer practice, even if all you do is pass the ball back and forth for an hour. But it's the only way you learn new moves and get better at soccer. So, if you like soccer, that means you can't get better just by facing a team in a match; you have to practice.

Another thing I hate is cleaning up, especially my LEGOS. I love to play with them, but they are very annoying, because they hurt when you step on them and go everywhere, when you pour them out to play with them. They can go in places so small a mouse couldn't even get in there, and they seem invisible on a colored rug and get lost very easily. But, they have to be cleaned up, and I have to do it.

Another annoying thing that I don't like is that my room is the smallest room in the house. The room in the basement is bigger than my bedroom. My dog Logan's kennel might well be bigger than my room. But, my parents say that when they renovate the basement I'll be able to move my room down there, and it'll be bigger and more private than all the rooms in the rest of the house.

Another very annoying pet peeve is that I have allergies, and the fact that when my mom says "it's a beautiful day outside, why don't you go out and play." For me, it's more like she is saying, "It's a beautiful day, the sun is sneezing, the flowers are full of pollen getting ready to fire at your nose and the bees will drop pollen on your

head; so, why don't you go out and play with the pollen." I wish I didn't have allergies, because on a sunny Spring day I worry about the pollen slowing me down.

One of my worst pet peeves is that I'm lactose intolerant. When I go out for ice cream with my friends, all I can have is sherbet or sprinkles. I often pick sprinkles because the sherbet is usually either orange or rainbow, which I'm sick of. Sometimes there's watermelon and I love watermelon, but it doesn't make a good sherbet flavor. But, I still go, because my friends will be there, and I want to be with them.

One time I was going to an ice cream party after the Opera and, even though my mom made sure that there was a lactose free ice cream, one of the toppings was whip cream in a can. I was trying to find out how to get the whip cream out of the can and I kept trying to push it out, by hitting the bottom of the can, but nothing happened. Then I asked a friend how to get it out and he put a ton of it on my ice cream. I wanted to eat it, but I knew I had to scoop most of it out with a napkin because it would make me sick.

Although I love my house, I don't like where I live. Most of my neighbors are either very young or very old, except for one boy named Daniel. He lives down the road, but I'm not old enough to walk to his house alone. We have to make special arrangements to see each other, and that doesn't always work out. Another reason why I don't have a lot of friends near where I live is because most of them go to public school, and I don't know them. Because I love that I am surrounded by woods and I love my home, I never want to move away.

All these pet peeves are annoying, but none of them are so bad that I want to start over my life and be someone else.

My Favorite Vacations

When I was 3 years old I went on a trip to Hawaii with my parents. We had to go on 4 planes to get there, but it was worth it! On the plane we were in first class and the dinner was as good as a restaurant. We also had our own televisions. When I got there the airport was very busy. When we got in the car it felt like the beach because there were so many palm trees. When we got to the hotel there was a pool in the middle of the hotel and it was very big. In fact, there were five pools at the hotel in different areas. I don't remember the details, but I remember that I had lots of fun.



Helicopter ride over Hawaii volcano

Hawaii hotel

My first trip to New York I didn't know I was in another state, because I was only 6 weeks old. I've been to New York many times, but my most recent trip was last December around Christmas. We stayed in Times Square and it was very crowded. My favorite store in Times Square is Toys' R Us. The store has a ferris wheel,

the Statue of Liberty, the Chrysler Building, and the Empire State Building made out of legos. It's a really fun store, because no matter where you go in the store, there are toys everywhere.

One night, I couldn't fall asleep, because it was so bright and noisy. After I fell asleep, my dad told me the next day that I had walked into the bathroom and looked in the mirror and then went back to bed. A couple hours later, my dad heard me unlock the door to the room and walk out the door. My dad stopped me before I left the room and went downstairs to time square sleepwalking. After I went back to bed, my dad moved furniture in front of the door and spent the rest of the night awake, wondering if I would try it again.



New York City

The reason I go to New York so often is because my dad's family lives there and my mom's sister lives there. We usually stay on Long Island and go to the city at least once during our stay, but there's nothing like staying in Manhattan.

I also go to Florida a lot, because my Grannie and step-Granddad live, there. The most recent time I was in Florida was for my spring break last year. I like going there, because their house has a pool, and we spend lots of time in it. We also go to the aquarium to see the sea turtle, dolphins and manatee that live there. I like this aquarium, because it's not as crowded as New York's.

Manatee

Recently, I went to Seattle, Washington, and Portland, Oregon. In Seattle we saw the Space Needle and went to the Rock and Roll Museum. In the middle of the museum there was a giant statue made out of guitars. In the museum we also were able to play instruments. I tried all kinds of instruments, but my favorite was when we went into a soundproof room and got to mix rap music.

On our drive from Seattle to Portland we went on a whale watching trip. Unfortunately, I got sea sick. But I also got to see about 80 Orca whales (6 pods), and even though I wasn't feeling good, they were as amazing as they would have been if I weren't feeling so sick.



Orcas in Puget Sound

We also went to Mt. Saint Helen's. When we were there we saw a short film about the volcano and here's a quote that I learned at the movie: "Houston, this is it, this is it!". It was said by a man who was standing at a ridge near the base of the volcano when it erupted.



Mount Saint Helens

When we got to Portland we stayed with friends of my parents and when we arrived were greeted by two large dogs named Charlie and Isabel. Our friends were names Wim and Ellen and their 9 month old baby's, name was Caleb. Wim is from Belgium and My parents met him in 1990 when they lived and worked in Italy. Wim likes to farm their land and Ellen likes to garden.



Wim and Joseph work the land

We spent most of the time outside playing with their animals. They had goats, cows, and chickens and, of course, two dogs. While I was there Wim let me drive the tractor. I ran over a few plants, but I was pretty good at parking it in the barn. Everyday while we were there we went outside to check to see if the chickens laid any eggs. One time, Julianna was checking, while Ellen was gardening and she got stuck in the chicken coup when the door closed and locked behind her. Most of time we were there we had fresh eggs for breakfast, and they were the best eggs I have ever had.

These are some of the vacations that I've already taken. In about 5 years we're planning to go to Australia and New Zealand for my Mom's 50th birthday.

Historical Events

I was born on July 7, 1994. On August 13, in 1994, baseball players went on strike and because of the strike; there was no World Series that year. The Super Bowl was played between the Dallas Cowboys and the Buffalo Bills. Dallas won 30 to 13. The World Cup was held in Italy and it ended with a fierce match between Italy and Brazil. Brazil won 3 to 2. The 1994 Winter Olympics were held in Lille Hammer, Norway. Norway won with a total of 26 metals; 10 gold, 11 silver and 5 bronze. The United States placed 5th with a total of 13 metals; 6 gold, 5 slivers and 2 bronze. My favorite winter Olympic sport is hockey.

Some of the famous people who died in 1994 were Richard Milhouse Nixon, former President of the United States, and Jacqueline Kennedy, wife of the late John F. Kennedy, also a former President of the United States.

In 1995, the Super Bowl was played between the San Francisco 49ers and the San Diego Chargers. San Francisco won 49 to 26. The World Series was played between the Atlanta Braves and the Cleveland Indians. Atlanta won 4 to 2.

At the Grammy awards Bruce Springsteen won best song for "Streets of Philadelphia". The song was written for a movie starring Tom Hanks who played a man dying of AIDS.

Some of the famous people who died in 1995 were Mickey Mantle, one of the best Yankee baseball players of all time, and Jerry Garcia, who was a famous musician.

In 1996, the Super Bowl was played between the Dallas Cowboys and the Pittsburgh Steelers. Dallas won 27 to 17. The World Series was played between the New York Yankees and Atlanta Braves. New York won 4 to 2.

Some of the famous people who died in 1996 were George Burns, a famous comedian, and Carl Sagan, an astronomer.

In 1997, the Super Bowl was played between the Green Bay Packers and the New England Patriots. Green Bay won 35 to 21. The World Series was between the Florida Marlins and the Cleveland Indians. Florida won 4 to 3.

Some of the famous people who died in 1997 were Mother Teresa, a famous nun who helped poor people all over the world, and Princess Diana, wife of Prince Charles, heir to the Queen of England.

On October 28, 1998, my sister Julianna was born. It changed my life forever.

In 1998, the Super Bowl was played between the Denver Broncos and the Green Bay Packers. Denver won 31 to 24. The World Series was played between the New York Yankees and the San Diego Padres. The Yankees won 4 to 0. The 1998 Winter Olympics were held in Nagano, Japan. Germany won with a total of 21 metals; 12 gold, 1 silver, and 8 bronze. The United States placed 6th with 6 gold, 3 silver and 4 bronze metals. My favorite summer Olympic sport is soccer. The World Cup was held in France. The final game was between France and Brazil. France won 3 to 0.

Some of the famous people who died in 1998 were Junior Wells, a jazz artist, and Frank Sinatra, a famous singer/actor and musician.

In 1999, the Super Bowl was played between the Denver Broncos and the Atlanta Falcons. Denver won 34 to 19. The World Series was played between the Atlanta Braves and the New York Yankees. The New York Yankees won 4 to 0.

Some of the famous people who died in 1999 were Joe DiMaggio, a famous Yankee baseball player, and John F. Kennedy, Jr., the son of the late President John F. Kennedy.

We moved from the 20th to the 21st Century on January 1st 2000. Much of the world was concerned about the technical challenges facing computer systems worldwide.

The Super Bowl was between St. Louis Rams and the Tennessee Titans. St. Louis won 23 to 16. The World Series was between the New York Yankees and the New York Mets. New York was crazy about baseball that year! The New York Yankees won 4 to 1. The Summer Olympics was held that year in Salt Lake City, Utah. The United States won with a total of 97 metals; 40 gold, 24 silver and 33 bronze.

Some of the famous people who died in 2000 were Alec Guinness, an actor who played in the Star Wars movies IV-VI, and Charles Schultz, creator of the Peanuts Comic Strip.

In 2001, the Super Bowl was played between the Baltimore Ravens and the New York Giants. Baltimore won 37 to 7. The World Series was played between Arizona Diamondbacks and the New York Yankees. The Diamondbacks won 4 to 3.

In 2001 the world changed forever. On September 11th the World Trade Centers were hit by two planes, which caused them to fall to the ground only a short time later. My uncle, Ken Labbate, worked in 2 World Trade Center on the 81st floor. That day he was late for work because his 6 week old son, John, kept him up during the night. The lack of sleep caused him to wake up late that morning. Otherwise, he could have been either on the elevator or in his office at the time the planes hit, but because he was late, he was still on the subway when the first plane hit. As he left the subway, he started to walk towards the towers, he saw many people running towards him. Seeing the people running he decided to walk away from the towers and head uptown. It wasn't until nearly 10:30 AM that we heard that he was safe. He walked 94 blocks that day to his cousin's apartment on the upper west side. He couldn't return home until the next day.



World Trade Center, New York

On a lighter note, the first Lord of the Rings movie, "The Fellowship of the Ring," was released. It was a great movie! Also that year, "Monsters Inc." "Shrek," and "Ocean's 11" were released. I saw them all and loved them all!

One of the famous people who died that year was George Harrison, a member of the famous rock band The Beatles.

In 2002, the Super Bowl were played between the New England Patriots and the St. Louis Rams. New England won 20 to 17. The World Series was played between the San Francisco Giants and Anaheim Angels. The Giants won 4 to 3. The 2002 Winter Olympics were held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Germany won with a total of 35 metals; 12 gold, 16 silver, and 7 bronze. The United States placed 2nd with a total of 34 metals; 10 gold, 13 silver, and 11 bronze.

The second Lord of the Rings movie, The Two Towers, was released. It was also a great movie! Also that year, Bruce Springsteen released his album called "The Rising," which was inspired by the tragedy of September 11, 2001.

In 2003, the Super Bowl was played between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Oakland Raiders. Tampa Bay won 48 to 21. The World Series was played between the New York Yankees and the Florida Marlins. Florida won 4 to 2.

The third Lord of the Rings movie, "The Return of the King," was released. It was a great movie, but it was sad to know it was the last one. Other great movies that year were The Pirates of the Caribbean, Master and Commander, Freaky Friday, Finding Nemo and Sea Biscuit.

Some of the famous people who died in 2003 were Mr. Fred Rogers, an actor, and Jonny Cash, a musician.

In 2004, the Super Bowl was played between the New England Patriots, and the Carolina Panthers. That was an exciting series. My mom was rooting for New England and I was rooting for Carolina. The Patriots won with a score of 32 to 29. The World Series was played between the Boston Red Sox and the St. Louis Cardinals. Boston won with a score of 4 to 0. It was the first winning World Series for the Boston Red Sox in 86 years! That year the Penant was played between the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox's it was amazing because the red sox's are the second best team in the American league. What was fun is that the Yankees were winning 3-0 and the Red sox's came back to win it! The 2004 Summer Olympics was held in Athens, Greece. The United States won with a total of 103 metals; 35 gold, 39 silver and 29 bronze.

The best movies that were released that year were Spiderman 2 and The Incredibles.

Some of the famous people who died in 2004 were Yasir Arafat, the Chariman of the PLO, and Ronald Raegan, a former President of the United States.

How I Want to be Remembered

I want to be remembered for my care for animals and people. When I grow up I want to be a poet. I was first inspired by one of my teachers; Peter He is our class' creative writing teacher. One of the reasons I love poetry. Is because whatever you think about, you can put down on paper. Here is one of my first poems in the fifth grade.

*Death
Get in bed.
All I think about is
Death.
Will I die?
When?
Where?
How?
The Titanic.
Ice.
Cold water.
Splashing
Can't... ..breathe.
Silence...
Where do you go?
Why?*