

THE 2025 RICHER FAMILY DIGEST

The Anniversary Song

This letter is dedicated to Alexandra's former Nanny, Regina B, Riley ("Nini") who passed away on July 13th shortly before her 90th birthday. Nini taught Alexandra all types of arts and crafts with her unique creativity, transported Alexandra to a multitude of activities, but most importantly always gave Alexandra unconditional Love. As Alexandra matured, Nini transitioned to assisting us in other ways, and always remained a vital part of our family. Regina will be sorely missed, but her legacy will live on. We will miss her beautiful laugh and the way she always referred to Alexandra as "Lovey."

Major highlights of 2025:

January: French Reporter Sophie Gousset and Public Television Channel MG Program Show 66 Minutes came to Saratoga Springs to film a 26 minute documentary about the Toga Chip Guy and the history of Saratoga Chip for the French Public Television station.

February: Jessica took Alan for a birthday overnight at the Adelphi Hotel in Saratoga Springs. Alexandra joined us for dinner at Salt and Char.

March: Alexandra moved to Cambridge, MA and started a job with Simpli Safe, a home security company in Boston, as Senior Forecasting Analyst. Alan traveled to Philadelphia where he had dinner with his long-time friends, Annie Gacy and Alan Vomacka.

We traveled to Cleveland where Alan had some surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. While there, we visited with friends, Ted and Chris Esborne and George and Judy Karas, and took in the Picasso Exhibit at the Cleveland Museum of Art,

April: Jessica and Alan traveled to California for the wedding of Arin and Aaron Weiner in Malibu. We visited long-time pals, Joyce and Howard Liebeskind, and Randi Israelo, Alan's cousins Merrill Shindler, Francine and Hal Wiener, Miriam Wiener and Evan Smith, and Jessica's cousin Michael Wagner.

May: The highlight of the month was Alexandra's graduation from the Tuft's College School of Engineering Gordon Institute with a master's degree in technology and leadership. The same week our nephew Eli Locke graduated with his PhD, in Economics from Boston University. We celebrated Alexandra's graduation with a Tea Party in Boston. Long-time Cutler Place friend Skip Keena made his annual pilgrimage to Saratoga Springs.

June: For the second year in a row, the Belmont Stakes (final round in the Triple Crown) was held at historic Saratoga Race Course. We were thrilled to entertain our super pals George and Judy Karas along with Judy's sister Karen and Karen's husband Leon.

Alan received the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center Board Member of the Year Award at its Annual Meeting.

August: We traveled to nearby Chatham, NY to meet Alan's "Best Man" Mark Costello, his wife Jennifer, and their son Casey for dinner.

We met up with Jessica's siblings, Paul, Andra and Fred and their spouses, Elizabeth, Greg and Michele to celebrate their cousin Stephen Tower's 85th Birthday Party in Westport, CT. We met their long-time next door neighbor Allen Schlein, and childhood friend Mark Feinberg, and Mark's wife Bebe.

Jessica and Alan traveled to Sasha Einziger's engagement party to Mark Roth in Charlotte, NC where we celebrated with Sasha's parents William and Beth, and Sasha's sister Samantha Einziger.

It was back to Saratoga Race Course to watch the Travers Stakes courtesy of John and June Ritota.

September was our 40th Anniversary. We started the celebration at the Stardust Room at Panza's Restaurant. We later traveled to Greece where we stayed in the Romanos Resort in Costa Navarino, took an eight-day cruise on a yacht among the Greek Islands and Turkey, stayed in Crete for 3 days and then spent 3 days in Athens. Highlights of the trip included Athens and the surrounding areas with Jessie's best friend Anastasia Christoforides, seeing the many archeological sites including a 9,000-year-old palace, the temples of Apollo and Poseidon, the Parthenon, and the Acropolis Museum. The country is beautiful, the food is great, the seas are crystal clear and blue, and the people are friendly. It was a wonderful celebration.

We watched fireworks at our Saratoga home with Arianna and Gordon Hirschman and Seth and Sharon Fuerstein. We had dinner with Johnny Hoch, his girlfriend Elizabeth, and Robby Hoch, the latter who was visiting from Hawaii.

We traveled back to Westport, CT for Jessica's 50th reunion from Andrew Ward High School in Fairfield. We crossed an item off our bucket list by visiting the Pez factory in Orange, CT. Alan's sister, Jean-Ellen and her husband Sandy came for a visit.

A new book, "Snacks", was released. It is targeted for the second grade reading level and will be distributed to schools and libraries across America. Alan had a wonderful experience contributing content, and licensing images for the book.

October. A new series on the A&E Network called "The Real Estate Commission" featured Jessica in two of the six shows in Season One. We attended a sneak preview at the Desmond Hotel where Jessica walked the red carpet and was interviewed.

Jessica was a speaker at the New York Council of Nonprofits Conference in Lake George. Later that month she was a panelist at the Sunrise Management Multifamily Conference in Latham.

November: All of Jessica's immediate family and their children (minus niece Emily) reunited for Thanksgiving in Atlanta at the home of Andra and Greg Jamieson. We were joined by our sisters-in-law's parents, Gloria Smiley and Richard and Alice Weinstein.

December: Alan recorded a podcast with for the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association. Two weeks were spent in Dunedin, FL (near Clearwater). We visited Cousin Howard Katz, his girlfriend Jackie Goodman Mayberry, friends Gary Babich and Anne Fagan, nephew Adam King's family and Alan's sister Jean-Ellen and her husband Sandy. We toured the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, FL.

New Year's Eve was spent at our Slingerlands home with Joe and Susan Schwartz and Debbie and Lee Ratner.

In the community, Jessica served as Board Chair of the Daughters of Sarah Foundation that supports the Capital Region's Jewish Senior Community, and as a Board Member of the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce. She was a member of the Steering Committee of the Women for Israel of the local chapter of the Jewish National Fund. Professionally, she volunteered on the New York State Association of Commercial Realtors (NYSCAR) Board of Governors. Jessica served as Chairperson of the Town of Bethlehem Board of Assessment Review. Jessica and her commercial real estate team had another successful year. She was featured in multiple articles in the *Albany Business Review*, and the *New York Real Estate Journal*.

Alan's volunteer work in the community included being a member of both the Finance Committee, Audit Subcommittee, and the Philanthropy Team of the synagogue, and the Marina, Buildings and Grounds, and Safety and Security Committees of our Homeowner's Association. He remained active in the Jewish Federation as a member of the Endowment Committee's Board of Governors. He was First Vice President of the Board and Chair of the Building Committee of the Albany Jewish Community Center. Alan continued to volunteer for the Chief Rick Stone and Family Foundation to identify the closest living relatives of the Battle of Tarawa Missing in Action soldiers.

Alan continued to work on his TogaChipGuy.com history of the Saratoga potato chip. Check out his blog, "My view of the world through the prism of the potato chip." Like him on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TogaChipGuy/>.

Alan continued working as a freelance journalist for *518 Profiles* Magazine and had two articles published in 2025. The magazine profiles successful people (mostly artists) who have a connection with the Capital Region. He wrote articles on Charles Pignone (President of Frank Sinatra Enterprises), and Jim Morahan (designer and builder of fashion guitars).

During the year we saw Dionne Warwick at the Egg in Albany, the Outlaw Music Festival with Willie Nelson and Bob Dylan, and the Doobie Brothers and Jimmy Buffett's Coral Reefer Band, the Philadelphia Orchestra Tchaikovsky Spectacular all at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. We also saw Michael Feinstein and met Montanna Tucker at Universal Preservation Hall, Veronica Swift at the Spa Little Theatre, both in Saratoga Sidney Dupont at the Mansion in Rock City Falls. We saw Martin Short and Steve Martin, and Ken Burns preview his film *The Revolutionary War*, both at the Palace Theatre in Albany. Saratoga was the turning point of the war, the first battle where the Union defeated the British. And many terrific plays at CAP REP where we have been subscribers since 1990.

We attended several galas including St. Jude's at the Saratoga National Golf Couse, The To Life Pink Gala at at Glen Sanders Mansion, Racing for the Children's at Universal Preservation Hall, the Daughters of Sarah Senior Community "Gamechangers" at the Colonie Country Club, and the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center Pillars at the JCC.

This year, in addition to Regina we mourned the death of Alan's cousin Mickey Frish, our Saratoga neighbor Michael Osterlicht, and Dorothea Kontogiannis (mother of our friend Constantine).

Casey Navin graduated from the University of Albany and has been accepted in the State Police Academy. Christopher Sparano graduated from SUNY-Plattsburg a with a degree in Film. Neighbor Tyler Castler graduated from Siena College. Our nephew Moshe Lemkin graduated from high school.

Miriam Weiner gave birth to Gloria Evely, Erica Comstock gave birth to Brinley Marie, and Arin Wiener gave birth to twins Ben and Levi.

As we reflect upon the year, we are grateful for all the acts of love and kindness. We wish all of you a happy holiday season and a New Year of good health and safety, exciting challenges, and lots of love and laughter.

