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Greetings!

Here we are again. The dreaded annual letter. Sorry, but easiest way to try to stay in touch and somewhat up-to-date on family news.

“Kids” are all doing well. Georgia’s in kindergarten (Kate and Brian Cote’s daughter, Eileen’s granddaughter). She’s 6 going on 16. Jake (Nicole and Rob’s son, Eileen’s grandson) is 14, a freshman in high school and that means he’s a teenage. :) He played Mr. Chapman in Legally Blonde - a wonderful production put on by his middle school. He was amazing and a bit of show stealer. So proud of him. All the other nieces and nephews are now young adults and in college or working – Emmy (Ashley’s daughter, Bobby’s granddaughter) works for Goldman Sacks in Manhattan. Renee (Michael and Michelle’s daughter) did her fourth summer at an extreme sports camp in Alaska. She runs the “ice camp there” – glamping tents on Manatuska Glacier). In fact, Eileen and I went to see her and managed to fit in an incredible sightseeing trip in the Gulf of Alaska and saw orcas, sea otters, seals, eagles, all kinds of other sea and bird life, and the glaciers of course. And TWO helicopter rides and glacier landings, plus a guided trek on Manatuska r – yup, jumping across crevasses and all, as well as one night glamping and actually got to see “alpen glow” while sitting in the hot tub at 9:00 PM. A musk farm, the Alaska State Fair, etc. Last year’s Alaska trip with Brian and Maria was fabulous and this year’s trip equally so. Chris (Michael and Michelle’s son) and his girlfriend Maddie both earned their doctorates – he in AI from Harvard and she in neuroscience from UC Berkeley. Pretty big year! They are now both working in Cambridge and settling into an apartment in Somerville. Nice to have them close by. Michael was recently diagnosed with Parkinson’s. Disconcerting of course but he maintains his sense of self, his stoicism, and his sense of humor. There are more siblings and more nieces and nephews but these are some of the year’s highlights.

The rest of the news is about what I’ve been doing. I think I mentioned in last year’s letter that I have been working on a big tobacco prevention project. And I mean work! Brookline passed a Tobacco Free generation four years ago and was sued by Big Tobacco. The lawsuit made it all the way to the MA Supreme Judicial Court. The SJC retendered a unanimous decision in favor of Brookline’s authority to adopt this regulation. Since then six of the seven communities that are in my Tobacco Prevention Collaborative have adopted the policy – now called NFG – Nicotine Free Generation. And more recently Concord and

Manchester. And then, just this last week at an NFG Celebration at the State House, three state legislators announced that they will be filing NFG legislation in January. It's no slam dunk. Lots of work to be done on the local level but this is a huge step in potentially completely eradicating the harms of tobacco use – not just health but financial. A pack of Marlboro's costs \$14.00. That adds up over the course of a year. Or a lifetime. And for young people many other opportunity costs – high school athletics, can't join the military or become a police officer or firefighter. Very proud of our work so far but, again, we're not done yet.

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