



# The Birman Letter 2007

## Merry Christmas

## Happy Chanukah



We hope that this, our 39th edition of this letter, finds you in good health and at peace. The year 2007 was a little less exciting than some previous years. No exotic expeditions, for example. They are wonderful memories from our younger years!

Last December, after our "Birman Letter" was mailed to friends and family, Rosemarie celebrated her Dec. 22nd birthday at the yacht club. Below is a photo of her blowing out the candles.



We plan to celebrate again there this year.

2006 ended for us on a very sad note. Our cousin Enid Geisler passed away here in Ft. Lauderdale after a short illness. Her brother, our cousin, Leonard Ansell, had predeceased her by just 2 months.



Cousin Enid Geisler

Our tradition of sister Sylvia and her husband, Barry visiting for the New Year



Sylvia and Barry at the CRYC for New Year's eve

continued and we celebrated in style at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club. This year, unfortunately they will not be able to join us as Barry has a broken heel from a tumble (backwards) down his basement stairs and is in a rehab facility in Morgantown WV until he can put some weight on the foot. We've just had Thanksgiving dinner with them. Barry had a "day pass" to join us.

Sylvia had a wheelchair ramp built to gain access to their back door so he could get in and out OK. Niece Jean and Daron and their children joined us and niece Marilyn for the turkey dinner with all the fixings. Jean baked a wonderful apple pie.



Rosemarie with Marilyn and Erica

In late March we flew to Los Angeles for grandniece Erica's Bat Mitzvah. It was held at her summer camp in Malibu overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Several days of merrymaking accompanied the ceremony at



Erica Toooh chanting her Haftorah

which Erica acquitted herself magnificently.



Jean, Daron Ari and Erica Toooh



Cousin Morty Geisler (above) and his daughter, Jayne attended the Bat Mitzvah. Cousin Gene Kippel (right) flew in from Albuquerque for the celebration.



We returned to Long Island's North Fork in late spring and got our Cedar Beach house and boat up and running by the end of April. There was one problem, a nor'easter on April 15th badly shoaled over the narrow inlet to our harbor from Peconic Bay. We had been "on the list" for dredging for a number of years, but concern for the spawning habits of flounder and piping plover has kept the Army Corps of Engineers from issuing the necessary dredging permits. I spoke with the town supervisor who noted that the federal agencies (DEC and ACoE) "don't play well together." The then just-finished dredging season was a disaster and things didn't look good for next year, either.

We could navigate in and out of the shoaled harbor entrance only during periods of high tide. Paul became involved with a group representing waterfront homeowners in Southold Town called SoutholdVOICE. He joined their board and ended up editing their newsletter and working on the website: ([www.southoldVOICE.com](http://www.southoldVOICE.com)). With assistance from some of the town trustees and a letter written by our congressional delegation (Senators Clinton and Schumer and Representative Bishop) the Army Corps eventually did issue the necessary permits and just as we were leaving to return to Florida, the dredge arrived to deepen and widen our little inlet.



Dredge working in Cedar Beach Inlet

One of the regular summer markers is the annual amateur radio "Field Day" a 24-hour marathon at the end of

June in which Paul's radio club sets up a tent on the grounds of the Horton Lighthouse overlooking



Long Island Sound, and, running on generator power alone, with temporary antennas, attempts to make as many two-way radio contacts as possible. There was a picnic Saturday night, of course and good time was had by all.

During the summer (before the dredging) Sylvia and Barry came for a visit to celebrate Paul's birthday. We did get out on the *Rosemarie 2*, our little 24' walkaround boat. We saw a submarine in Southold Bay (The USS Deep Quest, a deep submersible that reputedly was the vehicle that found the Titanic.) It was a very strange looking craft.

This past October, Rosemarie accompanied by Paul returned to her alma mater, Siena Heights University, for a reunion. It was a long weekend of banquets, lectures and other activities. Rosemarie enjoyed showing Paul the campus and facilities.

Nephew David Cooper accepted a position as Professor of Economics at Florida State University in Tallahassee Florida. Over the summer he and Katrina sold their house in



David and Sarah



Rebecca with flower



Jack with soccer ball

Shaker Heights, Ohio; bought a house in Tallahassee and moved their family, Rebecca, Jack and little Sarah, to the new home. It was a pretty stressful time getting the children enrolled in new schools and getting the lay of the land. The hot summer weather took a bit of getting used to also, but they report that they do not miss the Cleveland snow!

We wish you all the blessings of this holiday season and hope that 2008 will bring peace to this troubled world.

Rosemarie and Paul