

BROOKLYN_BORN

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Going HOME - Where is that exactly?

Saturday, April 29, 2017

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A building? A town? "Where the heart is?" A state of mind?

Does it even have to be a real place anymore when so many of our connections are electronic?

I have "HOMEpages" - One is on my website, one is here on Spark.

People visit my "homes" both the current real one and my virtual homes as well. I visit theirs too. In fact, if these virtual homes didn't exist I would miss out on so much.

So over time I've learned to value both.

My Dad used to say that "where I hang my hat is home."

We moved a lot. I attended 3 different high schools. He taught me to adjust to my surroundings. No matter where life events took me, there was always something good about each place and it was up to me to find it.

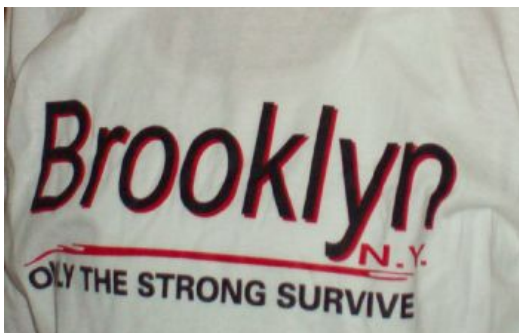
To update and relate his philosophy to the virtual world:

"where my hat hangs out most is home."

I start every day right here on Spark. I've learned from blogs that not all REAL homes or REAL family are supportive. Seeking out a virtual home and surrounding ourselves with those pursuing similar goals is a valuable and welcome option.

In my virtual home I've learned that no matter what the life event, overeating, or eating junk food and neglecting exercise will NOT make it better. Making the good choices is up to me.

It's significant that even though 60% of my life has been spent away from NYC, I still identify as "Brooklyn_Born" I have a T-Shirt that says:



Obviously, not literally true, but it does suggest a certain toughness.

In the next 5 weeks I will make 3 separate trips to NYC which always includes Brooklyn.

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For our 50th anniversary (June 3rd) DH and I have planned one week where it all began for us as 2 teenagers going steady in 1963. We wanted to walk the streets and revisit the locations that were important to us. The 1962 song "Moon River" described "Two drifters off to see the world. There's such a lot of world to see." That's how we imagined our future too.

Suddenly there's another unexpected, but happy trip to NYC in mid May. My DD#1 (Hayburner1969) will be in recital in Carnegie Hall as a result of a 1st place in a piano competition. That's something those 2 teenagers never expected.

However, before any of this happens, an unexpected trip must come first. Joe's 97 year old mother died last week in TN and she will be buried in the family plot in NYC. She's going "home."

Her death was one of THREE in my family within 11 days.

My cousin Lorraine was 74. My cousin Vasil was 90, but I only met him in 2008

That's when my search for "roots" or HOME took me to Slovakia and the village of my grandfather who died in 1935 on a visit there. Vasil told me that I have his "spirit" of learning and exploring new things. I liked that. This is Vasil and me at our last visit in Bratislava last summer.



Robert Frost said "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in."

With apologies to our great poet, I think of home as the place where, when you go there, they WANT to take you in. Vasil and family warmly welcomed their "surprise" cousin from America - the only grandchild of grandfather's 2nd family.

Thank you Spark People for your support these past weeks.

I love my virtual home.

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ANNIESADVENTURE

Very interesting. Enjoyable to read of your visit with your grandfather's family and meeting your cousin.

Sorry to hear of your losses.

1493 days ago



PRNCSCUP1-2FULL

I know for you, 74 doesn't seem like a long life as you near the 70s, maybe got there? But, all 3 of your relatives lived long lives and it sounds like long, fulfilling and special lives! What an honor your cousin gave you too! And, really, how wonderful to have found him! Your life was enriched by them! My home here is very special especially when I am feeling sad and lonely missing my blood family! I always have a family here! So exciting for Jeanne too! You & Joe must be so proud of everyone!

1493 days ago



JUNEAU2010

This blog is such a microcosm of life! Reasons to celebrate, to have fun, to mourn, to be





reflective and most of all, to be connected. Cyberhugs and condolences on your losses. Enjoy that trip down teen age years! Travel safely and stay curious!
1494 days ago



CD13423552

Sorry for your loss but glad your trips are bringing you back home. Nice that you and hubby visit your old stomping grounds and happy for your daughter and her recital!
1496 days ago



CRADLEY

Sorry to hear of your losses. It is never easy when a loved one passes.

On the other hand, congratulations on your anniversary and daughter playing in Carnegie Hall!!! So often life balances the good and the bad for us.

Home/family can be the place and people we grew up with, but it can also be the people and places we loved when we passed through. Thank you for sharing your story.
1496 days ago



BEESHELL8

so sorry for your loss. I'm glad at least two of those trips will be nice ones.
1496 days ago



CATHYVEE54



1497 days ago



CD17462428

Life has it bitter and sweet moments,your perspective during this time is one of beauty. Wishing you comfort, connections and congratulations.
1498 days ago



SKYDRAKE

Losses and celebrations and home. Your blog speaks life to me. You have a home in my heart, my friend.
May God bless you and your family. May He keep you safe. May He grant you his peace.

Hugs,
Julia
1498 days ago



KILTIRE

Have a wonderful anniversary!
1498 days ago



OLIVINE

Thanks for sharing
1499 days ago



BABYBARNEY

Thank you for sharing your family story with us...I share some things with you...celebrated my 41st wedding anniversary yesterday...went to New York City on my honeymoon...& helped transport my aunt HOME in the last couple of weeks...she was 87 years young when she passed...HOME IS WHERE YOUR HEART IS...no matter where the place is...
1499 days ago



1DAY-ATA-TIME

Home is a special place for me even though I left the little community over 40 years ago. When I speak of home, that's the place in my heart and mind that I speak of. Such a lovely heartfelt blog. Thank you for sharing it with us.
My condolences to you and your family
1499 days ago



SLENDERELLA61

Great blog! Have a great 50th anniversary. Enjoy your trip!!
1499 days ago



VISUALLYRICS

My deepest condolences for your losses, and prayers for safe travels "home".



.....love NYC....grew up there myself.
1499 days ago



MARGIEB221



1499 days ago



FLORIDASUN



Hugs to you for your recent loss of your dear family members. You are so right...our home is where our heart is. We have lived in sunny SW FL almost 40 years and as much as I love our home state of Iowa I surely do NOT miss the harsh winters. We wake up to sunshine almost every

single day of the year and it just puts you in a good mood.



I LOVE our spark family...it is truly my virtual home for sure!
1499 days ago



MARTHA324



and thank you for sharing.
so sorry to hear about the loss of Joe's Mom.

1499 days ago



JIBBIE49



I love the picture of "Vasil and I".
1499 days ago



JSTETSER



I did not know that you are Slovakian! I work with a woman who married a Slovak, and they travel to Slovakia every year. What a beautiful place it is!
1499 days ago



LINDA!



I am so sorry for your loss.
1499 days ago



SHAWFAN



1499 days ago



CHAYOR73



Great blog, thank you for sharing..... sorry to hear about your losses.
1499 days ago



CD17528039



As you know I'm a Brooklyn girl too, and though I haven't been back in almost thirty years, it's in every breath I take. It's a badge of honor. It's all my little girl hopes and dreams played out in Bensonhurst.
1500 days ago



SUNNYBEACHGIRL



I have recently thinking about home and what that means to me. Great blog
1500 days ago



LOSEDAPOUNDS



Lovely post! I have fond memories of visiting Brooklyn in my childhood. Both my parents are from there.
1500 days ago

PENOWOK



I am so sorry about the recent deaths in your family. One of my goals, once retired, is to do



some genealogy searching for my family. I know some information but how wonderful to find more. What a treat for you to find family and get more history before it was too late! Congratulations on your 50th anniversary! That's a wonderful milestone! I will be in NY/NJ a few days later as my siblings and I will have a memorial for my father who died just before Christmas. We'll place his ashes in my mother's grave. Then we'll head closer to your current home territory to Hendersonville, NC, for the daughter and her family. Life clicks on. Don't stand still!!
1500 days ago

**GRACED777**

Losses like that in such a short time are hard to process. I will pray. I love your pic and your thoughts on home!
1500 days ago

**MJREIMERS**

I'm so sorry for all your losses in such a short time. Wow, hard on the heart!! Love the blog and the idea of home. Hugs!!!!
1500 days ago

**NUMD97**

First and foremost, condolences on your losses. Losses such as these makes one reflective, I believe. It's part of the linkage with the past, and makes up part of who we are.

Celebrating a 50th anniversary "where it all began" is a poignant reminder of what you and Joe built together. You have a lot to be proud of.

Lovely to see that your daughter will be performing at Carnegie Hall. That tells me that her metacarpal healed perfectly without consequence.

As a high school teacher wrote many years ago in my yearbook, "May you experience just enough sorrow to make the joys all the sweeter." As a seventeen year old, I really did not understand that. I think I do now.

You have much joy to celebrate. Take lots of pictures! Especially at the beach to mirror the one you've posted.

Safe travels.

PS: Nice picture of you and your cousin Vasil (where's Joe? Taking the photo?). I'm guessing it was after you just met the first time. He doesn't look near 90 in this photo.
1501 days ago

Comment edited on: 5/1/2017 8:39:23 PM

**HEALTHYANDFIT27**

My deepest condolences on your losses. I am so sorry.

A great blog. It is a lovely tribute to home and family.
1501 days ago

**NEWROSE27**

Thank you for sharing your take on home. Condolences on the passing of your family members. Happy anniversary. I hope you have a lovely holiday.

Also congrats on Hayburner's opportunity to play at Carnegie Hall. So exciting.
1501 days ago

**52BINCE**

What a wonderful blog. My condolences to you for the loss of family members. I liked the analogy you brought forth on "home". Granted, Sparks can become a family with much support. That's a very nice picture of you.

1501 days ago

**RAZZOOZLE**

1501 days ago

**WATERMELLEN**

When we lose family members, especially close together, we think even more about what family and home means to us.

My condolences on your losses. I am so sorry.

Home is where the heart is. And matters so very much. Love your picture of you with your DH!
1501 days ago

**REDROBIN47**

So sorry for your recent losses. I understand your definition of home. I was born & raised in a small town on Lake Michigan but moved to Ohio early in my first marriage. I still live here because



my children and their families are established here and my second husband is from here, but my real home is in Michigan. I too just lost a family member last night. My Aunt on my mom's side passed away. She was the last of my mother's birth family. But, I still go home at least once a year just to walk the beaches of Lake Michigan. They call my name and I have to return. I guess the saying, "Home is where the heart is," is very true.
1501 days ago



LIVEDAILY

So sorry to hear about the losses in your family, but if I may say, I'm especially sad to hear about Vasil's passing. You had just met him! *sigh*



But you also have 2 joyous occasions to look forward to - enjoy them!!



1501 days ago



CD15520036

And thank you for all the support you give us every day. That's tough to lose family so close together. Fifty years - a huge achievement. Congratulations!



Very relevant topic for a Brit who lives permanently in Japan.

1501 days ago



DOVESEYES

A super blog, condolences on your losses, congrats on your anniversary and the DD recital and thanks for letting me share your ups and downs hugs :)



1501 days ago



JEANKNEE

Condolences on your family's loss. Enjoy your trips "home".



1501 days ago



WBERRY57

Thanks for this. I'm so sorry for the losses in your family but know that you are who you are because of them. I'm just about to do something I don't want to do and knowing that people in my virtual home are supporting me is giving me courage. Blessings to you.



1501 days ago



PHEBESS

So sorry about all those family losses these past few weeks. Sounds like they all had good long lives.



And yes, home is often simply where the suitcase is.

1501 days ago



QUILTYENGINEER

My sympathies on your three recent losses. How wonderful is it that you "found" your cousin, and that is a great picture of the two of you!



I enjoyed reading this blog about home. To me, "home" is with my husband. Home is also with people who care about you and who you care about.

1501 days ago



JEANNETTE59

I am sorry for your loss of three of your family members, but they have truly gone home for the final time.



I loved reading about your family and wish you a wonderful 50th Anniversary Trip Be sure to make some new memories as you walk down memory lane.

1501 days ago



GINIEMIE

Home is where people care for you! For me, home is here where I live, but it's also in Ohio where much of my family still lives-and if Steve were alive we would need to go back up there for our trip back in time. It's also in Belgium where I spend the time I can with my mother's family, now I'm down to two aunts but I have many, many cousins over there. Also my "home" parish where I worship and mingle with others whom I care about and who care about me.



I now see how SP can be home for many reasons as we support each other and are "family" to each other. People care about and for each other. This virtual home is my oasis since April 9, 2010 when I began my journey. Many spark friends have encouraged, challenged and just walked with me as I went through Erik's accident and the loss of two sisters.

I'm so sorry for your losses Elaine, I knew about your MIL but not your cousins on either side of the sea.

Enjoy your visits to NY.



1501 days ago




DAWNDMOORE40



THANK YOU!

for sharing a trip down memory lane about your family and your life experiences! Wow! 50 years! Now most people couldn't even come close to saying that, and the fact you were going

steadily as teenagers makes it even more amazing!  Have a fun trip! I am sorry for all your

losses in your family but it's nice that you have wonderful memories to look back on!



I SP 

1501 days ago



HAYBURNER1969



This was wonderful.
1502 days ago



LESLIESENIOR



Thank you for sharing your milestones, memories, thoughts of home, and remembrances of loved ones. Your wisdom is always appreciated here on Sparkpeople.....our virtual home!
1502 days ago



ELAINEB1972




Well Said! 

1502 days ago



SPARKLINGME176



Wonderful blog!!!! THX for the inspiration!!!! 
I've been with my DH off & on, mostly on, since 1968! We are like teenagers, so in love!
1502 days ago

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