

Happy Holidays from the Cincinnati Longs! May your blessings be apparent all this season and for the upcoming year!



We hope you'll "read on" for some 2018 Long family highlights OR just move on to your next activity, knowing that we're thinking of you and all of 2019's excitement (and challenges) ahead! ☺

Family overall

- **We're blessed. All five Longs continue to live in Cincinnati – Kim & Steve remain at 8643 Manitoba (with a smaller, single-level house in our future?) Cliff & Ginny are new homeowners in a NW suburb and Sam is in Northside. We are together regularly, usually around a Sunday meal and enjoy conversation, laughter, games and more**
- **We appreciate reunions and gatherings with immediate and extended family members. This year included the Cline reunion in Cody, Wyoming but also some tough ones – both of Kim's folks died this year so funeral services and celebrations of life were the source of large Wiley gatherings**
- **Kim and Steve stay busy but too much was health-related. We still enjoy regular neighborhood walks**
- **Kim and Steve were able to fully enjoy a trip out west, with highlights being visits with family plus lots of natural beauty in Rockies/Yellowstone/Tetons**
- **We joyously added a new canine adoptee to the 8643 family in October. George is a 4 year-old "Maltie" (Maltese/Yorkshire mix.) He adds energy, laughter, love and regular walks to our lives**

Kim

- **Traveling to tend to her parents was difficult and a privilege - - her folks declined in health rather quickly. She's the executrix, so administrative efforts occupy lots of time**
- **Enjoys plenty of singing with Forest-Aires women's chorus, and she remains in a leadership role as well**
- **Participates in a new women's book group on a regular basis – great books and conversation**
- **Volunteers at the American Cancer Society resale shop a couple times a month**
- **Has a thriving, beautiful flower garden but the veggies had to be a low priority this year**
- **Values time with the kids and especially enjoys the female infusion in our home with Ginny's official entry to the family and Rachel's more regular visits**

Steve

- **Two challenging health issues are hopefully now resolved: 1) Melanoma surgery on the forearm was successful and sentinel lymph nodes are clear; 2) Herbie (the “pet name” for an abdominal cyst) was pesky for 3+ months and is now hopefully shriveled forever.**
- **These times are reminders of his blessings in life. Steve is so thankful for...**
 - **A loving, supportive, caring wife plus kids who were always there at just the right moments**
 - **Family and friends who provided prayers, kind thoughts and many, varied positive actions**
 - **Fabulous medical professionals – med techs, nurses, oncologists, radiologists, surgeons and many others contributing to effective and personal health care that was almost enjoyable at times**
- **Lived “heaven on earth” existence in 2018 because of support from family, friends and medical personnel. More details of specific activities are [HERE](#) should you want to know more**

Cliff & Ginny

- **Exciting times continue - this year by November they were in their first home! They bought a nice place in a NW Cinci suburb called Pleasant Run**
- **Cliff enjoyed another year in his IT role with Cincinnati Insurance Company. When asked about the job he says “exactly what I hoped to be doing.” He loves problem-solving**
- **Cliff’s recovery from last year’s knee injury is going well – he’s able to enjoy walking the dogs with much more ease**
- **Ginny is an IT specialist at Solidifi with the continuing side-benefit of working with her sister Victoria**
- **Both enjoy online and tabletop gaming with friends far and near**
- **Ginny has various hobbies including knitting, felting and improv comedy**
- **They can make each other laugh regularly and are very much in love**
- **They and their Foxhound, Abby have added a new canine family member, Gimli (Basset Hound mix)**

Sam

- **For most of the year he and Rachel have been doing the long-distance dating thing. Rachel scored a sales job with Cintas in Cincinnati starting in November. She landed an apartment in Maineville where she and her two dogs, Laila and Rocky, are getting situated. That allows Sam to spend much more time with Rachel and we get more time with her too!**
- **Sam continues to thrive in wine sales for Southern Glazer’s Distributing. He loves doing high-end wine tastings with restaurants, wine shops, country clubs, and bars in more affluent areas of Cincinnati**
- **Enjoys living in Northside, a fun and trendy neighborhood in northern Cincinnati. He appreciates the open-minded, bohemian culture that makes the area so welcoming**
- **Continues to enjoy creating geeky food, studying beer and wine, and singing periodically in the church choir at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Thomas**
- **Looks forward to traveling to Colorado, Chicago and other destinations once the crazy wine selling season settles down**
- **Enjoys his local gym and efforts to become less “wiry,” and can’t wait for softball season to begin again**

That’s likely as much or more than you wanted to hear about our lives. We hope to see/hear what the past year has brought to you plus your upcoming activities. Please email, call or stop on by when you have a chance!

We wish you and yours all of the peace and love that Christ Jesus shared!

With much love,

The Longs

**P.S. If you want to see more about us, there are pictures and more about the ideas and antics above [HERE](#):
www.GustinLongs.LongMemories.Info**