

Dear Family and Friends,

Many of you ask about the latest in our family. Here is an update:

Kaelen is living with her daughters Noor and Amal on Lafayette Avenue in Brooklyn, NY, right down the street from the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) and the Mark Morris Ballet Studio where the girls attend classes in toddler movement on Saturday mornings. Amal goes to Montessori school and Noor goes to pre-kindergarten (Brooklyn public school), both within walking distance of their apartment. In September, Kaelen published her book on the Lebanese artist *Etel Adnan* with Lund Humphries, Contemporary Painters (available on Amazon). She is working on her second book. She teaches art criticism and writing at the School of Visual Arts (SVA) in Manhattan.

Meanwhile, Ibrahim works for Bank Audi out of Beirut, traveling regularly to see accounts in Africa. He also holds a green card to work in the US. The family spent the summer of 2018 in Beirut, where Ibrahim dealt with family affairs after the death of his father in April.

John plays his stand-up bass and/or electric bass with several bands on the South Shore: bluegrass, country, jazz, and rock n'roll. This fall, his graduating Class of 1969 at Harvard will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Already statements are being submitted about the influence of the Vietnam War on those years when classes were brought to a standstill over positions on the draft and the best ways to serve your country.

Joyce's chapbook *The Need for a Bridge*, 20 poems inspired by the Fore River Bridge between Quincy and Weymouth, Massachusetts, will appear with Finishing Line Press (Georgetown, Kentucky) in 2019 (order through <http://finishinglinepress.com/>). She now has 15 hens and manages a booming egg business, selling to neighbors. Her Buff Orpingtons and Plymouth Barred Rocks lay brown eggs, typical to Boston, and now, with six Ameraucana hens, she has entered the blue egg market.

Our gardens were mixed this year, with uneven rainfall that encouraged asparagus to produce in May, flowers to bloom in June, but corn to succumb to blight in August, and tomatoes to delay ripening until late September.

During these years of retirement, we might not be getting richer in finances, but we are certainly rich in time. Having the time to receive unexpected telephone calls calmly, to attend to problems that need to be solved, to assess the weather before going out, we benefit from the greatest wealth of all, the time to have come this far and to enjoy each day as it unfolds before us.

We send you our best wishes for the New Year; may it bring a vision of everlasting peace.

Joyce and John