

The Lucke Family Newsletter

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The Fourth Generation - #10 Margie

We continue the stories of the children of #10-3 *Betty and John Connelly*. In this issue we feature the younger 5, *Thomas, James, Kevin, John Jr and Brian*.

10-3-3 **Thomas Leo Connelly**, born 20-Jul-1957. He married (1) Leslie Allen. He married (2) Beth Kennedy, 9-Oct-1999, born 5-Jul-1954.

1. Meghan Kelly born 25-May-1979. She married Matt McFadyen
a. Nash McFadyen born 4-Mar-2020
2. Ryan Thomas Connelly, born 9-Jun-1983.

10-3-4 **James Christopher Connelly**, born 10-May-1960. He married Carrie Felner, 22-Aug-2014 in Stratford CT, born 12-Jul-1973. They have divorced.

10-3-5 **Kevin Joseph Connelly**, born 29-Jun-1962. He married Jacqueline Lewis, 29-Jul-2011, born 5-Mar-1971.

10-3-6 **John David Connelly Jr**, born 31-Jan-1964. He married Karen Bilyard, 26-Oct-1991, born 27-Dec-1968.

1. Christopher Hutchins Connelly, born 27-May-1995.
2. Jack William Connelly, born 29-Oct-1997 in Stratford CT.
3. Nicholena Honey Connelly, born 9-Aug-2001 in Stratford CT.

10-3-7 **Brian Paul Connelly**, born 9-Feb-1967. He married Cristina Schulz, 6-Oct-2002, born 13-Mar-1967.

1. Owen Patrick Connelly, born 1-Dec-2003.
2. Griffin Wolfgang Connelly, born 25-Apr-2005.



Jim, Brian, Michael, Tom, Anne, Kevin, John and (step) sister Erienne (Cooper) Schneck



2019 John, Brian, Jim & Tom at Giants Patriots game

Thomas Connelly

Tommy arrived on the scene on the blistering hot day of July 20, 1957. A day that would go down in history. Not for his arrival necessarily, but certainly for the "Giant Leap for Mankind" that Neil Armstrong would take 12 years later as he landed on the moon. Tommy grew up in an idyllic setting with family and friends in neighborhoods and beach cottages, doing what young boys do, discovering life and having fun.

His teen years were more tumultuous as his family struggled with the burdens that were put upon them; he navigated through it all as best he could from day to day. Although those years were less than the idyllic early years, he remained surrounded by the core of family.

Tommy attended the University of Bridgeport for a bit while going to work at the nearby Sikorsky Aircraft Company. Sikorsky opened up an enormous world of mechanical and engineering opportunities that seemed to satisfy the curiosity he had for how things worked. After 4 years of traveling around the world on various projects for Sikorsky, Tommy went to work for a private aviation company managing and operating helicopters for the next 8 years, while raising his 2 children Meghan and Ryan in South Windsor CT.

In 1989, he joined a group in Bridgeport CT, called Flight Services Group, that sold, managed, operated and chartered private airplanes. Along the way, he was incredibly fortunate to meet his wife Beth and include her children, John and Kate, into his family.

Fast forward 30 years, Tom and Beth now have 4 beautiful grandsons, Ben, Tyler, Jack and Nash. Beth retired after a long career in the pharmaceutical business. Tom sold his business to "Wheels UP" and continues to consult out of their home in West Palm Beach while being lucky enough to spend summers on Fairfield beach, where it all started.



James Connelly

James was born May 10, 1960. The family was living at 423 Merritt St in Bridgeport, next door to Grandpa Edwin Magee, and newly-weds Jim and Pat Magee at the time. They moved to Brookview Avenue in Fairfield, where James attended Assumption School until the seventh grade, then eighth grade at Fairfield Woods Middle School. He attended Andrew Warde High School for two years and Roger Ludlowe for the remaining two. He found his passion for music at an early age, started playing guitar, and never stopped! He also studied at the University of Bridgeport, taking courses in art, music, computers, and business.

Following in the footsteps of older brothers and cousins, James, aka Jimmo, started working in 1976 at Peter's Bridge Market. He took some time off in 1981 to travel the country and ended up living in Colorado for a little while. Upon returning to Connecticut, he worked in all of the stores connected with Peter's Market and then in 1985 went to work for Westport Tile. Soon afterward, he went on his own, starting Fairfield Tile Installations. That led to establishing International Stone Design along with his brother Tom. Their reputation for fine, artistic stone and tile work reached the ears of such celebrities as Paul Newman and Keith Richards, who liked Jimmo's work so much, he gave him a bottle of wine from his own vineyard! The bottle still exists. The wine is long gone. In 2000, James opened up East Coast Stone, doing granite countertops while still doing tile on the side.

An avid outdoorsman since the Brookview Avenue days of trespassing - that is, exploring the Brooklawn Country Club's woods and fairways - he still likes the outdoors, camping, hiking, and mountain biking. Discovering a love for sailing after crewing for his brother-in-law Chuck LeMieux, James has been racing sailboats since 1978. He's still playing music, and built his own recording studio in the barn at his Stratford home. He is currently singing and songwriting his own original music, and he's also been spending time in Nashville over the past few years, recording with some of the best players in town!



Kevin Connelly

Kevin was born on June 29, 1962 while the family was spending the summer at Fairfield Beach. Like many of the Connelly and Magee kids, the summers at the beach is his fondest memory of early childhood. The non-summer Connelly home was also an idyllic place to grow up, on a quiet dead-end street filled with many other families and surrounded by woods to explore and play in. Kevin graduated from Our Lady of the Assumption parochial school in 1976 and followed the footsteps of his Dad and brother Mike in attending Fairfield Prep. After high school, he attended university part-time (UConn and U of Bridgeport), while working full-time at Peter's Bridge Market, aka the Magee Employment Agency.

Upon obtaining his college degree (English Lit and Photography), Kevin moved to New York City to begin a career in the advertising/entertainment industry. He thoroughly enjoyed his life and career in NYC, living and working there from 1990 to 2017. Aside from enjoying the many things that the city had to offer, he also traveled extensively for both pleasure and work. Pleasure trips brought him to places such as Brazil, Mexico, Canada and across the US. His passion for skiing led him to travel to many of the mountain ranges of the US and Europe. Switzerland became a particularly favorite spot, as he made a number of strong friendships there and returned to visit numerous times. Work trips brought him to such interesting and diverse destinations as Istanbul, Israel, Paris and Las Vegas.

In 2005 Kevin met his future wife, Jacqueline Lewis. They made their home in Red Hook, Brooklyn and married in 2011. In 2017, they made the decision to move across country to Seattle to be closer to Jackie's family. They packed up the car, and with their dog Luna, fulfilled a dream by road-tripping it across the USA, slowly meandering their way to their new home in Washington State. They love their new home and the more relaxed lifestyle that the Pacific northwest affords. Having retired from their NY careers, there is now plenty of time to pursue other interests. Charitable work, travel, hiking, skiing, tennis, or just relaxing on the back deck with Luna are the typical pursuits these days for Kevin and Jackie.



John Connelly Jr

John, the sixth of seven Connelly kids, was born on January 31, 1964. He grew up on a dead end street that was surrounded by woods and a golf course, and filled with lots of kids. Some of his fondest memories are of playing football on the golf course with the older neighborhood kids where, inevitably, the greenskeeper (whom they called "Fudge Belly") would drive over in a terrifying, rattling green pickup truck and chase them off the course. He loved going to Fairfield Prep football games to watch his brother Michael and future brother-in-law Chuck play. Those games inspired him to become a football player himself once he got to high school. He also enjoyed writing dinosaur books with his best friend Dave, hunting for dinosaur bones in the woods, playing chess, and eating peanut butter sandwiches in their down time.

Family life had its challenges, yet there were many fond memories, including Thanksgiving visits with the Magees, playing football in the side yard, lots of great food, running around outside until way past dark, and the smell of Uncle Ed's pipe.

John graduated from Roger Ludlowe High School in Fairfield, Connecticut in 1982. During his teen years he played football, sailed and raced with his brothers and Chuck, and worked as a boat boy at Penfield Beach where he would meet Karen, his future wife. Whenever he was in Westport, he would always stop in to Peter's Bridge Market to get lunch and catch up with the cousins and see his brothers who worked there, too.

John received his degree in Aerospace Engineering Technology while learning to fly. Looking for a new adventure, he joined the Marine Corps. During a visit home, he again ran into Karen, the love of his life, at Penfield. They went on their first date and have been together ever since. Soon after Karen graduated from Simmons College, they moved into a 220-year-old house in Stratford, got married, and bought a house of their own two doors down from it. After working at a small company for a number of years, John became an engineer in the semiconductor industry as Karen worked in book and magazine publishing in New York City.

After 10 years together, their first perfect baby Christopher was born, followed two-and-a-half years later by their second perfect baby, Jack. Jack was only 4 months old when they had an opportunity to move to Maynooth, Ireland, which they did, so John could work at Intel. While there, the family traveled throughout Ireland and France every chance they got. Many family members came to visit, and they really appreciated and enjoyed showing them around the wonderful country. Two years after returning to their little house near the Housatonic River, they welcomed their third child, a perfect baby daughter named Nicholena, after both her great- and great-great-great Italian grandmothers.

John and Karen love doing things with the kids and brought them to Cape Cod in the summer and, still, to Disney World any time they can go. For a few years they had a sailboat named the *Gráinne Ní Mháille*, which they enjoyed.

As they approach their 30th wedding anniversary, John and Karen continue to enjoy the neighborhood they've lived in since 1990. Over the years, many members of Karen's family have moved into the same neighborhood making life even better.

The kids are getting older — graduating from college, househunting, building careers and relationships with their wonderful partners — and John and Karen are still working hard, ASML and Conair, respectively, thinking about how and where to spend the next chapters of their life together.



1985 John & Karen



2002 John, Nicholena, Karen
Christopher & Jack



John with Nicholena, Karen, Jack & Christopher

Brian Connelly

Brian, the 7th child of Betty Magee and John Connelly, was born February 9, 1967 in Bridgeport, CT. He came into this world the youngest and last of seven (6 boys - 1 girl). It was a busy household back then, and the oldest siblings had to chip in and take care of this hyper-active toddler and young boy 😊. Brian loved all of the gatherings at Fairfield Beach and at the Magee cousin's homes in Norwalk, Stamford and Huntington.

Growing up in a Fairfield neighborhood overflowing with kids, right off of the 12th Fairway of Brooklawn Country Club, created a ton of memories with all his brothers (and sister) until he was nine. After his parents divorce and the older siblings started to go off to college and work, Brian spent the rest of his childhood closer to Fairfield beach and was active in playing little league baseball, as well as peewee football and basketball at Wakeman boys and girls club. He graduated from Roger Ludlowe High School in 1985, where he played Lacrosse and was the Captain of their basketball team. He attended SUNY Stonybrook for a few semesters and then went on to the University of Bridgeport where his father worked.

After college, Brian started his business career at Xerox in Long Island and New York City. Living with his brother Kevin in NYC in the early 90's was a treat...and aside from work, enjoyed all of NYC had to offer. He took a break from work at the end of 1996 and traveled the world (Europe, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and home). This trip built a love of travel from that day.

Everything led back to NYC for Brian and he continued to work in the Information Technology world, ultimately selling software solutions for a number of different companies including McAfee and Hewlett Packard. These days he sells data management solutions to Healthcare organizations in the Northeast US.

At his high school reunion in 2000, Brian reconnected with an old friend from high school Tina Schulz, and the rest, as they say, was history. Brian and Tina married in 2002 and found a house in the same old neighborhood by Brooklawn that he grew up in. They have two boys, Owen and Griffin, who are now getting ready to enter their Junior and Senior years at Fairfield Warde High School, where they play on the tennis team. Tina is very busy these days as a professional chef and runs "Tina's Gourmet Kitchen" out of their busy kitchen. Brian, Owen and Griffin are lucky boys indeed.



1996 Brian in Italy



2019 Owen, Tina, Griffin and Brian



2019 Griffin & Owen