

CORABELLE'S CHRONICLES – 2005

Volume II, Edition 1

Wondering what have I been up to the past year? Read on...

All in the Family

Liz and Brian finally got hitched in June. My family from Guam was here to attend the wedding (below).



It was a stressful couple of months. Had to: plan the bridal shower with Brian's mom (make the favors, buy the prizes, prepare the games, clean the house, and make the food), decide what to wear to the wedding, prepare myself for the onslaught of questions about my personal life (why don't you have kids, why aren't you married, why don't you have a boyfriend), and plan the family vacation. All in all it was great. The ceremony and reception was beautiful. A bit sad, but I'm happy for my other lil' sis.

Home Sweet Home

Before Liz & Brian got married, they bought a house in Martinez and moved out. I bought out Liz's half of the house in Concord. Now; Bernard, my cousin from Guam (Raquel), and her friend (Marie) live with me. It's kinda weird having to be responsible for them just like when I was Bernard, Liz, and Michelle's guardian soon after graduating from college. Sometimes I'm frustrated.

I wanted the house because I like gardening. This summer I planted tomatoes, strawberries, okra, bok choy, cilantro, eggplant, peppers, cantaloupe, and gladiolous. This winter I planted bulbs—irises, daffodils, freesia, narcissus, and hyacinth. I can't wait 'til spring comes and I have all these beautiful flowers. I was good this year and put up the Halloween decorations and Christmas lights up early. I love the house but owning it by myself has a lot of responsibilities—bills, leaks, cracks, rain gutters. There are so many things I'd like to do—renovate the bathroom and kitchen, change the carpet and flooring, update the hardware, paint, fix the cracks, and get the trees trimmed. But, I just don't have the time or the money.



Right before Thanksgiving last year, I got a new car—a silver 2002 Mitsubishi Lancer OZ Rally. Since then, I've been doing a lot of shopping. Sometimes I wonder how I ever lived without a car.

On weekends if I'm not gardening, shopping, or running errands; I'm at Church. Yes, I still sing in a Church choir twice a month. I love to go to parties that are hosted by our choir members because there's always good food and karaoke. Anyways, I try to do as much as I can during the weekends because a majority of the weekdays are for work...

All Work and No Play...

Now that I'm in Decision Sciences (database marketing department), I don't get to do as much traveling as I had the previous couple of years (no NYC or Windy City this year but went to LA a couple of times). Even though work's been keeping me busy, I enjoy what I'm doing (especially since I work on the PlayStation account because I get lots of cool stuff—hats, demo discs, magazines. I've had a couple of job offers but I'm happy where I'm at (for now). The only thing that's a bit of a bummer is the long hours and the long commute. I leave the house at 6:30am, get to work before 8 to get settled in and prepare for the day, then start working with programmers. I usually don't get finished with work until around 6:30 or 7pm (there have been times when I've worked until 10 or 11). Because I work so much, I don't partake in the dating scene. Or maybe it's because I don't partake in the dating scene, I work so much.

Vacation

Winter Vacation

Because of all the traveling I had done last year, I used my free Southwest round-trip ticket to go to Buffalo in February. I met up with Christine and Pete at Rochester. Took in a couple of hockey games, toured the campus, and bought some souvenirs at RIT. I drove by our old hangouts and around Rochester—Erie Canal, Pittsford, Henrietta Mall & Friendly's (where I used to work), Nick Tahou's, Tully's, etc. I remembered the good times and the bad times I had there. (Oh how I miss college and all those boys!) Then I drove to Niagra Falls to take pictures and buy more souvenirs before going to airport in Buffalo.



Family Vacation



Since Michelle, Patrick, the boys, mom, and Auntie Ely were here; I figured we should go on a road trip. So we went to San Diego (left), LA, Grand Canyon (right), and Las Vegas. It was fun but a bit tiring because I did all the driving. Hoped that we could go to Yosemite the last day but ended up getting in a car accident with the van that I had rented (bottom right). It was a bit scary. We were rear-ended by a Dodge Truck which was rear-ended by woman who was driving another Dodge Truck while talking on her cellphone and didn't realize that cars in front of her had slowed down. I was so worried about the boys but they were fine. Michelle, Patrick, and Auntie Ely had to go the hospital for some aches and pains. Turned out to be a headache trying to coordinate medical bills and insurance payments.





Labor Day Vacation

Got to take a mini-vacation Labor Day weekend with my cousins and my godson. Went to Southern California—Long Beach, Downtown Disney, Venice Beach (left), Universal Studios Citywalk, and San Diego.

I'm hoping to take my next vacation in February or March so I can go to Guam to visit family and friends and my dad.

Tying Up Some Loose Ends

- Sports – 49ers sucked again, NHL season was cancelled last year (which was why I was so happy to take in a couple of RIT NCAA hockey games), Sharks had a bit of a slow start this year, Lakers sucked (they're not my favorite team since the whole Shaq/Kobe debacle; favorite team right now—HEAT!!), Giants kinda sucked (but I still love them even though they didn't re-sign JT).
- TV – I have two new favorite shows this season—Nip/Tuck and Supernatural. I came across Nip/Tuck re-runs over the summer. It got me hooked. I hate horror movies but I love Supernatural (probably because I think that Jensen Ackles is so hot). My other favorite shows are Gilmore Girls, Smallville, CSI, Without a Trace, Desperate Housewives, MTV Real World/Road Rules/Challenges. I've been a little bummed that Joan of Arcadia and Inconceivable got canceled so I've stopped watching Numbers and haven't watched Ghost Whisper or Close to Home on Friday nights in protests.
- Movies – I still love Band of Brothers (I take out the DVD whenever family sleep over). I loved Star Wars Revenge of the Sith and Lord of the Rings Return of the King.
- Music – I still love Lifehouse (got all three CDs) but my new favorite singer is Michael Bublé. I heard of him several months ago and thought of "listening" to his music (being the jazz band groupie that I am—because of James and Scott) but never had the time. But the other night as I was channel surfing, I caught his Great Performances show on PBS. It was so great I had to watch the second showing that same night.
- High-Tech – I started two weblogs. At one point they were public but had to make them private because there were way too many personal things. I hope to re-publish it soon. I also registered on three networking sites—Peoplefromguam.com, hi5.com, myspace.com, and friendster.com.
- Men in my life –
 - Still no boyfriend. I'm definitely over the HIM from ten years ago. I don't know why it took me so long. I kept telling myself to get over it and move on but for some reason I couldn't. I guess I held out so long because I thought he was the ONE and kept hoping that he'd propose again. And I just kept comparing every guy to him.
 - I'm definitely over two of the guys I liked last year. I'm still a little bit hung up over the third one though, but I know he's got a girlfriend.
 - Anyways, my new year's resolution is to improve my love life...lose the 20 pounds that I gained over the last ten years, get more exercise (swimming and maybe some dance lessons would be great), try to respond to all the match.com winks I get, and go out dancing more often.
 - I love my nephews Jordan and Jermaine (right). I was so glad I got to spend time with them when they visited from Guam.



- I love my godson, Josiah (right). He's so cute, so smart, so funny...
- Babies, babies, babies – This past year I've had to attend four baby showers—one for my second cousin Christina (and baby Aramis), one for my other second cousin Melanie (and baby Amarah), one for my friend from Guam Yolanda (and baby Malia Allene) and one for choir member John/Irina Corotan (and baby John Paul). Hopefully I'll have one soon.

Hope you enjoyed your read...

About Corabelle's Chronicles

I started this newsletter last year because I rarely have time to update my website in the hopes of sending it out every year. If you have any questions or comments on anything I've published, e-mail me at cllarenas@usa.net or call (925) 890-1874.