

“You hear a lot of dialogue on the death of the American family. Families aren't dying. They're merging into big conglomerates.”

- Erma Bombeck

6/1/2008

Ready or not, it's time once again for the annual Ruddy 'board meeting.' Come join your hospitable hosts the non-Zag Mark Ruddys (Christa & John Musial, Rob LaClair, Jared & Nikki Ruddy, Julia & Chris Rose, Jason & Jennifer Ruddy, Jeremy Marcil, Paul Brachman, and Mark, Liz & Eve Ruddy) and the rest of the family for Mass, food, fun, and after last year – hopefully plenty of sun.

This year's reunion is being held in Lambertville, NJ; a pretty spot right on the Delaware River. There's plenty of space to stretch out, and we'll be hosting a variety of games for the little ones. There's also swimming in the river as long as we get some volunteer lifeguards!

As always, the hosts will take care of the meat and main dishes. We're trying out a new system for the rest of the grub, though – so pay close attention:

For those of you 24 and under, or coming alone, won't you help us out by bringing some chips, pickles, a fruit or veggie tray, coffee, or anything else along those lines?

For the 25-35 group we're asking for fruit salad, mixed salads, cookies, and other finger foods.

If you're in the 36-50 range we respectfully request that you come armed with warm sides (if possible), or some pasta or potato salad.

And least but certainly not least, for those 50 and above, feel free to indulge us with your choice of dessert.

If you plan on lying about your age, please adjust your food choices accordingly! Also, if you have a reasonably firm idea about what you might bring, drop Julia or me a line – I know we're Irish, but we probably don't need 9 potato salads.

Christa has done a great job putting together a list of local places to stay. More details as well as a map and area activities can be found on the family web site:

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Meadows/1786/ruddy.html>

For those of you who are not web-savvy, here's a list:

- [Hampton Inn Warrington/Doylestown Area](#), 1570 Easton Rd., Warrington, PA 18976 (215)343-8400. **Group rate \$149/night** -- ask for Ruddy Reunion before June 5th. Limited availability on Friday, July 4th. On PA Rt. 611, convenient to both the East-West PA Turnpike (Rt. 276) and the Northeast Extension of the PA Turnpike (Rt. 476). All rooms have refrigerator and microwave, free breakfast, small indoor pool. 8 miles from Christa's house, 13 miles from Reunion Site.
- [Springhill Suites Philadelphia/Willow Grove](#), 2480 Maryland Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090 (215)657-7800. Group rate **\$109/night (King), \$119/night (2 Queen beds)** -- ask for Ruddy Reunion before June 5th. Off PA Rt. 611, at the East-West PA Turnpike (Rt. 276) Willow Grove exit. All rooms are suites with separate living area with sofa bed, refrigerator and microwave, free breakfast, indoor pool. 16 miles from Christa's house, 21 miles from Reunion Site.

- [Towneplace Suites Philadelphia/Horsham](#), 198 Precision Drive, Horsham, PA 19044 (215)323-9900 Group rate **\$119/night (Studio), \$169/night (2-br suite)** -- ask for Ruddy Reunion before June 5th. Limited availability on Friday, July 4th. Off PA Rt. 611, convenient to the East-West PA Turnpike (Rt. 276). All rooms are suites with full kitchens, outdoor pool. 14 miles from Christa's house, 19 miles from Reunion Site.
- [The Inn at Lambertville Station](#) is walking distance to the reunion location, but it's probably not kid-friendly and runs **\$225-\$305/night**. They are booked for Friday night, but that does free up the option to stay only one night. Ask for Ruddy Reunion. 6 miles from Christa's house, 0.25 miles from Reunion Site.
- [New Hope and Lambertville B&B's](#): There are a ton of B&B's in Lambertville and across the river in New Hope, PA, but most will require a 3-day stay on the holiday weekend. Also, many do not allow children. However, if you are into B&B's, these are all quite nice, and many will be within walking distance of the Reunion.
- [Hampton Inn Flemington](#), 14 Royal Road, Flemington, NJ 08822, (908)284-9427. For those of you coming from eastern NY and New England, Flemington, NJ, would be on your way. No block of rooms here, but the list price on their website is \$129/night. All rooms have refrigerator and microwave, free breakfast, small indoor pool. 22 miles from Christa's house, 13 miles from Reunion Site.

Here are the details for the day:

- **Date:** Saturday, July 5, 2008
- **Mass:** 11:00am, St John The Evangelist Parish, 44 Bridge St., Lambertville, NJ 08530
- **Picnic:** after Mass, Lambertville Boat Club behind the Inn at Lambertville Station, 11 Bridge St., Lambertville, NJ 08530.
- **Directions:**
 - To church: Lambertville is on the NJ/PA border about 40 miles north of Philadelphia. From the West and North -- US202 North:
Follow US202 North towards New Hope. Turn **RIGHT** at the light at PA179/W. Bridge St. Continue on that road through New Hope and over the bridge into Lambertville. The church is about 2-1/2 blocks up on the left.

From the East and North -- US202 South:
Follow US202 South through Flemington towards PA. Take the Rt. 179 South exit toward Lambertville. Follow Rt. 179 about 5 miles into Lambertville. Turn **RIGHT** onto Bridge St./Rt. 179. The church is about 2 blocks down on the right.
 - From the South -- I-95 North:
If you're coming from further south than Philadelphia, you're better off following the directions from the West. Follow I-95 North into NJ and take Exit 1 Rt. 29. Follow Rt. 29 North towards Lambertville. Follow Rt. 29 North about 9 miles. Turn **Left** onto Bridge St./Rt. 179. The church is about 2 blocks down on the right.
 - To the picnic: From the church turn right towards the river. Just before the bridge, turn left into the Inn at Lambertville Station parking lot. **DO NOT PAY TO PARK**. Follow the small road around the left side of the inn back about 1/4 mile along the river. The boat club is a small wooden building on the right. Park along the road on either side.
- **Contact Info:** Please RSVP by June 20th to
 - Paul – pdbkachman@gmail.com, 917-796-3747 (cell)
 - Julia – jrose@massenahospital.org, 315-408-2325 (cell)
 - Christa – musialc@att.net, 215-962-6578 (cell)

Talk to y'all soon

Paul