



# ARROW PARK JOURNAL

75th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE JUNE 11 2023





# EVER THE SAME

*and always evolving*

Seventy-five years ago, Arrow Park was conceived and collectively created by a group of Slavic immigrant families who had fled the turmoil of Europe before, during and after the world wars. Most had settled in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area near their original port of entry, Ellis Island. Most worked in the cities. They struggled and aspired to the opportunities of a better life for themselves and their families, however, rather than the "streets of gold" they envisioned, they were often overwhelmed by the stark reality of urban life.

Like most ethnic groups of the time, these immigrants established neighborhood "clubs" for gathering in their free time. They found comfort, comradery, and refresh in sharing their experiences. Many of the Russians and Ukrainians formed dance, choral and drama groups. They would lend support to each other. They maintained their "roots" while they assimilated into the life of their new homeland.

In the years immediately after World War II, numerous members of these clubs organized an association with a shared vision and purpose: to find a suitable location where people of Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Polish, and other Slavic origin could build a center for cultural and social activity, a place where they could rest and relax with their families in the fresh air of the countryside. From these simple beginnings, the original AROW Farm became a reality. In the early fifties, the weekends in Monroe were filled with families and friends coming up from NYC, the boroughs, and the Newark area.

Initially, Arrow Park, was run as a cooperative resort. Everyone volunteered to work in the gardens, construction, food service, manning the gates, boat house, sweeping, and arranging. In return, they would enjoy concerts, fishing, boating, dancing, swimming, hiking and most importantly each other's company. It was a simpler time.

In those days, Pete Seeger held monthly folk music sessions on the grounds and there was a huge calendar of social activities. The multitude of picnic tables on the property were always filled with extended families an abundance of food, stories and sharing. The children were free to roam and wander from morning to night (and there was always an adult eye to make sure they didn't get into too much trouble).

In the 1960's the community conceived the Poets Garden and through the missions of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia were gifted statues to commemorate the great poets of the people. It was a beautiful time full of idealism.

In 2008, much of the land was sold to Palisades Park and is now Sterling Forest and the view of the lake from the mansion will forever be the same.

Fast forward to 2023... the rolling natural grounds are pretty much as they were. The surrounding areas are protected from development and the gardens are being restored to a simple splendor. The lake is as welcoming as ever. The mansion has gone through a tremendous amount of restoration to revive its utility and beauty. Our current activities, though not as communal or ethnic-centered as a generation ago, still thrive. Arrow Park remains a vibrant and community-oriented gathering place.

Arrow Park is now graced with an original Healing Totem Pole made by the Lummi tribe to commemorate 911. Jewell James, leader of the House of Tears Carvers and other tribe members, caravanned the totem across the United States to find its home here by the shores of Arrow Lake. Its purpose is to offer a commemoration to the victims and to provide solace to the families of first responders who were killed on that fateful day. There is also a living memorial to the firefighters who lost their lives in the towers at the southwest shore of the lake. From being graced with this honor from the indigenous

people from the ancient villages that were known as Hutatchl, Lemaltcha, Statshum and Tomwhiksen (now known as Seattle), Arrow Park became the set for a star-studded motion picture that was entirely filmed here on location. Chekov's *The Seagull* with an all-star cast (headed by Annette Bening, including Brian Dennehy, Elizabeth Moss and Saoirse Ronan) could not have been more rewardingly prophetic. A famous Russian's play here in a truly Slavic-based community.

As we look back over these past seventy-five years, it is evident that many things have changed. From technology to politics, social issues, to the very base of our national identity, the basics of our day-to-day lives and habits (which we often take for granted), are more animated and involved than they were when the original community was tending the gardens and finding community in this country setting. We live in a world that many of the Arrow Park founders may not have even imagined. Yet, we can, with a particular degree of certainty, be assured that our founders would be pleased and honored to know that their "place in the country, a world away" remains active, relevant, and growing.

As a final note as the times have changed, we need to acknowledge that the means of maintaining and growing Arrow Park have evolved as well. We applaud the efforts of the talented and very dedicated people (from the cleaning people, event staff, the General and Sales Manager, and everyone in between), who have made us financially profitable with weddings, private parties, conferences, and corporate meetings, along with a myriad of other private and public events.

The revenues these activities generate help us to continue to improve the property but, it should be noted that Arrow Park remains a meeting and gathering place as it ever was. The faces and events are slightly different, but the spirit of community, the appreciation of nature and a simple understanding of our own humanity prevail.

The Board gives thanks to all who have been, are currently and will – in the future – be a part of our history.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023**

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GENERAL MANAGER





*In just a few short years,  
Arrow Park has become one of the  
most prominent and respected  
wedding and social venues in the  
Greater Hudson Valley and NYC region.*

# *We opened our doors to the public*

*and we have not looked back*

A new mainstay for Arrow Park has been our booming wedding business. In a matter of a few short years, Arrow Park has become one of top destination wedding venues in the Tri-State Region – continually attracting inquiries from wedding couples and delighting their family and friends. Many of our “much needed” (but often postponed) renovations and repairs were put in the fast lane in order to make Arrow that much more attractive to “our couples.”

Along with building and landscaping improvements, we have acquired a very professional staff to manage the venue activities and events. Not least among these are our general manager and sales manger, Desdamona Young and Kelsey Fitzsimons. Coupled with additional event managers and staff, our wedding guests are treated to the very best that Arrow Park has to offer. Our appeal is to those that are not looking for the standard 5-hour venue. We favor intimacy over glitz. We offer full weekend packages and accommodations on the grounds. As well, we feature an excellent cuisine hosted by some of the most notable caterers in the New York and New Jersey areas.

Weddings by the lake, in the gardens or in the forest are common. We continue to acquire top reviews from national wedding magazines and websites such as WeddingWire and The Knot. We also host biannual wedding expos on the property. Our Spring and Autumn Bridal/Wedding Shows have gained tremendous popularity and help get the word out about our venue as a meeting place for similar types of events.

The publicity, exposure and interest that evolves from our wedding activities has also helped Arrow Park become a go-to-choice for many other social and corporate celebrations and events. From Sweet Sixteen Parties to family memorial celebrations, outdoor art festivals to intimate corporate getaways – Arrow Park regularly hosts small family gatherings in the sun room, larger events that utilize the entire main floor of the mansion and full-scale events that open the entirety of the property to our guests.





*Thank you to everyone who contributed to the*  
**Paul Whyte 75th Celebration Matching Fund for Entertainment**

Paul Whyte  
Nadia Perry  
Rosemary Millet  
Susan Simak  
Peter Dzuik

Julia Kole  
William Rokewetz  
Adam Fedchecko  
Dorothy Martin  
Rocco & Lenore DeBellis

*and a very special thank you to*

**Lucy Woychuk-Mlinac**  
for her ongoing monthly donation



**HAPPY 75TH**

May your beauty continue to amaze for years to come...



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**Happy 75th Anniversary**



*from the*  
**Bohuck - Kubicki Sisters**

Dedicated to all the wonderful people we met at Arrow  
... that became family and friends.  
Both past and present.



In loving memory of two wonderful parents  
Manya & Nick Simak

*With love,*  
Susan

*Congratulations on Arrow Park's 75th!*



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## CONGRATULATIONS ON 75 YEARS

*from the family of  
John and Anna Pappas*

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### CONGRATULATIONS Arrow Park 75th Anniversary

*Rosemary Millet, Director  
&  
Michael Scherer*

*Laurn, Rob, Emma & Brielle Costanza*





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75th Anniversary

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## **Congratulations to Arrow Park and its Board of Directors on this 75th Anniversary!**

Generations of friends, parents and grandparents have kept and preserved Arrow Park (Farm) as a place to gather in peace, beauty and shared friendships. It's use as a unique wedding venue is a clever way to insure its preservation.

To those who have invested themselves at Arrow – Thank You!

To Manya Simak who maintained the park through her dedicated work – Thank You!

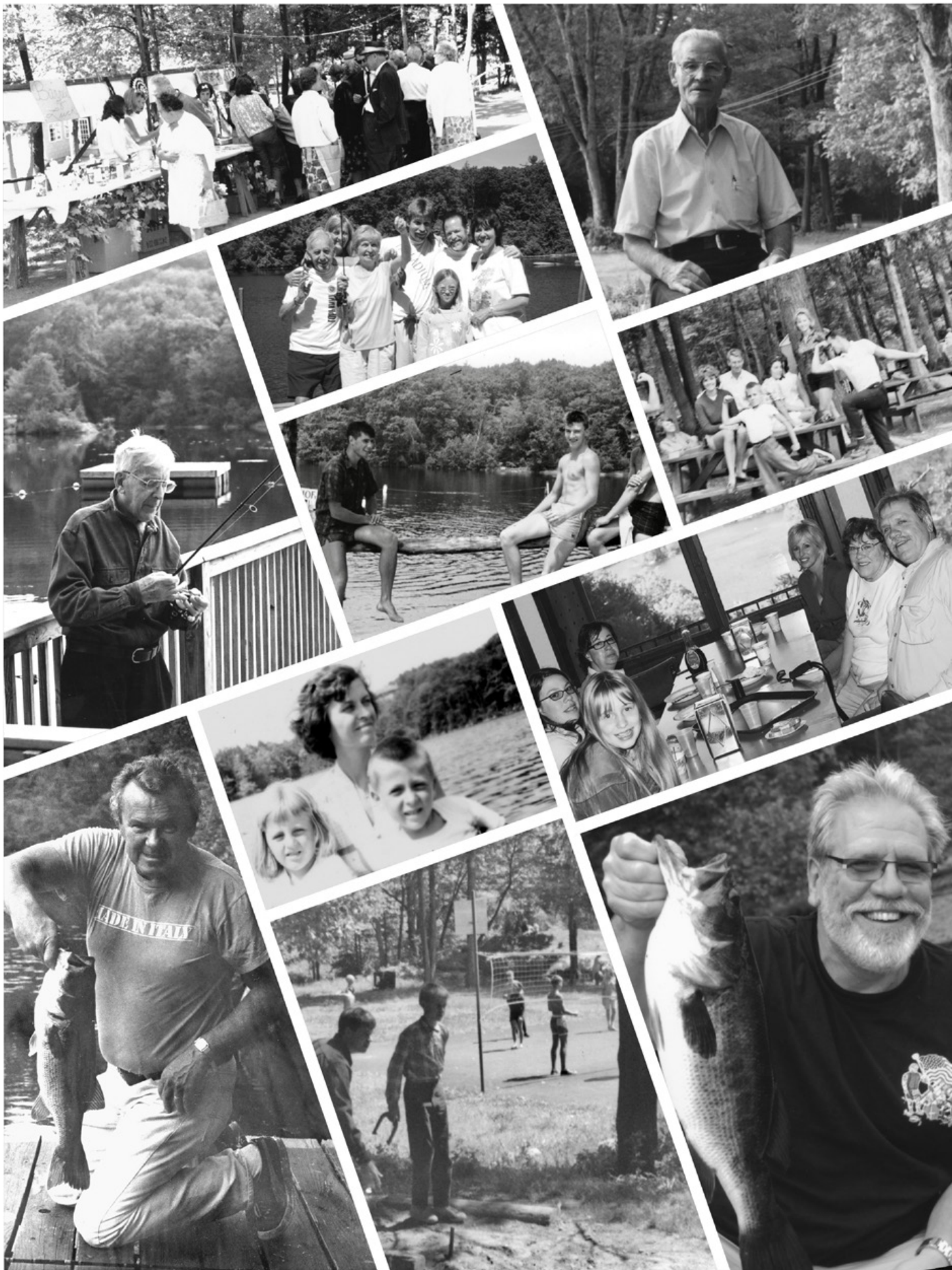
To those we love and who have passed, you remain in our hearts with fond memories at Arrow. Please allow me to acknowledge the following people:

Elena Wisotsky (d. Jan 19, 1969)  
Michael & Sophie Whyte  
Walter & Sophie Dziuk  
Michael Dziuk  
Murray and Ann Wilkins  
David Silverstone  
Al Parks

Max & Mary  
Mrs. Bekeshka  
Arthur "The Boatman" Zagneetko  
Eric Tomczak  
Paul Levor  
Johnny Kaye  
Peter & Nadia Berezny

It is our wish that we encourage future generations of caretakers and volunteers to continue the work of enjoying and preserving Arrow Park and all its beauty.

**Paul and Shelly Whyte**



# CONGRATULATIONS TO ARROW PARK

## *on your 75th Anniversary*

The years are filled with many fond memories...  
from performing with Dnipro Dancers and  
the Leontovich Chorus in the pavilion to  
swimming in the lake...and a lot more in between.

We are delighted to be part of the history and the future.  
We wish you many, many more years!



By Olga Chernosky

## Многая лета!

*Nadia and Achilles Perry  
Elena and Alex Bell  
Sonia Chernosky  
Achilles, Pam and Achilles Perry  
Alex, Kim and Anastazia Perry  
Olga and Al Chernosky (in memoriam)*

## In Memory of Leon and Mary Tolopko

who both contributed to the continuing growth of Arrow Park

**Arlene & Frank Tolopko**  
**Jenya Stumacher**  
**Andrew Tolopko**  
*and our extended family*

---

**In Loving Memory**  
*and former Board of Director*  
**Ann Katz-Dostanko**  
*from her daughter Dorrie*

**Congratulations Arrow Park**  
**on your great success and hard work!**

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## In Memory of Vladimir and Olga Minkiewicz

A couple dedicated to the existence of Arrow Park and  
the cultural heritage of its founders.

**Congratulations**  
**on 75 successful years!**

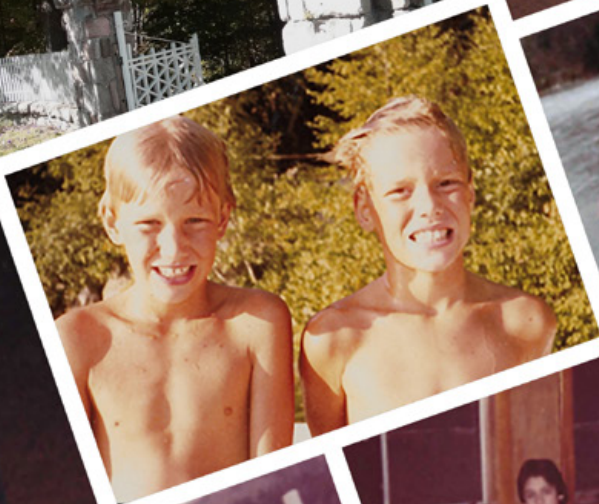
*Michael & Larice Addamo (Minkiewicz)*



In Loving Memory  
*of*  
John & Anna Rokowetz  
Vera & Al Bistrimovich  
Mariyln Rokowetz



*from*  
**Alex Rokowetz**  
*and Grandsons*  
**Alexander J. Rokowetz & William Rokowetz**





## CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE DEREVNUK, STOLLMAN & ZAITA FAMILIES

75 years... still a beautiful, pristine, ecological  
paradise with glistening lake and fond memories



# OLATUNJI ★ PETE DANCERS SEEGER

at the **GUARDIAN-ANGELA DAVIS\***

## GALA PICNIC

Saturday,  
September 18,  
11AM to Dusk

Rain or Shine - Arrow Park, Monroe, N.Y.

Swimming, Boating, Games • Food will be available

Program includes: **AL HUBBARD** Executive Secretary,  
Committee to Free Angela Davis

**SISTER ELIZABETH McALISTER** Harrisburg 6 defendant

**CHARLENE MITCHELL** Regional Director,  
Committee to Free Angela Davis  
Open mike discussions on: **CHINA • CHILE • POLITICAL PRISONERS & LIBERATION • WHERE IS THE MOVEMENT HEADED?**  
with Frank Kehi, member of the group of Asian Scholars who met with Chou En-lai, Sidney Peck, Bob Greenblatt, Carl Davidson, and others.

☐ I/we wish to attend the Guardian-Angela Davis Gala Picnic.  
Please send the following number of tickets:

.....Adults @ \$3.00 .....Children (6-12) @ \$1.50  
.....Bus seats (round trip) @ \$3.50

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$.....**

☐ I/we cannot attend the picnic, but wish to send greetings to Angela Davis.

Enclosed is a contribution of \$.....

Name.....  
Address.....  
City..... State..... Zip.....

Make checks payable to: Guardian-Angela Davis Picnic.  
Mail to: PICNIC, 32 West 22nd Street, 3rd Floor,  
New York, N.Y. 10010

**TICKETS: \$3.00** Children 6-12 Half Price,  
under 6 Free

**BUSES** depart from Union Square 9:30 AM.  
Round trip fare—\$3.50

**BY CAR:** All Hudson River bridges and tunnels from Manhattan lead to Route 17. Go north on 17 to Red Apple Restaurant (prominently marked and just 35 miles from George Washington Bridge). Continue 300 yards beyond Red Apple, turn left on Orange Turnpike, and continue 3 1/2 miles on black top road to Arrow Park.

**FREE PARKING**

\*Sponsored by the Guardian, with the cooperation of the New York Committee to Free Angela Davis. Proceeds to be shared equally.

Photos:  
Joseph  
Crawford  
Design:  
Robert  
Lissen



**Congratulations  
to the Arrow Park Family  
on 75 years!**

*In memory of*  
Jenny and Walter Kowalchuk

Angelo D'Angelo  
Staten Island, NY

**Happy  
Anniversary  
Arrow Park!**



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**CONGRATULATIONS**  
*on your 75th year*

*The Pellegrino Family*

# CONGRATULATIONS ARROW PARK!

*from the*  
Greene, Tylawsky and Lustig Families

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## 75 YEARS – Wow!!

I met my husband Walter at Arrow Park in 1950 and through the years we met life-long friends, enjoyed the Social Club dances and concerts.

We have wonderful memories of swimming and ice skating at the lake with our children, Michael, Patricia, and Victoria.

**Thank you, Arrow Park!**

*Martha Warivonchik*

**In loving memory of my husband Walter,  
and his parents  
Boris and Mary Worivonchik**



Honoring my parents Sam & Libby Weinstock,  
my brothers Edgar and David,  
along with my mother-in-law, Elisabetta Belli,  
and everyone else with whom I shared  
Arrow Park's splendors.

I still feel my grandmother Frotl's presence  
when I'm at the picnic table down by the beach.

Pete Seeger's voice singing "This Land is Your Land"  
resonates with me to this day.

With deepest affection,  
I will always miss Manya chasing me out, saying  
"We're closing now!"

The music, swimming in the lake, the camaraderie –  
So many memories!

**Murray Weinstock**

## In Memory of Vera and Hick Hetman

My aunt and uncle had nothing but hearts of gold,  
smiles of joy and love for the family.  
Not a day goes by that you are not missed and thought of.  
*Wish you were still here.*



With love  
Vicky Stone and Family

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## IN MEMORY Thomas Ptucha

*Michael and Rosalie Saunders*

---

## In Congratulations to Arrow Park 75th Anniversary

*from the Risko Family*

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