

Dear Friends,

Life happens while you're making other plans!!! As most of you have heard by now, Don had a stroke on Sunday, Sept 26th at 9:39 pm. We had spend a great day, first going to see Elizabeth dance with her dance team at the Bethel Woods Harvest Festival, then driving up Rt. 07 looking at all of the beautiful fall foliage and to watch Caden's soccer game. He was so cute, they're 4 & 5 yr. olds. We headed back to the lake after taking lots of side roads and stopping to take photos. Don made delicious potato soup and we settled in to watch a football game. He was sitting up on our bed and I was curled up next to him, with his hand on my shoulder. I heard a gurgle, like a sudsy burp and I asked if he had indigestion,.... he didn't answer me and I asked if he'd like a tums....he still didn't answer me, so I turned around to ask him again and saw that he was starring at the ceiling.. glassy eyed. I grabbed an aspirin and put it into his mouth and put the oxygen chord I had on onto him and turned up the amount of liters and called 911... .. all very quickly. A trooper that was at a call in Lake Muskoday came right over and the Roscoe Ambulance arrived quickly and took Don to Roscoe where they waited for the helicopter to arrive to airlift him out. The Roscoe Firemen were great too.. no real traffic, but they would have handled it and were all so thoughtful to all of us. The ambulance folks were fabulous!! I had called our friend and doctor, Don Roth, who told us to go to Horton, so that is where I told everyone we were going to.....however.....when the copter EMT came to talk with me, he said he was going to take Don to Poughkeepsie, he wasn't going to take him to Horton, because Poughkeepsie was closer.. if he took him to Horton, it would take 10 more to get him back to the hospital.... long story short..... he insisted he was going toPoughkeepsie and when he said it was closer and the sooner he got treated the better.....so off he went.. Mike & Laurie had already arrived in Harris, so we told them to go on toPoughkeepsie.. they were 30 min. ahead of us. I was told I wasn't allowed to go in the copter, so Perry drove me to Poughkeepsie .. there is more to the story, but the unfortunate part of the story is that the doctor on call would not treat Don until I got there..... I'd called and the kids called, but the doctor wouldn't do anything until I arrived.... anyway..... theystarted the TPA, which is the"miracle" treatment that will possibly help if administered within the first 4 1/2 hours. They started it 3 hours and 20 min. after I heard the gurgle . We're all hoping it will have helped him and he'll have a positive recovery. Don has Myasthenia Gravis.too, which has been under control by has been

affected by the stroke . Hopefully, medication will get it back under control....The stroke has affected his right side. His vision has been affected too, but he can see and hopefully it will improve. On Thursday, Don was transferred from the Poughkeepsie Stroke Center at St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie to Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in West Orange, NJ. Fortunately, it's a very well respected rehab facility. We have already seen improvement. Don has full use of his left side, but he is mostly paralyzed on his right side. He's had no facial problems, his arm and leg move, but it will take lots of therapy to get them back to near normal!! We are realists, but feel very positive about his possibility for recovery. Don's personality and determination are a big plus. Our kids have been wonderful. They've been with us all week. I was able to be with Don 24 hrs. a day in Poughkeepsie I never left Don's side. Kessler is 20 min. from my sister's home, so I'm staying with her. Her daughter has a van with a rear ramped handicapped entrance. I'm not able to walk long distances, so I have my little red scooter, which is important, because I'm oxygen dependent now and have to schlep two large oxygen tanks with me daily. I can visit with him from 8 am to 8:30pm . My niece has been taking me back and forth to Kessler. Don understands everything....and responds appropriately..... I think 100%, but is having difficulty communicating verbally. Some things are great, but about 50% of what he's trying to say gets mixed up..... so... time will help. I'm not a patient person, but I'm so grateful to have him survive and to see how well he's doing... We're all hoping for the best and will deal with the rest.....I'm going to have my chemotherapy here at St. Barnabas Hospital.... I am sorry this is so long, but I wanted you to know what happened and how hopeful we are.....he'd love to hear from you. my sister's address is R.E. Marks - 212 South Springfield Ave. - Springfield, NJ 07081. Fortunately we have good reception cell phone reception here. My number is: 914 799-1321 We're okay.... thanks for your positive thoughts and prayers. We all sincerely appreciate your friendship and support!!! Much love, Julie