Family Spotlight: 85% Cat-Themed

Hello! We are the Kurzweg Family – Pete, Jeni, and Emeline. We’re attempting to write this spotlight together but we’re both attorneys, so we’re already fighting over the wording. To wit, regarding the phrase "Kurzweg Family," Jeni notes for the record that she did not change her last name to Kurzweg. That fact notwithstanding, Pete still regards her as a "Kurzweg" but fiercely supports her decision not to change her name from Hergenreder.

We both grew up in Pittsburgh. We are high school sweethearts. We have lived in State College, PA (Jeni), Princeton, NJ (Pete), and New York, NY (both). We both returned to Pittsburgh in 2005 to attend Pitt Law School. In 2008, Pete started his own law practice and Jeni started working at a non-profit organization where she represents children with disabilities. In 2008, we also adopted two kittens – a handsome tuxedo cat named Felix and a fluffy orange tabby cat named Clementine. We really like cats. Emeline’s wardrobe is approximately 85% cat-themed. In 2011, we bought and rehabbed a 100-year-old house on the Northside (in Deutschtown).

In 2012, after we had (Pete: “more-or-less;” Jeni: "not-at-all") finished the house, we adopted another cat, Klaus (he’s German). After that, we figured we should probably have a child so we would quit adopting cats. Emeline was born in November 2013. Three months later, Pete opened a craft beer bar, the Independent Brewing Company, in Squirrel Hill. In 2016, he opened a craft cocktail bar, Hidden Harbor, in the space next door. Both bars are restaurants too and we enjoy having dinners there! If you hear Emeline say her Dad is "at the bar", it means he is at work. Really!

Emeline joined The Children’s School last year. On her first day, Mrs. Tomer greeted her with a big smile and a puppy-dog puppet. Within moments, Emeline whispered in Jeni’s ear "I like her." We did too. Emeline grew so much last year. When she started, she could barely share space, let alone items, with the other friends. In Mrs. Tomer’s words, she was "a little handsy." At the end of year picnic, she giggled and played happily with her friends. We are forever indebted to the patient and talented Three’s Team.

This year, Emeline is in the Green Room with the incredibly skilled Mrs. Opferman. Her favorite thing about Mrs. Opferman is her "cute blonde hair." Our favorite thing about Mrs. Opferman is how she had a handle on Emeline before we could even blink. At home, Emeline continues to enact circle time. She is the teacher, of course. We each have assigned "sit upon“ and she has weather symbols for the weather song. She no longer tells us to keep "hands to your own body." This year we have a new saying -- "put a bubble in your mouth" -- and we’re pretty sure that isn't a reference to gum.

We love The Children’s School and are so grateful we’re part of its family. We wish all of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful school year!

The Kurzweg Family