

TROPICAL LIFE

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IN MY OPINION

Latest arrival
has the family
all a-TwitterANA VECIANA-SUAREZ
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What will you witness in your lifetime, little girl? What will you celebrate, what will you mourn?

I entertained these thoughts when I held my newest granddaughter for the first time in a hospital delivery room. Freshly

born, wet, brown wisps still plastered to her delicate little skull, Kyla Renee blinked at the unforgiving light of this world, mewled her response and settled into my arms.

She didn't cry, and I, ever the optimist, have taken that as a good sign.

Though exhausted by the long hours of labor, my daughter and her husband did not sleep that first night. They feared the baby would choke on her own mucus, a nurse's warning taken too much to heart.

And so begins that burrowing worry that forever haunts.

A mother five times over and a grandmother thrice, I can claim a modicum of perspective on parental anxiety. It usually is well founded. After all, when you survive a few decades of loss and love, grief and joy, you earn one true sliver of knowledge: no one lives life unscathed.

It is only natural then for the celebration of new life to carry the undercurrent of concern. The older one gets, I dare say, the stronger and swifter the undertow. We've seen, we've hurt.

Yet I can only think of the wonders my littlest darling will see, and seven hours in the waiting room offered a pretty good preview. The world, or at least the immediate family and circle of friends, was alerted to her impending arrival by dawn. From the hospital bed, in between contractions, the mother-to-be texted her four brothers, her cousins and friends.

I got an old-fashioned phone call at 4:23 a.m. The only people I had the pleasure of telling were those who belong to the pre-digital age: my father, my husband and my in-laws.

The ongoing saga of Kyla's birth was reported as thoroughly as a presidential campaign on CNN.

Photographs were sent via cell phone to offices around town for those who couldn't make the trek to the hospital. Updates — *seven centimeters dilated at noon!* — were posted on Facebook. Video of the grandparents was taken by a father who narrated the first episode of his newly burgeoning family tree.

This is the brave, new world my granddaughter has been born into, one with instantaneous communications and global reach, where everything can be recorded for posterity and experiences are shared with the ease of a click.

Will this make her shy or gregarious? Will she yearn for the lights or seek refuge in privacy controls? Will the immediacy and speed of relentless information rob her of that delicious sense of mulling over experiences or of the inev-

*TURN TO ANA, 4E

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A quicker,
cheaper,
longer-lasting
Botox
alternative
hits the
market

A NEW
WRINKLE

BY FRED TASKER
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Attention aging baby boomers, 60ish single gentlemen, high-powered CEOs and laid-off professionals preparing for job interviews: The wait is over. Dysport, the new botulinum toxin product touted as a quicker, cheaper and longer-lasting way to banish wrinkles, has arrived.

"People are excited. This is long-awaited," says Dr. Leslie Baumann, a Miami Beach dermatologist and University of Miami researcher who took part in the clinical trials that won Dysport its Food and Drug Administration approval.

"I'm doing this for me," said Laurie Kaye Davis, two months short of 50, who sat in Baumann's chair for the injections on Wednesday, the first day the drug was available. She's in for a redo of injections between her eyebrows she got as part of Baumann's trials.

"When those frown lines go away, it just brightens your whole face," Davis said.

The new product hits the market at a good time — as boomers near senior-citizen status, with many of them still trying to look their best to become, or stay, employed.

"I just got it yesterday and I did two women and a man today," said Dr. Jacob D. Steiger, a facial plastic surgeon in Delray Beach. "I get a lot of baby boomers. I get women in their 50s who are preparing for job interviews, and I get men in their 50s and early 60s who are trying to stay in the workforce."

"One patient is a man in his 60s, retired, single, very active in the social scene. He's very interested in how he looks."

Baumann, who uses Dysport as well as its existing

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