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If your Mac freezes, escalate your escape in small, gentle steps:

1. "Command Period" (⌘+.) will solve some freezes
2. A "force quit" (⌘+Option+Escape) may be needed for others
3. A "soft boot" uses ⌘+Power+Control (or Shift for some Macs)
4. Press your Mac's physical "acupuncture point" reset button
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NORTHWEST news

THREE'S A CHARM

Southeast Portland couple expecting triplets

by Kathy Belge

They traded in their pickup for a minivan, began stockpiling diapers and are spending as much time together as possible.

Christy and Cecilia Danlin of Southeast Portland, who are anticipating the birth of triplets, know their lives are about to change forever. They're just not exactly sure how.

The couple, who've been together three years, will likely give birth in mid-March to two boys and a girl. Cecilia, 37, became pregnant through artificial insemination.

Christy, 33, a medical technician who has worked at fertility clinics, says, "We purchased the semen sample from OHSU and we were supposed to take it to our doctor for insemination, but we jumped the gun and we did it at home." That was July 13, their first attempt at pregnancy.

Intense ovary pain sent Cecilia to the emergency room at six weeks. An ultrasound technician broke the news: They were having triplets.

The two said they were shocked and scared, breaking into nervous giggles. "She just was laughing, and I just kept pacing," Christy reports. Cecilia had no history of multiple births in her family, and the donor's profile made no mention of it.

Now they are excited and a little scared but believe this happened for a reason. "What better way to better the world than to help create some people who are raised with tolerance and are wanted," Cecilia says.

Another Oregon lesbian couple can relate to what the Danlins are going through. Sandi Washburn, 35, and Shelley Willis, 45, are the parents of 18-month-old triplet girls. The Corvallis residents, who received much support from their community, were eager to share advice with the expecting moms.

"Start sleeping now," Sandi jokes. She also advises the couple to read some good books on raising multiples, spend quality time together now and learn about changing diapers of tiny babies.

Sandi also wants to alert the couple about strangers asking, "Who's the mom?" She warns, "Be prepared to be outed every time you're in public."

The Portland couple have lots of questions for the Corvallis moms. "How do you do it?" was first. With lots of help, they say. Sandi—the birth mom of Ahni, Hanna and Chloe—got some unexpected support. Something unusual happened. Shelley lactated too, and both women nursed the babies.

Sandi also advises, "Keep your mind open for where your support will come from." Much of theirs comes from churches and heterosexual couples. Some of their lesbian friends, who they thought would stick around, slowly drifted away.

Collection jars and an art auction brought in almost \$12,000 for the Corvallis couple, with which they bought a van. They were given car seats, cribs, bouncy chairs, clothes and plenty of casseroles.

The Danlins will need similar support. Cecilia was laid off from her job as a quality assurance



Cecilia (left) and Christy Danlin practice their mothering skills on their dog, Bailey

technician. The couple rent a two-bedroom house on a busy street and know they eventually will have to move.

They have one crib and three car seats but still need everything else: diapers, clothes, onesies, a dishwasher. Cecilia adds, "Overall I really have faith that we're going to be OK, but I would never turn down the kindness of anyone who wanted to help with used clothes or whatever."

Although Christy and Cecilia do not have support from their families, they do have some close friends. One of them has 10-year-old triplets who can't wait to meet the new babies and eventually baby-sit.

That kind of support is especially important, Sandi says. For the first six months, they scheduled friends and family each day morning to night.

The Danlins also wonder how three babies will affect their relationship. "It's been a real challenge, trying to find time to be a couple," Sandi says. Her advice: Find time to communicate, and make a monthly date night. She said that before their children, she and Shelley spent almost all their time together. Now they spend much more time apart; while one runs to the store, the other watches their kids.

Cecilia, who is a country western singer, says she has visions of serenading three angelic babies and admits that she has a fantasy of raising the next family singing sensation. Christy wants them all to be doctors. They wondered if Sandi and Shelley had similar dreams.

Sandi says she can't remember what their fantasy was, but their current situation is nothing like they imagined. Shelley's life especially has changed completely. When they thought they were going to have one child, she imagined bringing the baby to work. Instead, she sold her custom framing business and is now a stay-at-home mom.

Cecilia, with an education background, plans on home schooling the three. "It was going to be cool with one, but now there's going to be a whole classroom," she says.

To make a donation e-mail CHRISTY AND CECILIA DANLIN at ChristyandCec@msn.com.

KATHY BELGE is a free-lance writer and aunt to a set of triplets.

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS