

# News and Reviews You Can't Use from the Bennetts

Well, we've done it. Again.  
Bought another home and moved. Again.  
**300 Bluff's Edge Drive**  
**Lake Forest, IL 60045**



The complete story is that Marcia is still in her wheelchair and was pretty much stuck in only three or four rooms at our last home. At the same time Ted desperately needed office space so he could get rid of piles of "Banker Boxes." Our new home is a very workable 60's ranch which has wide hallways since it was built for a person with a wheelchair. There are lots of trees for us to ogle and for deer to wander amidst. We can't get down there but we have deeded access to the beach via a ravine path. We are on what Ted calls "the dry side" or West side of the street but we can hear the surf when it is rough. But so much for us!

We're still at seven granddaughters, nary a boy in the bunch. Working through the crowd....

Jeff & Beth are still in Groton MA where Charlotte, our first teenager, is now 14 and placed first in state gymnastics for vault in her age group. Margaret at 11 is swimming hard and is a straight-A student. Natalie started kindergarten and has taken a hiatus from dance and is exploring the possibilities of ice skating.



Natalie's 1<sup>st</sup>  
day at  
Kindergarten!

Chris & Claudia are still in Lima, Peru with a beach house some 40 miles south of Lima. Briana is 7 and enjoying 1<sup>st</sup> grade and many extra-curricular activities. At under 2 Alessia is still pretty much focused on Whiskey, their Yorkie and, of course, her big sister.



Briana  
cuddling  
Alessia



Taryn's first day in First Grade

Katie & Matt moved this year to Lake Bluff IL just north of us. Taryn started 1<sup>st</sup> grade and cannot get enough of school! Like Briana, she's being exposed to many extra-curricular activities. She just started paddle tennis.

As the winter wore on we began to wonder why we were living in a lovely home which didn't meet our needs; Marcia was stuck on the first floor and Ted was uncomfortable climbing stairs. We considered our needs and wants before beginning to look at ranch designs in town. Some were too small, some were too large. Some were too old and would need much rebuilding. One needed a new basement floor as well as concreting its crawl space. All but one had only a two-car garage with no room for Marcia's ramp and two cars. Then we found a ranch that had wide halls and a large 3-car garage. Seems an earlier owner had been in a wheelchair too. We came back several times. Finally, fearful that another price-drop might entice additional interest we negotiated an offer and were on our way to our closing July 8. We replaced carpeting with wood flooring, widened a few doorways, installed a ramp in the garage and moved in on July 29.

Tim & Carolyn are still living just south of us in Highland Park IL. It is so nice to have them living nearby!



Tim, Christina, Carolyn, Ted, Marcia and Grandmother Lee were at Christina's second birthday party. Christina moves around like she owns her environment. She does. Sunny the Beagle knows it.

We didn't get up to Desbarats ON this year, although Carolyn & Tim made the journey for a week. Looks like we're not going to make it down to Key West FL, either.

Katie, Matt & Taryn spent a February week in Key West to thaw their bones.

The year started rather uneventfully with us still in Lake Forest.

Our good friend Phil Anderton who is our next-door neighbor in Key West has been promoted to managing his own Ron Jon Surf Shop in Orange Beach AL. This is great for him but we will miss him in Key West!



Claudia & Chris were in Key West for a week in early December. Beth & Jeff will be there with their crew around Christmas. At least some use is being made of the place!.

Ted is still active on the Elawa Farm Foundation board ([www.ElawaFarm.org](http://www.ElawaFarm.org)) where they had another great year. Marcia has just resigned her position as secretary of the homeowners association at our old address. Need to get that girl a job. In Key West she'd be so busy with the Woman's Club that she'd be screaming for relief!





Claudia on her birthday with Alessia.



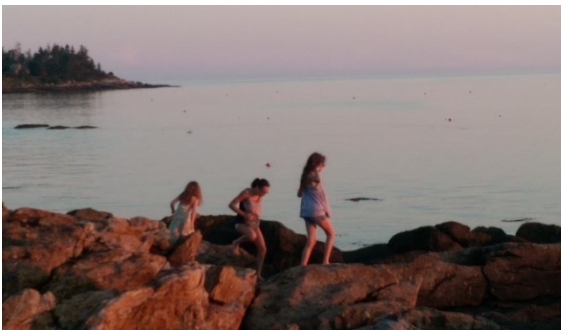
Charlotte & Beth at 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion.



Peggy Davis (at right) took us and Elaine Paulson to Dover Straits for seafood.



We spent many afternoons trackside at Tony's while eating subs and watching freight & passenger trains.



Charlotte, Margaret & Natalie in Maine.



Margaret & Jeff in Maine.

**W**  
Cubbies  
won the  
World  
Series!







Briana's loves making art.



Before sneaking off to Key West for some R&R, Chris & Claudia posed with Briana & Alessia



Katie and Matt took Taryn to the Michigan dunes for the buggies.



With Sara & Stan Hoover at Eddie Merlot's in Half Day.



Christina with Carolyn & Tim at Disney World.



In our library with Matt, Katie & Taryn.





Saint Nick with Tim, Sunny, Carolyn & Christina.



Ted & Marcia. What kind of royalty is this?



The real royalty: Carolyn's Mom and proud Grandmother Lee celebrating Christina's second birthday.



At Scotty's with Siebrechts and Hoovers.



Cousin Bill with Marcia.



Judy and Frank Siebrecht with her brother Jim Opdahl in back and Susie Opdahl in front with Ted.





Another of the trio at Disney World.



The last red maple leaf of autumn.



Deer from ravine nibbling our front lawn.



Our first Christmas tree in the new house – also the first snowfall!

With Christmas Love-

Marcia

Ted