

News and Reviews You Can't Use from the Bennetts – 2020

Not yet Halloween and we're starting to write this. Maybe you'll get this by Christmas.

And yes, we're still at 300 Bluff's Edge Drive in Lake Forest 60045,
desbarats@aol.com, Ted @ 847-602-4154 Marcia @ 847-899-9128.

We don't answer the house phone any longer; too much spam & politics

And I don't care that my car's warranty may be expiring! Bah! Humbug!

We've also come to realize that some of you still may not know all the kids and grandkids. Here they are:

Marcia:

Jeff & Beth: (dog Winnie), Charlotte (18), Keons (15) Natalie (10)

Katie & Matt: (cat Clementine), Taryn (11)

Ted:

Chris & Claudia (dog Whiskey), Briana (11), Alessia (6)

Tim & Carolyn (dog Wyatt), Christina (Tia) (6)

But first, let's get caught up with the end of 2019! Thanksgiving arrived and we celebrated with the traditional Thanksgiving beef tenderloin. Seems we're not big fans of turkey. Katie, Matt and Taryn were with us and we were joined by our friends Judy and Frank Siebrecht, Jan Gibson, Paul Bergmann and Christine Hulse. A sedate affair as was Christmas!

We started 2020 with great plans: we were going to Key West for the first time in 6 years! Daniel Burnham may have said "Make no small plans" about Chicago but the military says that no battle plan survives the first contact with the enemy.

That said, we flew down at the end of February with our friend Kristen helping with traveling and getting settled. Remember what was happening about that time? We were all starting to learn about COVID-19 on our shores. The first car we rented at the airport was upgraded by Hertz to a huge Denali with wide running boards. Marcia couldn't climb up into the seat. A huge Monroe County deputy picked her up to place her in the front

passenger seat! We traded for a smaller SUV the next day. We had new ramps from the pool deck installed that worked perfectly to get up into the house. A new electric cart we had ordered for Marcia was waiting for us! Kristen flew back to Chicago after getting us settled in for an anticipated 3 week stay.

And then everything changed! COVID-19 appeared in the USA and Monroe County, which includes all of the Keys, blockaded the only road from the mainland, closed all the hotel and rental units as well as inside service at bars and restaurants. This kept us pretty safe. Almost all of the illness was in communal residences and not too much of that. We didn't want to fly back when our three weeks was over. So, we cancelled our return and settled in for the duration. Life was not all party time although we were able to get food, drink and takeout deliveries. We saw our old friends Jane Grannis, Dawn Martin, Hilary and Joe White as well as Sandy and Chuck Curtis. We also completed plans to make the master bath more accessible and to replace the failing pool coping, deck and

French doors. The place had fallen apart in the 5 years we were unable to be there.



Iguanas. No, they are NOT some cute things that only eat leaves.



They eat just about any plant, including our ancient bougainvillea (thorns and all), and poop everywhere. Marcia interviewed and finally hired an iguana hunter to try to lower the population. Ten so far! They're

not like the cute little lizards we're used to seeing.

Our mango tree did come in and we made wonderful breakfasts with croissants from the Old Town Bakery.



Finally, all good things came to an end June 1 when the County opened up US1. Kristen and her college-age son Jimmy came down to get us packed up and back home.

Summer was pretty quiet. What little entertaining we did was either on our front porch or on our patio. Always masked! Katie, Matt and Taryn came several times as did Carolyn, Tim and Tia. We shared Meathead's sandwiches and Ferentino's Pizzas. Kristen and her family came for dinner and even brought lunch for Ted's 75th birthday. Ah, yes. Ted's 75th was the big deal of the summer for us! Ted had a Happy Birthday sign on the front lawn.



The kids came for a cookout and cake!



Summer was kind of wet and the flat part of our roof failed, as did the tarp protecting the open areas during a crazy rainstorm. Many towels, some painting and we were back in business! This summer and early Fall we were invited to a couple of out-of-doors neighborhood cocktail parties at Lisa and Steve Rigsbee's across the street. We're so fortunate to have nice neighbors!



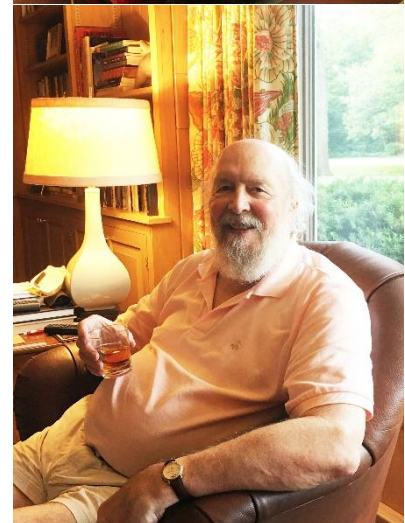
Overall, the Fall was like the summer in it's intensity. It came and it will pass into Winter. Today is Thanksgiving Day which is somewhat of a nonevent this year. We're doing the traditional lobster tails, broccolini and Traverse Bay cherry pie! We hope you are all reflecting on your love for family and friends!

We want to thank the people who make it possible for us to continue to live comfortably in our home: Blaze Bohlig, Sherri Hergott, Kristen Lipsey, MPT, Nina Prikhodko and Ewa Sas.

We wish you **Love and Peace** throughout 2021. May your lives be blessed with health and happiness!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Love
Marcia & Ted





Ted and Jane Grannis.



Beth & Jeff .



Claudia, Chris, Alessia, Briana



Tim and Carolyn.



Taryn and paddleboard.



Tia



Matt and Katie.



Natalie, Keons and Charlotte.



Briana surfing in Peru.



Charcoal by Marcia in Key West.



Marcia & Ted on patio.



Marcia after Mohs.



Ted on Christmas 2019.



Ted in Key West.



Jane Grannis at our gate.



Thanksgiving 2019.



Taryn and Grandpa, 2019.



Ted, Kristen and Marcia at Café Sole in Key West. Our only restaurant visit in 2020.



Mid-April in Key West.



Beth and Girls.



Katie cutting Marcia's hair.



A good use of a puddle.



Dawn's home across the street.



Taryn and Tia – Ted's 75th.