

Community Comment  
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### Three weddings, a funeral, and a family reunion

One of the hardest elements of owning and running a bed and breakfast is getting away. My wife was raised on a farm and she draws the comparison to the care of dairy cows on the farm. I can't speak to that. We are fortunate that both of my grown daughters live within a stones throw of the Inn and are happy to cover for us. We have also been lucky to have a dependable backup that is a recent graduate of HSU. With this in mind, we did manage to travel a bit this summer.

Because Sharon is from Michigan, we have a small cottage on a small lake in Northern Michigan that has allowed us to vacation there for about the last 20 years or so. We've taken our children to have a real summer experience and now take three grandchildren. In addition to a relaxing time, this allows for family to visit and Sharon to reconnect with old friends.

We have a pattern that we normally follow that includes a week in Western New York at the Chataugua Institution. The institute was established in the mid 1870's and evolved into place for the continuing education and cultural experiences for people of all ages. We spend a week, stay in the little Victorian village which resembles a small college campus, and listen to lectures on relevant topics of the day. The institute has it's own orchestra, opera, and dance companies. Since it sits on the banks of Lake Chataugua, swimming and boating are also common activities. Look up the Chataugua Institution on line if this sounds interesting.

After a week with just the two of us, we are often joined by one or both of our daughters. But this time, we met our youngest in Omaha, Nebraska for a wedding. The bride was a childhood friend of Sarah's and married there because her grandparents live there. It was a small affair and very nice except that summer in Omaha can be, and was, hot and sticky. All of my Sicilian grandparents settled there when they immigrated in the early 1900's. So I had family still there to visit.

Back in Michigan, we had another wedding to attend and then the arrival of our oldest daughter and three grandkids. We are hard pressed to leave the cottage because the kids enjoy the water so much. Me too. But the next weekend brought the annual family reunion for my wife's Father's side. It's a big family and fills up a small rented hall. It's another good connection for the younger generation to get to know each other.

Sharon's family tends to live a long time, but we are also prepared for the passing of one of the older family members. We did have one funeral to attend this year which is often the celebration of a long life well lived. This was no exception.

So, that's two weddings, a funeral, and a family reunion. We drove in eight states and across Ontario Province in Canada. We saw a lot of corn and wind turbines.

If you're wondering about the third wedding, it hasn't happened yet. Sarah, our youngest, is getting married next week in Trinidad. All of her closest friends, local and from afar, will be there. We couldn't be happier for her and her groom. They make a great couple and we are sure they will live happy ever after.

This has been Sam Pennisi for community comment.