

Merry Christmas 2007 & Happy New Year 2008



Mia & Tyra



Teepee Cooking



Teepee building



Geb and Family



Chicago fountain



Gaga, Sarah, Momo & Sav



Sebastien, Simone & Ava

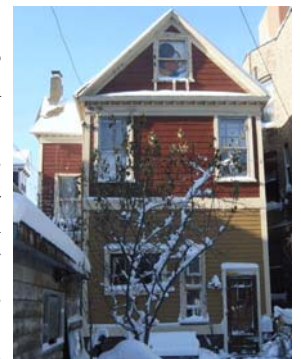


Chicago peanut frolicers

What a dull year! - no travel abroad, no new grandchildren, just the two of us most of the time - so how did we entertain ourselves? - well, just like most people who are approaching middle age, we found lots of home projects...



In January we bought "the pink house" (an 1888 historic landmark) and its 2.5 lots behind our South Bend house together with our neighbor Jim Lodwick. We divided the lots into 3 parts, added a new roof, new bathroom, new kitchen, cleaning up the inside & out, and put it on the market to join the other million or so houses - see the pic and make an offer! Our new "back-back" yard nearly doubles our garden space, and meantime another house is full of our antiques.



No shortage of good antique auctions this year in the South Bend area to help out.

Our two



"main" houses got new downstairs bathrooms, but the Harper house had the main makeover: 2 old layers of shingles and the original wood siding were replaced by cement-fiber board with a two-tone finish of maroon and gold, with a cream trim, as in the pic; advantages include no more painting for our lifetimes, completely sealed, plus reduced fire-hazard; disadvantage - we lost Nico's 30 foot dragon painting - any volunteers for a new design?





Two Scotts were the links of our August summer trip to Colorado: Scott and Susan Yeager's son David was married in Breckenridge (Scott is Mary's cousin, son of Eileen, twin-sister of Arleen, David graduated at Notre Dame) - wonderful mountain scenery, most easily summited in their 4-wheel-drive jeep. The



glorious weather continued as we drove over the Continental Divide in Rocky Mountains Park to Scott Perrizo's hill-top, pigeoned and dogged abode (this Scott is Mary's 3rd cousin on the French-Canadian side). You should check out the views in Mary's wonderful

One should...listen to a little song,
Read a good poem, or look at a fine painting every single day,
And if possible say something sensible about it.



"Clouds" poem at ndchicago.net/clouds/clouds.htm



If you read that, you undoubtedly realized that the poem is a celebration of the major event of the year: the engagement of our 4th son Daniel to a wonderful lady, Anita Chavez. The announcement (to us) came on Labor Day weekend at Hyde Park's Medici restaurant. **WE ARE THRILLED:** The wedding is planned for Memorial Day weekend 2008 in Albuquerque, New Mexico - her parents Tito and Mary live there in Las Vegas (not in Nevada!).



We saw our 5 grand-daughters as often as possible: **Mireille and Savannah** (with Geb) in Brooklyn; **Simone** (with Nico and Sarah)



left there for San Francisco in August, where her mother starts a fabulous 2-year fiction-writing scholarship at Stanford; **Ava and Tyra** (with Sebastien and Mia) continue their merry lives in Louisville Kentucky; their presences in the world are commemorated in the adjoining pictures.



Finally, we did decide to travel abroad a little: despite the ridiculous security precautions everywhere, we will spend 2 years in England, beginning 27 December '07 and returning 3 Jan '08.

Love to all, Mary and Gordon at 5411 S. Harper, Chicago IL 60615 (773-241-7219) maryhb@ameritech.net; 917 W. Washington, South Bend IN 46601 (574-282-2430) - hgb@att.net - website: ndchicago.net