

SUMMER 2009 USA TRIP:

PORTLAND, ATLANTA, ROCHESTER, MICHIGAN





Ahhhhh. Let summer vacation 2009 begin...

PORTLAND:

No car for us. Just the 80 pound bike/wheelbarrow. It is a sweet ride, but a pig on the uphill!





It took us where we NEEDED to go!

2 kids, 3 kids, adults. We all fit.





It was a makeshift bed when Bristol got a terrible fever and we had to wait around for Edie's camp to finish. You can see we could fit a lot of junk in there too.



Hanging out in the music store. We love this picture of Bristol. What a hipster.

Me? Not so hip here. Duh?



We rented a house for 3 weeks and weeded our brains out. It was the perfect place for the 3 of us.



My friend Chris thinks it is about 250 square feet. Notice the loft and rolling library ladder. The tub was OUTSIDE!!!



Ducks and books. Doesn't get much better than that.



Oh wait. Yes it does. PARKS PARKS PARKS! Something China just doesn't get.





Aubbie, Dr. Nolan, Nicole, Countess Lyla, The Phoebees, and Mr. Jonah



Good friends.





HAPPY



SLAP HAPPY



Speaking of good friends: Lenore, Adeline, Lucia, their four chickens (Betsy, Wanda, Pancake, and "?"), and their new wheels!

Why don't I have any Jenny T, Juliana, Leo pictures!?!?

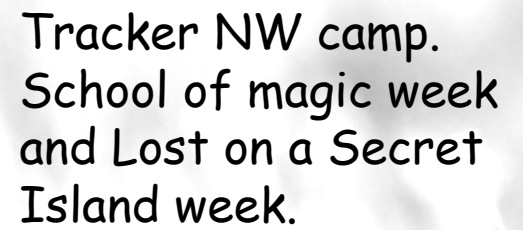


Bristol looked
at herself for
a long time in
this mirror.
She loved
looking her long
legs. Enjoy it
now, sister.
Long legs are
not in your
future!





Oh Nolan. You are such a cute little squirt.



Bristol at her
community center
camp. Guinea pig
pettin'.



ATLANTA:

Down south for some
food, fun, and
PUPPIES!





BEST PLAYGROUND EVER!





Living room action and...

inaction →





Papa Dave and his many sets of "wheels"!





She'll vacuum you car for a small fee (the change she finds on the floor). Lucky for her, change is to Papa Dave as breadcrumbs are to Hansel and Gretel.



Bristol's wheels.



Did we mention the food? YUM! Psssst... Giant cow = ice cream factory.



4th of July normal people style



Oh Yeah!!! Papa
Dave knows how
to do the 4th of
July!!!

4th of July Papa Dave style! There were
multiple fireworks shows: am and pm





If you don't know the pinata story, we'll have to tell you. Classic. This one was beaten open with handweights. Apparently Papa Dave doesn't believe in the conventional style. He gets a pinata every year and it is ALWAYS interesting. 😊

←Brendan. Just chuckling to himself. He does a lot of this when we are all together.





Grasshoppers and tiny sweet blueberries.



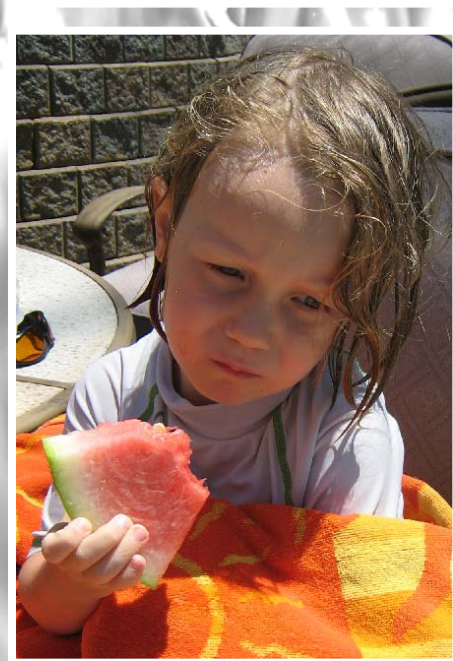


Atlanta in July. You'd think it was terrible, but this day was breezy and lovely!



Susan and her mini-me. Maybe not personality-wise, but just LOOK AT THEM!

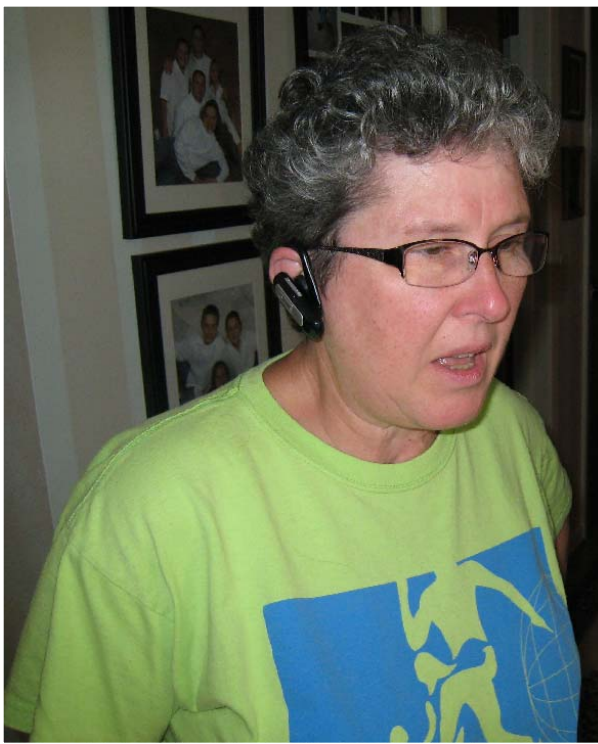




Nothing tucks you out like a day of swimming. Brendan and Dave are definitely the most fun in the pool.

Eat. Swim. Eat. Swim some more. Go inside. Go back out. Swim some more. Eat some more. Can we go swimming again? NO! Bedtime.

ROCHESTER:



Up to NY for a much chillier version of summer. Gramma Jeanne had hit all the garage sales for miles around and gathered an amazing treasure trove of stuff to keep the girls and their cousin Ben busy. She even borrowed enough bikes for all the kids and scooters too!

Jack had other plans to keep the adults busy.☺



Don't try this at home.



On the way to great grandma Lorraine and Red's place to meet for lunch. Had to stop at Bristol Mtn for some pictures. Bristol thinks it is HER mountain.







Good Cheap Fun



Gramma Jeanne got a crazy slip and slide that I would have freaked out over as a kid. Unfortunately, it was too cold to use it most days. Oh well. NEXT TIME.



Brendan seems to be missing his body.





The Fairport lift bridge was up and we got to walk over it. Neat-o!



Dinkin' around on the canal. Can you tell Edie is feeling tense? A true Banovic likes to be in control.



Jack was a good sport and went along with the plan.

Ben really got the knack of paddling!





Brendan used to jump off this thing and go swimming when he was younger. Ew! Didn't he ever hear that you could get caught in a shopping cart or a cow's ribcage at the bottom of the Erie canal?





Now we are talkin'! Here's the goofy side of the family tree. Robert, Danielle, Jane. Always lots of laughing when we get together with this group. Oh, and always chips and dip too.



A rare
viewing of
Robert in
his natural
habitat.
Don't get
too close.
He is very
territorial!





Brendan and I rode 112 miles from Buffalo to Fairport. I had not trained AT ALL for this little event. 1st my butt hurt. Then the pain in my legs overrode my butt pain. Then my shoe busted apart and I scored some duct tape from an auto supplies shop. We saw lots of gophers, geese, deer, heron, ducks, squirrels, bunnies, and frogs. Not many people though. That's good! I wasn't looking so awesome. By the way, Brendan has a map stuffed in the front of his shirt...

All in all we had loads of fun and enjoyed a day just the 2 of us.

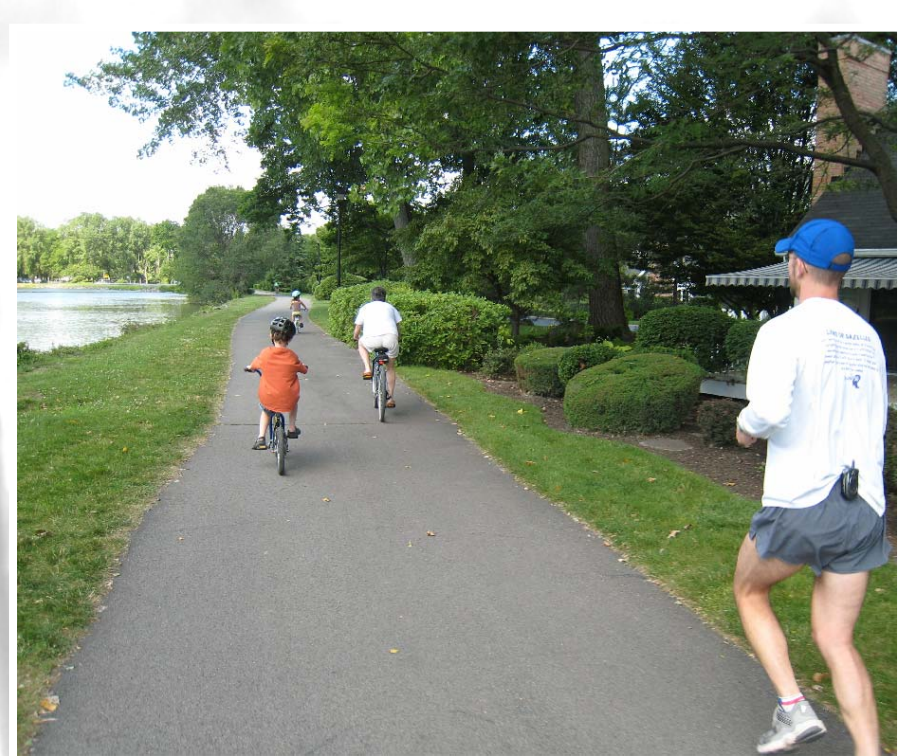




Above: Canandaigua lake



Woo hoo Ben!



I wasn't joking when I said grandma Jeanne had been to some garage sales. Check out that toy wonderland!

On the right we are making our way back from the Farmers' Market in Fairport. So cool to see our own kids riding along on the canal trail just like we did growing up. It was like a kids' super highway!



At my mom's
friends
gorgeous
cottage on
Keuka Lake.
Don't be fooled,
it was
FREEZING.





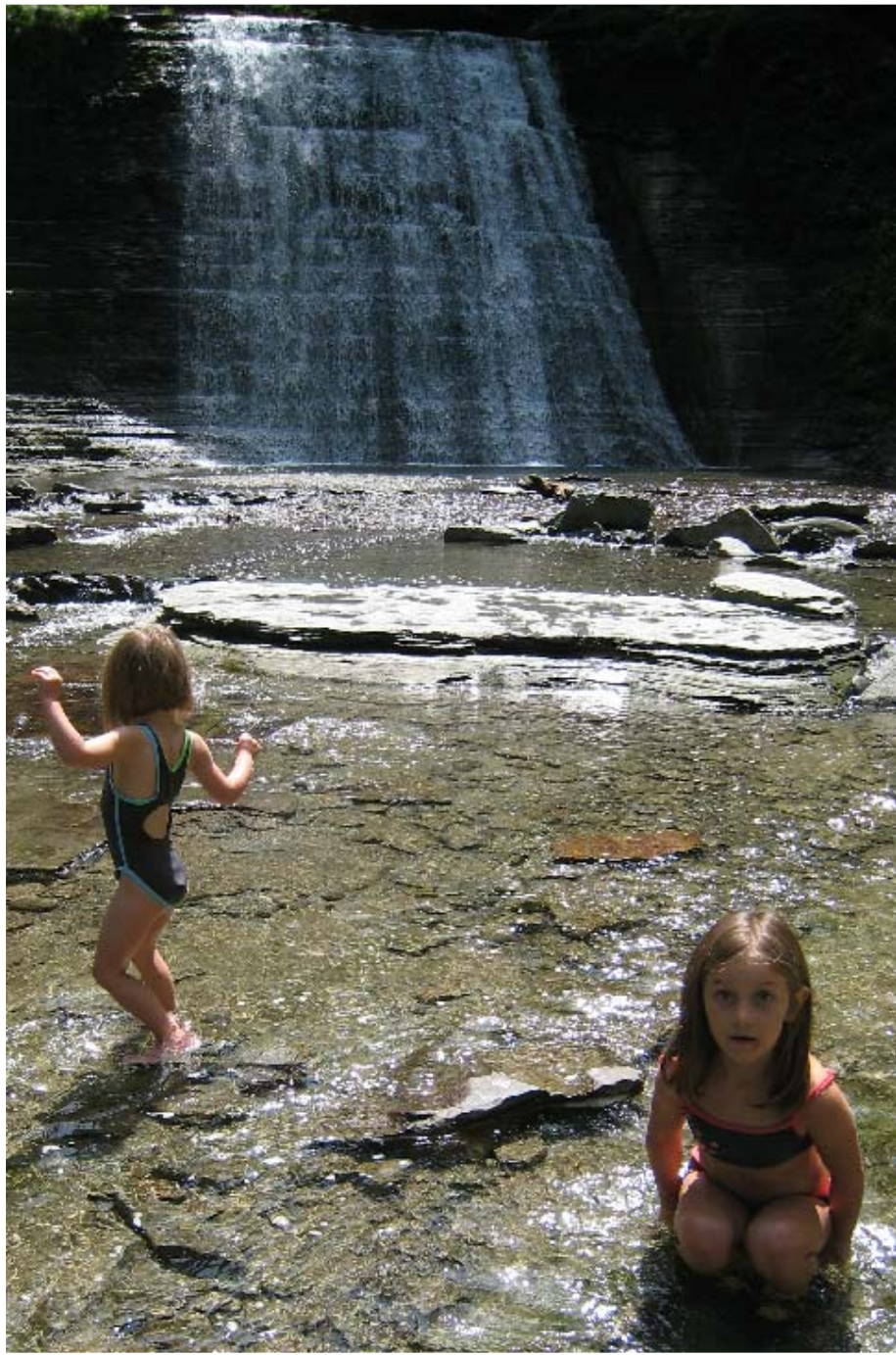
Ben and Edie came out of the water totally blue and threw on their sweatshirts.



Now that's what I call good wholesome fun.

Can you see the "nuts" in this picture?

There are more than 3



Took the girls creek-walking in Stony Brook Park. Still as gorgeous as it was when I was little! No, Edie is not peeing, she is showing me she can get into the water. The water was 56 degrees and the air temp wasn't above 70. Chilly. Bristol's body language says it all.



The creek bed is full of these naturally formed water slides. I even braved the freezing water to try it. Yup. Still totally fun!

MICHIGAN:

Our last stop before returning to China.
Aunt Janet and Uncle Garre totally spoiled
us with good food and fun things to do.



It seems as if the torch has been passed. The older, peskier child tends to gravitate towards Aunt Janet, while the littler, more sensitive one is stuck to Uncle Garre's side.





So the berries in GA were sweet and small. In MI the berries were sweet and absolutely **GIGANTIC!** The farm we went to was a **HOOT**. It is like an institution. People come every year from far away for these specific berries. There were little old ladies everywhere having interesting conversations with their awesome mid-western accents. We picked tons of berries and ate almost as many.

Yum yum yummy.



One of many chalk gardens we made.