



**Chicago**



**New Orleans**



**Boston**



**Chennai**



**Tampa Bay**

# 2014—FLEW BY IN A FLASH! MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS ROUND THE CORNER & ROUND  
THE WORLD.

ON THE EVE OF 2015, WE FIND THAT WE ARE HAPPY,  
HEALTHY AND REMAIN OH SO BLESSED.

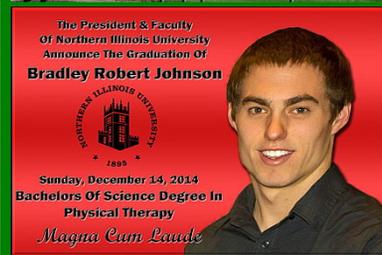
Newlyweds, Bryan & Sabrina moved to Boston this year, as part of a work rotation for Bryan. Shortly following, they were overjoyed to find out that Sabrina was pregnant with their first, due to be born in February 2015.

They announced the Happy News to all via a rather unique picture shown top left. Kathy is counting the days.

Speaking of Kathy, this Spring we bought a Florida condo for Her Highness in the same Siesta Key building sisters, Laurie & Jean have had units in for years. My Mom is but a few miles away on the Sarasota Mainland. It overlooks the Gulf Of Mexico and is a dream come true for both of us.

My only stipulation on the purchase, was that I was in complete command of all Condo decorations. Accordingly, our decorating theme is: Horses On The Beach in London. Picture 2nd & 3rd from the top shows our view and my first decorating masterstroke—a life size 8 foot tall fiberglass horse that I can wheel round the Condo at will. Kathy is still absolutely smoking over that touch.....

Early in the summer, Kathy insisted we buy shares in a pair of 2 year old racehorses, partnering with our friends Team Block. Both are sired by the great Fort Prado, and are good looking mules as you can see from the picture of them practicing breaking from the gate. They are known as “The Twins” as I quickly nicknamed them Russ & Pop after my Dad & Godfather.



They run under the ownership banner of “Princess Kathy Racing”. (A quite clever, and the only sure way, of extracting Racing money out of Kathy.) Russ won his 1st time out & Pop better get moving.

We remembered my Dad on the 10th anniversary of the beginning of his life with Christ, with the extended family meeting at Arlington Park and then his Gravesite. Hard to believe it is 10 years now.

Our Niece Jameson was married this year to her longtime Beau Lane in the idyllic setting of her backyard. Bryan & Sabrina flew in and we enjoyed being together and seeing our Jameson so happy!

Graduations abounded this year as Godson Scott, son of sister Jean and life long nemesis Steve, received a U of I Bachelors Degree in Aviation.

Our Sons Ben & Brad also graduated this December—Ben with a Masters in Educational Leadership from Concordia and Brad with a Bachelors Degree In Physical Therapy from NIU. Oh, we are proud!

Brad has applied for a Graduate School placement to pursue a DPT—Doctorate of Physical Therapy. When accepted, it would entail another 3 years of school so I guess the tuition hemorrhage has not yet abated.

All the boys are doing well, with Bryan married and Brett & Brad still dating wonderful girls—Mary with Brett & Tina with Brad. Ben still plays the field and has brought at least 4 babes round to the house this year, but hasn't found The One yet.

Kathy's cat Whirlaway still is the apple of her eye and the Great General Charley continues to lord over the pastures at Aunt Peg's Riverwoods Farm. Still a great champion.

**OUR WISH FOR YOU & YOURS FOR 2015 IS A  
YEAR OF FAITH, PEACE, LOVE, AND HOPE.**

**WE SEND OUR LOVE TO YOU ALL AND HOPE TO  
SEE YOU IN THE COMING YEAR.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS—CHRIST IS BORN!**

*Rick, Kathy, Bryan, Sabrina, Thor, Ben, Sean,  
Brett, Mary, Brad, Tina, Saurav, Whirlaway,  
Russ, Pop, & The Great General Charley*

# 2014 Year In Quotes



## “13 Cents On The Dollar??!!”

Rick explodes at the itemized statement of damages deducted from the security deposit from Brad’s NIU apartment. Apparently, roommate Sergio’s ironing of the living room carpet left several rather large, unreparable burn marks. Brad then quietly points out that a closer inspection of the bill reveals that I actually OWE 13 cents on the dollar.

## “No Mrs. Johnson, That’s Not Necessary....”

While signing the closing papers for the Princesses condo, Kathy is told that though her signature is required on the deed to the place, only Rick’s signature is required on the note to repay the mortgage. Pretty sweet, huh?

## “Do You Struggle Ethically With Horse Racing?”

Seated together at a wedding reception, a beloved family friend who is a Marine Biologist, is happily noshing away on her Sautéed Grouper. A species of fish, by the way, which is overharvested. She turns to me and asks if I have any ethical struggles with the humaneness of owning Racehorses. Looking at her & then her dinner plate, I say to myself, “Hey, we may race them – but we don’t EAT ‘em!”

## “Oh, Hey, I’m Moving Out Next Week...”

While chatting with Ben on the telephone, he suddenly remembers to tell us that he’s leased an apartment and will be moving out of the Family Home he’s resided in for 25 years in just a few days. Great, Ben, no problem – See Ya, You Know, Whenever!



## “Hi, Grandma & Grandpa!”

With tears in all our eyes, Bryan & Sabrina Skype Kathy & I to greet us with the news that they are expecting their first child.