

Welcome to an unusually welcoming house and neighborhood.

This house is a great house for growing a family, for engaging in careers and study, and for luxuriating in time for oneself.

Almost a half century ago, in 1972, my husband Kenneth and I moved here with our three children, an infant, a toddler, and a pre-schooler. Now, they return with their children (and grandchild!) and we all still delight in taking trikes out the basement onto the driveway, and going the short block down to the Memorial Field playground, as we've done for decades.

In 1974 I co-founded a statewide advocacy organization and it grew to have several employees "in house", at work stations in our sunroom, living room, and dining room, but this house still worked fine for our family and social life. (And the organization led the way for hundreds of legal decisions, policies, and local, state, and federal legislation, culminating in the New Jersey Smokefree Air Act in 2006.)

Now we've been retired for a long time and have created a garden that's been chosen for benefit "open days" for national and local organizations -- "entrée to America's best private gardens" -- and had a second career as garden lecturers, using Kenneth's photography. Over the last several years, approaching our 80s, and anticipating new owners, we've greatly reduced and simplified the garden, but it remains a far-above-average outdoor living area and setting for this lovely house.

This neighborhood has great activities and spirit.

This is a great neighborhood, with houses of varying ages, styles, and prices, so, a good mix. There's certainly a good neighborhood spirit, with an annual Easter egg hunt, a summertime BBQ in "our" block-long "tree park" (across the street from the houses behind us), and a caroling party with soups in one house, caroling through the neighborhood with jingle bells and sparklers (once even a piper), and then cocoa and cookies in another house afterwards. And, of course, from our deck, we can watch Summit's spectacular Independence Day fireworks.

If a neighbor has a power outage, extension cords run from other houses with power or a generator. During this pandemic, our neighbors have grocery shopped and run errands for us elders.

This house is an unusually livable, flexible, light-filled house, with many features, comforts, conveniences, even luxuries, usually found in more expensive houses.

The large, attached garage and walk-out basement, plus the decks and balcony we've added, provide convenience and scope. The living room not only flows out onto the decks, it has *seven* entrances to other rooms or outdoors, plus a pair of windows, yet it's easy to arrange, with a cozy area by the fireplace and room along the walls for more furniture. My sweet hubby especially appreciated the complete circular routes both upstairs and downstairs when he was walking a fussy baby.

We've "returned the favor" to the house by taking good care of it and making many improvements. We're especially proud and delighted to have increased the light and openness: we've added five windows, including a garden window and skylight; we've added two large glass sliding doors and another door onto the decks and balcony and have restored two previously closed-off original openings between rooms; and we added the pass-through.

Now, like many of our long-term neighbors, who came with young children and just stayed and stayed after the children fledged, we are finally moving out (to a continuing-care retirement community in Bucks County, Pennsylvania). We leave with gratitude for the joy of having this house as our home for most of our life.

For new owners:

We'll leave abundant information: a home manual that tells all about the house and systems and equipment (prepared because we've done home exchange vacations for decades, in England, especially the Cotswolds and Yorkshire, and in Scotland), garden maps, manufacturers' manuals for appliances and equipment, etc.

So, welcome to an unusually welcoming house and neighborhood!

Regina, with Kenneth

16 January 2021