



“There’s No Place like Home” in 2013

by Scott Lebin

PHOTO COURTESY GENEVA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

I realized after returning from Venice, Istanbul, Cairo, Alexandria, Ephesus, Mytilene, Rhodes and Athens that no matter how far I travel and no matter what the wonderful the history and scenery of many beautiful places in this world have to offer, there is as Dorothy would say, “No place like home.”

As the New Year begins, it is a good time to count our blessings and realize the wealth of what we have only a few blocks or miles from where we live. So often, we feel that the experiences we have will be better the farther we travel. We will have a better time the more we spend on vacation. What are the simple but truly great experiences we can have right at home?

As I was experiencing the wonderful gelato in Venice and Athens, I was aware of the best gelato made right here in Geneva at the Chef Roby’s All Chocolate Kitchen. There is no better Chocolate in Belgium or Europe than Graham’s fine Chocolates and Ice Cream creates also in Geneva.

It is also at our History Center where we can easily travel to see photographic exhibits, historical monologues, and take part in

many exciting experiences here in downtown Geneva. We have opportunities to view sports and watch the Kane County Cougars, ice skating at the Fox Valley Ice Arena, and visit the butterfly sanctuary at Peck Farm.

Most of these experiences can provide valuable family time at a fraction of the cost of traveling, whether it’s driving or flying to a distant location. The stress often caused by getting to a destination is also much less. If you don’t have to spend hours on the road or go through airports in order to get to your destination you can often spend more time enjoying the time allocated to your family vacation.

Financial planning incorporates some of the same principles that I have just discussed above. As we plan our finances we first decide on a goal. Planning our vacation means that we should first decide the purpose of our vacation time. If it is to spend quality time with our family, there are some very cost efficient ways of using the opportunities that are close to where we live. As we evaluate or vacation planning, in the same way that we evaluate our financial planning to provide

quality moments in our lifestyle and retirement, we will discover that doing things locally: attending the great Swedish Days Parade, taking carriage rides at Festival of the Vine, attending the Art Fair, and going to the lighting of the Geneva Christmas Tree and experiencing the Holiday House Walk are all events that can provide many quality moments with minimal cost and more quality family time throughout the year.

We may still want to plan for one vacation away from home a year, but we shouldn’t overlook the ability to have many mini vacations by changing our daily routines and exploring the many unique shops and events provided in our local community in the same way we explore areas when we travel far from home. Remember “There’s No Place like Geneva in 2013!!” ●

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