

MADISON

NEIGHBORS

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Meet the
Setten Family

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Meet the Setten Family

By Lisa Lelas • Photos by Shantel Berg

Adele Setten with family memories all around her; has lived in Madison for 50 years.

Adele and her late husband, Rich, first moved to New Jersey after immigrating from Montreal, Quebec. Rich was working on Wall Street when a friend told him about this quaint little town of Madison, Connecticut to check out. Adele was expecting her fifth child at the time and was longing for a beach house for a quiet place to relax. What started as a beach house rental turned into a house hunt and purchasing a home of their own by the water, eventually buying their forever home close to the Surf Club. After being part of the Madison community for the past 50 years, Adele Setten has witnessed many changes in town, including its growth and popularity.

Adele was born and raised in Ottawa, Ontario, the middle child of six. She attended nursing school in Kingston, Ontario and became a practicing nurse in Toronto. While in school in Kingston, she met her husband, Rich, who was attending RMC, a Canadian military academy. He later worked in finance and began working with American financial companies, like Merrill Lynch, who eventually offered him a position on Wall Street. They moved to the United States in 1970 and when they purchased their beach house in Madison in 1973, they spent every summer here. Adele took a nursing refresher course and practiced nursing at a doctor's office in New Jersey, while they started their family.

"When Rich retired in 1995," explains Adele, "we decided to move to Connecticut full time. Rich passed away in 2008 and I renovated the home after it suffered severe damage from Hurricane Irene. We also had a place in

Legend Hill for ten years but always kept our beach home. I also bought a place in Florida for the winters, but our main 'homestead' for my family will always be Madison. We love it here. All the kids and grandkids essentially grew up here. They are all attached. It's the place everyone comes home to."

Life in Madison was an adjustment at first for Adele. It was such a different lifestyle of peace and quiet by the shore. "When Rich and I joined the Winter Club life became more settled and connected. The club offered us a myriad of social events including dinner dances, day trips, bridge etc. I met so many wonderful people. To this day, I still play bridge and lunch with many of my friends from the club. Also, for many years, I was a member of the Madison Golf Club. St Margaret's Church is also very important to me. I was a Eucharist Minister and taught CCD to church school kids. Being a nurse, I was part of the parish health program taking B/P and TPR's. Parishioners seemed to like it!" Embracing the town on a social level was easy for Adele and her family, partly because Madison was very welcoming.

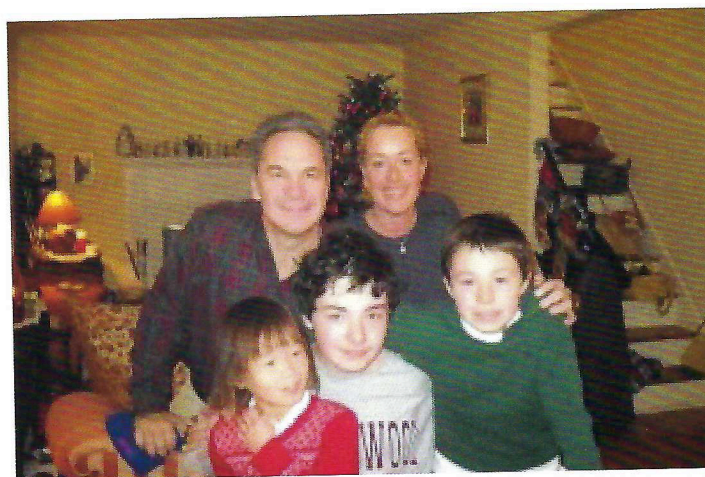
Adele has five children and 10 grandchildren. Oldest daughter, Julie Setten-Hicks resides in New Hope, PA. "My husband, David Hicks and I raised two sons, Ben and William, who both live in California now. David actually grew up here in Madison, where we first met. I am a retired teacher and enjoy traveling, reading, hiking, yoga, cooking and doing community volunteer work. Best thing about spending time in Madison is swimming in the Sound, walking to the rocks and having dinners with my family around the dining room table. I love that my sons are able to bond with their extended



Adele & her kids: (L-R) Michelle McCabe, Alec Setten, Adele, Julie Hicks & Jennifer Setten. *Missing from photo is son, Christopher.

family while visiting the family home in Madison, and I especially love hearing the sound of waves crashing along the shore through my bedroom window as I drift off to sleep at night!"

Son, Christopher is living in Ridgewood, NJ and working in wealth management as head of private strategies at UBS. He is widowed with three kids in their 20's, Drew, Charlie and Mariel. "Favorite memories for me in Madison include swimming out to Isaacs rock by our home, windsurfing and playing tennis. I love seeing my family and celebrating on our deck together."



Christopher Setten with late wife, Carol and their 3 kids: Mariel, Chris & Drew. *Photo courtesy of the Setten family.

Middle daughter, Jennifer, was a history major at Boston University and became an early elementary teacher as a career. She loves traveling the world, yoga, hiking and beachcombing by her home in Naples, FL. "My favorite thing about summers in Madison is swimming, chatting and reading by the water's edge all day long, meals on the deck, sunsets, outdoor showers, and long nights around the long mahogany table with roaring fires!"

Adele's son, Alec, was the first of her kids to be born in the United States. Alec and his wife, Lisa reside in Westport, CT with their two children, Phoebe and Anna. Alec is a music producer and enjoys fly fishing, skiing,

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(L-R) Phoebe, Seamus, Lisa, Adele, (behind) Alec, David, Julie, Jennifer, Michelle, Kieran (front) Anna & Turner with dogs, Scotty & Franchesca



Adele with grandkids, Anna, Seamus, Phoebe & Turner

and cooking when he's not at work. "Best memories for me in Madison was sailing, fishing and hanging out with my dad on weekends. Spending time with family and friends is priceless."

The youngest of Adele's kids is Michelle "Shelly" McCabe, who is a registered nurse, and lives in Norwell, MA with her husband, Kieran and their three children, Mills, Seamus and Turner. "Despite the impending threats of Hurricane Isabel 20 years ago, Kieran and I were married at St. George's Church in Guilford and hosted a 150-person reception at the Madison Beach Club. Even though we now live south of Boston with many beaches nearby, we consider Madison our beach. Our children enjoyed years of fun and discovery in the tide pools at the 'big rocks' near west wharf, collecting hermit crabs and moon jellies! Now that they are teens, they are more likely to be seen ordering pizza slices in town and enjoying Ashley's ice cream, or just hanging out with cousins. That's what the beach house means to us, a time to come "home" and connect. It's been the glue that keeps us all together. Growing up, we would spend our days walking and biking Middle Beach Road, enjoying sunsets on the deck and cooking family meals together to eat at the long dining room table that our parents had custom made over 50 years ago."

Adele smiles as she reflects on life in Madison, raising her family. "We loved the beach, hiking and golfing but quite honestly, we most enjoyed just relaxing at home, having bar-b-que dinners and cocktails on the beach with family and friends! I am so happy that now all of my grandkids want to come here too!"

Favorite places around town include Allegres, The Wharf at Madison Beach Hotel, RJ Julia's Booksellers and Grand Apizza. Adele was an active member of the Madison Historical Society, and she continues her involvement with her church.

"I'm pretty content at this stage of my life. I'm very thankful that I can still enjoy my time here in Madison and in Florida each winter. As far as the future, despite having been well traveled, I'd still like to visit the California Missions one day and travel down highway 1 to visit friends and family there. In the meantime, I'll just keep on keeping on! I have no plans to sell my beach home. It will go to my kids someday. It continues to bring us family joy and togetherness. Through glad times and sad times, we are always here. It's our heart. It's where we come. It's where we are. It's such a blessing."



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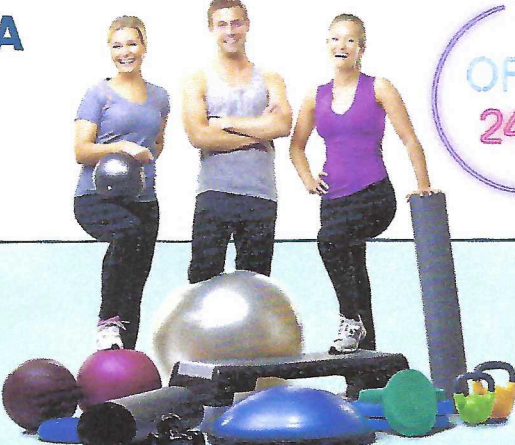
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