

Christmas, 2017

This has been a somewhat quieter year for us as compared to last year. No major medical problems this time. We did join about a half-million of our friends at the big protest in downtown Los Angeles after the inauguration in January. But aside from that, we've pretty much tried to ignore the current government train wreck.

Kathleen is still enjoying retirement, although she now has a part-time job at Vroman's book store. This gives her something to do, make a little money, and hang out with book people. Stan is still at the USGS, and he had to travel to the National Earthquake Center in Colorado twice this year to work with the software people there.

We had some good adventures this year. Back in the spring, Stan went to the National Science Teachers Association convention, and a lot of the booths there were about the total eclipse in August. After looking at the maps, we realized that Kathleen's brother Johnny's house in Salem, Oregon was right in the path of the eclipse. So that was our big trip this year. We went to Washington and Oregon, to Mt. St. Helens, Newberry Volcano, and we even got to visit the Sloth center, where we petted and hand-fed some sloths. The grand finale was at Johnny's house for the eclipse. It was pretty impressive, and now we know why people travel the world to see these things.

We also took a few trips to Las Vegas. One for the Stratosphere Tower stair climb in February, which was a special treat, since Stan and his old friend Gordon got to take a tour of the Nevada Nuclear Test Site. Another time was during the summer, when Kathleen got an invitation to a slot tournament, which made for a fun little weekend. And Stan played blackjack, turning \$500.00 into \$513.50. Kathleen took another trip there with her friend Zana to go to Cher's 70th birthday show, as well as the Billboard Music Awards.

We also got to see a couple of big-name Broadway shows this year. We saw "Fun Home," as well as "Hamilton," and we even went to see the parody show "Spamilton."

Stan helped host the Atlas Obscura San Andreas Fault tour again. He also got to take a tour of the former Rocketdyne Santa Susana Field Laboratory. This was where they built and tested the rocket engines for NASA in the '50s and '60s.

Stan's Sunday bike club ride visited a diverse set of LA landmarks, from the TV Hall of Fame, to some places in Hollywood that are notorious for being "Instagrammed to Death," to a tour of filming locations from "La La Land."

Probably the single biggest development this year was that Lucinda started college at UC Santa Cruz. This made for a nice little weekend trip to move her in there. Trinh has started a new line of work as a bartender this year, as well as continuing to pursue a career in event planning. Melissa took a volunteer medical trip to Vietnam, and is currently applying to graduate programs to become a Physician Assistant.

That's the quick recap of our year. Hope yours was good as well.