

Christmas, 2021

We are slowly getting back to normal-ish here this year. The year opened with the availability of vaccines for COVID, and we signed up as soon as we were able to. We even got boosters this fall, so we're about as prepared as we can be now.

The biggest stories are first that Stan retired from his job at the USGS in March of 2020. This was mostly in service of having time for the weekly trips to San Diego to see his father. Of course, then COVID came along, and the nursing home went into lockdown. Still, he was able to resume visiting in October, and then continued to go visit weekly until October, 2021, when his father passed away.

Before COVID, Kathleen had been working part-time at Vroman's bookstore in Pasadena, but she stopped doing that during the lockdown, and then later decided not to go back.

Through all of this, we managed to still do a few 'normal' things. We went to a talk at the Museum of Neon Art about making the monsters from "Ghostbusters", and we even went to the L.A. Car Show for the first time in decades. We also got our house repainted, as well as having it tented for termites. And we finally were able to start going out to dinner occasionally. Maybe as many as five times this year.

The kids are all having their own adventures now. Trinh spent some time traveling around the country before settling down in Athens Georgia. She has a house there with something like an acre of land in a forest. Melissa is living in San Diego and working as a Physician Assistant with an orthopedic surgical trauma group. Lucinda graduated from UC Santa Cruz, and is working as an art teacher in the Bay Area, and living in Oakland. She is also learning to tattoo.

Kathleen bought an E-bike in the summer of 2020, and she has been riding it a lot. Several thousand miles in fact. And of course, Stan still rides with the Sunday bike club group, going to see all manner of odd cultural sights around Los Angeles. He recently figured out how to access the Huell Howser archives at Chapman University, and his old shows are a treasure trove of obscure sights around California.

Sadly, we also had to say goodbye this year to our kitty Suzie and puppy Sadie. The house seems very empty right now.

We hope that you had a good year, and that next year will be even better.