

Christmas, 2022

Sorry for being a little late this year. Going to Hawaii in December just sort of threw our schedule off.

This year continued the trend back toward normal-ish again. We actually had some adventures this time.

The big event of the year was Stan's retirement party. Since COVID nixed plans for a party in 2020, we put one on this summer. We rented the Museum of Neon Art as the venue, had food catered, and so forth. It was great fun.

We went on a few trips. One to Las Vegas, one to Houston for Stan's 40-year college class reunion, and one to Hawaii. In Hawaii, we were accosted by a gang of feral chickens, hiked across lava, and saw sea turtles on the black sand beach. Sadly, the two volcanic eruptions in progress there stopped the day before we arrived.

Stan took one trip with his friend Gordon to New Mexico to go to the Trinity site, where the first atomic bomb was detonated. They had been talking about doing this since 1983, so it seemed appropriate. And Kathleen took a trip to Georgia to visit with Trinh at her new home in Athens.

We did two home improvements. One was new windows all around, which made the house much quieter and less drafty. The other was paying off the mortgage, which was less visible, but still very satisfying.

The kids are still having adventures. Lulu is now working as a tattoo artist, and she did one tattoo on Stan back in April. Both thought the experience was fun but also kind of surreal. Trinh is fortunate to work remotely from home, and continues to amaze with her baking and cake decorating skills. Melissa started a job as Physician Assistant with an orthopedic surgical group at Scripps Hospital in La Jolla.

Other random adventures included seeing all the James Bond cars at the Petersen museum, a baby sea otter at the aquarium, and the Nixon and Reagan libraries for exhibits about the Cold War and World War II. We went to see the John Waters Christmas show. Stan went to two tattoo conventions, did the U.S. Bank tower stair climb for the first time in years, and even got to fly in a vintage B-17 bomber.

Stan is still leading the Sunday morning bike club ride, visiting all manner of landmarks and historical oddities around L.A. Kathleen is still riding her bike all around, and she's nearly on a first-name basis with all the peacocks in Arcadia.