

Christmas, 2018

It's been another good year for us here, with a fair number of good adventures.

Stan was planning on retiring in September, but then we found out that the supervisor that he despises was being kicked upstairs, so it was no longer necessary to leave. So that's good. And aside from that, he also got a special award from the USGS for creating the Earthquake Notification Service, which apparently is now one of the most publicly visible products of the Earthquake Program. Kathleen is still at her half-time job at Vroman's bookstore. And we're all pretty content now.

Melissa did quite a bit of traveling, including trips to Uganda and Italy; then in August went off to Connecticut to start school at Sacred Heart University to be a Physician Assistant. Lucinda is in her second year at UC Santa Cruz. And over the summer, she got to go to Hawaii, and also Europe. Trinh is still working several jobs, and is doing more work in event planning, which is her ultimate goal. Trinh's False Hopes candle business is still going strong.

We had some good adventures this year. We saw the Museum of Failure twice, which was quite hilarious. We also took the Nasty Nellie Oleson tour of Hollywood, which was tremendously entertaining. And we got to see the Corpse Flower in bloom at the Huntington Library. Stan led the Atlas Obscura San Andreas Fault tour twice this year, including making a new set of signs to mark where the fault crosses Pallett Creek Road in Pearblossom. And Kathleen went to Las Vegas with Zana to see Cher.

Stan is still doing the Sunday bike club ride every week. Some of the sights we've been to see this year included the "Brady Bunch" house in Studio City, the mall that was Twin Pines Mall in "Back to the Future", and the streets in downtown L.A. where they were filming an episode of "Marvel's Agents of S.H.E.I.L.D."

Stan is still doing the skyscraper stair climbs in Los Angeles, and also the Stratosphere Tower in Las Vegas, where he also played some blackjack. Sadly, the card-counting gods did not smile this time, and \$500 turned into \$342.50. But it was still fun. And in the fall, he took a one-day class to learn the basics of bending glass tubes at the Museum of Neon Art.

One chance encounter with an email that Gmail had mistakenly put in the spam folder led to us getting to go see Eddie Izzard in a 99-seat theater in Hollywood. We also made several trips to San Diego to visit Stan's father, and we got to enjoy many, many fancy dinners at the Marine Room on the beach in La Jolla.