

Christmas, 2019

It's been a bit of a mixed bag this year.

The year started with the longest government shutdown in history, which was upsetting, but it also mean Stan had a lot of free time. So we got to go to the Reagan Library and the Norton Simon Museum. And he got together with other friends from the office to explore some abandoned gold mines, and to hike up Josephine Peak and Brown Mountain.

The big story of the year was Stan's father being sick. He had an abcessed tooth that ended up with six weeks in the hospital, and then having to move into the nursing facility at his place. So Stan spent a lot of time in San Diego and also has had to take over managing his father's affairs.

Melissa had her White Coat Ceremony, which is a major step in the Physician Assistant program. We took a trip to New York to go to this, and also to do some visiting. Highlights included getting to go sailing with Stan's best friend from high school, and to play tourist in New York, where we got to go to the Met, eat dim sum, take the NBC studio tour, and see old friends.

Other adventures this year included a lock picking class at an artisanal distillery in downtown Los Angeles. Also the gyoza eating contest in Little Tokyo, a Laurel and Hardy film festival in one of the historic theaters downtown, and the JPL open house. We took in two trips to Disneyland, a dog stunt show, and got to see Terry Fator at the Pechanga casino in Temecula. And we even got to see the Matthew Bourne production of "Swan Lake".

We also did a little bit of gambling this year. We were in Las Vegas in February for the Stratosphere Tower stair climb, and we also played a bit at Pechanga. Stan played blackjack and lost \$30 in Las Vegas, but won \$55 at Pechanga, so it's a win for the year.

Lucinda is in her third year at UC Santa Cruz. She spent last summer in Thailand, and is planning on studying abroad again next summer. Trinh's baking and cake decorating skills have really taken off, and she went to Toronto to compete in the Great Chocolate Showdown on Food Network Canada, which will begin airing in February.

We had a big bash for Stan's 60th birthday in November, which was a lot of fun.

Kathleen continues to work part-time at Vroman's Bookstore, and completed her goal of reading 48 books this year.