



So what happened this year?

The house got new siding and a new roof. Don refinished the stairs. Oh, and our daughter was married.

It was a lovely event and full of personality from the Jane Austen-themed bridal shower to the Norse mead ceremony in a Tudor mansion. Emma and Josh spent a magical honeymoon in the worlds of Harry Potter and Disney and have been married a whole month now!

James and his girlfriend Nina flew in from Los Angeles for the wedding, a very welcome third visit this year. James started 2014 working on the reality show "Bar Rescue," then moved to "Funniest Wins" with Marlon Wayans. He just wrapped on the Hallmark Channel's "Kitten Bowl" which doesn't sound like it needs a script, but it does! The kittens gave him Story Producer credit, an important next step in his career. We can't wait to find out what projects he'll be working on in 2015.

Stage and screen actor Don had a busy year. He sang in a Gershwin review, played Mr. Tisdale in the musical "9 to 5" and both directed and told tales for Ghost Stories in the Park. But the coolest thing was attending the premiere of "Precious Mettle" at the Gene Siskel Film Center. We got to see him on the big screen acting right alongside Paul Sorvino and Fiona Douriff and looking just like one of their own. Don loved the experience and hopes to have another film role soon.

Don and Kate did a little local touring this year, including the bluffs along the Mississippi River and historic Milwaukee for German Fest. Wisconsin people are really nice! And they make good beer, too. Don also got to try out a

Harley motorcycle, which is a bit different from the little scooter we use to get around town.

Unfortunately, traveling was curtailed quite a bit this year as Kate was literally hobbled by a knee issue. Starting with puzzled doctors in February, extensive testing ruled out the really bad stuff and Kate eventually had surgery in August. Many, many physical therapy sessions later, the knee is better, but still problematic. But there are still things a gal can do on one leg. Like dressing in pioneer costume to show children how to make rope. And helping her daughter plan a wedding.

With the wedding over, we don't see quite as much of Emma and Josh, but fortunately, they don't live too far away. Josh is still a software developer at Column Technologies and Emma is still an accompanist at Lyons Township High School. On the side, he writes apps and she gives piano lessons. Emma also was vocal director for "9 to 5," music director for "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" and got up on stage to tell Ghost Stories with her dad.

Our company, Sprocket Websites, keeps us a little busier than we'd like, but that's better than not being busy! We're growing and adding consultants which means learning new skills such as team management, a bit of a challenge for craftsmen used to being solopreneurs. But it is exciting to see what a bigger team can do.

And speaking of excitement, here comes 2015! Before it begins, we want to wish you an abundance of joy with your families and friends over the holidays and in the coming year. Sharing happy times with those we love is truly the most any of us can wish for.

*—Don and Kate*

