



Winter couldn't wait to punish us with snow and windchill this year, could it? It's been nice to look back on photos from warmer days!

James visited twice this year, which is unusual. As a Supervising Producer with the "Bar Rescue" TV show, he checked out Chicago bars on one trip and then filmed the "rescues" on a second trip. We got to see him work, which was fascinating, and we may even show up in the background on a show that airs in 2017.

In July, James and Nina were in town for a wedding so Kate celebrated her birthday with the whole gang. The next time we all get together will be in February in San Diego when James and Nina tie the knot.

Emma still loves her job with the Lyons Township choirs. She chaperoned the kids to Ireland over spring break and Josh went, too. She also served as music director for a couple of shows this year and has new piano students to teach.

Josh has a new job with a start-up company downtown. To make commuting to both of their jobs easier, they moved to an adorable vintage apartment in Westchester, IL over the summer. But the biggest news is their new dog, Bonnie, who joined the family in November. Everyone is still adjusting, but they love her to pieces.

Both Emma and Don have new responsibilities this year



as vice president and president, respectively, of the Summer Place Theatre. They're super pumped to start SPT's second half-century.

We continue to update the house and yard and unfortunately had to say goodbye to a favorite tree that couldn't survive the Ash Borers. Don used physics and muscles and now we have lots of firewood!

Kate and her mom dressed up in early 1920's costume to attend a tea at the Downton Abbey exhibit in the spring. Don dressed up in his tux to host the Independent Film awards in the fall. There may also have been some Ren Faire costuming in between...

The website business keeps chugging along. In fact, can you believe that January is our 20th anniversary?

When not busy with business, both Don and Kate try to spend time on other endeavors. The film Don was in, **Precious Mettle**, was released early in the year and is now available on Amazon. And Kate's working on a new book that hopefully will be finished in 2017.

We didn't do a lot of traveling this year, but hope to in February. We did however spend some lovely summer days visiting wineries, breweries and lighthouses around Traverse City, Michigan.

The New Year = New Opportunities for all of us. We wish you only the best opportunities in 2017!

— Kate and Don