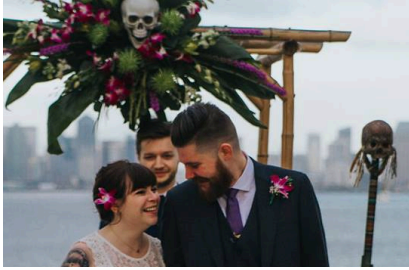


This past year started as a sprint and hasn't slowed much since. Work on the house continues, but we only managed to paint and put in new flooring upstairs before heading out to California for James and Nina's wedding.



We spent a week with them before the big day helping with last minute details, a wonderful opportunity since we don't get to visit often. James still travels as a producer for Bar Rescue and Nina recently started a new career with a local brewery, pursuing a long-held interest.

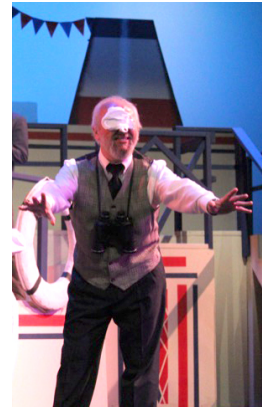
From LA we drove to San Diego to meet Kate's folks, Emma & Josh and the rest of the wedding party. The wedding was a tiki-themed and scripted tale of the grand romance between a pirate and a bar maid. Emma had a speaking role as Tangaroa, Demi-Goddess of the Seas, one of several characters in the adventure.



After the wedding, we went back to LA, down to New Mexico and across Texas. To fulfill a bucket list item for Kate, we camped on the beach at Padre Island and it was just perfect — until about midnight when a storm blew in, snapped a tent pole and nearly buried us in a dune.

We celebrated Mardi Gras with beads thrown from a golf cart parade in Port Aransas and then followed the bead trail to

Galveston and New Orleans over the next few days. As long as we were "in the neighborhood," we continued to Georgia to visit Don's mom before heading back home. Because Sprocket Websites is run from our laptop computers, we worked the whole time we traveled.



As Pres and Vice Pres on the Summer Place Theatre board, Emma and Don have had their hands full with managing as well as performing. Emma was music director for "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" and vocal director for "Anything Goes!" in which Don enjoyed hamming it up as millionaire Elijah Whitney.

Emma is now the accompanist for both campuses at Lyons Township High School. She also teaches music theory for

Spirito! choirs, serves as music director for local productions and accompanies students in music competitions. Josh is still enjoying his job at the start-up Label Insight and they're both having a ball with their fur-baby, Bonnie.



In addition to Summer Place, Don continues performing with the radio theatre group, conducted a ghost storytelling workshop, served as Master of Ceremonies for the Naperville Independent Film Festival for the tenth year and gave a couple of business seminars on social media.

Kate is still working on that next book and writing blog posts on marketing, local history and self-publishing. To get away from her desk, Kate went to a few author events, presented at a genealogy meeting and gave several history talks for the chamber of commerce.

As summer faded, we managed to squeeze in a few more days of travel: down to Carbondale for the eclipse, which was indescribably awesome, and up to Door County to hike beautiful forests and taste great local brews. Since then, we've been too busy, but our next escape is planned for February.



Looking back on the year, we're so grateful to be busy doing things we enjoy with the people we love. Our hope is to do even more next year and we wish the same for you. Here's to a wonderful 2018!

— Don and Kate