



What a super year it's been! Sure, every rose has thorns, but overall, 2018 has been grand for the Gingolds — and we hope it's been grand for you as well!

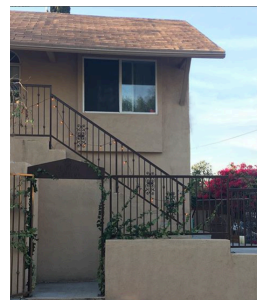
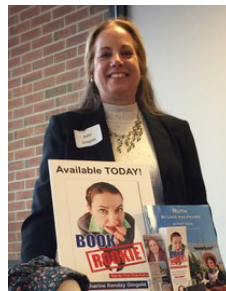
Don's still quite busy with Summer Place Theatre as president, producer, ghost stories host, parade-marching-organizer and more. He also continues to perform with the old time radio troupe and just finished a holiday show with a Joliet drama group. On the work side, Sprocket Websites is chugging along and Don was a presenter at the annual DNN Software conference in Denver.

Kate spends lots of time writing — for Sprocket, for Sprocket's clients, for Summer Place and for herself. She is delighted to announce a new book published this year titled "Book Rookie: Tips for First-Time Authors" which debuted at a local author fair.

Kate also donned her settler's costume for a chat with a fourth grade classroom who read "Ruth by Lake and Prairie" and invited her to visit. The next book is already in the works and Don keeps reminding her to get back at it!

New places and experiences are always on our list of favorite things and we rented a condo in Panama City, Florida for a few weeks during February. We loved working for a while, walking the beach for a while and then watching the sunset with cocktails from our balcony. We also spent some time in Naples and Marco Island, with perfect weather everywhere. We enjoyed some shorter trips as well including an Illinois "history hunt" set up by Emma and James and a visit to Starved Rock State Park.

In September, we drove out to California to visit James and Nina. They have moved out of downtown Los Angeles and into a small house in Lincoln Heights. You can look down at



Dodger Stadium from one side and over hills with grazing goats on the other. We enjoyed whale-watching, sight-seeing and bar-hopping while we visited.

James wrapped several years' worth of "Bar Rescue" in June, but first they took the show to Puerto Rico to help restore some hurricane-damaged businesses. Nina was able to join him for a couple days, which was a nice bonus. Nina's been busy with a women's brewing group she helped organize while James has taken up woodworking. He's built shelves and benches and has plans for lots more.

Emma and Josh visited there in July. They were joined by good friend Liz and everybody enjoyed camping in the mountains and touring vineyards. Josh moved to a new company this year for new challenges and Emma continues to teach music theory, serve as vocal director for local musical theatre and accompany the choirs at both Lyons high school campuses. She and Josh even chaperoned the choir on their Ireland tour again this spring.

At home, they enjoy being active with their dog, Bonnie, which includes two new kayaks and a pass to the county dog parks. Emma and Josh also trained for and successfully completed their first 5K this past November.

On the way home from visiting James and Nina, we drove up the Pacific Coast Highway, camped in the mountains, ate seafood on the piers, walked through redwood forests — and still there was so much we didn't have time to see! We look forward to spending more time with family, travel and the other things we love in 2019 and wish the same for you and yours!

— Don and Kate