



When we look back over the past year, of course there are bad days and sad days, but we choose to focus on the best days to share with you — and there were plenty!

Both Don's mom and Kate's mom celebrated milestone birthdays and Kate's folks also shared a milestone anniversary. We traveled to Tennessee to party with Don's family, while Kate's brother and his family came to Chicago from Australia to party with us. It was wonderful to hang out with family folk we don't get to see often enough.

Don also had a milestone birthday this year which we celebrated in Wisconsin. James and Nina flew in from California while Emma and Josh drove up from Westchester and we all spent the weekend together. One of the fun things we did was pilot a tiki-decorated pontoon boat around a lake. Yes, it was raining and yes, the anchor got stuck in the weeds, but we all had a blast partying on the tiki barge!

Emma still accompanies the Lyons High School choirs and serves as vocal/music director for several local theatre groups in addition to giving piano lessons. Josh just made a career change and is now working for RocketMiles. Josh and Emma celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary (can you believe it?) with a trip to Mexico. We're lucky they live close enough that we can see them fairly often.



James and Nina also had an exotic vacation - to Hawaii. James wrapped another season of "Bar Rescue" and is pitching the next while Nina continues to front the Indie-pendent Women's group at the brewery at which she works. For fun, James does woodworking and they both created costumes to attend LA's RenFaire. (We still go to the Wisconsin faire — in our costumes!)

Don played his first villain this year in "My Three Angels" and is still running Summer Place Theatre while appearing in radio plays and other local productions. He just finished a 1960's-themed holiday show doing his best Bing Crosby.

Kate's still working on that next book, but meanwhile, she gave a few history presentations and attended some author fairs. She also helped re-launch a local author marketing group.

Sprocket Websites continues to hum along. Don is part of the planning committee for February's DNN tech conference and will also teach a session. Kate plans to hang out in the nice hotel room and work on her book!

In 2019 we spent more time on home-improvement than traveling, but there's always next year! We have big plans and hope you do as well. Here's to the Roaring Twenties!

— Merry Christmas from
Don and Kate