



The past year was full of wonderful experiences for us and our family — the best kind of news to report!

We got a jump on the good stuff when Kate's brother, Keith, and his family traveled from Australia for Christmas of 2022. Kate's folks hosted lots of parties so we and our kids and brother Ken with his kids and grandkids could spend as much time as possible with the Aussies before they headed back and we headed south.



of theatre and technology because his interest is in interactive entertainment, along the lines of Imagineers at Disney. In that spirit, James runs an online role-playing game where we all get to hang out regularly.

Nina also took home a certificate this year, completing her associate's degree. She was accepted into the Cal State LA sociology bachelor's program and starts this semester. They also both work part-time and stay active by taking walks and playing with their pup, Mischief.

January was spent in Miami, February in Key Largo, and March in Panama City Beach. We loved walking the shore in Panama City Beach and enjoyed an awesome jungle backyard in Key Largo. We took Sprocket business with us but made sure to catch all the sunsets. Because we drove, we were able to stop and visit with Don's mom, brother, and sisters during the trip.



Emma continues to be the staff accompanist at Triton College and Fenton High School, in addition to teaching piano lessons at two music schools and at home. She also is the music director for several high school performances. For fun, she grows herbs, raspberries, and tomatoes and makes an incredible charcuterie board!

Josh was promoted to staff software engineer at Fivetran and, following an acquisition, was sent out to Amsterdam to learn the new operation. When home, he makes things with wood or with his digital printer.

We did a little exploring in the Midwest as well, including a Norwegian festival in Stoughton, the Epic campus near Madison, and Homecoming at Knox, of course. We also took in all the parades, fireworks, and concerts we could schedule!



Kate finally finished that book and Don published it in June. *Agatha Annotated* is doing well and Kate was invited to speak at next year's Christie Festival in Torquay! How exciting is that!



Josh's childhood cat crossed the rainbow bridge this year but they spend lots of time with their coon hound, Bonnie. In fact, they acquired a camping trailer to vacation together comfortably. Their big trip this year was out to the Grand Canyon, but they've explored local places, too.

Don was made an honorary board member at Summer Place Theatre, although he took a break from acting this year. In addition to publishing and marketing *Agatha Annotated*, he gave several presentations on website building for SCORE and other groups.



We still go to the Renaissance Faire every year and took our kids starting as babies. Both James and Emma know their way around a sewing machine and put together great costumes for their local Faires. While it would be nice if we all lived closer, it's fun when they check in from their different Faires!

In the spring, James was awarded a bachelor's degree from Webster University and was accepted into the California Institute of the Arts master's program. His studies are an integration



2024 is beckoning with more sunsets on the beach, family get-togethers, and a trip to England. So much to look forward to! We hope that your year will also be full of fun and adventure. Have a wonderful Christmas!

—Don and Kate

Don
SummerPlace honorary board member
Sprocket and Gnu

James
graduated Webster
started CALarts masters program
camping with Mischief
campus job in theatre department,
Pasadena City College and now
California Institute of the Arts

Kate
Book published
Christie festival
Mom and I went to tea
Summer squash
Author fairs, presentations

Nina
Finished certificate
Accepted in CSULA sociology program
Waitressing part-time

Kayaking in the ocean
Jungle backyard, chimnea
Paddle boarding
Em and Josh visited

Emma
Staff accompanist at Triton College and
Fenton High School
Piano teacher at 2 schools and at home
Musicals
Mean cheeseboard
Bought a trailer to camp with Bonnie
Went to Grand Canyon

Norwegian festival, Stoughton, WI
Concerts
Madison, Epic campus
Botanic Garden
Faire
Homecoming
Dubuque

Keith/Cath/Girls visited

Josh
Irman died
Promoted to staff software engineer at
Fivetrans
Amsterdam
Woodworking and digital printing