



It hardly seems like a year since we packed away the Christmas decorations. And that would be because we packed them up again in May after a basement flood. Many of the kids' paper crafts were casualties, an especially emotional event for Mom since there are no longer children living here.

Emma moved into her own place this past summer to be closer to where she works as the Lyons High School piano accompanist. "Ms. G" saw her first class graduate and is now enjoying her second year with new students and added responsibilities.

When not at the school, Emma gives piano lessons, plays for a church choir and for several musical theater groups. These extra jobs are helping to build her wedding fund. Long-time beau Josh popped the question this Fall and they are planning to be married in November of 2014.

James is pursuing his television career in LA. The world-traveling job ended earlier this year, but he still hits the road with his current project, "Bar Rescue" on Spike TV. He also logged his first network credits this year for ABC's "Splash." It's not "Citizen Kane" yet, but he's happy to be writing and editing stories.

Jamming our little car with belongings James couldn't fit in his U-Haul, we drove out to California in February. We really enjoyed the visit which included a fun day at Disneyland. James and his Dad also spent some quality "guy time" building shelves in the apartment for his TV and video games.

Running our business, Sprocket Websites, fills our days, but we also find time to enjoy more creative endeavors.

Kate continues to give presentations on local history and was thrilled to be quoted at the ceremony to install a bronze statue of Joseph Naper in the city this summer. With Don, she also coaches folks who are writing books and launching their own author careers.

Don got a speaking part in a film this summer, "Precious Mettle," working with Paul Sorvino ("Goodfellas") and Fiona Dourif. Working with these professional film actors was both exhilarating and terrifying. Very different from the community and radio theater gigs where he regularly performs.

In September, Don was super surprised, as well as honored, to win the Jocelyn Donkin award for his years volunteering with the Naperville Independent Film Festival. You should have seen his face when it was announced!

It's pretty quiet in the house now with the kids gone and us out and about. It seems that everyone is busy and we're grateful for any time we get to spend with our family and friends. We hope you're happily busy, too, but that we'll get together soon to catch up and swap stories.

We wish you health and happiness in 2014,

*Don and Kate, James and Emma*

