

First off, this has been a big year in good ways and bad. The good is that Kathleen was able to retire last summer, and she recommends it highly. The bad is that Stan developed a weird vision problem over the summer that ended with having neurosurgery at UCLA to remove a pituitary gland tumor. The tumor itself was benign, but skull surgery is kind of a big deal any day.

Still, we managed to have a lot of other good adventures. The only trips we took this year were two visits to Las Vegas. One to climb the Stratosphere Tower and one last summer just for fun. Stan played blackjack and managed to play the whole weekend, turning \$500 into \$500.50. We also went to see the gyoza-eating contest in Little Tokyo, and also the new Skyspace observation deck on the 70th floor of the U.S. Bank building. Kathleen even rode the glass slide they installed on the outside of the building. We also got to see John Waters, David Sedaris, Trevor Noah, Sandra Tsing Loh's new show, "The Madwoman in the Volvo", and even an Internet-cat-video festival.

Stan is still doing the stair climbing races, although he had to miss the U.S. Bank building climb in September since it was right after having surgery. Still, he managed to climb the 20-story Towerthon building in San Diego 19 times in two hours. And he even got to be on Australian TV in a segment on stair climbing for a show called "The Living Room".

We went on several tours with the LA Obscura Society, including visiting Animal Tracks, where we got to pet a kangaroo and Kathleen got to groom a baboon. And Stan and two others from the Seismo Lab hosted the Atlas Obscura San Andreas Fault tour again.

Stan is still doing the Sunday bike club ride every week, and they went to see sights all over the L.A. area, including the Space Shuttle fuel tank at the science museum, the location of the original Wrigley Field, and the Farmer John hog mural. One ride went to East L.A. on the weekend when part of the 101 freeway was closed. It was novel to see a freeway with no cars, and to ride a bike on it. That's the first time Stan rode on a freeway since riding 60mph drafting off a truck back in 1977.

In April, Kathleen got us tickets to go to Universal to see the new Harry Potter attraction. She got us the special VIP tickets, so we got a semi-private tour of the backlot, including a chance to get our picture on the front porch of the "Psycho" house, and to wander around the plane crash set from "War of the Worlds".

We had a new patio put in our back yard with nice paving stones. That will be nice when we get it all outfitted with a fire pit and furniture. We also got a fancy new refrigerator and a fancy new recliner couch.

Finally, Lucinda is a senior in high school now, and she's applying to colleges. She's looking at a wide range of schools, and we're interested to see where she ends up next year. And Trinh and Melissa are both working hard and are nicely self-supporting. So all around, things are good with the kids.