

Christmas, 2023

This year continued the trend back toward normal-ish again. And actually, quite a lot of things happened this year.

The year started with a new family member. We adopted an adorable Blue Heeler named Luna. She's cute and smart and just nice to have around.

We went on a few trips. The first was to Georgia for Trinh and Shiraz's wedding. It was held at their house in Athens, and it was quite nice. The USGS decided to hold a retirement party for everyone who retired during the pandemic, so Stan got to go to the USGS Western Region office for that. He also went to Texas for a week in July for the 30th anniversary of the Group With No Name, which is the social group that he set in motion back in 1993. And in November, Kathleen went to Las Vegas for BravoCon. She also signed up with the Red Cross to help people dealing with traumatic events like house fires and other bad things.

Another big deal this year involved fixing up our house. We got a new roof, new HVAC, and also got the garage renovated. The garage was a big deal, since it involved tearing down and rebuilding the back third of the building. But it's like having a whole new house. (More on that later...) We also bought a little neon artwork to brighten up the house.

Random other adventures included Stan getting to meet Jerry Casale from DEVO at a wine tasting. Another adventure was where we got to pedal a little pedal-powered railcar on the rail line in Santa Paula. We went to performances by Eddie Izzard and David Sedaris, and Stan got to see the extremely obscure documentary "We Sold Our Souls for Rock-n-Roll" at the Academy museum in Los Angeles. He did the US Bank tower stair climb, and had a party to celebrate 50 years since he started cycling. And he also bought an "Earthshaker" pinball machine, which is all about Los Angeles and earthquakes.

The kids are still having adventures. Trinh and Melissa are still in their same jobs, while Lucinda started grad school to become an art therapist, and she also took a trip to Hong Kong.

The single biggest event was buying a vacation house at Lake Arrowhead. It's in the woods in the mountains, and it's twice the size of our house here. Now the whole family can use it for weekend getaways, while we use it for "weekend" getaways during the week. Of course, having two houses means we need a second car, so Stan did one completely frivolous thing and bought a burgundy red Camaro SS convertible. So now he's retired in style.

And that's the story of our 2023. We hope yours was good as well.