



As 2022 comes to a close, it is the time of the year that I start to chastise myself for forgetting, again, to take notes at least quarterly on what happened to make this recap easier. Oh well, one of these years... maybe!

I'm going to start with last December (2021) when the girls, my sister LouAnne, and I flew to London where my niece joined us from Glasgow where she was studying at the University of Glasgow for her Masters. We had a fantastic 9 night adventure in London where we stayed in a new area (for us) over in the Canary Wharf area. We really enjoyed being close to so many different types of public transportation and the area. It was another great visit to one of our favorite cities and it was Rebecca's first visit there. We managed to fit in a few new experiences as well as some favorites. We then all flew to Glasgow to spend a few days, including Christmas, and see Rebecca's flat and school. After a few days exploring Glasgow, the five of us jumped onto the train and headed off for five nights in Edinburgh where we stayed in view of the castle. It was a fantastic end to the trip even though Scotland ended up canceling the traditional Hogmanay due to the rising covid cases that year. We left Rebecca on New Year's Eve to catch a train back to Glasgow while we flew back to London and then on to San Francisco. It was a fantastic trip and all the more special to spend with my sister and niece.

I'm still loving retirement and find that I do not have a problem filling my days. I have noticed that while we used to always go and be gone on the weekends it became such a habit to stay home over the last few years that it takes more intent to go somewhere. It's hard to believe that we will have been in our house in Templeton for six years come May. I'm so glad we were able to buy it when we did because we love the area and our house. The girls still call me tag along as I travel with them whenever they do go somewhere, although that is less over the last year or so!

Christine is in year two of administration and is still loving it. Every day is different, even when it looks like it should be the same. Last year as an Assistant Principal she joked that the universe was trying to teach her everything in one year. This year, she has learned even more...

Elizabeth has been working at Cal Poly for 18 years now. She is currently able to continue to work remotely a few days a week. She can retire at 55 but Christine wants her to work longer so they retire closer together! That's always a funny conversation.

We've managed to have a few trips this year. In February, Elizabeth and I spent almost two weeks in Capitola where we combined some relaxation with Elizabeth working remotely from there. It was a great trip. Christine was going to drive up for a long weekend but she had friends come into town and instead had a great weekend visiting with them enjoying some of the best of

Paso Robles. In March, we combined a bridal shower for our chosen family Mackenzie with a wine weekend to Buellton/Santa Ynez/Los Olivos. That was a great weekend with family and then enjoying good food and wine. In April, we drove to Las Vegas to enjoy a resort for the week. I don't know if we will ever drive again to Las Vegas, it was a long boring drive but it was nice to have a car. We also stayed off the strip and I don't know if we will do that again either! Christine flew home a day early to be back at work and Elizabeth and I drove to Anaheim for her work conference and then returned home about 5 days later. In May, we drove down and back in a day to Newbury Park for Christine's godson West's first holy communion. We would have loved to have stayed longer but we had a rescheduled event on Saturday from the year before and Christine had the first day of AP testing on Monday.

June was a busy month with Mackenzie and Dan's wedding and a fun weekend in Santa Ynez/Los Olivos filled with friends, family, food, and wine. That was followed pretty closely with the end of the school year for Christine, a 10 day Alaskan cruise out of San Francisco that was amazing and an extra day in San Francisco to attend a Giants day game. In August, we headed to Cambria for a weekend to enjoy Moonstone Beach and one of our favorite restaurants there called the Sea Chest. We had a fantastic day in Cambria and ended the afternoon/evening taking part in the fun tradition of tailgating in line at the Sea Chest complete with wine, chairs, and appetizers. Dinner was fantastic as always and we stayed in a hotel right next door so the walk back was easy. In October, we had a fun weekend with friends of Christine's from her CTA days from down south. They love wine and food the way we do and we always have fun when they come. We have plans to see them in February for a long weekend and are looking forward to it!

In November, Christine drove Elizabeth and I to the airport to see us off for an almost three week adventure that had us gone for most of the month. We flew to London, took the train to Southampton, and then we were off on the P.O. Iona for a two week cruise to Portugal, Spain, and the Canary Islands. Neither of us had been to Portugal or the Canary Islands so there were lots of first places to visit on the trip. Our ship also had a gin distillery on it and we were lucky enough to get to participate in the distilling experience which meant we got to distill our own gin to bring back. The trip was fantastic and ended with a few days in London. Christine drove up to SFO to pick us up when we got back. We have been mostly homebound as the girls have been sick for a bit as Christine brought home influenza A a few weeks ago and then ended up with pneumonia. I stayed healthy but was definitely tired after taking care of both of them!

Christine and I are off for a cruise in just a few days and Elizabeth is looking forward to having the house to herself. I'm looking forward to relaxing and having someone else take care of me for the next 10 days when we get on the ship!

We are looking forward to a happy and healthy 2023! Wishing all the same to you and your families.

GearyEllen, Christine, and Elizabeth