

It's been a busy year for all of us. Beginning of the year saw us all employed and relatively stable. Cheryl was still with United Airlines busy with recruiting and also managing a team of recruiters. Ryan and Lauren were also at United with Lauren managing a payroll team and Ryan in their mobile app development team. I was with the restaurant in a pseudo-ownership role.

And now ....

Cheryl is still much the same and is doing a lot of travel as she has responsibility for pilot recruiting and there is a lot of that going on. Most of the interviews are in Denver so she has been up there a lot this year. She was given a significant pay increase a few months ago which was long overdue and there should also be a sizable profit share early next year which will be welcome! The airline seems to have finally turned the corner and the low fuel prices make a big difference. Cheryl still enjoys the job and has a great relationship with her boss.

Ryan left United in June and joined Baker Hughes as an IT Lead; a very big oil and gas services company in their eCommerce Department. He has really enjoyed the new challenge of learning a different industry and of course the significant budgets available for his sort of work. However recently the company was acquired by Halliburton and so there is an uncertain future. Meanwhile he has continued with his partnership in the game development company, ShinyBox, and that has done very well with the release of Dungeon Quest apparently a very popular game. The company has now expanded into development of apps for businesses and so Ryan's experience is proving useful. Of course the big news for Ryan and Meredith was the birth of Edward Kent on September 27th arriving at 10lbs 2oz and 22 ½ins tall. He is doing very well and so are Mum and Dad. Meredith has been on maternity leave since the birth and will go back to teaching in January.

Lauren left United Airlines in August and joined Insperty - a very large group that is headquartered in our suburb. They offer outsourced HR services and she will be working with a new division that is offering payroll services – she will support their larger clients. She and Donovan bought their first house in July in a suburb about 5 minutes from us. It's a great house and they seem very happy. Donovan completed his Bachelor's degree and is now a Physical Therapist with his own personal training business. He has also been lecturing at the local Community College.

I started the year at Café du Bois but that came to an end in August after a serious disagreement with my new partner who was given the restaurant by the former owner (my ownership stake was never formalized owing to his IRS issues). Since then I have been keeping busy with selling advertising for a local glossy magazine and also some consulting work for small business. I have also just started driving for Uber which is a very interesting concept and may turn into quite a lucrative sideline. I have one more year as a director of the Chamber of Commerce and am still involved with the Lions Club and community associations. I had a silly fall from a ladder earlier in the year but am almost fully recovered from that.

Two travel highlights for the year. In June our niece, her husband and his parents came to visit from SA and UK respectively. As a part of that we rented a villa in Cancun, Mexico and went down there with some of our local friends – a total of 10. It was a fabulous trip and we had a huge amount of fun.

Then in August we went to Bristol for a reunion with 100+ folk from Luanshya, Zambia where we were brought up. It was amazing to see people we hadn't seen in 50 years and

spend the evening with them.

Unfortunately, Cheryl's elderly brother, Ron Steyn, who lives in Johannesburg, fell at the end of October. He refused to go to the doctor for 13 days and when he finally did, was diagnosed with a broken hip. As his general health is bad, Cheryl flew to South Africa on Thanksgiving evening and spent 9 days with the family. Ron is now in rehab but still not strong enough to go home.