

Another busy year for the family....

Big news was the arrival of Elliott Grace Schreiber in September! She arrived a couple of weeks early which surprised all of us but she has continued to grow and develop as expected so all is well. She checked in at 6lbs 8oz and will be known as Ellie so we now have cousins Eddie and Ellie growing up together. Ellie even took a 1,500 mile road trip to Nashville a few weeks ago – this girl is going to be movin' and shakin'. Lauren took 3 months leave to look after Ellie and at the beginning of December went back to her job at Insperity where she handles payroll support for their customers. She has now adjusted to looking after other companies' payrolls rather than doing her own company's. Donovan is now teaching Physical Therapy at the local community college two evenings a week and is also a full-time teacher with a local middle school dealing with Special Needs children. They are both still very active in their Church.

Ryan and Meredith are still working for the same people but Meredith has moved from teaching into working for the school district doing curriculum planning and now seems to be enjoying it.

Eddie is growing in leaps and bounds and is an absolute delight. They recently found an issue with his ears so he had an op on Thursday to put in some tubes (grommets) that will fix it. He was having some hearing and balancing troubles. Ryan is still with Baker Hughes and has survived several rounds of layoffs in the company, including his boss and his boss's boss! The game development company that he is a partner in, Shiny Box, is also still going strong.

Cheryl's long time boss at United retired earlier this year and that caused some reorganizing but it seems to have settled down again. She celebrated 15 years with United in October. She is very busy and there is no relief in sight as they have massive hiring loads coming up next year. She has been travelling regularly to Chicago and Denver – despite the weather challenges at this time of the year – and spends many hours at home on her laptop. She also works with international stations so has early morning and late night business with Europe and Asia Pacific. She may be off to Guam in January and I might tag along for the ride.

Cheryl was in UK for a week in May to spend time with her cousin, Bev Brown from Cape Town. They toured London and surrounding areas. It was Bev's first visit to London – so much fun! After leaving Bev, Cheryl spent a great weekend, as always, with her nephew Warren, Jen, and their children James and Emily!

Café du Bois finally closed in February as the new owner wasn't able to build on the progress we had made. Sad but inevitable which is why I jumped ship last year. A new owner took over but decided to abandon it after understanding the effort required to run a full service restaurant so it remains closed and empty right now. I have continued my work running the 5 major events in our community park - we were able to sign up a major sponsor for 3 of them last year and they are continuing for 2016. I also signed a contract with the Community Association that owns the park to manage the facilities and also the rentals by other event organizers. It provides some retirement income and keeps me busy. In March I celebrated my 70th birthday and had a wonderful dinner cruise out of Galveston with family and friends.

The highlight of our year was a trip to India in July. We were invited to the wedding of a very good friend of Laurens and had a wonderful time. Another rushed trip of course as it takes a day to get there and a day back but we were able to spend a few days in

Southern India where the wedding was held and on the way back Cheryl had a meeting in their Delhi office so we made a side trip to the Taj Mahal. Our wedding hosts were amazing and we really enjoyed understanding many of the rituals and traditions we experienced.

Coming up we have our niece Karen and her hubby Darren arriving from Pretoria next week for a short stay and then we are hoping to be in UK in March for a friend's daughters wedding. Also a cruise planned with family and friends in June.