

Well, 2014 was a busy and eventful year at the Obrin house.

Debbie is staying busy with her scrapbooking. She works in the digital domain, using Photoshop to combine our snapshot in creative ways, and then printing the pages (at a print service) to produce a physical album. She has completed an album for our niece's wedding, and has a project in the works for our cruise in September.

Ah, yes, the cruise in September. Debbie and Joe spent two whole weeks aboard Disney's wonderful ship, the Wonder. This is one of their older ships (about 15 years old now), but it is still beautiful and exciting. The cruise was especially exciting, since we were in the Pacific during both Hurricane Odile and Hurricane Polo. Odile was a particularly wicked storm, the worse to hit the Baja peninsula since 1967. The Wonder was originally scheduled to make port in Cabo San Lucas at about the same time that Odile hit there.

Fortunately, for us, this only meant that we would not make port in either Cabo San Lucas or Puerto Vallarta. It was disappointing, but we had both been to those ports on previous trips. The days we would have spent in those ports were replaced with days at sea. But, with a 1000 seat live theater, a movie theater, 5 restaurants and 6 night clubs, the Wonder offered a lot of things to pass the time. The array of entertainment was amazing, ranging from jugglers, magicians, and a hypnotist to live musical productions and first run and classic movies.

The highlight of the trip was still the passage through the Panama Canal, which was not effected by the stormy weather. On the week leading up to the canal passage, Disney had an expert on the canal (a former canal pilot) give a series of mid day talks in one of the theaters. We caught many of them, and learned a lot about the canals history, technology, and operations. The canal was truly something you should see once in a life time.

After 10 days at sea, we finally got off the ship in Cartagena, Columbia. We had a nice tour of this city (which we have never seen before), then spent two more days at sea before going ashore in Cozumel, Mexico. Again, we had a nice tour, another day at sea, and finished the trip at Port Canaveral, Florida (having departed two weeks before from San Diego).

The next cruise? In May of 2015, Debbie and Joe are cruising to Alaska on a "members only" DVC cruise. We will again be on the Disney Wonder, which is

the ship that we have spent the most time aboard. We look forward to being aboard the beautiful ship once again, and to adventures in a distant place we have never seen.

There is another big trip coming up in 2015. For the first time in over 5 years, Debbie and Joe will be back at Walt Disney World! The trip is scheduled for February. It is not clear if Nick will make it or not, because he may be in the middle of adjusting to his first post college job. But, we will again be traveling with our good friend Darla, her daughter Jolynne, Jolynne's husband Zach, and their two kids Bella (6) and Zach (2). We are looking forward to spending time with friends, and seeing what has changed in the "world" in the last 5 years, as well as revisiting all of our old favorites.

2014 was a pretty relaxed year for Four Point OH Consulting, Joe's small business. 2015 is already looking to be much busier. "Time is money". When consulting full time, you seem to have one or the other, but not both at once. So, the extra cash flow will be nice, but we have gotten a little spoiled, having had a lot of time to spend together.

Nick will be finishing his bachelor's degree from Metropolitan State University of Denver in December. This semester is pretty light, with only 3 classes left, and everything is on track.

He left Walgreen's in about the middle of the year to start a (paid) full time internship at the City and County of Denver. He started in the Youth Services area, then moved into Management Information Systems (MIS). Since his degree is in MIS, this has been a great opportunity to work in his chosen field. He is enjoying the work and adapting well. He is especially enjoying the chance to tinker with some of their data base designs. The internship has been extended until the end of December.

Omen and Chromaggus both went through some mobility problems this year, doing quite a bit of limping around. But, they are both recovered at this point. They are happy and frisky, and getting along well together.

Happy Holidays to all of you, and best wishes for 2015.

The Obrins  
Debbie, Joe, Nick, Chromaggus, and Omen