

This year at thee Obrin has been interesting. Some great times, and some bittersweet.

We continue to enjoy living at Del Webb Orlando. We are still involved with the Steppin' Out travel club and the photo club. We also participate in karaoke and trivia nights. We take great advantage of the pool, including their water aerobics classes. And, we have seen some great shows at the clubhouse. Plus, when nothing else is going on, you can usually find a party!

We also continue to enjoy the Disney speaker series. Our HOA occasionally brings a speaker to the clubhouse who had an interesting career at Disney.

In July and August, we took an 11 day cruise to the southern Caribbean. Most of these ports of call we had not visited before. We saw Aruba, Barbados, Saint Kits and St. John's. We also spent a great day at Castaway Cay, Disney's private island in the Bahamas. We were aboard the Disney Fantasy, Disney's largest ship. It is gorgeous, and the service was beyond compare. We were accompanied by our friends Ray and Sherry Nichols, whom we have cruised with before. After the cruise, they stayed with us in Davenport for a few days. Naturally, we made some trips to Disney World.

In 2020, we are cruising with Ray and Sherry again. This is a cruise to the Hawaiian islands, aboard the Disney Wonder. We have been waiting several years for Disney to go back to Hawaii. We are very excited. Before the cruise, we will be spending a few days at Aulani, the Disney Vacation Club property in Hawaii. Then, the cruise leaves Honolulu, and stops at four places around the islands. Then, it sails back to Vancouver.

Of course, we continue to enjoy Disney World. Up until September, we were going almost once a week. We have enjoyed the festivals—Food and Wine, Flower and Garden, and the Festival of the Arts. And right now, the parks are decorated for the Holidays. It is beautiful and festive. We have also enjoyed the opening of Star Wars Galaxy's Edge, the Star Wars themed land. In addition to the new stuff, and stuff that is new to us, we continue to be delighted by our old favorites. The Florida weather and living next to Disney World are probably the two best things about being here.

We have made three trips to gator parks around Central Florida. One of the parks we went to twice is really just a trip around some of the lakes in the area. But, we could see several gators and a lot of Florida natural wildlife. The other park has the gators in paddocks, and several other animal species as well.

We have also made trips to both Kennedy Space Center, and the Universal Orlando resort. Kennedy is something that everyone should see, especially if they grew up watching space missions on TV in the 60s. Universal is not as big, or as carefully designed, as Disney. But, the Harry Potter part of the park is very cool.

Nick has moved to Orlando! After working for a couple of years at Oracle Corporation in Colorado Springs, he saw an opportunity to transfer within Oracle to the Orlando office. He is doing exactly the same job he was doing in the springs (global support of enterprise wide servers) it is even in the same department! He has always wanted to live somewhere besides Colorado. Perhaps this is an opportunity for him to try that without being completely on his own. He lives about a half an hour from us. It is great to see him more often again, after living 1800 miles apart for a year.

Before his move, Nick visited us a couple times in Florida. We made it out to both Universal Orlando, and the Kennedy Space Flight Center I guess he just couldn't get enough.

On one of Nick's trips, he was accompanied by our good friend, Jolyne Bringhold. We made it to both Universal Orlando and Disney World.

Debbie's sister Pam, her daughter, and her granddaughter also visited us. We made it out to Disney's Magic Kingdom, and we visited the chain of lakes on a boat trip. It was a very pleasant visit.

We have made several bus trips with the Steppin' Out club to the Tampa area. We saw the Price Is Right roadshow. We also saw part of historic Tampa. And additionally, when Pam was here, we drove a car down to Tampa. She wanted to revisit some of the places she remembered. Several years ago, she lived in the Tampa area.

Omen is really doing great. He seems to adapted very well to the warm weather. And, he gets to see Nick's giant dog, Ramsey. Sometimes, when we are out of town, Omen stays with Nick and Ramsey. He thinks it's some kind of vacation. Because he has someone to play with, and gets to go to the dog park!

In October, we took a trip to Colorado. We went for our niece, Jackie's, wedding. But, we took the opportunity to visit friends and family that we had not seen for over a year. The wedding was in Pueblo. But, the first week we stayed with our friend, Darla Allard, in Denver. It was nice to see everybody again. It was a great trip, and the wedding was lovely.

In September, our year took a dark turn. Joe suffered a stroke. Initially, the effects were devastating. But, after a week in the hospital, and countless hours with doctors and physical therapists, recovery has begun. He has recovered much of his strength, flexibility, and balance. His eyes were also effected, but his cognitive and speech abilities were not. There is a long way to go. But as long as he can tell himself today is better than yesterday, he feels like he's on the mend.

Of course, it interfered with our Disney World visits. But, we have started to go back recently!

Happy Holidays to all of you, and best wishes for 2020. Wish Joe the best on his continuing recovery.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes For 2020 From The Obrins