



# **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**In Retrospect...** As we reflect upon another "evolving" year, we are Thankful for those special people who share their time with us....as we are richer for the experiences shared. This year has provided us new avenues of opportunities along with some enduring memories.

GARY continues as Team
Mentor and end-to-end
application developer for AT&T.
He's once again Chairman of the
Board for Central
Communications Credit Union.
Gardening was a challenge with
the 100+ temps this summer yet
we procured plenty of great
fruits, veggies and herbs for
friends and neighbors. Two vines
of grapes surfaced yet quickly
disappeared compliments of our
furry friends - We only wish

they'd share them and the corn with us occasionally!

JEANEL's most rewarding role this year entailed leveraging her Change Consultant skills to navigate her brother Jerry's year long transition from special needs community, where he was for 30+ years, to a full mainstream environment. He's the first in his program to attempt this challenge. One of Jerry's many achievements was learning to utilize an iPad and desktop

computers to send emails, do online banking, enter work time sheets, play games and manage his calendar online. Eleven months later: He's Happier, Healthier, and a more Self-Reliant and Integrated member of his Overland Park community. During her "spare time", Jeanel conducted a few consulting engagements, has continued mentoring some very special individuals and is now exploring publishing options for her book.

## Indiana Get Away

We spent a week at a cabin in a remote location near French Lick. While there, Gary's parents, brother Duane, and nephew Luke shared a couple of nights with us. Besides watching an old style baseball game (1864 rules), we also took a train ride and took day trips to several communities in the area including the town of Santa Claus.



The Cabin on the Hill



The indoor rotunda at West Baden Springs Hotel



Looking into the wishing well at the French Lick Resort

# Checking Out the World Around Us....

French Lick, Indiana

French Lick Resort
French Lick Winery
French Lick Scenic Railway
Monkey Hollow Winery
Santa Claus, IN
West Baden Springs Hotel
White River Baseball Club

Westin Crown Center Hotel
Sonya & Fred Hale Wedding

New Theatre Restaurant Social Security Spelling Bee

Kauffman Center for Performing Arts Aladdin Jim Brickman w/KC Symphony **Arrowhead Stadium**Baltimore vs KC Chiefs

**Sprint Center** 

Big 12 Basketball Tourney CBE Basketball Tourney NBA: Washington vs Miami

**Kauffman Stadium**Detroit vs KC Royals

CommunityAmerica Ballpark
Full Season: T-Bones

KC Restaurants (recommendations!)

Magnolia's Bistro Seasons 52 Room 39

Cancun, Mexico
Dinner Cruise
Isla Mujeres

## **Brother Jerry Moves!**

We, along with Jason, helped Jeanel's brother Jerry move to his dream apartment in February. First task was going through belongings accumulated at his old apartment of 13 years. We filled two apartment dumpsters over the course of several weeks work. The results have been wonderful. Jerry can walk not only to work, but also to several stores and his new church. In April he held an open house for family and friends. Over forty people fit snuggly inside the



apartment
and had a
wonderful
time. He
enjoys
spending time
at the exercise
room, heated

pool and clubhouse. Jerry's recognized throughout the complex and regularly attends gatherings and pool parties.

#### Oh...Oh...Down in Mexico

Our plans were to take our annual trip south with Woody & Maria Acosta & girls, and first time visitors Jerry & Patty Jackson. A midnight call before our morning flight let us know the Acosta's weren't coming. "The dog ate a passport" Google let us know they were not the only ones this has happened to! So with just four of us, we went and enjoyed a week of total relaxation. Well, except for that time we had to run several hundred feet in a



downpour to reach a "romantic" sunset cruise. As you can tell we sure had fun capturing the moment!

#### **Sprint Center - Sports**

Thanks to our friends Woody & Maria Acosta, Gary attended the NCAA Big 12 Basketball tournament, an NBA game, (we would have attended an NHL exhibition had there been a season this year!), and (with Jeanel) the CBE Basketball tournament.

# Kansas City T-Bones

For the first time in 8-years we took a break from hosting a T-Bones baseball player. However we enjoyed taking in many games and visiting regularly with our friends at the park. We also got to catch up with our last player, Keanon Simon, and his dad, when his new team took on the T-Bones in July.

# Re-Design In Motion

After much planning, Jeanel commenced the front landscape project. Out with the old, and in with the new! Featured is a rock "bubbler" in what resembles a fire pit. She also designed some metal art for the new wind chimes - both of which will accompany the bubbler in early April. Neighbors came by to say they liked the new look and are anxious to see the finished design. Oddly, none offered to help move any rocks!



# Garden Leprechaun?



garden is 3years old and
now has a new
"resident". In
April a door
appeared at the
front of the
garden.
Throughout the
year kids
enjoyed looking
inside, finding a
variety of
furniture, a
working TV,

some garden tools, and even some local sports stuff. They had the most fun in trying to find out just who lives there!

# In the Hearts of Those who Believe...

...it's Christmas everyday of the year.

To You & Yours...
A very Safe and Blessed
Holiday Season!

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