



# Merry Christmas!

*We are Thankful for those special people who share their time with us... as we are richer for the experiences shared.*



## Road Trip....Southbound

Jeanel, son Jason and brother Jerry took a trip south to visit our last T-Bones ballplayer Keanon Simon and his family in Oklahoma. They had a great time there and then continued on to Texas where they toured the The Sixth Floor (Kennedy) Museum & Southfork Ranch of "Dallas" fame ....two places Gary & Jeanel had visited last year. The threesome toured the Cowboy's stadium as it was being prepared to host the NCAA Sweet 16 basketball tourney. Words fail to describe the grandness of this stadium - which truly has no bad seat for its 80K fans. The players, cheerleaders and Jerry Jones - all have some pretty awesome spaces within that complex!



## Caroline Kennedy Visits Kansas City

Jeanel arranged for us spend an evening with Caroline Kennedy when she was in town speaking about her latest book, "Poems to Learn by Heart". As part of the event, we had an opportunity to say hello and have Caroline sign our copies. Above, Jeanel received a smile and thanks from Caroline as she shared a prayer card of Caroline's father that Jeanel's mom kept by her bedside for 35 years.



## Gary (aka Chef Gressel) --Slow cooker style

When Jeanel's good friend Bryan Engelman asked her to take on a consulting engagement with KCP&L, Gary decided it was time to start cooking again. He opted to focus on one cooking type - Slow cooker. His first entree was Maple apple chicken and he's now expanded to a variety of desserts (chocolate fudge, banana bread, carmel mocha's, & pecan pie), side dishes (corn, green beans, sweet potatoes, lettuce wraps), and main dishes (Cincinnati chili, Alaskan cod, stuffed steak, jambalaya). For Thanksgiving, he prepared three sides, a ham, a turkey (shown above before it was inducted into the cooker) and two desserts - all made over a 2 day period. He's also explored copycat recipes like Wendy's chili and Popeye's green beans. He's clearly traded his "Sparky" hat in for a Bistro Chef's hat!





### Gressel Reunion

Every three years Gary's family gets together for a reunion in Columbus Indiana. One day is spent at Ceraland, a semi-private park with shelters, pools, ponds, and miniature golf. While taking in some of park sites with cousins, a downpour started forcing us to take cover under a tree. Ten minutes later we were rescued by some of our nieces with umbrellas-- making our way back to the shelter where we could dry out! (Pictured above are our nephews & nieces outside Gary's parent's home.)

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

This year's annual Mexico trip was in Puerto Vallarta. We enjoyed the company of Jerry & Patty Jackson again this year along with the Acosta clan. Instead of a trivia contest, Jeanel found

herself in a dancing contest! She took second place for the women while Jerry Jackson took 1st place honors for the men. And yes, there is a video of these events available upon request. As always, the trip was an opportunity to jet away from the daily activities of life - have some great fun.. and... truly relax!

### Disc Golf

Many summer nights are spent walking in the park which resides across the street from our home.

The path we took this year went alongside several holes of a disc golf course that was always busy. Gary finally decided to buy a few discs and try it out. He found he liked playing a quick round in the early morning or late afternoon. In November he participated in his first tournament. He's officially ranked 91 in Kansas City - yet that's because there weren't many more participating in the tournament. None the less- he's hooked, and our backyard is now home to a disc golf target!

### Sporting Kansas City

After several years we finally attended our first MLS game at the amazing Sporting Park, which is just down the street from the T-Bones park. We absolutely understand why it's is considered one of the best soccer venues in the world. Oh, and did we forget



to say 2013 CHAMPIONSHIP team - Congrats Sporting KC!

### Garden 5.0

While there was plenty of kale, onions, basil, and carrots - it didn't quite make up for the lack of tomatoes, broccoli, or grapes. But there is always next year! Our famous garden leprechaun made another appearance, changing his home decor just a bit.

### Remembering Elsie

Jason's grandmother Elsie passed away December 3rd. Just four weeks earlier Jason & Jeanel helped her celebrate her 93rd Birthday. She was a treasure...and will be missed!

### Gary's High School

While visiting family over Thanksgiving, we watched Gary's old high school, Columbus East, play for the football championship at the Colts' stadium in Indianapolis.

Had a blast as we watched them win the game 28-27.

### Concerts, Shows, Events

Thanks to good friends Mark & Rozanna Krull we saw the the Chiefs vs Raiders game, the Zac Brown Band, and The Eagles concerts.

Thanks to good friends Woody & Maria, Gary took in the NCAA Men's Basketball regional, the Big 12 tournament, and the NBA's Miami Heat exhibition game. Kansas City has become the Heat's second home.

### New Theatre Restaurant

This year we saw one of the best shows there - The Buddy Holly Story". We also saw Marion Ross in "The Game's Afoot".

### Gary's Time...

Gary continues his work at AT&T and volunteering on the Board of Directors at Central Communications Credit Union.

### Jeanel's Time...

Jeanel is enjoying her new consulting engagement along with her other projects. She has a new appreciation for weekends!



## Destin, Florida



Just after Labor Day we took our first trip to Destin, Florida, with Jeanel's brother Jerry, and Gary's parents and brother Duane. We spent a week in a timeshare unit that was recommended by friends Tony & Mary. A nearby fish market ensured we had some wonderful meals. We also enjoyed some local dining -McGuire's Irish Pub and The Back Porch. McGuire's had an eighteen cent Senate Bean Soup that was incredible. Gary opted for their "Terribles", a hot fudge hamburger which would have been perfect if the ice cream hadn't

melted before it got to the table. Oh well. Gary did some parasailing with both Duane and Jerry. We spent one morning on on a pontoon boat - doing a little tubing and charting around the Choctawhatchee Bay. There were many places in the bay that were waist deep, allowing us to do a little swimming and have a little fun in the water!



## Merry Christmas

In the Hearts of Those who Believe...

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

To You & Yours...

A very Safe and Blessed Holiday Season!