

# THE KAVANAGH GAZETTE

Volume 25

December 2018

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Welcome to the 2018 edition of *The Kavanagh Gazette*. The purpose of this newsletter is to give you an update on the family out here in Oregon.

## 2018 Has Been a Great Year!

2018 was another busy year in the Kavanagh household. Compare with 2017, it was a very good year! In this issue of the Gazette you will get a brief highlights that include:

A quick rundown is

- A 2.5 week trip to the UK as part of a Church Choir Tour
- Dylan (dog) and Nori (cat) have settled in very nicely in the family
- Cyn had a scare with a 2 overnight stay in the hospital
- A few other odds and ends...



Top: Interior of Worcester Cathedral  
Middle: Windsor Castle  
Bottom: Hogwarts Express at WB HP Studios

## Worcester & London

The big trip of the year was traveling with the St. Paul's Trinity choir to England, with a slightly extended stay. This turned out to be a great trip for not just the Kavanagh's, but for the entire choir.

The first week was spent in Worcester, about 30 miles south of Birmingham. The Trinity Choir became the resident choir at Worcester Cathedral for one full week. This involved singing 6 Evensong services, and at the Sunday Eucharist service. This was a lot of singing, with challenging works. There were many long rehearsals before the trip, and even more before each service.

While in Worcester, Mark had arranged a steam train trip on the Severn Valley Railway. Mark thought he would barely get enough folks for a group fare, it turned out 26 people went (just over half of all the choir trip participants). As part of the choir tour, we had a day trip to Wales (Cardiff) and a half-day trip to Birmingham/Coventry. Coventry Cathedral was very moving, even though we did not sing there.

The second week the choir was in London. The choir had a concert at Southwark Cathedral to a SRO crowd. There was a day trip to Cambridge touring the collegiate city, as well as punting (boating) on the Cam, which was very enjoyable. Another day trip was made to Windsor, Salisbury and Stonehenge. Mark & Cyn only did the Windsor portion as they had visited the other sites many years ago. One optional night activity was seeing the West End show of Kinky Boots. This was a fantastic show to see in London!. The final day of the choir portion of the trip was a day trip to Canterbury with a concert at the Cathedral. Singing in that space was very uplifting and spiritual.

After the choir left for home, Mark and Cyn still had a few more days in London. They visited the Royal Mail museum with the Mail Rail ride. Very worth the visit to ride in tiny trains under London to see how mail moved under the city. Also spent time at the Churchill War Rooms. Another great museum

Mark's favorite side trip was to the London Transport Museum Acton Depot for their Cab It! Tour. A small group were brought around the shop to sit in and learn more about all the various tube stock. It was a subways geeks' dream...

One day Mark and Cyn did separate tours. Cyn went on a full day Downton Abbey Tour. Mark did a self led day tour of the London Transport system. Both had a great time.

The final day in London was spent at Warner Bros. Studios Harry Potter Tour. If you are a HP movie fan, you MUST go here. Seeing sets, props and costumes from the movies was fantastic. The day ended at the last hotel of the trip, the Renaissance St. Pancras. The room was in the Chambers Wing overlooking the Eurostar train terminal. The room included access to the lounge with free drinks and food. Also Cyn got a surprise, a hotel attendant came in and drew her a scented bath. She felt very special!

Overall the trip worked out great and the had a lot of fun! There are many photos on Facebook for viewing...

The big trip for 2019 will be to Australia which includes a cruise to New Zealand. This is to celebrate Mark & Cyn's 30th wedding anniversary in March. They will be gone for 23 days. A summary will be next year's Gazette.

## KAVANAGH FAMILY E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Mark: [subwaymark@gmail.com](mailto:subwaymark@gmail.com)  
Cynthia: [moonwind37@gmail.com](mailto:moonwind37@gmail.com)

### HOME ADDRESS:

865 D STREET NE  
SALEM, OR 97301

PHONE: 503-399-7508

### FAMILY & TRANSIT WEBSITE

<http://ktransit.com>

## MARK'S WIERDNESS

Mark came very close to getting a new job, but it did not come to pass. But with 5 weeks vacation, plus 1 week flex time, it is hard to consider looking for another job outside of ASM.

Business trips were limited to 4 trips to Japan this year. He has not had a trip to Phoenix in over 2 years.

He has stepped up administrative support at the trolley museum. This includes fundraising, social media and website development.

The choir kept him busy with working with the travel agent on all the travel arrangements to England.

Something different this year, he now has a popular presentation he gives on the history of Salem's streetcars.

And yes, he still geocaches.

## PET UPDATE

For the first 6 months, having Dylan was a challenge. Cyn worked hard with him during the day, and Mark in the evenings. He is a very hyper dog and had some very bad nipping habits. Then in May something seemed to have changed, and ever since then he has been on a steady improvement trend. We now trust him to have free reign of the house if we leave him home alone. We also took down his crate in our bedroom, and he sleeps in bed with us. He is very quickly becoming a very good and very smart dog.

Nori has settled in even with having her crazy dog brother. She still has scratching issues, but her fur still looks so much better then we had adopted her over a year ago. She really loves watching birds at the birdfeeder outside the living room window.

## OTHER TRAVELS

It seems that Mark and Cyn can't keep still. They are always doing something.

In early July, they did an overnight trip to Spokane for a geocaching event that involved Spokane's railroad history. Dylan went along. He has proven to be a great travel dog!

In early September, Mark and Cyn flew down to San Francisco as part of the Electric Railroaders Convention. This involved a side trip to Sacramento, as well as to the Western Railway Museum in Rio Vista. They both really love SF.

Later in September they took Dylan to Long Beach, WA for 2 nights. This was another geocaching event with a theme of the old Clamshell Railroad. Dylan LOVES the beach!

Then came a spontaneous trip at the very end of November to Hong Kong. Mark was close to platinum on Delta, and Delta had an airfare of \$670 RT to HK. Since HK was a bucket list for him and Cyn, the green light was given. They spent 2 days touring the city. This included riding the Ding-Ding (double-decker streetcars), going up the top of Victoria Peak, the HK Museum of History, and more. The second 2 days were spent at HK Disneyland. DL was great with short lines (5~20 min waits) and all decorated for Christmas. Now the only Disney Park they haven't done to is Shanghai. So what will next year bring....



Top: Mark & Cyn on the "Ding-Ding" in Hong Kong

Left: Mark & Cyn at Hong Kong Disneyland

Right-top: Dylan at Long Beach, WA

Right bottom: Nori on her perch on the couch to watch birds.

## ADULT KIDS HAPPENINGS

Emily changed jobs this year. She now works at a deli at Portland Airport. She get to see travelers thru the airport all the time (like her parents :).

Teresa is really liking their house in Salem. They recently finished a small basement remodel, and next is the kitchen. She still works at Petco.

Richard and Ellen remain happy living in Independence. Richard continues to work in the IT department at WOU, as well as being the local union president.



## CYN'S UPDATE

Cyn gave us a scare earlier this year that mimicked a stroke or heart attack. After a few days in the hospital it turned out her heart is fit as a fiddle, and it was probably a bad acid reflux (thankfully).

The rest of the year she has either been working in the guest room, or working on setting up her glass shop in the basement. Mark purchased a used kiln from Mark's sister-in-law, Kelsey. Mark ran a power circuit just for it. Once the guest room is finished, they will get the kiln running.

## 865 D ST.

Contractors were hired to put a new ceiling over the stairs and in the future guest room. This saved a lot of time, work, and aggravation.

The remodeling of the last room in the house as a guest room is nearly complete. Cyn has been working hard on it. It should be ready for Mark's Mom visit at Christmas.

Now that the 28 year project is complete, it is time to start over.. Next year, Mark hopes to get new carpet/tile down for the first floor & maybe a new front door. Cyn is thinking about remodeling the 2nd floor common bathroom, which was last remodeled 25 years ago. It will never end...