

# THE KAVANAGH GAZETTE

Volume 27

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## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Welcome to the 2020 edition of *The Kavanagh Gazette*. The purpose of this newsletter is to give you an update on the family out here in Oregon.

## 2020 a Very Odd Year

2020 was not a typical year, with much less travel. Here what you find in this year's edition

- Trips: Two to Beam-Up: Star Trek Cruise; Ring around Oregon Road Trip; I Love NY Roadtrip
- Family updates

Top right: View from our cabin on the cruise; Top Left: Crew from ST Discovery Panel  
:Middle left: Ethan Phillips (Neelix) Bottom left: Robert Picardo (the EMH Dr)  
Bottom right: William Shatner & Brent Spiner



## Two to Beam Up Scotty

Believe it or not Mark & Cynthia did take a cruise in 2020 in early March. Matter-of-fact it was the a week before all cruises were halted. They were probably lucky because it was not your typical away mission. It was a Star Trek-themed cruise complete with 25+ actors from the various Star Trek series, emphasizing ST-Voyager for its 25th anniversary.

As with any cruise, Mark & Cyn fly in early. They arrived in Miami and spent the night at the airport. The next morning they picked up a rental car and headed to Key West. It was a long-time bucket list to drive the Overseas Highway and see the Overseas Railroad's remains. They spent the night in Key West and headed back to Miami to stay at an AirBnB (really a hotel). The following day they took the Brightline train from Miami to West Palm Beach for lunch to ride this new train. Mark also had a chance to finish riding the Miami Metro. The next day was embarkation day (or was it a beam-up day). The cabin reserved was an interior promenade facing room with great views of those walking around the ship in cosplay. Mark decorated the window to be Promenade Security, ala Odo from DS9. The next seven days were like a floating star trek convention. William Shatner and Kate Mulgrew were the two top stars on-board. Mark & Cyn got their photograph with Ethan Phillips (Neelix) and Robert Picardo (The EMH Dr).

There were four port stops. The first was San Juan, Puerto Rico. Mark got off the ship to fully ride the San Juan Tren Urbano (metro) and do a little geocaching around old San Juan. Cyn stayed on-board. The next stop was Punta Cana. We decided to stay on the ship with rough seas instead of taking a tender to the shore. The following stop was St. Thomas. Here Mark & Cyn took a shore excursion to St. John for Cyn to snorkel. However, our tour "leaders" were Garrett Wang (Ensign Kim from Voyager) and Dr. Muhammad Noor (science consultant for Star Trek). It was a pretty cool experience. Both were very approachable, as were many of the actors on the ship. The last port stop was the Bahamas, but we stayed on-board.

All this nerding out had to come to an end. When arriving back in Miami, they rented a car and stopped to visit a former neighbor up in Boynton Beach. Then onto Orlando, where they met up with Cyn's Sister and family. There was also time to visit Mark's Aunt and Uncle in Cocoa Beach before needing to fly home from Orlando.

Mark & Cyn had thought this ST cruise would be a once and done, but after taking the cruise, they decided they would do it again but had planned to skip 2021. When the 2021 voyage with George Takei was postponed to 2022, they signed up for it. They are already counting the days until February 2022!!

## A Ring Around Oregon

Mark was getting cabin fever, and was building vacation time. It was decided that taking a nice road trip around Oregon's perimeter with their dog, Dylan, would be safe enough, staying at hotels.

The first night was Klamath Falls, then a dip into Northern California (a first time for Dylan) and spent the night in Lakeview, Oregon, a new Oregon county (Lake) for all involved. The next day was dipping into northern Nevada (another new state for Dylan) before cutting back into Oregon, ending in Boise, Idaho.

The next few days were spent geocaching and old trolley line chasing around the Gem State capital city. Boise is a lovely town, with some great restaurants and local beer. Then they were off to head back into Oregon to drive-thru Wallowa County (another first county, and thus completes Mark and Cyn seeing all 36 Oregon counties). The day ended in Clarkson, WA, via a beautiful switchback highway. Across the river in Lewiston, Idaho. They spent the night and did a little geocaching/ touring. The next stop was Walla Walla, WA, to chase down the old trolley lines there. They had the best meal of the trip at a steakhouse in an old train station that allowed dogs on the outside patio. Dylan loved it! The next day was homeward bound. The family took all the right precautions with masks, and for the most part, they felt safe, especially in the hotels. It was an excellent get-away.



Above: HGTV Boise Boys firehouse  
Top right: Lewiston Highway, great fun drive  
Right: The Idaho Capital Building



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## MARK'S WIERDNESS

Needless to say, Mark's work travel was severely curtailed this year. There was a trip to Japan in January, but that is it. In March, Mark returned to the office after the cruise, but the office was closed just three days later due to the pandemic, so no commuting and working from home since March 13. Mark was authorized to go into the office for some time, but with so few people there to interact with, it was not worth it.

Mark took on one big project working with his church (St. Paul's Episcopal) to help put ministries on the internet via taking videos, polishing them up, and publishing them on YouTube. It then expanded to include producing virtual choir videos for the church. They have proven challenging and time consuming, but folks seem to like them. Mark is thankful he is only doing the video portion that others do the audio mixing. The largest piece to date involved 56 singers and 16 instruments. Find the link to the church's YouTube channel at <http://stpaulsoregon.org>

Last item is Mark traded in his Buick Lacrosse for a 2020 Honda CRV Hybrid Touring edition—A nice ride!

## PET UPDATE

Dylan (dog) continues to calm down and is the smartest dog we have ever had. His two flaws. One is barking excessive at anyone walking down the street (And goes insane with the mailman). The other is barking at random in the car if people are too close.

Nori (cat) is still the original. She did not like it when Emily's cats were at the house for a couple of weeks. She does not like change

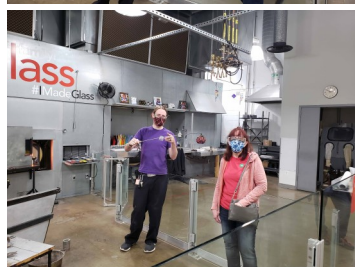
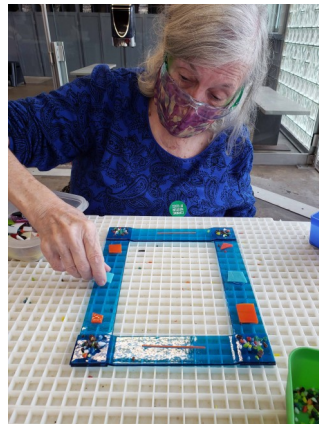
Minion (cat) is now a full-size cat. Little did Cyn know that he would take his name to heart and develop a powerful fart gun.

## WE LOVE NEW YORK

COVID threw nearly all the family trips plans out the window. There was plan to go to Ireland with Mark's Mom and Sister in September—Cancelled. Mark then planned for he and Cyn to fly to New York to take Mom and Maureen around New York State in October.

After arriving in NY, the first thing to do was Mark walking across the newly opened Tappan Zee Bridge walkway (officially Mario Cuomo Bridge, but we digress). Then off to visit Mom. The next day was spent visiting Cyn's brother and family in New Jersey. The third day they picked up Maureen and drove to Corning, NY for two nights to visit the Corning Glass Museum, where all three ladies worked on a glass art project. Next was a drive to Lake George, where they took a cruise on the Lake before spending the night. The final road trip day was a bit further north to the Star Trek The Tour exhibit to get more geeked out on ST. Then a nice drive back to Suffern with the beautiful fall colors

The last two nights were spent in NYC visiting with friends there, with the previous night at the TWA Hotel at JFK airport with runway views. With COVID, there was low flight activity as there had been, but still fun.



## ADULT KIDS

For the most part the three kids are weathering the storm, although we don't seem much with the pandemic, but luckily they are healthy.

Richard and Ellen remain in Independence, with Richard working at Western Oregon Univ.

Teresa continued to work at Petco and received a promotion. Her household appears to be doing well

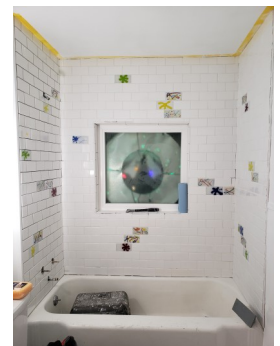
Emily lost her job due to the pandemic, working at an airport restaurant. She was also having issues with her housing situation. But it all worked out for the better. After a few weeks, she got a job at a new Tillamook store at the airport (she is a cheese girl, after all). Soon after, she got a better living arrangement closer to her work.

## CYN'S UPDATE

The big event this year was get a full knee replacement. It had been postponed from March due to the pandemic, but she was one of the first surgeries when they reopened in May. She has a 3D printed custom knee!

Cyn has had to get used to Mark working from home, which does impact her remodeling. Her main focus since late October is renovating the main bathroom. It was the first project she tackled after we bought the house about 28 years ago. She made unique glass tiles with her glass kiln going on the walls amongst the subway tiles around the bathtub walls. she plans on retiring from home renovation after the project is finished. (We are hiring a contractor to replace the front door and downstairs flooring).

Cyn has learned how to Zoom, not just for family calls but also to participate in the neighborhood association.



Top row: Lake George; Mark on the Enterprise Captain's Chair at the ST Tour

2nd Row: Mark's Mom Glass Project; Mark & Cyn at Key West

3rd Row: Cyn's Glass Project; Minion; Nori

4th Row: Maureen's Glass Project; Dylan; Home Main bath new tile walls.