

Happy 2015 from our Blue Boat Home!

2014 was another eventful year for us. We got our house painted and renovated Jessie's home studio – two projects that had been in the works for years – and we replaced our aging Kia with a plug-in hybrid Ford. We became aunt & uncle for a second time, courtesy of Ben's sister Becca's enchanting daughter Lydia. We celebrated our 5-year anniversary at Niagara Falls and traveled to NJ, AR, MN, TX, and PA as well as to our parents' in OK & NE. We hosted our nephew Nicholas and good friend Matt as well as parents and bike tourists. In December, Jessie's mom and uncle Dave's fiancée Laurie organized a mini-family reunion to celebrate Christmas.

Ben:

My big news is that in June I finally discovered I'm sensitive to gluten, mostly resolving chronic health issues that had plagued me for a decade and allowing me to resume computer work. I spent most of the year helping the Unitarian Universalist Association move their Web site – look for the new UUA.org this spring!

2014 was the final full year that The Green Door will provide residential curbside recycling service, since the city of Emporia will start in June. We eagerly anticipate providing commercial service instead.

In the summer, we had a blast at my 20-year high school reunion in Bartlesville, and I spent a full week camping in Minnesota at the North American Permaculture Convergence. Our trip to Texas was a chance to catch up with friends I hadn't seen since I biked around the country ten years ago.

I enjoyed being a Big Brother to Justen until he moved away at the end of the year; we wish him all the best! I continued tutoring Kaman in Javascript programming, and work-shares with Charlene, Brett, and Kristin helped get projects done in the home and garden.

I'm still active on the boards of the Emporia Farmers Market, Natural Resources Advisory Board, and Emporia Area Local Food Network. It's enough to keep a guy busy!

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Jessie:

I received news in March that I had been granted Tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor. In March, we celebrated the 40th annual Discovery Day at ESU. I filled in for Gaelynn as program director in the fall during her sabbatical.

I traveled to the Little Apple in March for a presentation with Gaelynn; then to the Big Apple in May where I presented with recent grad Erin and visited van Gogh's Starry Night at MOMA. In July in San Antonio, I co-presented with colleagues about working with individuals with disabilities as well as the therapeutic uses of Shrinky Dinks. We also traveled to Minneapolis to see Emily (whom I babysat) marry Lane.

I enjoyed cheering on the Royals in the World Series. In related news, Royals Charities awarded Kansas Art Therapy Association a grant I co-authored to provide Autism-related services.

Back in Emporia, I phased out the Applied Behavior Analysis portion of my practice due to changes in state law. I continue to see clients for art therapy and counseling.

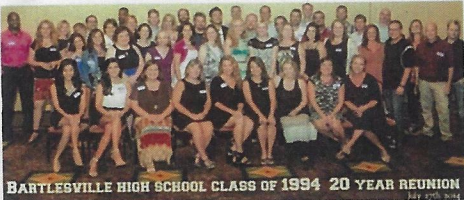
Mom and I saw Cher and Cyndi Lauper in May. I enjoyed catching up with friends throughout the year during trips and visits.

I continued my role as VP of KATA. I kept up my self-therapies of glass fusion and building a sock menagerie. I continued to sell these crafts alongside Ben's produce at Farmer's Market.

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We always welcome guests at 1301 State St., Emporia KS 66801, and we still occasionally blog at www.blueboathome.com. Best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2015!

Happy 2019 from our Blue Boat Home!



BARTLESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1994 20 YEAR REUNION

