

Christmas 2015

This has certainly been “the year of travel.” So much that we have even numbered our trips.

Trip 1 – **Panama** City/Canal. We have both wanted to see the Panama Canal, so when a bargain ticket appeared, (\$586) we were off. Beware: there are almost no street signs in Panama so therefore no local maps. Travelogue at www.plesums.com/travel/panama

Trip 2 – **Singapore**. We loved it a decade ago, and had heard that there were a lot of changes, so a bargain tickets led to another trip. We would go back again! See www.plesums.com/travel/singapore

Trip 3 – **New York City** for a play. Cheap flight (\$286) and hotel led to a quick trip. The cost of the play was a major part of the total cost. It was so much fun that we did it again (Boston) www.plesums.com/travel/nyc15

Trip 4 – **Birmingham** Alabama to visit Jenny's longtime friend and Charlie's best man, **Wilton Bunch** and wife Vicky. Birmingham is a remarkably nice place to visit, but no travelogue.

Trip 5 – **Boston** – another quick trip based on cheap airfare and a few days. We had a great time in Boston. www.plesums.com/travel/boston

Trip 6 **Santiago** – we really enjoyed Buenos Aires on the Southeast side of South America, so figured it would be similar in Santiago on the Southwest side. We had a good time but this is one of the few places we don't recommend as a destination. www.plesums.com/travel/sanitag0

We are now about half way through the year, and at about 50,000 miles on American Airlines, assuring our elite Platinum status for another year. The next level of status is Executive Platinum, which requires flying 100,000 miles in a year. We looked at the places we wanted to go, and figured we might make it, so the march continued with a goal!

Trip 7 – **Minneapolis** to rent a car to visit **Joe Ott** family in Cambridge Minnesota, and **Cathy Ott Julian** (with Jason Julian family) in Wisconsin. We make an annual trip, but driving our car (with motels up and back) costs about the same as flying, so this year we flew. No travelogue

Trip 8 – **Anchorage**: We hadn't seen all that we wanted to see in Alaska's largest city, and summer in Austin was hot. The biggest factor was a cheap ticket (\$583) so off we went. www.plesums.com/travel/alaska

Trip 9 - **Cabin John**, Maryland (DC) to visit Charlie's sister **Rita Isenberg**. We borrowed her car and drove to Charlottesville, where we met. It has changed so much we needed the GPS to find our house. No travelogue.

Trip 10 – **Barcelona**: We had planned to go to Spain with Mark and his family, but jobs, school, and passport issues interfered. Woodworking friend **Toni Ciuraneta** had offered to introduce us to the city so we went ahead on a familiarization trip and had a great time including the full day with Toni and dinner at his home, with his wife. See the travelogue at www.plesums.com/travel/barcelona



Kraków Main Square

Trip 11 – **Rochester** Minnesota (Decorah Iowa). Like Trip 7 we flew rather than driving to visit **John Ott** and **Jim Ott** and families. No travelogue

Trip 12 – **Poland**: We had planned to go to Warsaw, but after we bought the tickets were strongly advised to go to Kraków, so we did both – good choice. If you can only go to one, do Kraków. www.plesums.com/travel/poland

Trip 13 – **Northern England**: returning to where Jenny lived and worked in 1966. We visited with her friend of over 50 years, **Andrea Pool**, and met **Abbey Dillon-Janis** and her family. Great trip in spite of heavy rain, storms, and flooding. www.plesums.com/travel/england15

Trip 14 – **Los Angeles** to visit **Mary Ott Segal** and Mark, with side trips to the new Getty Museum and the Santa Monica Pier and market. No travelogue.



Ship going through the Panama Canal

So did we make our goal? On trip 14 we went to Los Angeles via Dallas rather than on the direct flight, which brought our total miles for the year to 100,190. When we logged into American Airlines after returning from Los Angeles, this is how we were greeted!

Welcome back,
JENNY PLESUMS
Executive Platinum

American Airlines Login

Enough Travel Stories

Many of Jenny's 25 or so CPA clients were affiliated companies, so when she declared her retirement and left, she left them all, keeping only a few unrelated companies. Within weeks (more like days) she had additional clients, bringing her client list back to about 10 clients, and the busiest year (in terms of hours worked) of her career. Guess she is a failure... at retiring. She continues to talk about retiring, about cutting back on work, and then talks about helping out a friend (i.e. a new client) for just a little. She struggles to find time for sewing, especially quilt making

Charlie's furniture business is slow but back from zero. With all the travel, he has driven away many customers, but has work to do most of the time. He is now thinking of getting involved with more specialized work on smaller projects. So he, too, is a failure at retirement.

Both Jenny and Charlie are volunteers with a program called "No One Dies Alone" or NODA. If someone is in the hospital and expected not to live more than a few more days, without friends or family to be with them all the time, volunteers from this program sit with them a few hours at a time, around the clock, so they are not alone. We are called to serve about once per month.

Our son Mark changed jobs last year, to a company that has a small Dallas operation, but is based in New York. He likes the group, and is able to work from home frequently, but he does have to travel to New York City periodically.

Daughter-in-law Stacey is in her second year in business travel sales with the Hilton Hotels in Dallas.

Our granddaughter Chelsea is awesome... not only is she a great 21 year old person, but she realized that she didn't like the biology in Nursing, so switched to Elementary Education, and is doing super. She gets mostly A grades in tough courses, and outstanding reviews on her practice teaching. She is exploring a switch to a more appropriate college for teachers. She is also well loved in her part time job at a day care center.

We wish you health and happiness this Christmas season and pray that you have a very Happy New Year.

Jenny and Charlie