

# THE GAMBLE GAZETTE



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## THE GAMBLES GET A DOG

FRIENDLY FAMILY PET, OR ENEMY TO FELINES EVERYWEHRE, YOU BE THE JUDGE



TAMPA, FL – In February of this year, an opportunity arose for the Gamble family to acquire a puppy of dubious intention. Dubbed Rosco, this little critter soon took over every nook and cranny of the house causing his brother Slacker (10, hiding in the master bedroom) and Beasley-Gene (7, lounging on kitchen hutch) immense displeasure at the mere sight of him. Over the months, however, Rosco has endeared himself to his housemates in a way that only a Boston Terrier can; by sheer force will.

It's still too early to tell if Rosco and his new roommates will ever be friends, but we do know that some sort of mutual understanding has taken place. Much like the mutual understanding that started the Cold War. At least in this case, the only weapons being used are claws, barks, and meows.



-THE WORLD'S FINEST FAMILY NEWSLETTER-

# GOING PLACES

## *HAVE AIRBNB, WILL TRAVEL*

In February, James solo traveled to Chicago for a week to do some consulting work for CompTIA.

In March, James and Anneke took a cruise with a stop in Key West, Florida and another stop in Cozumel, Mexico. We had a wonderful time, and it served as a good distraction from James being laid off the week before.

June saw us traveling to south Florida for the wedding of James' cousin, Aimee. We spent a long weekend at an AirBnB cottage in Englewood Florida and spent a lot of time relaxing with family and friends. The wedding was beautiful, and we were so grateful to be invited to the wedding!

In July, we spent a few nights near Orlando so we could visit Medieval Times as well as "Old Town". Old Town is a bit of a tourist trap, but that's part of the charm. We spent a day wandering through all the various shops and trying new restaurants. We also made a stop at Disney Springs.

As August ended, we were excited to make our annual trip to Cocoa Beach, Florida, but Hurricane Dorian had other plans. As we were about to get on the road to make the drive across the state, we got word that the county that Cocoa Beach is in issued a mandatory evacuation and wasn't letting anyone into the county. So, we canceled our trip and hope to have better luck next year.

In early November, we made the trip across the state to St. Augustine where we spent a few days exploring the city. We made stops at Ripley's Believe It or Not museum, Castillo de San Marcos (the fort), the nation's oldest drug store, the nation's oldest jail, and the nation's oldest schoolhouse. We explored various shops and tourist attractions and had a fantastic time. We took Rosco along with us (his first overnight trip with us) and he did well with all of the new smells.

### *CHA...CHA...CHANGES*

Life is full of changes, and this year was no different for us. In February, James was let go from ConnectWise, but spent less than a month unemployed as he was hired by his new company, Fintech. Also in February, we started attending a new church, Bayside Community Church, and we've been very happy there.

We purchased a new A/C in May and also installed a new smart doorbell (with a camera!), a smart security system, smart smoke detectors, and a smart door lock. Our lives are getting smarter by the minute!

In June, we were hit with a double whammy when Anneke lost her job at the church she was working at, and then, a couple of days later, her car died. We ended up getting her a new car, a 2017 Ford Focus (red with a sunroof!) and it's proving to be very reliable.

We're glad 2019 is coming to a close, and we're excited to see what 2020 will bring.



-THE WORLD'S FINEST FAMILY NEWSLETTER-

# VISITORS

## WELCOME TO OUR HOME!

This year, for the first time in our marriage, we entertained guests in our home overnight! One of our goals when we got married was to make sure that our home would be a welcoming place for our family and friends. This year we were so excited to be able to invite people into our home. In June, we welcomed Anneke's parents, Jim and Joyce (pictured below) all the way from northern Idaho. They spent more than a week with us which gave us the opportunity to show them around Tampa (and introduce them to some of our favorite restaurants). It was such an encouraging and welcome visit because it not only gave Anneke some quality time with her folks but allowed James to get to know Anneke's parents better.

In November, Anneke's Best Friend Forever Cary (BFFC) came to visit us all the way from eastern Washington (state) for a week-long visit. We enjoyed showing Cary around Tampa and introducing her to our puppy Rosco. Even though James had to work most days during Cary's visit, Anneke made sure that Cary was entertained by taking her to all the area thrift stores, Ikea, and Busch Gardens.

James' parents JD and Betty Jo also made regular appearances at our house throughout the year for good times of fellowship with us and our animals. We're hoping to see more of everyone in 2020!

*Little by little, one travels far. -Spanish Folk Saying*

### 2020 TRAVELS

In the upcoming year, we already have a few trips planned. In February, we're going on a cruise out of Port Canaveral, Florida for four nights. We'll make stops in the Bahamas as well as Royal Caribbean's private island, Perfect Day at CocoCay.

In April, we'll head to Michigan for Penguicon, where James will present several presentations on geeky things.

In August, we're looking at making a trip to Idaho to spend some time with Anneke's family.

We'll probably add more trips to the itinerary once we move into the first part of 2020. We're so excited to explore new places!



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# HOPES FOR 2020



I've often found that when the clock strikes midnight on January 1<sup>st</sup> of a new year, it gives me the opportunity to look back on the previous year and give thanks for how it changed me. Some years are better than others, and while I don't think 2019 was my favorite year, I can't think of any other year where I've learned more. Folks let's be frank, Anneke and I had a rough year. We dealt with

circumstances that aren't typical for a new couple to deal with. However, throughout it all, we supported each other, grew stronger in our relationship, and grew stronger in our faith in Christ. We've never been tested like we were tested this year, but I do feel that we're better for it. That's what makes 2020 so exciting because even

though the world threw the book at us, we're still standing, and we're still smiling. We have high hopes for what we'll be able to accomplish in 2020 and we're so excited to be on this adventure together. We're thankful that you're all in our lives, and we're happy that we get to share a bit of ourselves via this newsletter. Hopefully, it'll be a start to a new annual tradition.

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## ***MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR***

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We hope all the best things for you and your family in 2020. If you're receiving this newsletter, it means that you're important to us and we care about you. If we don't talk often, let's change that.

[REDACTED]

Please, don't be a stranger. We'll do our best to reach right back out to you. We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a wonderful new year!