

*Sharon Shane's  
Travel Journal*

*2012*

*Las Vegas,  
Nevada*





*March 2012*

*Las Vegas, Nevada*



I decided to fly out to Las Vegas to see my son, Adam, and daughter-in-law, Tai, on their turf and take Adam out for his 31st birthday dinner. The last time I had been in Las Vegas was in 1981 when I was pregnant with Adam. My friend, Anna, flew in from Colorado to meet me at the Vegas airport, and we took a taxi to the Luxor, where I had made reservations. The hotel, as well as all of Vegas was tacky and like a fake Disneyland kind of atmosphere, a theme park for adults. It didn't take long after I landed in Vegas to constantly repeat my mantra of "This place is nuts!" Our room was on the 15th floor of the pyramid shaped hotel. Walking along that open corridor overlooking the two-story lobby made one's equilibrium do strange things. Also riding in the elevator and losing balance shifting back and forth threw us for a loop. We actually realized the elevator was going up and down on a slant.

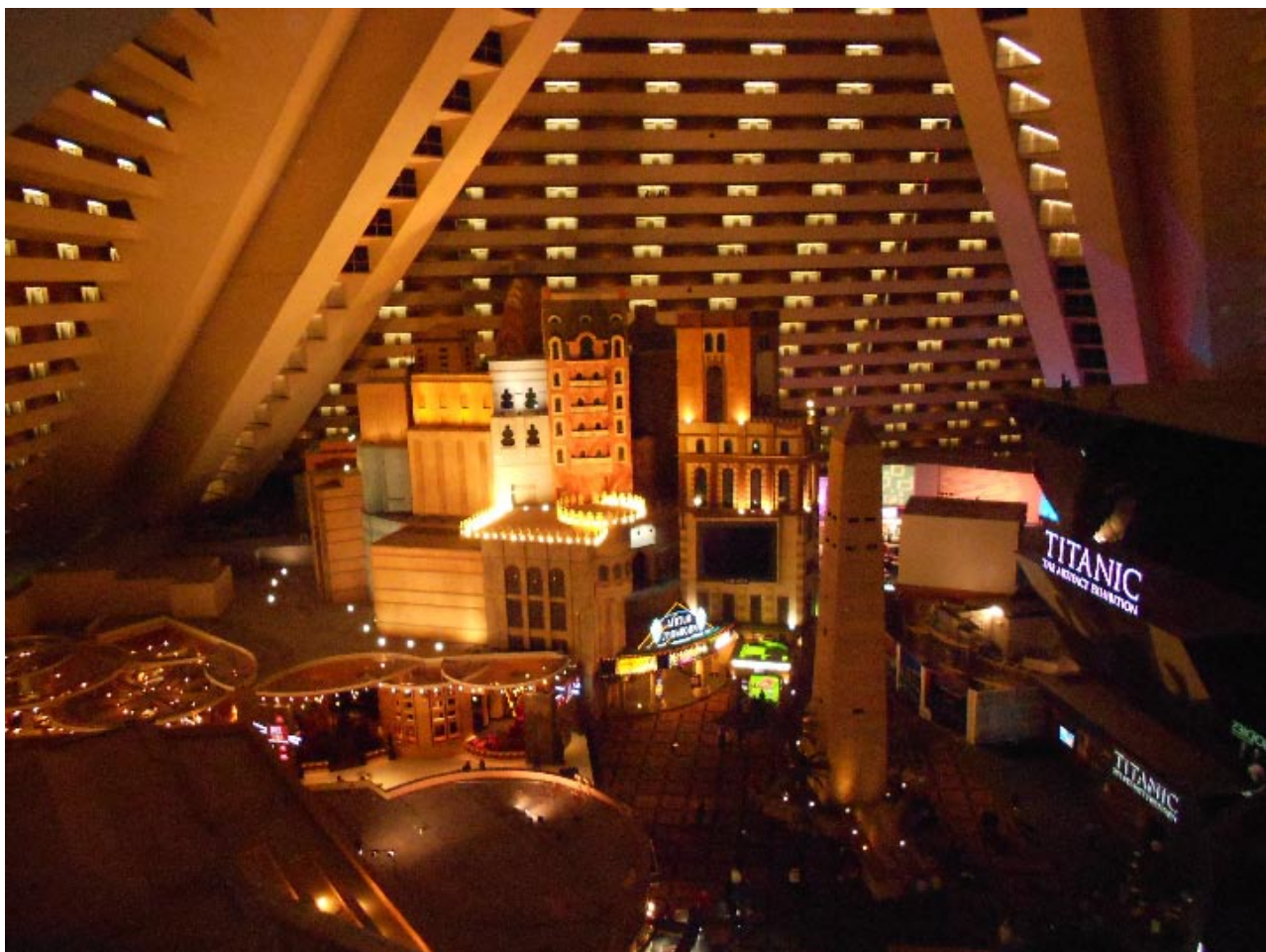
As much as I never liked Vegas back in the 70's and 80's, I felt a sad longing for the "rat pack" Vegas having been replaced by this fake theme park version.

*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Me on the interior balcony walkway outside our room  
overlooking the Luxor lobby*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*  
*Above - View of Luxor lobby from 15th floor walkway*  
*Below - View from our hotel window*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*A zoomed in close-up of the view from our hotel window*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada  
Our Luxor room interior*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada  
Anna at the slot machine*

After a call to my son to check his work schedule and finding out Tai had to work, we arranged to meet for a quick bite to eat. With some time to kill, we went down to the lobby to try to get tickets to *Menopause, the Musical*. We got seats for the show that started in 20 minutes. It was hilarious and so much better than we expected. We laughed so hard I busted a gut with tears coming out of my eyes. But since we were both over 60, we could relate to just about all of the song lyrics mocking the woes of menopause.

Adam suggested a place that was supposed to have good pizza like the East Coast or New York. Never having been there himself he wanted to try it, and he told us it's a secret place hidden in some back alley or hard to find.

So we walked up the Strip to the new Cosmopolitan where it was supposed to be, and he drove up to meet us. While I waited outside for Adam, Anna ventured in the Cosmo and found that the pizza place was on the third floor and that it's actually called "Secret Pizza". A quick call to Adam to let him know where it was and that we would meet him up there.





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*The Vegas Strip at night - "This place is nuts!!"*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Chandelier in the Cosmopolitan that takes up multiple floors*

This chandelier is huge. Our many gay friends would like my joke to Anna "How many gay guys did it take to hang all those beads?" We took the glass tube elevator that can be seen in the left on the photo above up to the third floor in search of the Secret Pizza place. Once on the third floor it was not that easy to find and we had to ask. There's no sign, and it's down a short hallway sandwiched between two other restaurants. There were funny old album covers lining one wall of the corridor. Before we could step into what looked like a traditional New York pizza place, the delicious aroma hits your nasal passages first. With pinball machines and a few stools to sit at the counter as the only decorations, we grabbed three stools and awaited Adam's arrival.



*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Adam coming down the hallway of Secret Pizza*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Above - Me hugging Adam at Secret Pizza*

*Below - The next day was chilly. Anna by one of Luxor's three pools.*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*We wandered around the pool area.*





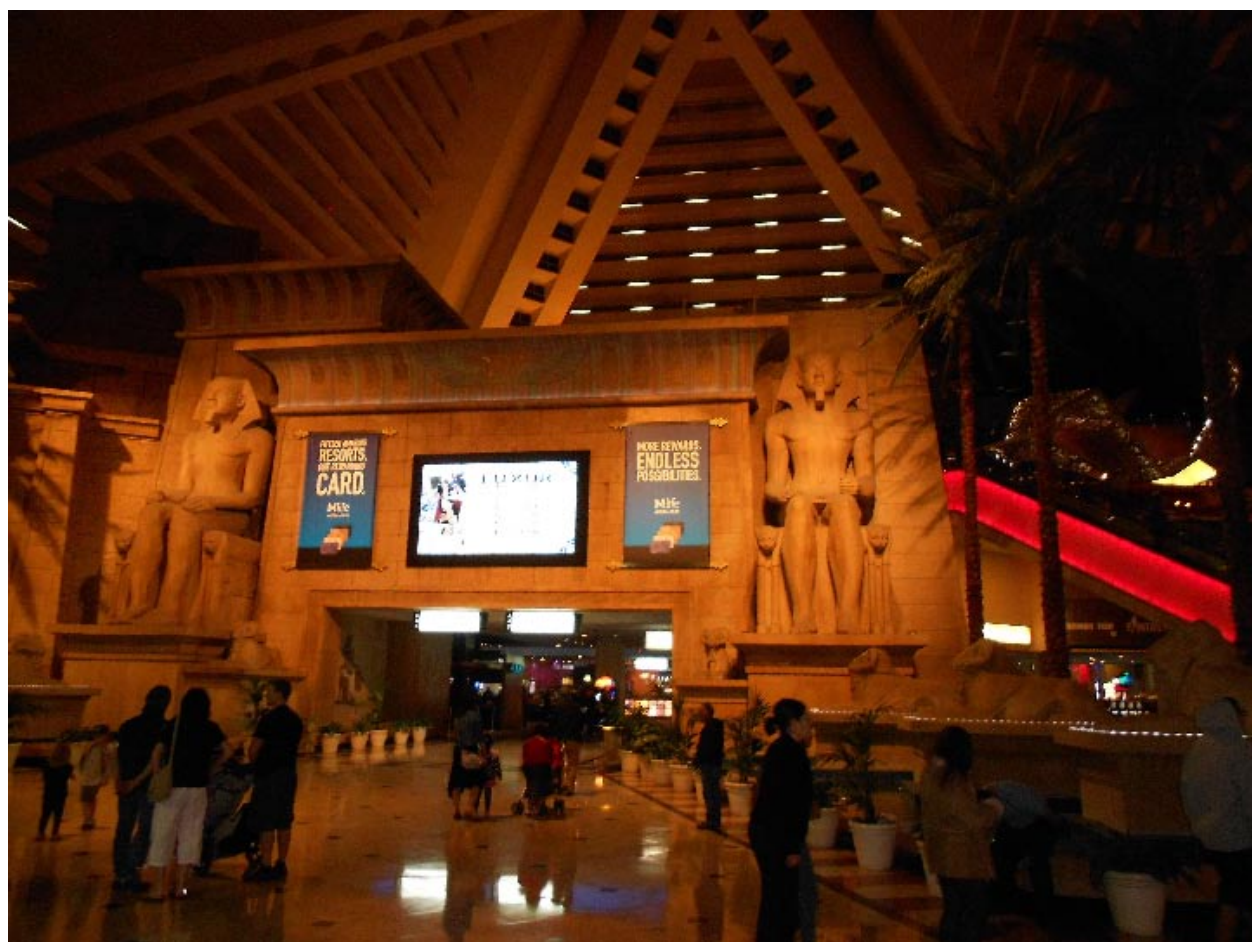


*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*We saw these window washers way up high...not a job I'd want!*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada  
To get out of the chilly outdoors, we  
wandered around the Luxor lobby*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*And took silly tourist type photos - Me and the small Sphinx*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Me and Anna - Luxor lobby*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada  
Exterior Luxor the main entrance with the large Sphinx and this  
cat statue keeping guard*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Me at the front entrance imitating this "uptight guy"*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*  
*Above - Looking up where our room would be*  
*Below - The back of the fake Sphinx and obelisk*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada  
"Old Blue Eyes" at the front entrance and  
valet parking of the Luxor*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada  
Above - Front of the fake Sphinx  
Below - View of the Mandalay Hotel next door*





Enough of the outdoor chilly air. We decide to spend a few hours luxuriating at the Nature Spa. Luxor = luxuriate! Those Egyptians really knew how to live. There's nothing fake about this hot tub. Sitting underneath those hot waterfalls beating on your neck with force sure helped get the travel kinks out.

From the jacuzzi into the steam room and then into the dry sauna and back into the jacuzzi. Gobble some complimentary bananas and an apple to replenish one's loss of potassium. Guzzle lots of complimentary bottled water.

After a few hours of relaxation, we "saunter" back up to our room to dress for dinner with my kids. We had a bit of time before they were coming to pick us up, so we headed down to Rice Restaurant in the hotel second floor lobby area to pass the waiting time where Anna could get some disgusting looking slimy, raw sushi fish for an appetizer, while I sipped some chamomile tea.

*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*The Luxor Nature Spa indoor Jacuzzi*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada  
Above - Me pretending to dive in the Jacuzzi  
Below - Anna posing in our lovely white fluffy robes*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*We sipping hot chamomile herbal tea at Rice Restaurant Luxor lobby*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Heading to the front entrance to await the kids picking us up  
I decide to mimic the woman painted on the wall behind me and  
"Walk Like an Egyptian"*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Before dinner the kids took us to see their loft further down on the Las Vegas Strip. Above - Adam and Tai in front of their building  
Below - The lobby*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*The lobby of their condo*



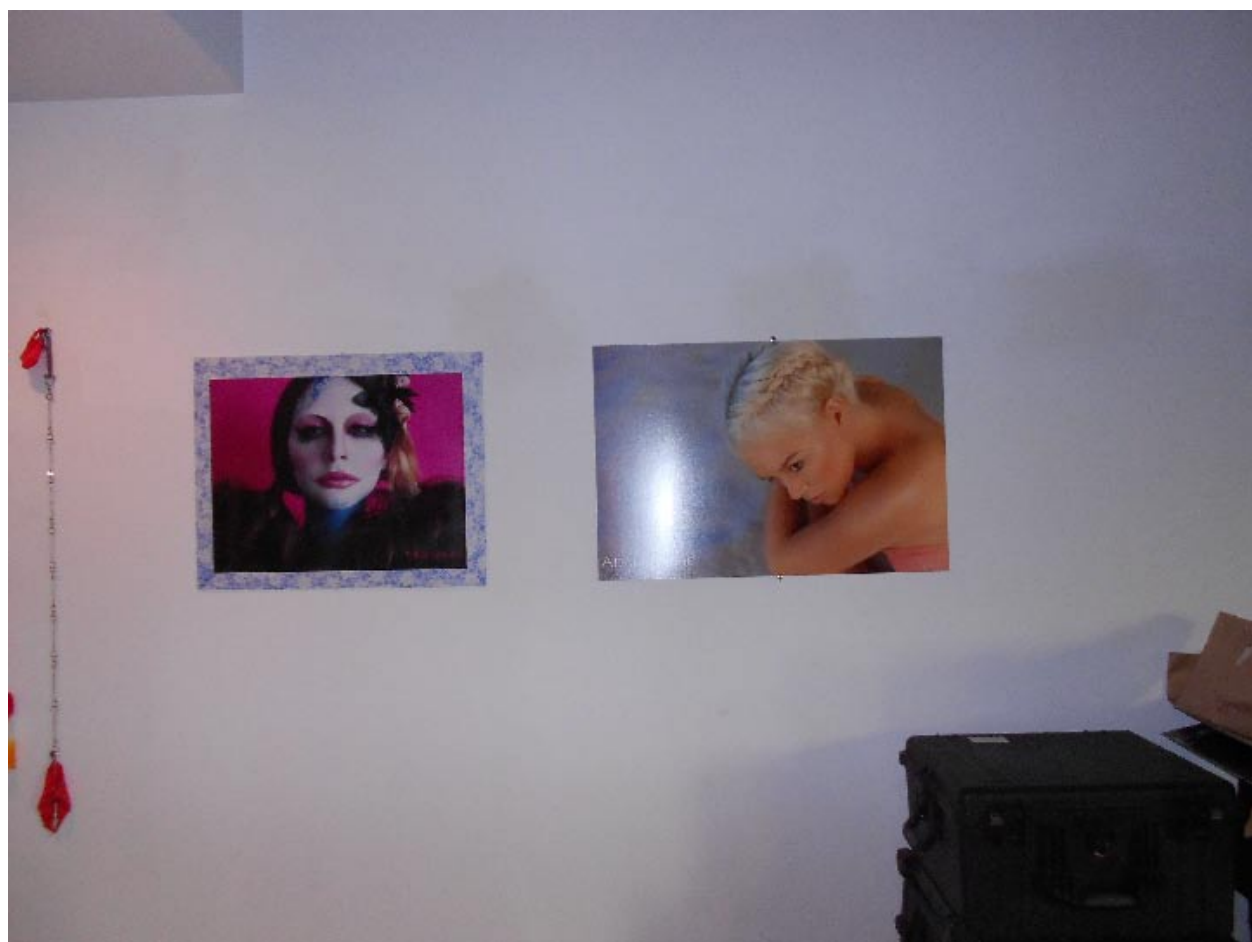




*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Above - Tai and Adam on the elevator up to their condo*

*Below - Adam and Tai's make-up photos on their wall*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Adam's sword collection at their condo loft*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Adam and Tai in the kitchen of their condo loft*





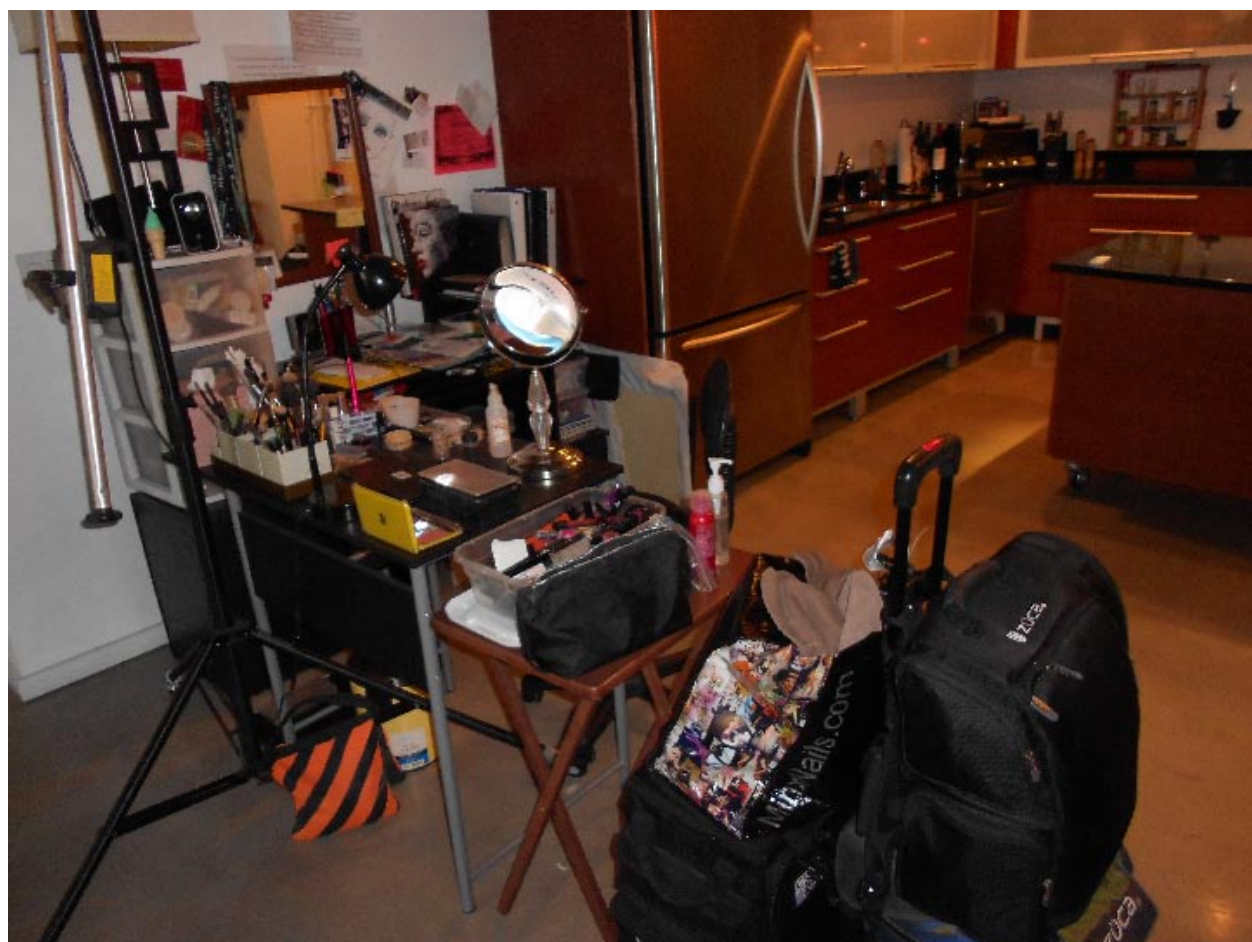


*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

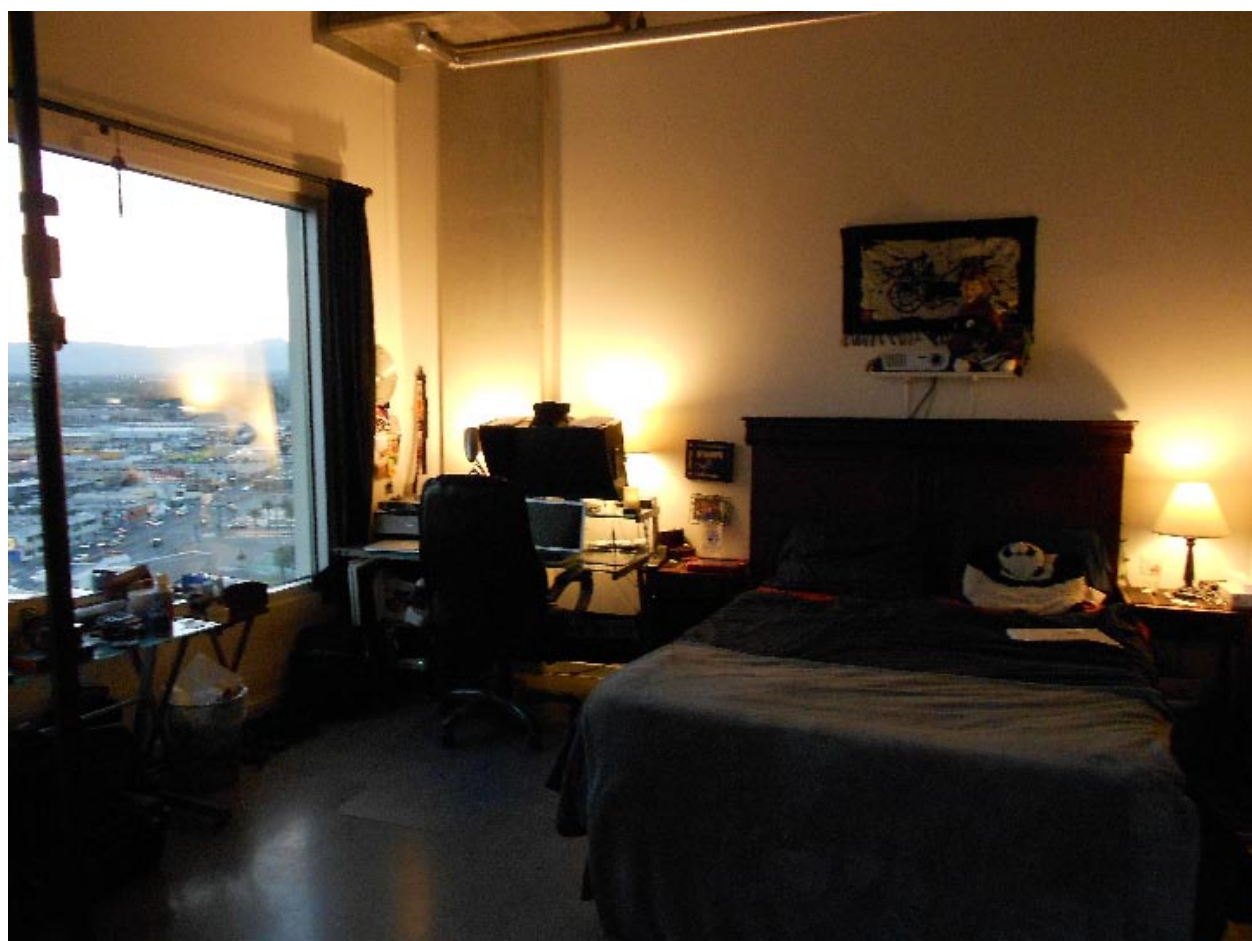
*Adam and Tai in their condo loft and what little is left of Adam's drums.  
I gave him one handmade from the Amazon, one from Turkey and  
my Celtic handpainted bodhran*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada  
Above Tai's make-up work station  
and the bedroom below*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Their loft condo bathroom*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada  
Above - Their living room area of the loft  
Below - Adam and me on the sofa*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Above - Adam, Me and Tai*

*Below - The windows and balcony overlooking the Vegas Strip*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada  
Above - Adam shows us how he can see the top of the Stratosphere  
through his telescope and the view from their balcony*





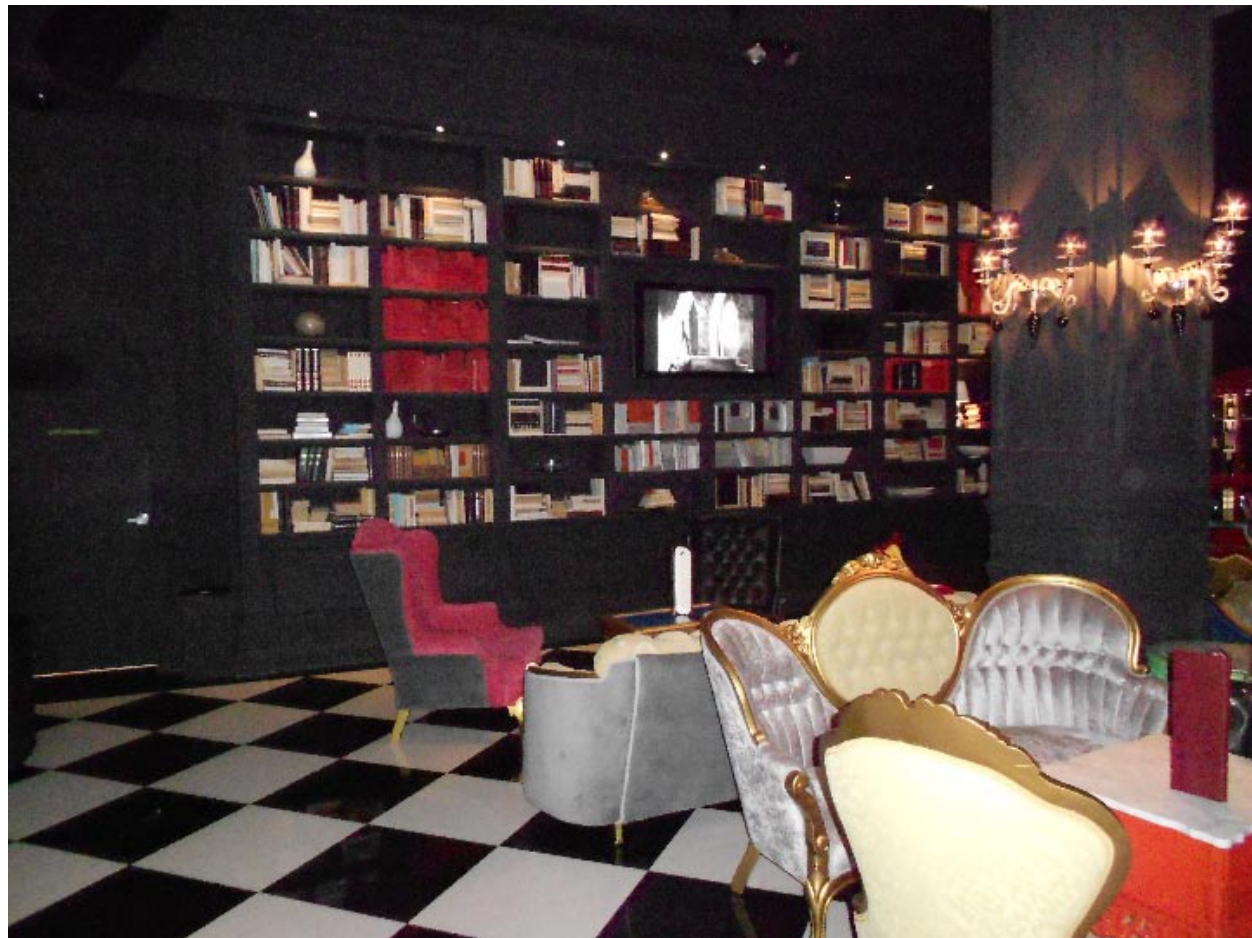


*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*More views from their balcony*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Leaving their condo and back down on the elevator, Adam shows us there's another secret place with no signs...this lounge just on the other side of an unmarked door in their condo lobby.*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Tai in the secret lounge. It has a name but I forgot it!*







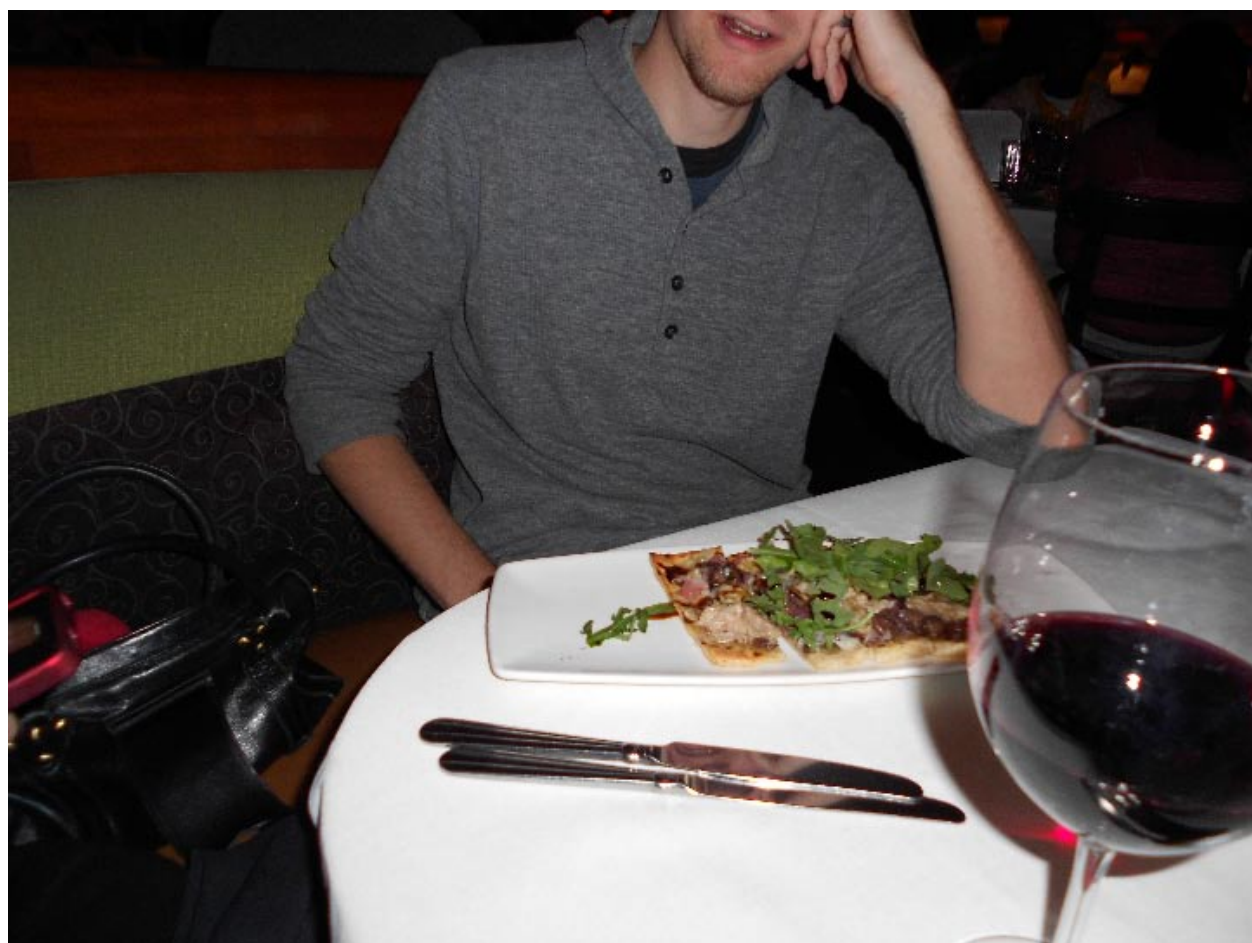
*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Above - Anna and Adam in the secret lounge*

*Below - Anna, Me, Tai and Adam at Roy's Hawaiian Fusion*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*I treated the kids to dinner at Roy's Hawaiiin Fusion for Adam's birthday  
Above - Adam and Tai's duck appetizer and Below - Tai and Adam*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Anna enjoying more sushi at Roy's Hawaiian Fusion*





Another chilly morning so we decide to spend a few more hours at the Nature Spa. From the Jacuzzi to the eucalyptus steam room where we shared our funny stories with a young lady sitting in there with us. We told her about how we went to a "Turkish Bath" in Selcuk, Turkey where not only were we the only women in there but in this 99% Muslim country of burkas, her and I were in there topless. Our female guide from Britain had told us it was safe and that she had been there, and we are certainly adventurous old broads, so we ventured into the all male Turkish bath and now have funny stories to tell.

Putting our feet up after long soaks and sweats and showers, we eat more bananas and I sipped hot pomegranite vanilla tea.

We dressed and just a few short steps out to the pool area the sun finally warmed up the day. We soaked up a bit of sun while eating our lunch poolside.

*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Anna and Me lounging after another relaxing few hours at the spa*



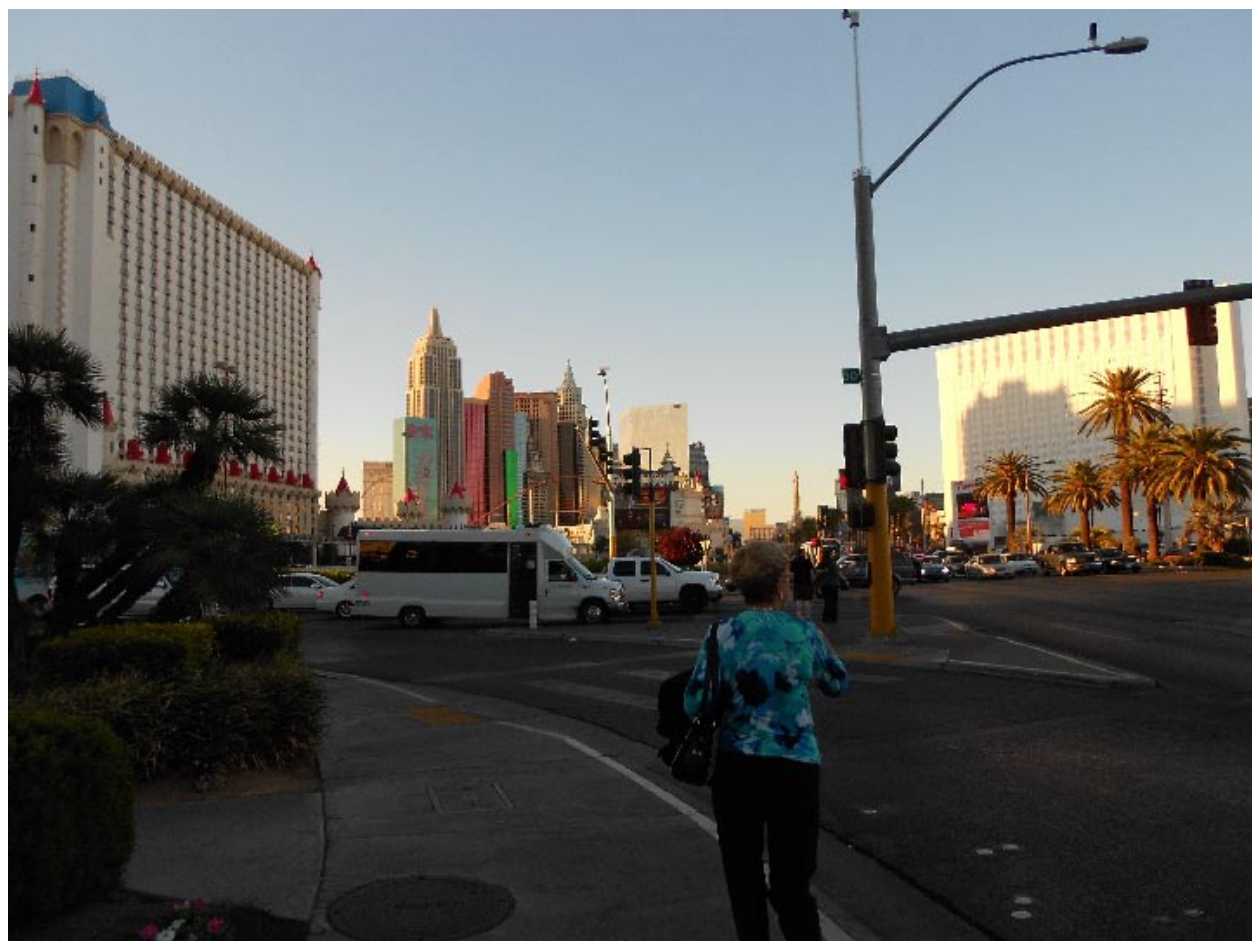




*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada  
Me hanging by the pool and I snapped the photo of "Carrot Top" as a joke because Adam and I saw him in the Bahamas*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

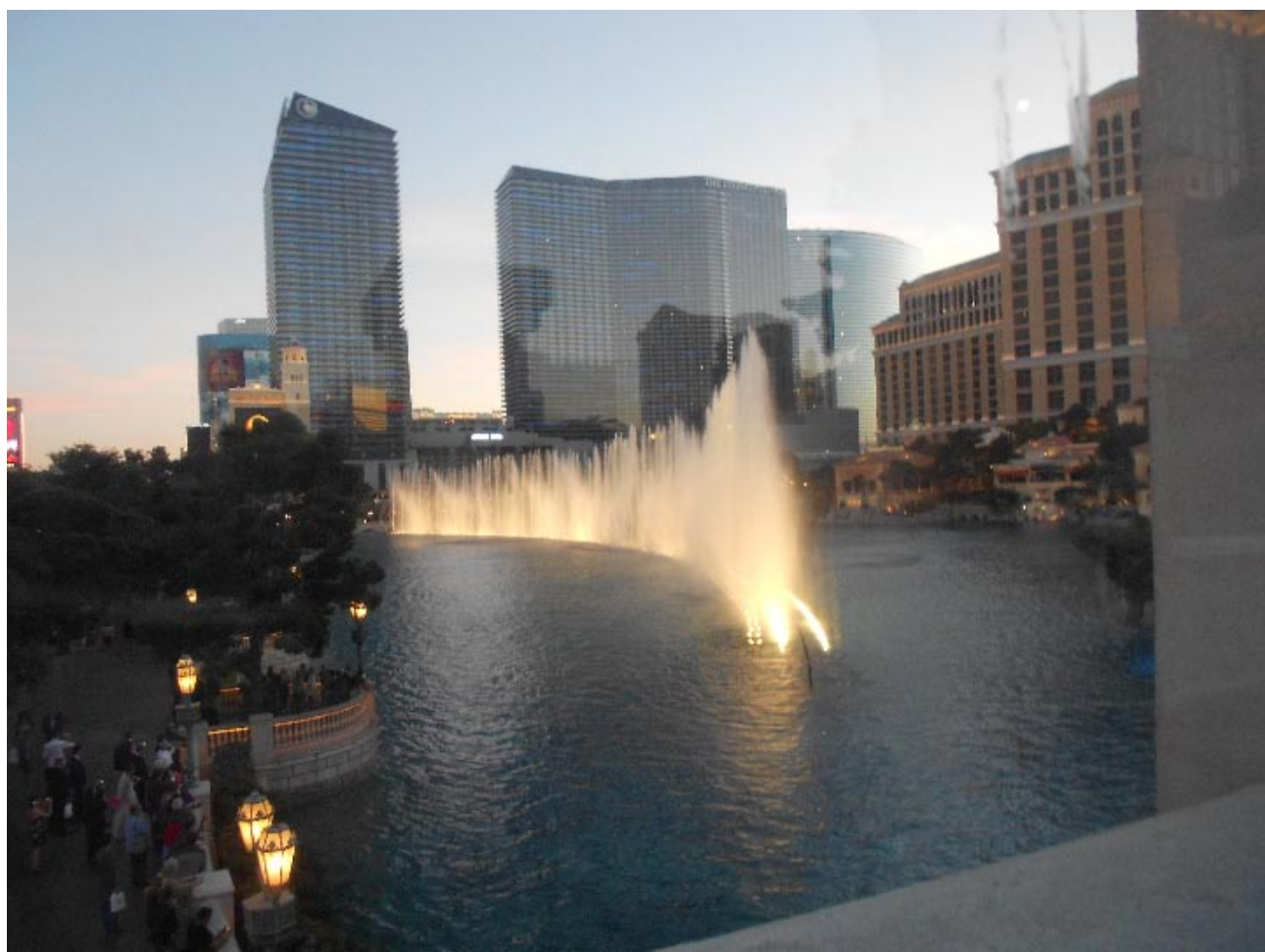
*Anna walking towards Excalibur and New York, New York  
just outside the Luxor on the Las Vegas Strip*

Back to our room to change and make reservations for dinner at Mon Ami Gabi. We head out to the Las Vegas Strip to walk up to the Bellagio to get our previously reserved tickets for Cirque du Soleil show "O." I had never seen any Cirque shows before, so this was my first. We head up the Strip to the Mon Ami Gabi restaurant to confirm our dinner reservations and arrive at the Bellagio fountain just in time to hear the strains of Michael Jackson's *Billie Jean* and the exploding fountain display. I thought it would be boring, but it was impressive. I didn't realize at the time they actually put explosives under the water to make it shoot so high, which explains the loud noise. The streets were barricaded off and people were lined along the curb awaiting something. We headed up the walkway overpass to get a better view for photos and video of the fountain, when I hear a loud roaring of motors. This explained why the streets were barricaded, as there came a parade of roaring monster trucks down the Strip.





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada  
The Bellagio Fountain*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Me on the walkway posing in front of the "fake" Eiffel Tower*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*We walked through the Bellagio to the Cirque Theater*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Bellagio Hotel interior*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

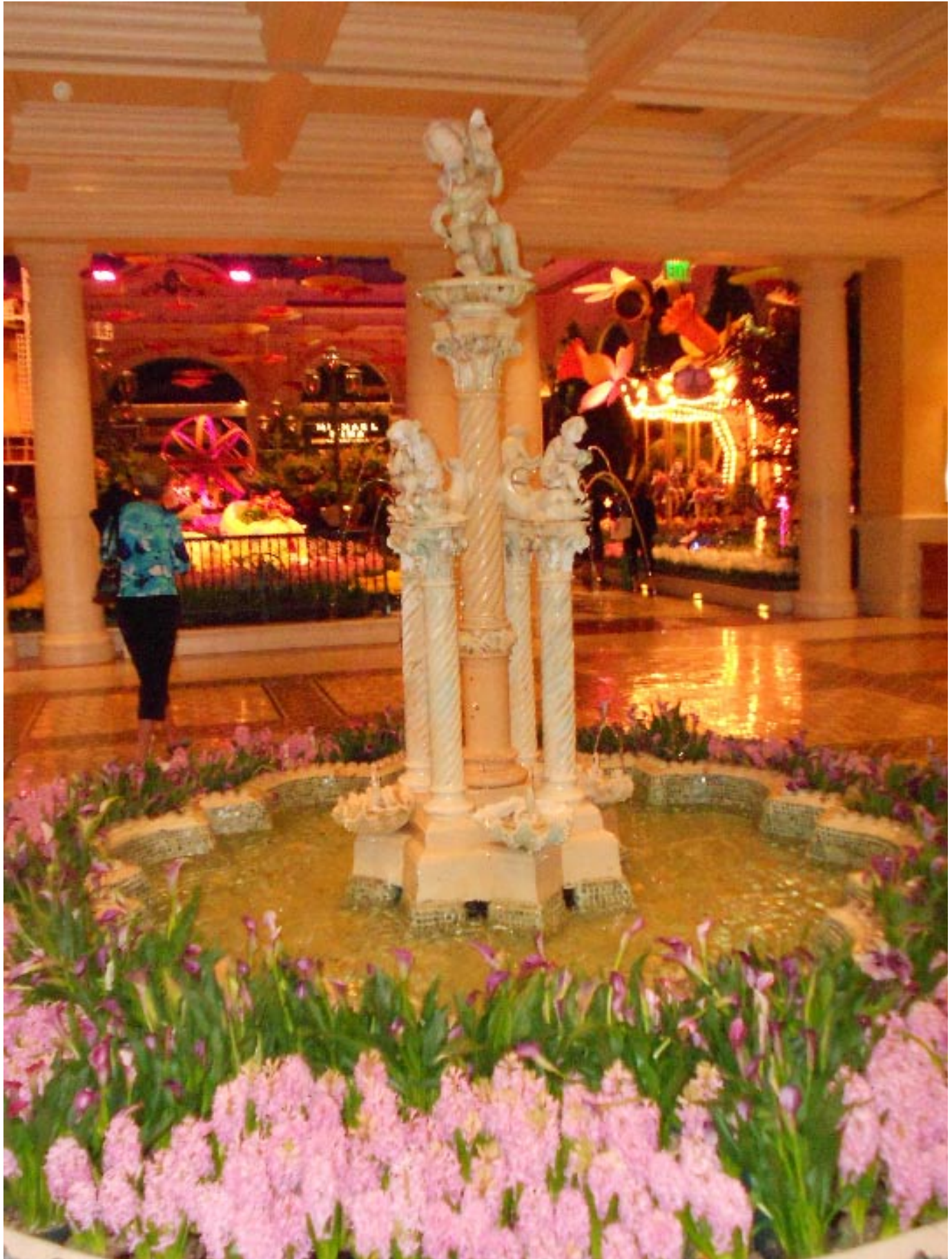
*Bellagio Hotel interior*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Bellagio Hotel interior*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*The check-in desk area*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*The check-in desk area*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*The Chihuly blown glass hanging from the ceiling*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*The Chihuly blown glass hanging from the ceiling*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada  
We walked around their Dutch theme "Spring is Blooming"  
display with a multitude of tulips and fresh Spring flowers*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Me posing in front of a flower and fountain display*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Above - This carousel was spinning and colored water spouts*

*Below - Very large Dutch wooden shoes display with tulips*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Very large Dutch wooden shoes display with tulips*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Colored umbrellas hanging from the high ceiling*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*A windmill*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Above - Large bumble bees*

*Below - Very impressive flower display made to look like a painting*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*We posing again in front of an obelisk*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Mama swan and baby swans*



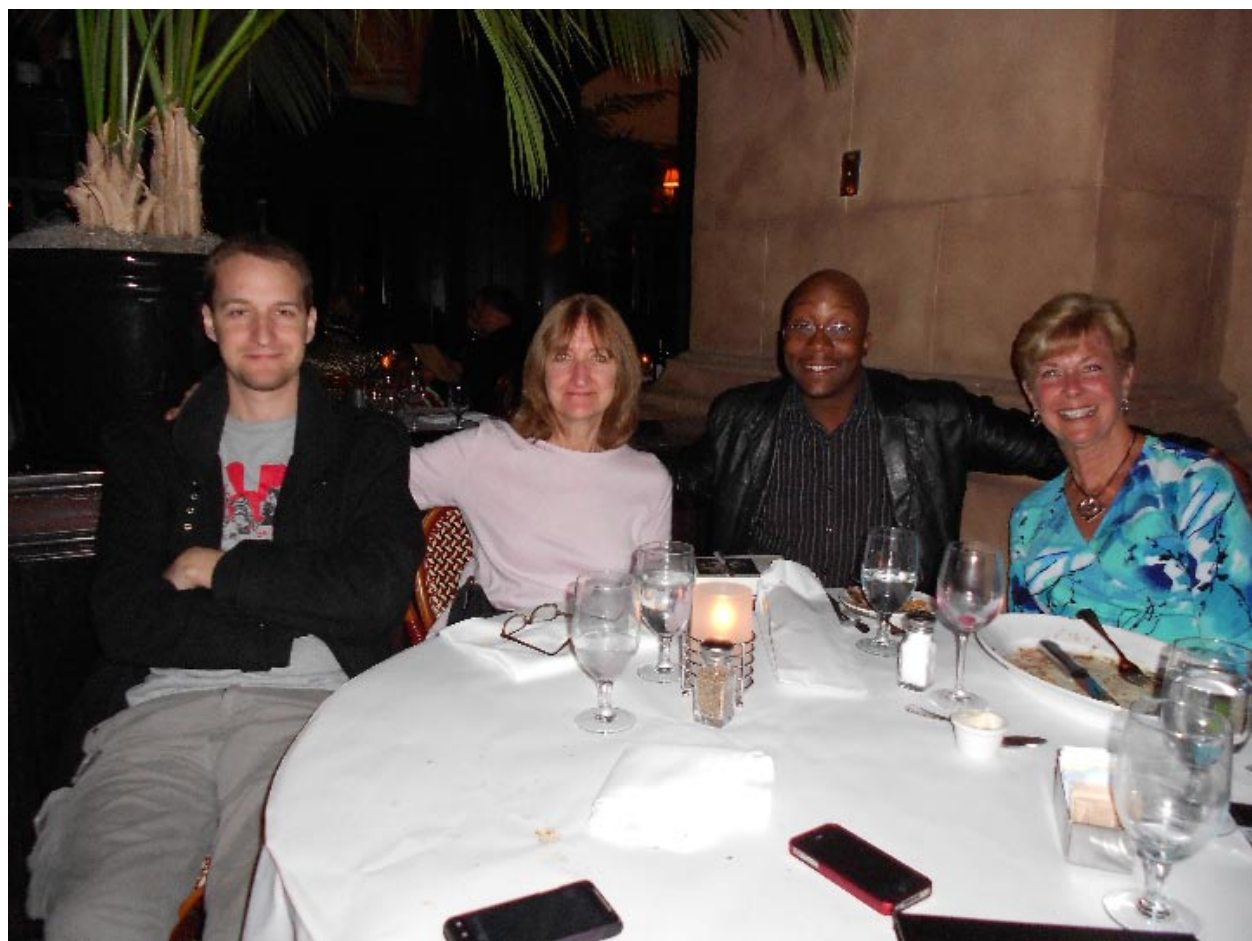




*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Above - Inside the Mon Ami Gabi restaurant view of Bellagio fountain*

*Below - Adam, Me, DJ and Anna*



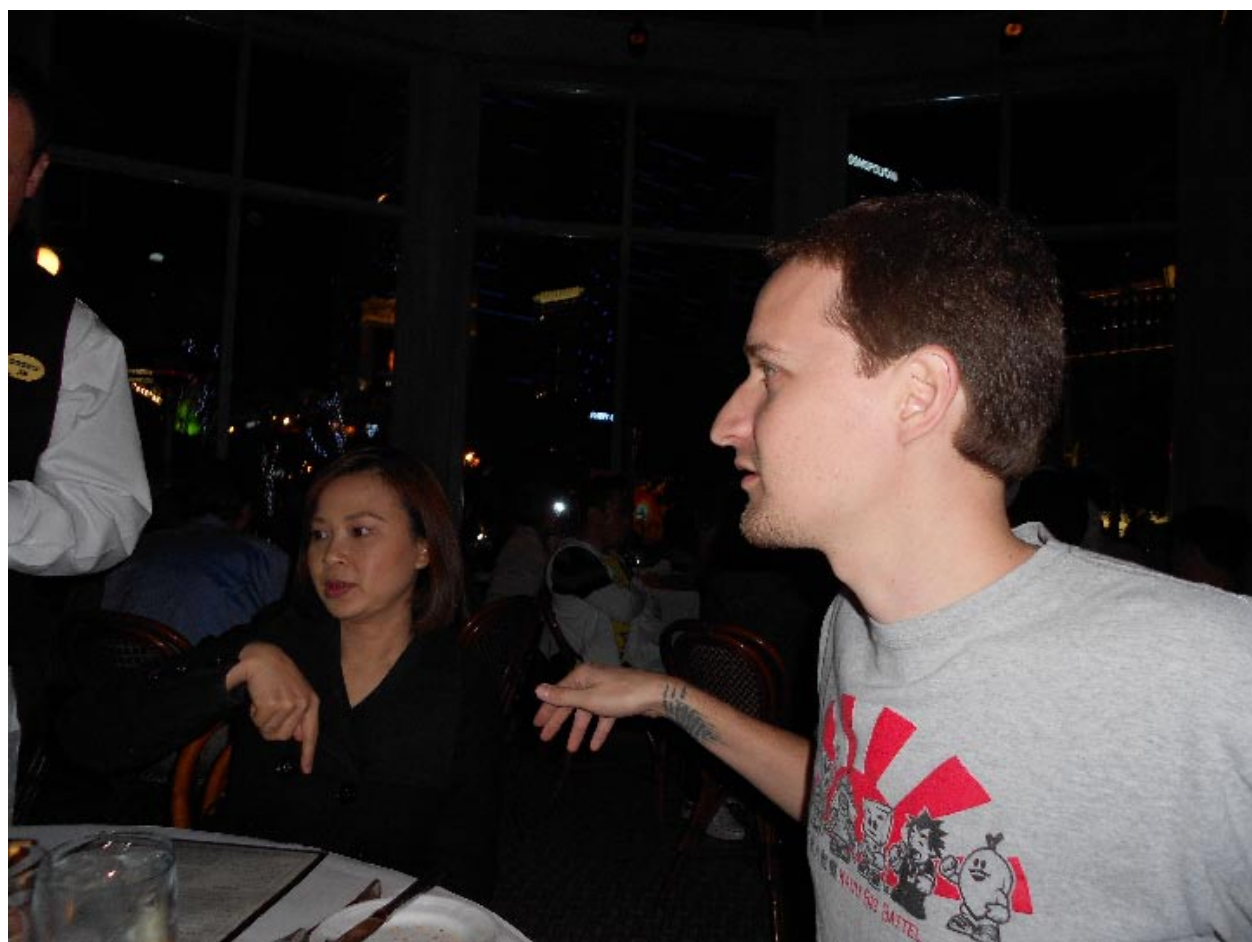




*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada - Mon Ami Gabi  
Above - DJ and Anna  
Below - Tai*

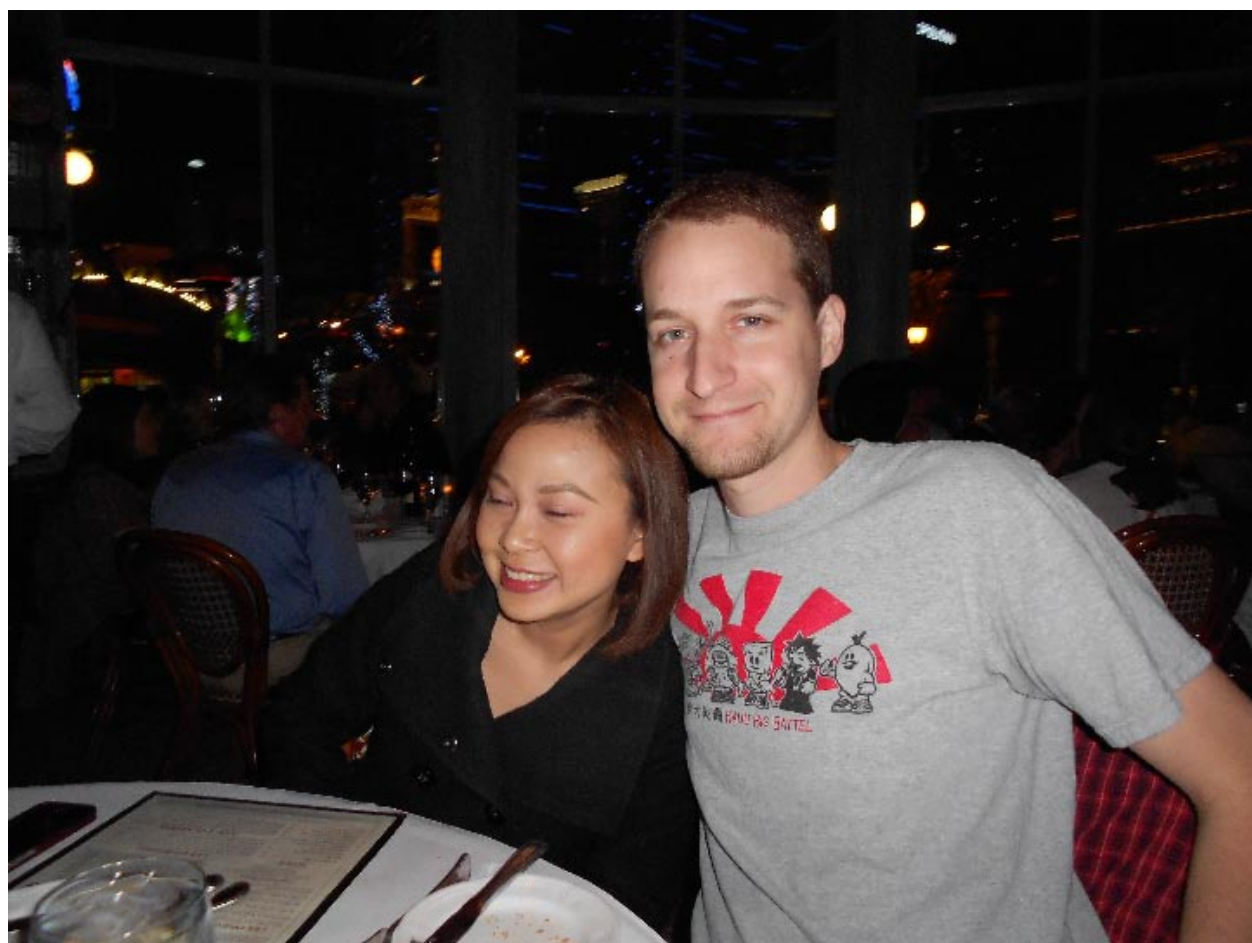




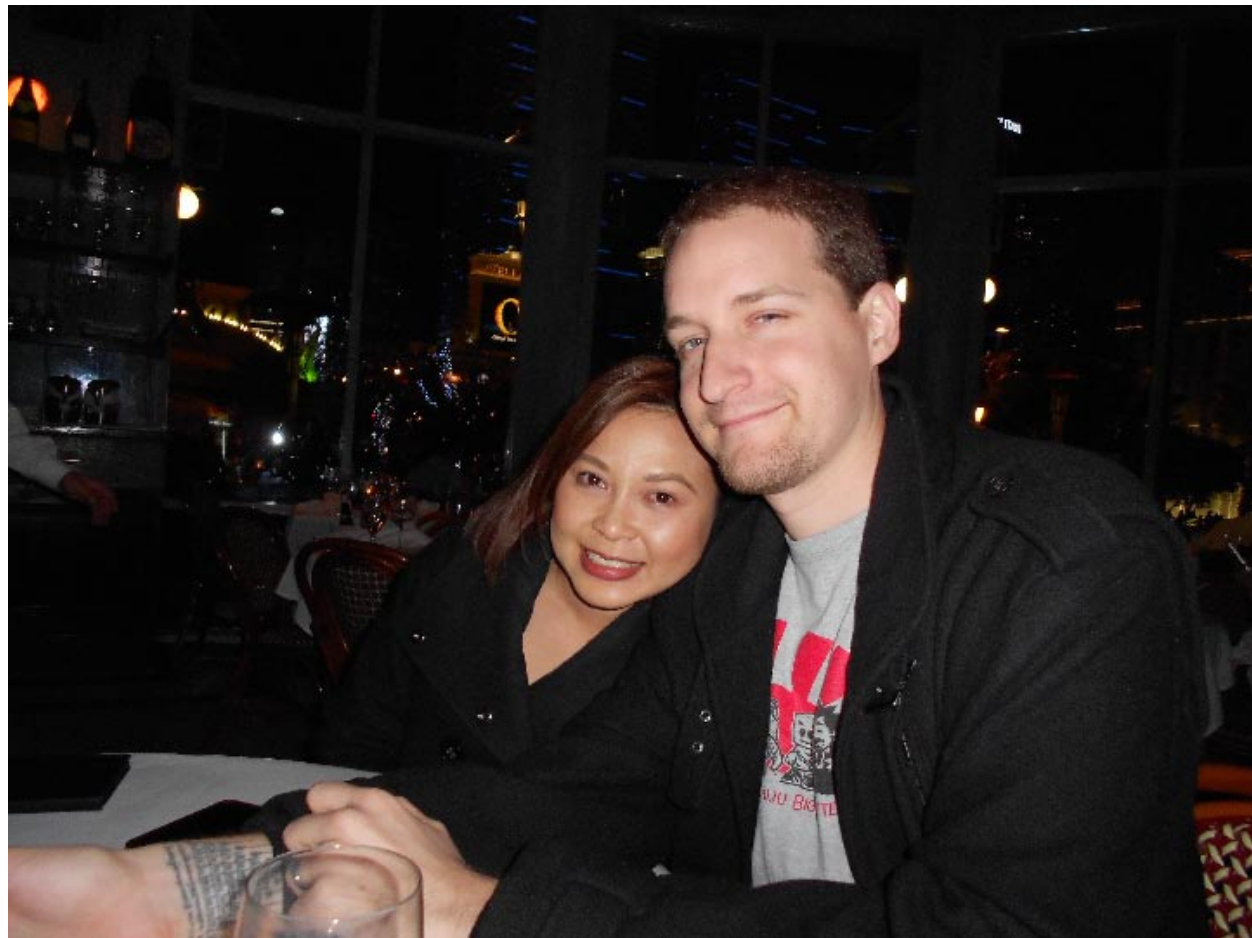


*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada - Mon Ami Gabi*

*Tai and Adam*

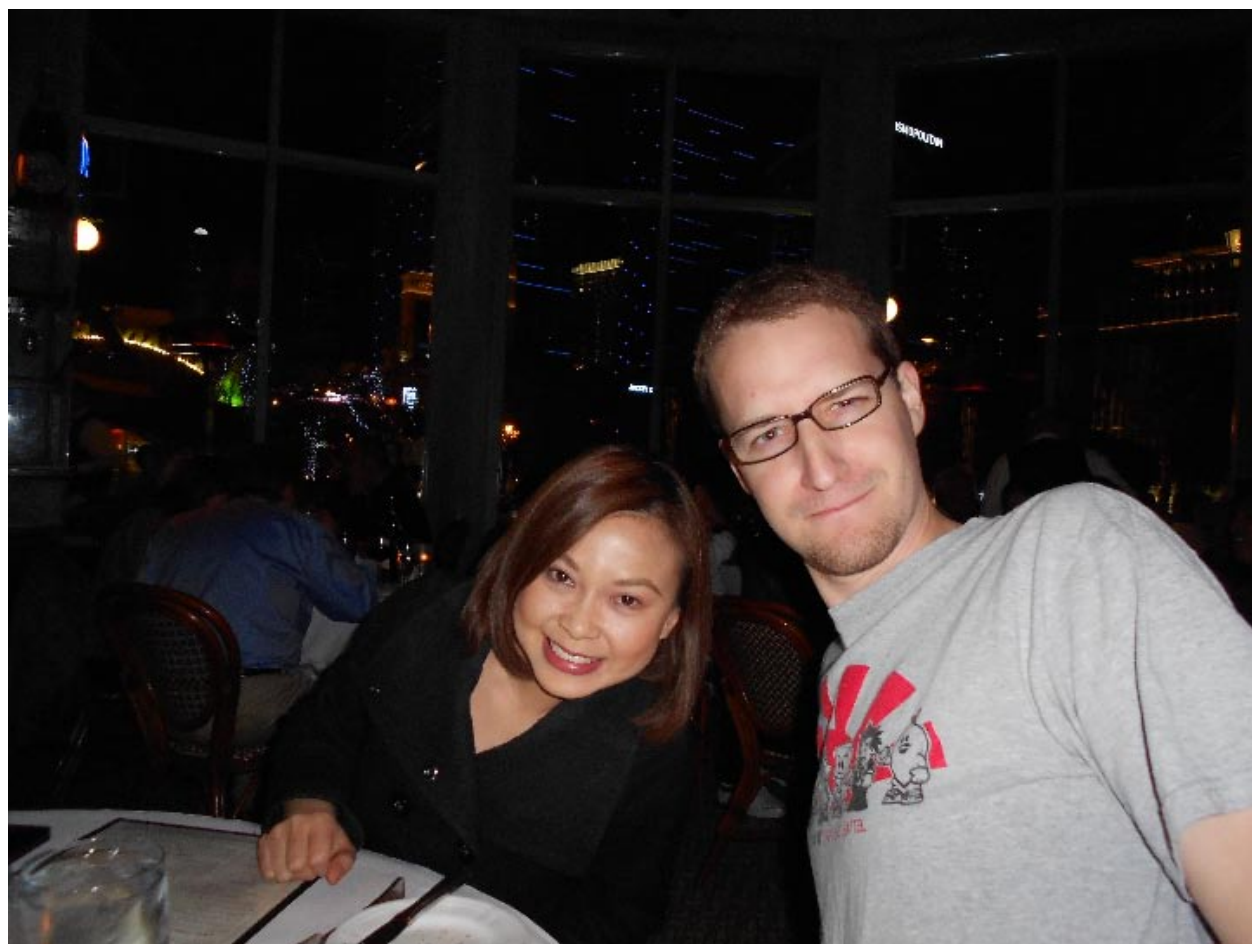




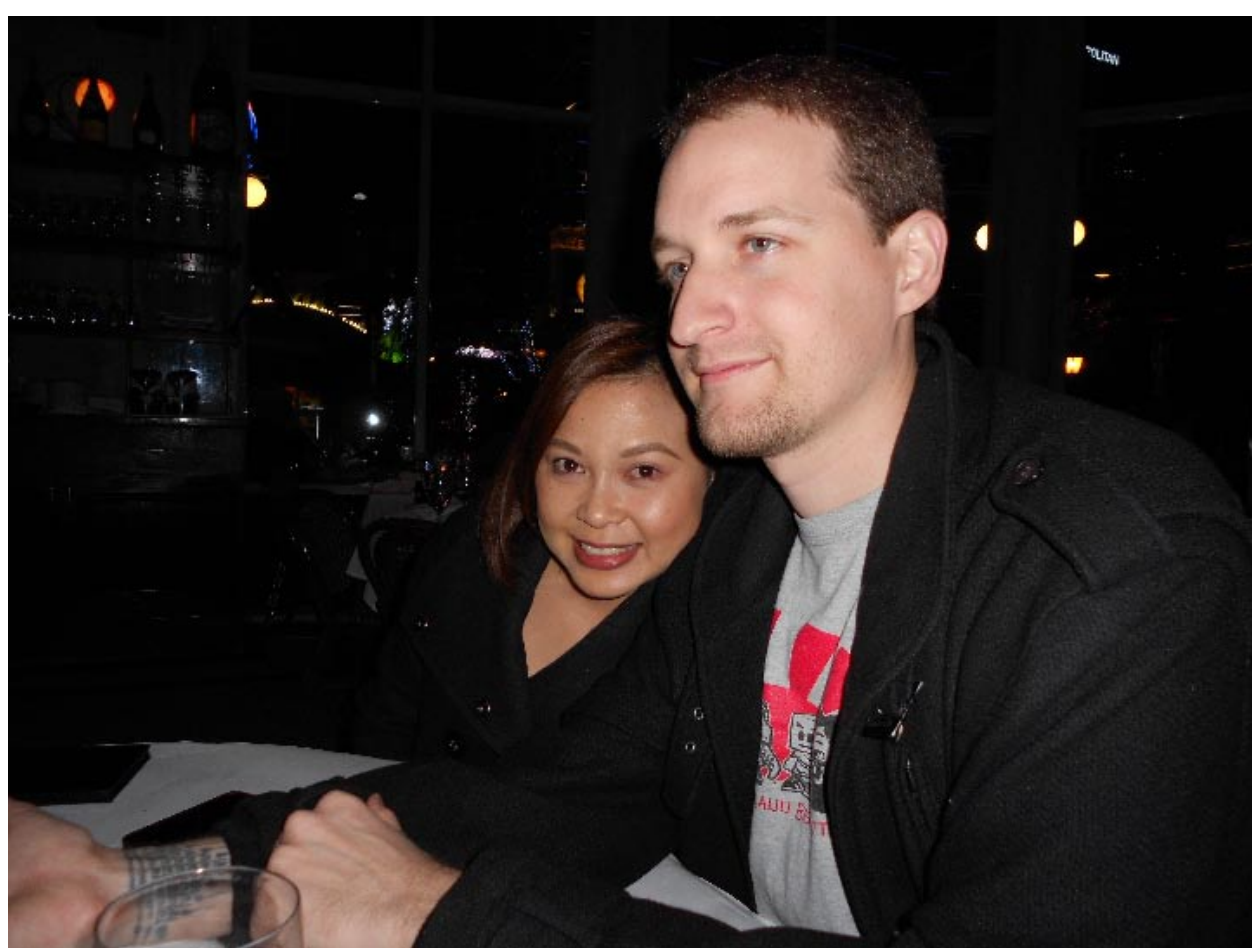


*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada - Mon Ami Gabi*

*Tai and Adam wearing my glasses*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada - Mon Ami Gabi  
Above - Tai and Adam  
Below - Tai, Adam and Me*







*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada  
After dinner we had to rush across the street back to the Bellagio to  
get in line for the Cirque show*



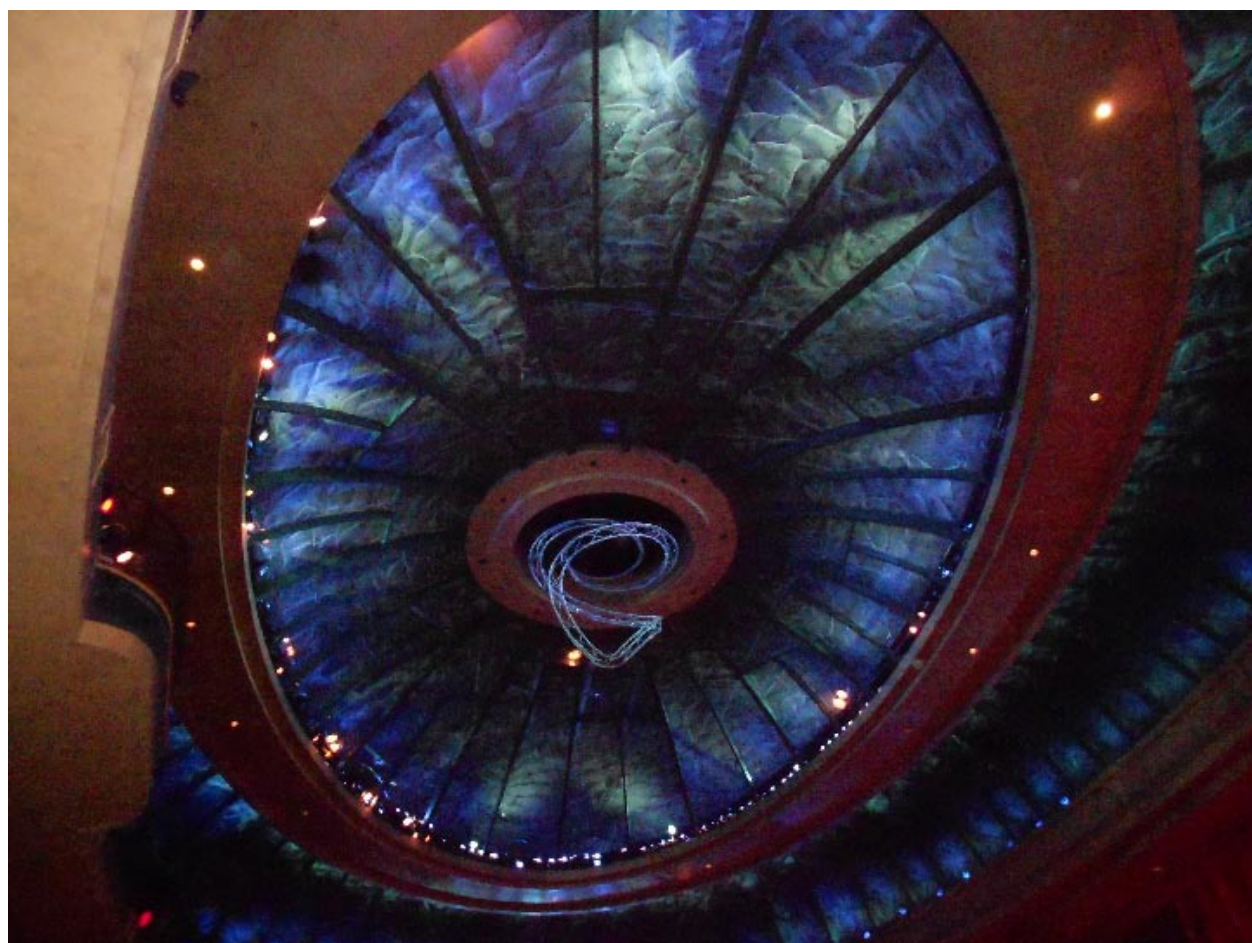


*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Walked through a sculpture art gallery in the entrance to the theater*







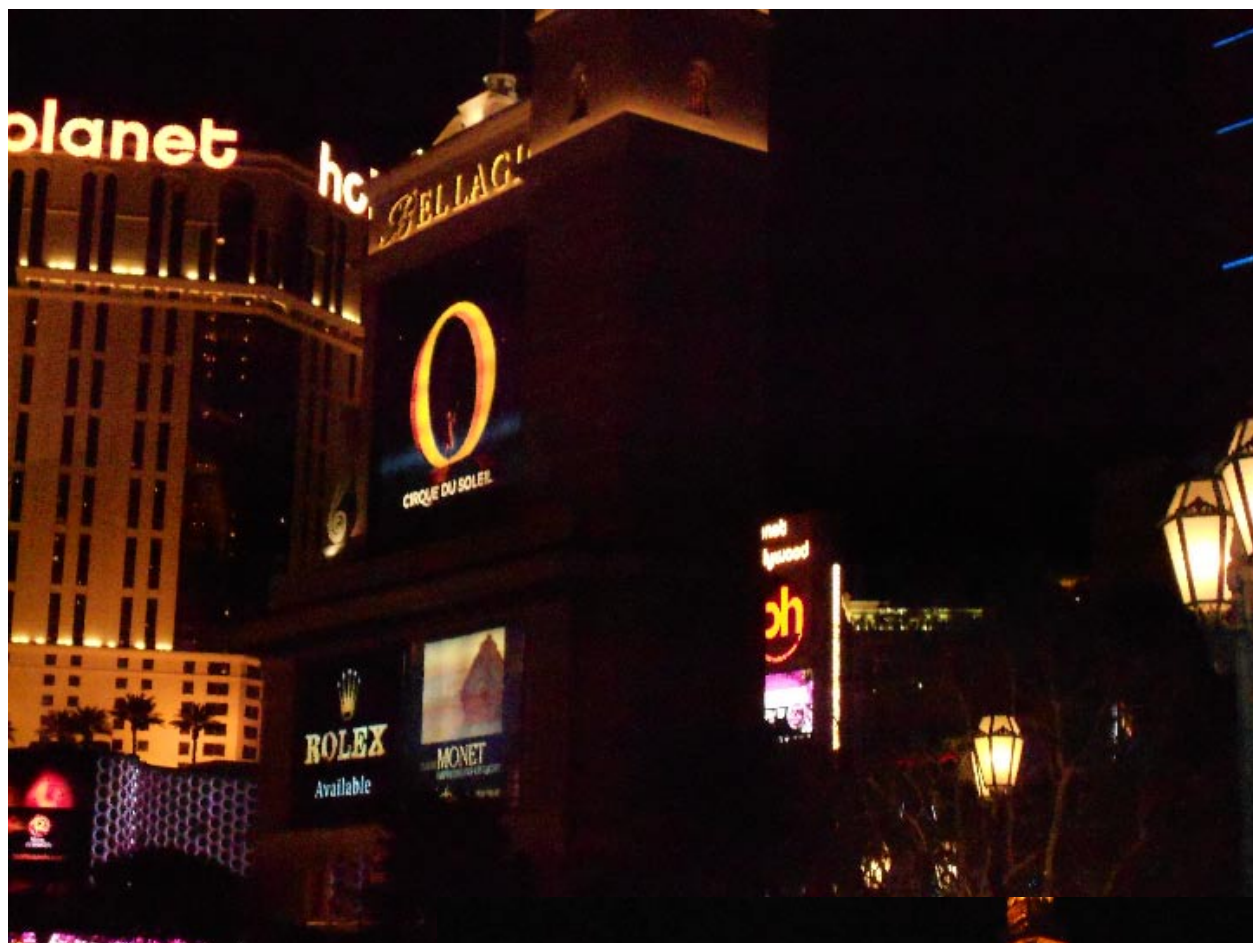
*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Above - Interior of theater ceiling - no photos allowed during the show*

*Below - The Bellagio fountain at night after the show*







*March 2012 -  
Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Back out on the  
Vegas Strip at night  
to return to the hotel*

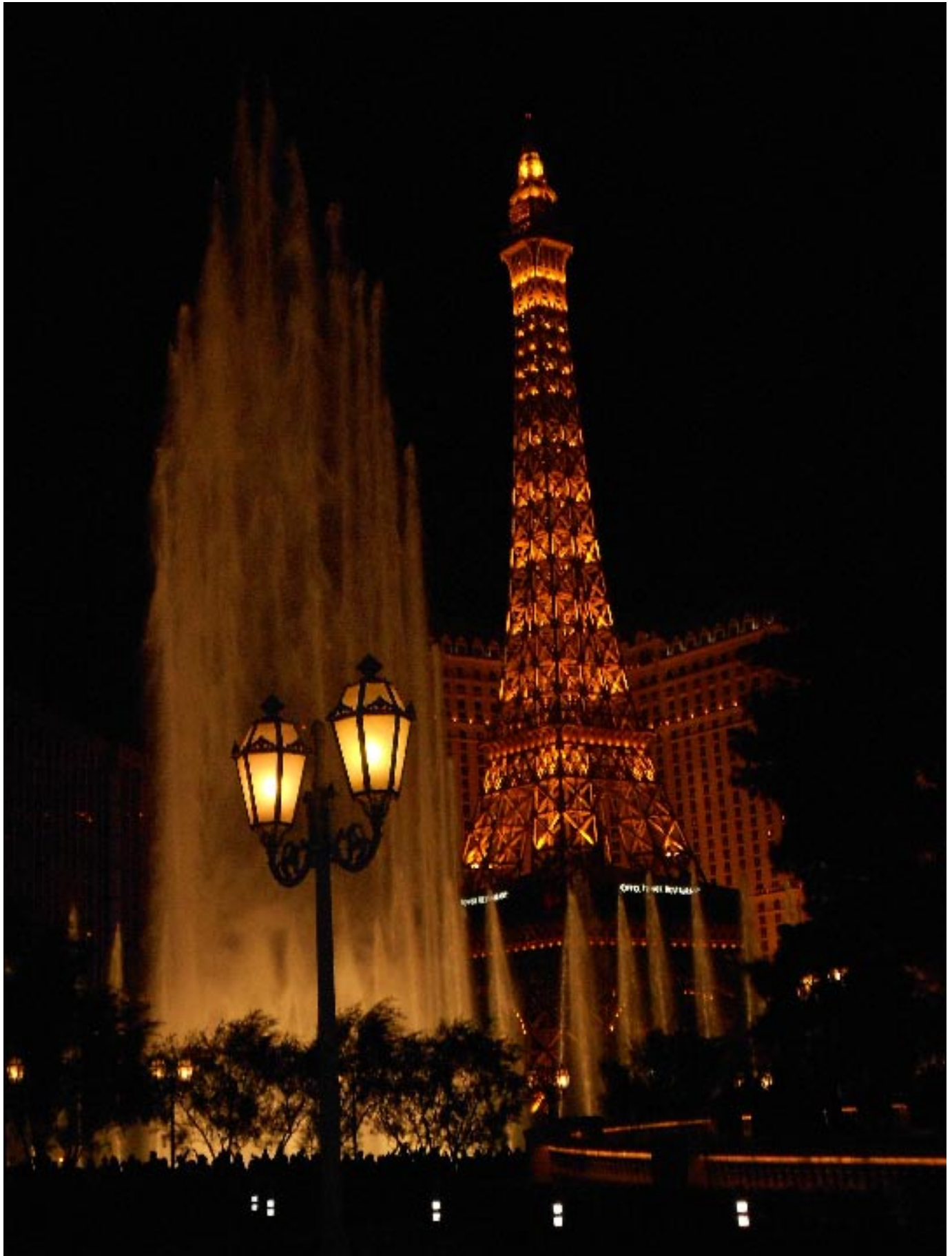
*All the crazies were  
out on the Strip  
in "this place is  
nuts!"*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*

*The fake Eiffel Tower and Bellagio fountain at night*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada*  
*When we got back to the Luxor we saw these birds flying*  
*in the overhead light looking somewhat eerie*





*March 2012 - Las Vegas, Nevada  
Another blurry shot of the birds and then the next day  
Anna and I headed to the airport for home*





