

The EIGHTH Annual Tripp/Tanenbaum Holiday Letter

1995 just zipped by, didn't it? Even though it's after Christmas, there are so many friends and family that I haven't been able to contact during the year, I just can't skip this note to say hi, and let you all know what's been going on. Besides, it helps us put the year in perspective.

It's been a year blessed with good fortune, or at least no (knock on wood) setbacks. My company, FiQuest Mortgage, incorporated in September, and I have finally realized the dream of my youth - to be president of a company. Richard Rajspic is Chairman of the Board and CEO, and I am President, CFO, and quite a bit of other stuff. We expect 1996 to show a continuing trend of rising revenues. In February, Jeffrey and I vacationed in Maui (again) - it is still beautiful. We even looked at condos to buy. Hah. We are watching the Japanese economy. If the bottom falls out, maybe they will unload their Hawaiian real estate at rock bottom prices. Jeffrey is steadily augmenting his standing at Littler Mendelson, and building an impressive client base. With this year's bonus, he transformed our "den" into a home theater, complete with THX approved Surround Sound whatseewhoozits. It is truly remarkable. Movies are SO much more enjoyable with a kitty on one's lap, and a pause button for snacks and whatever.

My family is doing well, although I have laid down a new rule that the family must now forever travel in separate vehicles - like the Royal Windsor's. They escaped with minor injuries from a collision on the freeway from Emeryville which sent Chris' van to the shop for almost a month. They were picking up a new supercharged fully adjustable electric wheelchair for Chris which has improved his comfort level quite a bit. Roland held a very successful Open Studio in June, and will be doing it again in 1996. I hope to contact you all with the times and dates as soon as they are firm. Mom continues to work on her book and stories, and keep the household running. Many people consider 12201 Skyline Boulevard to be an oasis in this unpredictable world, and Tera deserves the credit. My sister Valerie has joined the PTA in Novato, Tom is still with Tesseract, and Lindsey excels in Kindergarten (takes after Auntie???)

Our friends, Joy and David stayed with us for awhile in October, with their son Austin and his "Ama", Gladina. The boys golfed, the gals headed south to Laurie and Dave Tolson's "spread" out in Morgan Hill - great barbecue, and the children chased Auntie Catherine (The Tickle Monster) to exhaustion.

Jeff's family is also doing fine. We visited them all in a whirlwind week in mid-November. Manhattan first, saw a show, shopped, saw my friend Greg Schanuel, who is stage-managing at Crazy for You, and checked out the night life. We had a wonderful time with Ray and Jeanne. Then it was off to Washington, DC where Jeffrey had to deliver a speech, and where we both hoped to see the new Holocaust Museum. Alas, this was not to be. With Fate's cruel timing, Congress picked the two days of our visit to shut down the government. The only museum open was the Textile Museum. We took a wonderful nighttime tour of the city by bus, and saw all the monuments anyway. It turned out okay, but can you believe that those overpaid politicians have crash landed again? From Washington, we took the train to Philadelphia and spent a few days at Jeff's mom, Carol's house. With Carol, Hayley, Jim and Claire, we saw a stage production of The Wizard of Oz, did some sightseeing and fine dining in downtown Philly, took in a few crafts fairs, and generally enjoyed ourselves quite a bit.

I close with warmest wishes to you and yours, and urge you to contact your elected representatives and give 'em hell for paying themselves during the shutdown.