

THE NINTH ANNUAL TRIPP/TANENBAUM HOLIDAY LETTER

1996 has been a year dotted with short visits from and to our families on different sides of the continent. The traveling began with a strange blend of climates - New York in the snow to Miami in the rain to humid heat in Orlando - all within the space of nine days. How does one pack? My friend Lily suggested a fur coat and a bikini. But some of my fondest memories of the year come from that trip. We ice-skated in Central Park with Greg Schanuel and watched Manhattan get dusted with snow early in the morning. It was so cold that Jeffrey's cousin Lewis and his wife Katie (both thick-skinned East Coasters) agreed we were all very silly for going out browsing in SoHo. I was determined to slog through in my big purple coat, hat, mittens and scarf up to the eyebrows. Jeanne Tanenbaum and I bought some elegant evening wear downtown - she's teaching me how to shop. Jeff and Ray were quite impressed. Then it was off to Miami, and dinner with Uncle David and Aunt Carol. A couple of days in the Florida Keys (it was too cold to snorkel) where my cousin Tim Benjamin called his father in a panic after being hugged from behind by some wild woman out of California. After dinner with Aunt Ruth, Uncle Marvin, Aunt Grace and Cousin Elaine, we flew to Orlando. While Jeff was giving a speech, Joe Tripp came out from Seabring for a visit. That evening, we saw Epcot Center where the laser light show blew me away. Then Jeff and I hung around the MGM/Disney "studio" for a day, then rushed back home for the usual February rainstorms in San Francisco.

During the summer, Hayley and Jim came out and we went to the Wine Country, and did some touring. Carol came out this summer also, so we took off a few days, and basked in the sun in Dana Point, near Malibu. We even took the tour of the stars' homes, during which Jeff spotted Fabio in a local cafe - gush. Carol and Jeff also had a good time playing tennis and golf at the Olympic Club back here in San Francisco.

In October, EVERYBODY celebrated Chris' fortieth birthday. Tera and Roland organized "Quadramania" with a live band, great friends, food for days, and door prizes. Even the Oakland Police were impressed when they responded to noise calls in the wee hours. Wow. Some party!

In November, after thirteen years in our hearts and home, our beloved Mr. Clancy died at age 16. The cancer came on quite suddenly - he suffered very little. Thank you for your letters and calls - I am afraid we will miss him forever. We have begun our search for a new kitty buddy for Mr. Levi, and hope to welcome the new adoptee very soon. Speaking of new additions, Hayley and Jim are expecting their first child in March. Uncle Jeff has already thoughtfully supplied two baby outfits with 49ers and S. F. Giants logos, as they may be hard to find in Pottstown, PA. Thanksgiving found us traveling again, this time to Berwyn, where Carol and Hayley put on an amazing spread. We were fortunate that G'ma Claire and Lewis and Katie could join us. The table just glittered, and the Parade of Pies has already passed into family legend. We did finally get to see the Holocaust museum, and toured some of the other museums while in Washington D. C. We will be spending the traditional Christmas Eve at 12201 Skyline, rounding out our family sprinkled year.

Warmest holiday greetings to all with best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year!!!