

THE TENTH ANNUAL TRIPP/TANENBAUM HOLIDAY LETTER



First, I want you all to know that I noticed how many of my friends and family are now writing annual letters. It's great to find out what you are all up to. I am proud of the trend I have set, and wonder how many of you will start getting them out late next year, just like me. I considered just skipping it, but frankly, these letters have always helped me put each year in perspective, and assuage my guilt for not writing in the last twelve months.

1997 was a very good, very busy year. The year started out with our new kitty, Figaro, moving in. We adopted this angel from the SFSPCA, and will never understand how anyone could have given him up. Figaro, a.k.a. "The Prince of Puff" is a very fluffy flame-point Himalayan, mostly cream colored. Mr. Levi gave him about a month's worth of fear and intimidation, then he settled right in. This was the year of the Junket, my friends. Jeff is asked to speak at numerous conventions and has clients on both coasts. Whenever possible, I tag along now.

In March, the American Bar Association held their conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Tera told us to be sure to look up her old friends, the Malloys. All I remembered was that Edna had a son we called "Shawn Shawn the Leprechaun", and that they were my Mom's friends. Edna Malloy owns Tiera Del Sol Realty, and was so gracious, and her sons, Jaime and Sean, came and brought their wives to join us for dinner, and it turns out, we really like these people! Edna, Shawn and Wanda took us to the Secret Swimming Spot in El Yunque National Forest, stopping along the way for some authentic Puerto Rican roadside food. Hoping to reciprocate their hospitality in some small way, I "de-bugged" Edna's computer. Once the spider and its bug victims were cleaned out from the inside of the computer, the mouse and everything started working again. Upon leaving Puerto Rico, we went to the Dominican Republic and stayed at Casa de Campo, a sports resort. Let me just say that I now call this place Casa de Crappo. The gardeners decided to fertilize every inch of ground all at once, while awakening us every morning to the sound of horny pigeons. Beautiful beaches though. In April, we flew to Pottstown to meet our new niece, Claudia Isis Brady. She is a lovely baby, with impeccable manners, and even Uncle Jeff was impressed. Grandfather Ray and Hayley and Jim send us pictures almost every month - especially of Claudia in her 49er gear. More 49er stuff follows in a steady stream from Uncle Jeff. Lucky kid. ***FiQuest Mortgage*** moved into our permanent offices this May. Richard and I have sworn never to move again. The offices are quite plush, with lots of natural light. We have hired a loan processor, and a new loan agent. In the evenings, when I lock the door behind me, I am grateful for this good fortune, and that my business is growing healthier all the time.

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In August, we visited New Orleans - it was wonderful again. We took Haunted Plantation and Voodoo nighttime tours. Saw the plantation where Bre'er Rabbit was written, it has only recently been taken over by preservationists. What a sultry, fascinating town. We went to Santa Monica for a client meeting, and spent three days touring around there. We do not recommend the La Brea Tar Pits. It was a special treat to have dinner with Dave Goldberg in his new house in Altadena (a ***FiQuest*** customer - thanks for the vote of confidence, Dave!). Jeffrey made him explain every model and award from his visual effects Hollywood career. We look for his name on every movie or the name of his company, Dream Quest Images, and had just the greatest time checking out Pasadena's "Old Town" with a native. Seattle in September was another treat. We met Ray and Jeanne at the hotel in town, and walked all over the Bumbershoot Festival. We all took a boat tour of Lake Washington and saw Bill Gates' house. He can't finish that, either. Just keeps adding bells and whistles, and the product is full of bugs. Not that I dislike Microsoft, oh no. Plug and pray is what I say. Jeff took some pictures of my Dramamine-induced nap. Thanks, honey. We also got to see John Velemesis and his wife Lori for dinner in Seattle. Heated political discussion ensued, ending with Jeff giving John and Lori's son a huge stuffed Snoopy doll he had won at the fair. Jeff has this bizarre uncanny ability to knock over the bottles, or land in the hoop with the ball. He is actually quite the phenomenon. The prizes are unwieldy, but I proudly carry the Big Man's trophies for the remainder of the day. Jeffrey is also a pretty good tennis player, the Olympic Club brings him along on intra-club contests. This year, we've been to Carmel (May) and La Quinta (February) on these jaunts, and best of all was the First Annual Mauna Lani Club Tennis Tournament in Hawaii, the week after Thanksgiving. Jeffrey and I took two whole weeks off, went to Kauai first (our honeymoon island), then flew to the Big Island. Wow. That IS my second home - sort of - we bought a timeshare there. Braved the cold (Jeff says warm) 60 to 70 degree (Jeff says 70) water, and snorkeled whenever and wherever possible. In November, Jeff was able to tie in a visit with his family to another client, and saw Grandma Claire along with Jim and Hayley and Carol and Claudia. To close out the year, Jeff's 40th birthday present is tennis lessons - for me. Maybe in a decade or so, I will be able to return those killer serves. Ongoing activities include tennis at The Olympic Club (JMT), Employment Law Guru (JMT) Treasurer of the Investment Coven, LLC (CGT), and producing the newsletter for the local CAMB (California Association of Mortgage Brokers) chapter (CGT). Here is my new work location information - and e-mail addresses for us both:

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We hope this letter finds you well and happy and that 1998 is a joy filled and prosperous New Year for us all.