

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL TRIPP/TANENBAUM HOLIDAY LETTER

The last two years have been very busy, 1998 in particular. So busy that I did not have time to write the Year in Review last year!

So here I am, in the guest bedroom of our house, tapping away on the laptop, trying to keep the kittens from jumping on the keys. Yes, I said kittens! 10 weeks old, a brother and sister "American Domestic", fluffy mutts whom we have named Luke and Leah. We just adopted them from the local shelter. Figaro is puffier than ever and doing well. Figaro, Luke and Leah are the good news on the cat front. The sad news is that our beloved Mr. Levi died on November 1, 1999, at age 17, after being our boon companion for 15 years. We loved him very much, and we will always miss him.

During Thanksgiving week '99, we had a great visit with Ray and Jean, and saw Greg Schanuel perform in the Radio City Rockettes Christmas show. My high school buddy is on the stage, DANCING! We also saw Jeff's college friend, Al Weinberg, and a friend from Skyline High School, Maumi Cannell. Jim Brady sent us a small video file via e-mail of the lovely and talented Ms. Claudia Isis Brady doing a rousing rendition of the Alphabet Song. Jim, Hayley and Claudia are all doing well. We were delighted to see her them for Thanksgiving at the dinner hosted by Philip and Diana Horvitz at their home in New Jersey. Jean's family was there, and we were pleased to catch up with them -- it had been far too long since we had last seen them. Thanksgiving of 1998, we spent in Hawaii, the Waikoloa district of the Big Island. The Olympic Club Tennis Tournament gives us an excuse to go every year, which we did - in September of 1999. We have made good friends there, and we plan to return in 2000.

Though our families had some health problems in '98 and '99, everyone is now doing well. Mom hosts the family gatherings that keep bringing the California cousins and the Tripp/Treadaway clan together. On a trip to Florida in February '99, Jeff and I visited with Joe Tripp, cousins and aunts on my father's side, and childhood friends of Jeff's family, Helen and Lou Summers. In some cases, nearly 25 years had passed since last contact. So, it's been a period of renewal in many ways. For the first time in several years, Jeffrey and I have put up a Tanenbaum (Pine Tree). Evergreen boughs remind me that winter has an end, and Earth will bloom again.

In both '98 and '99, I spent a week each summer in the Mendocino Woodlands at Witch Camp. Yes, I said Witch Camp! Cell phones don't work there, and the cabins have no electricity. Those secluded days in July provided respite, rejuvenation, and some lessons in casting spells. Fascinating experience, but I am still skeptical of organized religion in all of its forms. So, I continue to practice magic, and encourage tolerance.

Pop is turning out artwork that gets progressively awe-inspiring. Valerie is a well-respected reading tutor in Lindsey's Novato, CA school district, and Tom is doing well at Tesseract. Lindsey's 10th birthday just passed, and the party featured a 60's theme and a reptile show. Regret donating those bell bottoms, love beads and peace signs? They are, like, so IN!

I think Jeff's fame grows here, nationally, and even internationally. His "love contract" for employers was featured in the New York Times, the London Times and over 100 other newspapers and magazines. The local media (TV, print, radio, and e-zines) call on him for expert commentary whenever an employer is involved in noteworthy litigation. **FiQuest Mortgage** had a barn burner of a year in 1998. This year has slowed down due to the rise in interest rates, mostly, and the insane real estate market here in the Bay Area. The slowdown has allowed me some quality time to myself, and I find that I like it VERY much, so have opted for part time loan brokering starting in 2000.

Although we make new friends and strike up new acquaintances every day, these last two years have introduced us to the joys of spending time with family and old friends, and being part of each other's lives. Happy Winter Solstice, Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas, Season's Greetings, and Happy New Year!