

## THE TWELFTH ANNUAL TRIPP/TANENBAUM HOLIDAY LETTER

Year 2000 was wonderful in many ways, with some sad notes. It was a year of Aloha for us. Last November, we decided to make Hawaii (The Big Island – Kohala coast) our second home, and began looking in earnest for just the right place. In January, our friend Joy Stevenson, and her delightful daughter, Eleanor Renee (Ele Pele) invited me to stay with them for a week on the Big Island. Ze Shapiro, our realtor and friend, showed me a beautiful light-filled condo at the Shores at Waikoloa, and I loved it. Jeffrey and I returned to Hawaii in April to close escrow and start some upgrades. It was the first time Jeffrey had seen the unit and he loved it too.

Fate has been kind, and I have been able this year to shed some of the day-to-day management of FiQuest Mortgage, as I embarked on life as an independent contractor. The loan industry is at levels approximately 50% of last year, so it was an excellent time to kick back. I have been able to travel with Jeff more often this year, and spending more time raising our kitten siblings, Leah and Luke has brought me happiness every day. I worked on the campaigns of some of our local candidates, and devoted much time to personal and family business. Jeffrey is heading up the Littler group that handles Employment Practices Liability Insurance, and travels all over the country promoting their new programs. Joe Tripp came out in late April and stayed with us for a few days. As a result, Jeff's billiards skills are much improved.

This summer we traveled east for Carol's retirement party and roast – now that was a memorable event! We also visited with Hayley, Jim, Claudia, and Grandma Claire while we were there. We then went to New York, and saw Uncle Murray and Uncle Eli, both of whom had recently undergone surgery. Both were up and about, and a special treat was seeing Eli's son, Jacob, and his two young sons. Aunt Mary and Aunt Esther are doing an admirable job caring for the Tanenbaum brothers. Dinner in New York with Ray and Jeanne, and ice cream sundaes with Greg Schanuel rounded out the visit. In July Tom Brophy's daughter, Alicia came to live with Tom and Valerie and Lindsey. She is finishing college in the Bay Area, after a year in Spain. Late July found us back in Hawaii, with much snorkeling, tennis and golf (for Jeff!) In August Jeffrey, after thousands of attempts, finally hit his first hole-in-one. Persistence, if not skill, pays off! In the same week, he also enjoyed triumphs in softball, tennis and even bowling. Jeff promptly announced that he is a finely tuned athletic machine, an admittedly baseless boast for which he takes much grief.

In September, the Olympic Club holds its Annual Inter-Club Tournament with the Mauna Lani Club, and there is a USTA sanctioned tournament at the beautiful Mauna Kea Tennis Club -- so we returned to Hawaii and Jeff played tennis to his heart's content. We also fit our "condo-warming" party into this week, and enjoyed having about 50 friends and tennis buddies over for heavy pupus and mai tai's. Diana, Jacque, and Wendi stayed at the Shores for a few days, and our friend and SF neighbor, Lois Valeskie, and her mom, Vera were also "on Island". Along with touring the sacred sites of Hilo, meeting our friend and florist, Evelyn Ilima and her family in Puna, boogie-boarding, snorkeling and hanging out on the lanai, these good friends provided invaluable help in preparations and clean-up. Valerie accompanied me on an October bus tour of the Northern Mines under the auspices of the California Historical Society, where we were lucky enough to see Leslie Gault and Jimmy Green, our friends that live in Grass Valley, at the foot of the Sierras.

In late October, Jeffrey's beloved grandmother, Claire Matus passed away after a long illness in Pennsylvania. We attended the funeral service, and visited with family and old friends. Claire was buried next to her husband, Irving in New York. While we were in PA, we received the sad news that another member of our extended family had died – Uncle Richie. Rich, Tom Brophy's uncle, took care of Chris from time to time, and was very close to us. November found us back in Hawaii, where we shared Thanksgiving with old and new friends, hosted by Hal and Ze Shapiro.

In closing, Jeffrey and I wish you all "much Aloha" for 2001. May your times of great happiness be plenty and your sadnesses be few.