

# THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL TRIPP/TANENBAUM HOLIDAY LETTER

Aloha! We're covering two years in this letter since I skipped last year (too, too busy!). We witnessed the fall of Enron, World Com, and the Dot Bomb, as well as the ongoing war with Iraq. As I write this, Saddam Hussein has just been captured, here's hoping Osama bin Laden is next.

Our big news in 2003 has been Jeffrey's change in employers in July. He is now a partner at Nixon Peabody. Quite a change since he had worked for Littler, his prior firm, for over 21 years - - his only job after graduating law school. NP made him a great offer he couldn't refuse and he has been having a wonderful time! It was sad for him to leave friends at Littler (some of whom are getting this letter - hi!) but we have been making new ones at NP. The NP Partner Retreat took place in October of this year, and since it was in Miami, I got a chance to see Uncle David (Mom's brother) and Aunt Carol, as well as watch the Florida Marlins win the World Series with Joe Tripp. In October, Chris had his 47<sup>th</sup> birthday party barbeque - we had a chance to visit with Cousin Cathy Stussi (Mom's sister Mary Beth's daughter) and her husband Tim, Lily O'Connor and her boyfriend Michael, as well as other old family friends, and reminisced with the aid of a Chris Collage.

We love our Hawaii home more every time we go. We have made very good friends in Waikoloa who come from all over at all times of the year, but especially at Thanksgiving to gather at Hal and Ze Shapiro's home. The "Groaning Table" held 26 thankful people this year, and Jeffrey and I enjoyed our 19<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with dinner at the beach. We were particularly thankful that Jeffrey's sister Hayley, who had to go through some major surgery in November, has been recovering well. 2003 was FiQuest's best year ever. It now looks like the refinance boom is finally over, although many of my customers are buying houses - - keeps me out the pool halls. I have taken up watercolors as a hobby; hope I get to practice more in the coming year. We attended a joyous family gathering in Scottsdale, Arizona in May. Jeffrey's cousin, Laurie Williams put on a grand soiree in honor of her daughter Faune's bat mitzvah. The family honored her late grandfather, Murray Tanner, with grace and poise. Mom is rehearsing for a big role in a new play coming out in February - I am so proud of her!

We enthusiastically voted for different candidates in the California recall election - who could resist 130 earnest essays - with 4 Libertarians to choose from, even! Hard to tell what's in store for the Governor, but surely he won't be easily intimidated. We happily hosted some visitors during the year; Shep Greenberg (a friend of Jeff's since they were knee high in Berwyn) came with his wife Susan and his very bright daughter Lindsey. Dave Goldberg (Catherine's friend since Model UN in college) came in July with his girlfriend as he was between movies, and walked us through the benefits of high tech espresso machines, which Hayley highly recommended, so we got one - please come and have some of this amazing elixir! Our dear friend Greg Schanuel who knew Catherine in junior high and hasn't changed a bit, was in town for a few weeks in June, stage managing the musical URINETOWN (which, by the way, you should see, don't let the name discourage you). It was indescribably fabulous gabbing at our leisure, and squiring his nephew and niece and their mom around town. That same week, we saw one of our favorite books, Wicked by Gregory Maguire, brought to life in the musical by the same name. It tells the story of the Wizard of Oz from the perspective of the horribly misunderstood Elphaba, the so-called Wicked Witch of the West. We have a new e-mail for notes and jokes: <triptan@att.net> - although in Hawaii SPAM is considered part of a nutritious breakfast, on the internet, it is inedible.

Much more happened, but I promised to keep these missives to one page a long time ago. All in all, life is good. The cats, Princess Leah and Luke Skywalker (misnamed miscreants - should have been named Bonnie and Clyde) and Figaro, the Prince of Puff have been busy chewing on the ribbons of the carefully wrapped gifts in the front room. We are both looking forward to the traditional Christmas Eve dinner and gift ripping at Mom and Pop and Chris' house

Mele Kelikimaka everyone! -- Catherine and Jeff