

The Twentieth Annual Tripp/Tanenbaum Holiday Letter



Warm holiday greetings, my dear friends and family. As I begin writing in December 2010, fresh snow is falling on Paris, and Jeff and I are here to see it! We walked along the Seine gathering snowflakes on our coats – one of those magical moments of good fortune that we wish for all of you. And just a year ago, in December of 2009, Jeff and I finally made our “Go See Elephants In Africa” plans for

August 2010, our 25th anniversary present to each other. It was our first inkling that 2010 would bring many adventures and life changing experiences – it turned out to be a hello-goodbye year.

Oaktown pal Kristen Frykman was in town for a few days in January with her daughter, Charlotte, so we parked at Sky House, and Chris came with us on a nostalgic tour of Skyline High School. Charlotte now knows a few things about Miss Kristen that weren't part of the original narrative ☺... In March, we were in Hawaii for another Homeowner's Meeting at the Golf Villas at Mauna Lani, and we are pleased to report the new Board is much less prone to squandering valuable time and money. Lesson learned – good governance requires participation. The charming and delightful Gail Stotsky, Jeff's friend from Georgetown days, came to visit in April, and we got to meet her fabulous son, Abe, who is starting college this year. In 2010 there was a June election, and then a November election, yet the wars continue. We wish our armed forces the best, and hope they can come home soon.



On June 23rd, just shy of his 54th birthday, my brother Chris passed away – a blessed release from pain and limited mobility for him, an enduring loss for the rest of us. I am thankful to have been at his side. The memorial held on July 4th brought together many old friends and family for stories of his gallantry, fearlessness and great sense of fun.

In late July, cousin Cathy Stussi and I got together for “Ancestry Night” and set up the bones – if you will – of our mutual family trees on ancestry.com. We are looking forward to filling it out in the coming years with photos and stories. Our August African Adventure is detailed on the next page – suffice to say, we want to go back. In October, Claire Wagner, Maumi Cannell and I spent the afternoon together, learning from Genghis Khan at the San Jose museum, slipping into easy camaraderie like comfortable slippers. My friend Spike's animated movie debuted this year – look for “Paper Words” on PBS. Vernetta accompanied me to Ukiah's annual Sol Fest in October where I strove to learn all I could about the latest developments in solar energy – for our solar array in San Francisco, and for resorts and Homeowner's Associations in Hawaii – many of whom are bewilderingly slow to adopt this form of alternative energy despite its obvious benefits in a place like Hawaii. People, people, there is plenty of sun here, let's use some of it! While on the North Coast, Vernetta and I were welcomed in Fort Bragg by friends A.B. and Connie. Oh, and the San Francisco Giants won the World Series!



The first week of November found me in Sebring, Florida, helping Dad move into his very own home at Fairmount Mobile Estates. Spent some time with Aunt Eleanor and had a wonderful visit with Uncle Danny and Aunt Edna at their citrus farm in Labelle – it had been 44 years since the last time we saw each other, and agreed never to let that much time lapse again. Gathering up cousins and photos like cranberries and popcorn, I hope to keep stringing together our family's narrative and sharing it with the extended clan in the coming years. For Thanksgiving, we travelled back to Hawaii for 2 weeks with our dear friends where we all participate in the annual “Recitation of Gratitudes”. And we were especially grateful for the Merriman's gift certificate I received from NP (thanks Carol Dowling!) for leading my very first historical walk of San Francisco's 1906 Quake and Fire. I had the special pleasure of joining my niece, Lindsey Brophy for her 21st birthday with her friends from SF State in early December. The Labor and Employment law practice group at Nixon Peabody (NP L&E) continues to thrive, Jeff is very proud of his excellent team there. So, we close this year's belated Holiday Letter with our wish for all of you to have a healthy and Happy New Year, keep in touch!

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AUGUST 2010

AFRICAN ADVENTURE



THE ITINERARY:

Leave SFO

17th at 7:04 pm. Arrive in Lusaka, 12:50pm, Thursday,

August 19th. Spent three days at Chiawa Camp in Zambia in the heart of Lower

Zambezi National Park <www.chiawa.com/pages/home.htm>. Arrived for three days at Zarafa Camp, Selinda Reserve, Okavango Delta, Botswana Sunday, August 22nd. We would have loved to run into Precious Ramotswa of the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency, but she lives in Gaborone.

<www.selindareserve.com/zarafa.html> Arrived Johannesburg Wednesday, August 25th, where we stayed at Athol Place Hotel for two nights. On Thursday, August 26th, we spent the day at The Cradle of Humankind exploring Maropeng and Sterkfontein Caves. Hello Australopithecus! Arrived Camp Jabulani, Hoedspruit, South Africa on Friday August 27th, spent three days riding elephants and viewing wildlife in Kapama Private Game Reserve. <www.campjabulani.com/> Then back to Johannesburg on Monday, August 30th to catch our flight home. Our travel agent, Mushinda Adventures in Africa says: "Arrive home, tired, but with "Africa in your blood", memories to last a lifetime and a burning desire to return". That we did, we also arrived home with pictures - lots and lots of pictures... here are but a few:



On the banks of the lower Zambezi River, we hear lions roar at night, and ask the guide where the lions were.

He said they were definitely Zimbabwe lions from across the river - "How can you tell?" we asked. "By the accent" he deadpans.

I ran out of superlatives in Zambia. Each destination was more everything than the last. No TV. No internet. No telephones. Just the view out the extra wide screen door of hippos munching the ground making their way across the mud under the full moon. They grunt and laugh - huh-heh-huh-heh.



For more pictures, go to: <http://picasaweb.google.com/financeGalsSF/AfricanAdventureAugust2010#>



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