

The Twenty Second Annual Tripp/Tanenbaum Holiday Letter

Another Several-Years-In-One Letter - as most of you know, I was unable to produce our usual Holiday update in the winter of 2013, then 2014 flew by, so here we are, reviving the tradition. Long story - suffice it to say, I am now a Bionic Woman, with five titanium plated ribs and lots of correspondence and honey-dos to catch up on. Jeff and I are well settled in to the 4 Jasmine abode - we put on a Sun Room in 2013 that takes advantage of the gorgeous view. He is still a senior partner at Nixon Peabody, and he has handed over the reins of Labor Group Leadership. He is getting lots of new clients and interesting cases, especially whenever we leave town (so puzzling). 2015 ended with Jeff's team at the Marin Tennis Club winning their division and heading to sectionals in January, and I have joined a Writing Group in Marin that meets once a month. As you can see, I do better with a deadline to meet (procrastinators unite!), and with their encouragement, have completed a few chapters in the historical novel I've been writing for years. Working title is Sugar and Silver, about the lives of three powerful accomplished women who influenced the world in the late 1800's. Mary Ellen Pleasant, the mother of Civil Rights in California, Empress Ci Xi, ruler of China and Queen Emmalani of the Hawaiian Islands. Here's hoping I make lots of progress in 2016!



In May of 2014, we purchased a plot of land at the Mauna Lani Resort on the Kohala Coast, and have just submitted our plans for "The Aina" to the Association for approval, and the county for permits. In another two years, we hope to have a new single story, non-gated residence



on the Big Island. There will be a separate "guest hale" for family and friends. Some day, we will retire there. Our 2nd home at the Golf Villas underwent extensive renovations this year but all the construction dust should be cleaned up by March when we go back. Had a great Thanksgiving at Kohanaiki in 2014, our friends Joy and David were able to join the original Halze Gang that year and the group gathered there again in 2015. Speaking of Fall 2014, there was the San Francisco Giants series to celebrate - here is Jeff, in his Giants T-shirt experiencing that exciting last inning.



Though I missed the Big Benjamin Family get together in October of 2013, Uncle David video-called me at home, and I got to meet Jean Niesen and some other long lost cousins from Ohio. She found us by calling Uncle David in Miami as she was researching our ancestry - so was I, so how cool to have found each other. Grandpa Benjamin had two brothers, and we had never met anyone from that side of the family. Finally in August of

2015, I flew to Cincinnati (after visiting with Dad in Sebring) and learned all about them and their families - merriment ensued. Here is a picture of my "new cousins". This season marks the half way mark of our niece Claudia's first year at Iowa State, she is doing very well there, and we are proud of her.



Of course, many other events transpired, but here is the moral of the story: Always leave one hand free for the railing.

Many warm wishes for merry holidays and a happy new year!

Oct. 2013 in hospital Oct. 2015 at home

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