

Tanner Family Holiday Letter, 2004



2004 was another good year for the Tanner family. Ruth completed a year at the Soldier Systems Center in Natick, and is inching toward retirement in 2008. She also got a new puppy. Dan hung out his shingle as ProgresSmart. Mathilda has begun a teaching career. Dan and Ruth bought land in Dominica and are engaged in building a vacation lodge there, to eventually be expanded into their retirement abode.

As always, you're invited to keep tabs on us via <http://dantanner.tripod.com>.

Mathilda

We are really proud of Mathilda and happy for her, too. Seeing that the economy was making it tough for an artist to get a start, she took the bull by the horns and answered a subway advertisement for the NYCTF. Over 30,000 people each year try to get into NYCTF, which provides a two-year contract with the NY City Board of Education and a program leading to a Master's degree in education in about 15 months, but only a few hundred get through the multi-phase winnowing process.

So, in 2004, Mathilda went from being a struggling artist forced to work in a retail store to make ends meet, and appearing on "Date Patrol" with the ulterior motive of gaining television exposure for her art, to becoming a high school science teacher through a process that would have daunted many others, and, she hopes someday, an art teacher.

Ruth

Ruth never changes, which is the best thing about her. She's the constant of love & caring, and our family's emotional anchor. She is quite successful at her new job, and she has kept up with her quilting hobby. As always, you can view her quilts at <http://dantanner.tripod.com/quilts.html>. If you do so a few days after Christmas, you will be able to see her creations she gave as gifts this year's Christmas gifts.

She was finally able to get a puppy after losing Jed and Cosy. Check out Lyla at <http://dantanner.tripod.com/lyla.html>.

Dan

Dan had to have angioplasty again late in the summer. A coronary stent implanted in 1997 was not drug-coated, and a clot had built up. The procedure went fine, with a new drug-coated stent in place.

Dan also kept busy with ProgresSmart, www.progressmart.com. It sure feels great to work out of semi-retirement! Income from the venture is funding our initial building in Dominica. As of the first week in December, after starting only on August 13 (his late mother's birth date), ProgresSmart had 16 clients. Admittedly, they're not all large clients, but many are repeat customers already, and the business seems to be growing.

Our Activities

Ruth and Dan took a month, from February 10 to March 9, to vacation in Dominica with a purpose: Purchase a nice piece of land. Mission accomplished! We got some prime land with an outstanding view. Check <http://dantanner.tripod.com/dca04.html> to see our entire vacation, and click on the "Our Land" link to see our land and its view. At this time, we're verging on starting to build the vacation lodge portion of our eventual retirement abode in January, with April completion, and perhaps add a slice of land to that which we currently own.

While in Dominica, we shared good times with old friends, including a lovely 31st anniversary dinner, and with new friends we made. We had great beach days, great snorkeling, made and enjoyed some great music, ate and learned to cook great local food, and really enjoyed Carnival.

Ruth and Dan also managed to take a week in July for a vacation on Martha's Vineyard, a highlight of which was a visit from Jason and Colleen White (Jason is my cousin Susan's son) and their two little boys, Julian (5) and Connor (3).

Mathilda managed to squeeze in a couple of weeks on Martha's Vineyard between the end of summer classes and the start of teaching. She took a working vacation at Chilmark Pottery. Check out <http://dantanner.tripod.com/chilpot.html>.

Love,

Dan & Ruth



Dan, Ruth & Mathilda, Thanksgiving 2004