



Tennison 2013 Family News



Forty-fifth Edition

We send you our wishes for a blessed Christmas at the end of this most difficult year of our lives. As everyone already knows, our beloved Pamela lost her battle with cancer on June 28th this year. We are still reeling from the loss, even though we all knew it was inevitable. I have a website with some memories on our family website, <http://www.tennisonfamily.com/>. The link is her name in the left column of that page.

In January, before we knew the timeline on the progression of Pam's cancer, we took a cruise in the South Pacific where we visited Easter Island, Bora Bora, Moorea and Tahiti, among others.



We left Arizona in March and stayed in California with Pam for her remaining time. We traveled with her to Michigan to visit Paul, Robyn and Keegan, and she made other trips on her Bucket List - with Gail to Yosemite, with Mark to New York, with Bev, Selina, and Rico to Disneyland, a second tandem skydive with Mark, and a trip to Paris with Gail and Paul. She somehow managed to keep her strength up for these adventures.

Granddaughter, Selina, had been preparing for eight months for a summer of volunteering in Costa Rica and said her final good-byes to Pam in mid-June. She had a marvelous summer in a small village there while working in the national parks and doing various other activities in the town. For a sixteen-year-old to spend her summer without electronics of any sort, to get up

and feed the chickens at 4:30 am and to go to bed at 7:00 at night, it was the experience of a lifetime. [You can see her photos here.](#) But I especially like this one!



Rico kept busy in the summer enjoying being an only child and keeping his parents busy with all his sports. Summertime soccer and baseball had them rising early and going to games all over the area. He does love his sports and excels in those he enjoys. He also excels at school, and we are here with him after he received his science award.



Keegan, back in



Michigan, is now water skiing on full water skis (or something like that). His parents are loving that he is participating in their favorite activity. As you can tell, Grandma is not really up on the correct sporting terminology. He has grown so fast, and we did

get to see him at three different times during the year, which was nice. We visited with Pam in March, they visited here for Monica's wedding, and then we traveled back to Michigan in September.

Granddaughter, Monica was planning her wedding to Kyle during Pam's illness, and Pam had hoped to be able to attend, but it wasn't meant to be. The wedding was a beautiful but bittersweet occasion that took place the day after Pam's death. Here is the family photo that was taken that day. If we all look a bit dazed, you can understand why. Monica was a beautiful bride, and they are very happy. [Monica's wedding photos are here.](#)



Gail needed a vacation after the wedding, as she was so frazzled with Pam's illness and planning this beautiful wedding for her daughter. The bride and groom departed for their honeymoon in Costa Rica. And a very short time after their return, Kyle's father, who had been quite ill, died. So this young couple had more sadness to deal with.

Monica threw a BIG party for her mother's 50th Birthday and had people flying in from all over the country. It was quite an event, and she did a great job.

Lloyd continues his business in Walnut Creek and has a partner in a new "unusual" business, but I won't go into that. He suffered his own kind of loss when his 18 year old cat died early in June. Just one more little jab for the year.

Mark's work at the San Francisco Bayfront Hilton keeps him busy, and he continues to skydive. He was on

the Texas based team once again and was commuting back and forth to Houston for his training throughout the summer. Then locally, he was on a team and trained in Lodi with them. It all paid off when they earned Bronze Medals at the Nationals in Illinois in September. Following that event, he visited with Paul, Robyn and Keegan in Michigan.

Gail's work keeps her busy at home and on the road to seminars and training. She was in Portland for something and then in New Jersey for a week. She extended that NJ trip to include time in New York and a visit with friends. Her circle of friends keeps her busy at home, and she is enjoying activities with her new son-in-law's family, like a Thanksgiving morning "Turkey Trot" race.

Bev and Rick's life is never uncomplicated. They had a friend living with them for several months after his family had relocated to the East Coast and he was waiting for a new position in the company. Rick's business prospers, and Bev is working more and more days as a substitute teacher. Rick golfs with friends and with his kids. Both Selina and Rico were on the golf teams at school, so naturally, they had to practice a lot. Bev plays tennis, belongs to two (or is it three?) book clubs, and is very involved in the varied activities of her children. The family leaves after Christmas for a ski vacation in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Paul was flying cross-country multiple times. He was here to see Pam and for the wedding, then again for the 50th birthday party. He continues to work long hours, and Robyn is now a full time teacher at the college so must attend more meetings with that responsibility. They suffered their own tragedy just before Thanksgiving when Robyn's mother fell in their home and died a few days later. It was sudden and difficult for all. We grieve with Robyn over her loss.

We managed to make our annual trip to Oregon with our dear friends, and from there we headed East. It was kind of a hurried trip, but we had a nice visit with Paul, Robyn and Keegan and some other friends in Michigan. We got back to California in October, tied up various loose ends and made it back to Arizona in early November to begin square dancing. We returned to California for Thanksgiving and now Christmas, so we have been on a treadmill of sorts. Had time to put together our Christmas Party, but shopping was lost in the whirlwind. We look forward to the promise of better things to come in 2014.

May the blessings of the Christ Child be yours, and may health and happiness be your companions throughout 2014.

Love, Joy and Ray