



# Tennison 2012 Family News

Forty-fourth Edition



We send you greetings for this Holy Season and hope it finds you and yours well and happy. Ours is kind of a mixed bag this year, but we are grateful for so many things.

This year started badly with us being called back to Arizona from California on New Year's Day to the hospital bed of Ray's sister. Janet died after a brief stay in the hospital. We dealt with the aftermath of that and then returned to Gilbert. We square danced and enjoyed our square dance friends and our community activities in Arizona, taking time to visit California periodically.

Ray had some minor surgery in February, and I managed to get a frozen shoulder (adhesive capsulitis) first in the right shoulder, then, when that mended, in the left. The literature says it affects 2% of the population and usually between the ages of 40 and 60—what do they know?

By May we were at our California condo pretty much full time. We made a few brief forays back into the heat of Arizona for some miscellaneous things. We enjoy old friendships and family activities while in California.

In June we traveled with Pam to Victoria, B.C. after she got out of school for a nice rest. We enjoyed the island and it's sights and amenities. Lunch at the Empress was disappointing, but Butchart Gardens was lovely as always. This was taken in front of the Parliament building facing to the port. My two hat people!



August was the big FIVE OH! for Pam, and a party for her was a huge success, but kept us busy for most of that month. This photo of the kids was taken on the patio where the party took place. Imagine, all six of them together in one place.



September is Komen and Oregon time. Pam, Bev, Selina, Ray and I did the Komen 5k with some other friends as in the past, but Gail opted for the 60-mile, 3 day version. She and her friends trained for it and made it look like it was easy! The second photo is Gail's team with Pam at the end of the closing ceremonies. Both races were the same day.



Ray and I traveled northward to be with our friends in Charleston, Oregon for our annual crab/pinochle fest. We had a smaller crowd this year, but a good time was had by all.

In late October Pam, Bev and I embarked on a trip to Italy. We visited Rome, Naples, Pompeii, Assisi, Florence, Pisa, San Gimignano, Bologna, Burano and Venice. We had a marvelous time and are possibly all wanting to return to see the things we missed.



Returned to San Francisco early in November and Ray and I went back to Arizona to check out the house and weather. All was well there, and we began square dancing shortly thereafter.

As for the family, Lloyd keeps busy with his computer business and assorted other sidelines. We seldom see him as his schedule is so different from ours. He is always available by some media or another, though.

Mark was busy the first part of the year searching for new living quarters in the Bay Area. He decided it was time to purchase another residence here, even though he still has his San Diego condo. He doesn't foresee moving back there in the near future, as his career here is flourishing. Soooo, he found a nice place in San Mateo on a lagoon near a trail and only seven minutes from work. He owns a kayak and has two to three hours a day extra time with the shorter commute. He is in "hog heaven." He traveled to Houston again several times for training with his competitive skydiving team. They took the bronze medal at the Nationals in Arizona in October, so that made him happy.



Pam has enjoyed the travels this year. She is still teaching fourth grade and fighting her awful disease. The party for her birthday was wonderful. A quirky friend brought her a crown and necklace of feathers which she wore with a trail of feathers throughout the evening. I think this photo of her at the birthday party says how much she enjoyed it! Her courage is an inspiration to all of us.

Gail is on the same constant merry-go-round as usual. Busy with work, traveling when possible --New York for some shows and Italy just before Pam, Bev and I went. Yes, I am not repeating last year's letter, she was in Italy then too. As of this writing she is in Atlanta for a wedding. Her big news is she is going to be a mother-in-law next year!

Bev and Rick's merry-go-round spreads a wider circle as they are so involved in the kids activities. Their circle of friends keeps

them busy without the addition of the sports and other parenting activities. Bev plays tennis, Rick plays golf, and they barely light. Bev returned to teaching this year as a substitute, and is fitting that into her schedule. It was great to travel with Bev, as I haven't had that much time with only her in years. They will celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in July. Where has the time gone?

Paul and Robyn keep busy with Keegan and all his activities. Paul works the same long hours, toils at his home, his rental home, and his in-laws new condo when he is not at work. There is always some new project. Robyn got a full-time teaching position at the college where she has been part time for several years, so her schedule has filled up as well. They spent a lot of time helping her parents move from their long-time home into a condo nearer to them this summer. Their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is in September.

And, yes, Monica is engaged! She teaches social studies at a local high school and volunteers for many other programs at the school. Wedding preparations are kicking in now for the big date next June. Fiancé, Kyle, is a very nice young man.

Selina, Selina, Selina. There must be at least three of her for all the things she is into. Varsity golf was again on the fall agenda, leadership programs, and the big one this year is-TA DA-Central or South America this summer. She has been accepted into Amigos de las Americas, a volunteer program for high school students to live with a family in a village where they will speak only Spanish and participate in a community service project with local students. Yes, Grandma is having heart palpitations over this village without indoor plumbing and electricity thing, but Selina is ecstatic.

Rico is in middle school and is into as many sports as ever. He is an avid participant in everything. His golf game is great, and he got a hole-in-one this past summer. School is a breeze, so his boundless energies go into sports.

Keegan is in second grade all too quickly. He is involved in Cub Scouts and was working on a speech with his mother last week because he was going to make a pitch for class president (in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade??). Another politician in the making.

*That's our update for 2012. May the blessings of the Christ Child be yours, and may health and happiness be your companions throughout 2013.*

*Love, Joy and Ray*

