

Last year we had to end our holiday letter early because we were uprooting our computer and moving it preparatory to remodeling our house. At least that's behind us now and we're a lot happier and more comfortable. We chronicled the remodeling, and for anyone interested it's at a slide show here: <http://dantanner.jalbum.net/Our%20Home%20Remodel/>. Our highlights for this year were a vacation in France and Estonia and visit by our best friends Roger and Rita.

We ended 2015 with a happy Christmas dinner at our daughter Mathilda's house. It was a "Reformed Jewish Christmas dinner" of Chinese food prepared by Ruth and Mathilda.



In the left photo, there's our friend Alex London, Mathilda's boyfriend Carl Coleman, Mathilda, Mathilda & Carl's friend Will Byerly, and Ruth holding Lyla. In the right photo, I took a seat and Alex took the photo.

Ruth made this lovely little ceramic Christmas tree. She's been taking Mathilda's classes. You can see Ruth's ceramics at [http://dantanner.jalbum.net/Ruth\\_Tanner\\_ceramics/](http://dantanner.jalbum.net/Ruth_Tanner_ceramics/). Mathilda's are at [http://dantanner.jalbum.net/Ceramic\\_Art\\_by\\_Mathilda\\_Tanner/](http://dantanner.jalbum.net/Ceramic_Art_by_Mathilda_Tanner/).



Ruth and I "brought in" 2016 with a quiet candle-lit dinner of steamed crab legs.



We had an unusual, record in fact, amount of snow on 22-23 January. Snowfall in our yard came to 12½ in. (31.75 cm). It came at a particularly bad time, not only setting our remodeling work back by over a week, but also because I became ill. I was only able to obtain a much-needed prescription over the phone because of the blizzard emergency and obtain the prescribed medication because a wonderful neighbor walked two miles to fetch it for me. Our neighborhood was totally snowed in. The only nice thing was that I saw two beautiful snow bunnies and a stone one (look next to the birdfeeder pole). Lyla is at Ruth's feet by the way.





Spring arrived. In April, we spent a lovely afternoon at the Western North Carolina Orchid Show at the NC Arboretum. We'll probably make going to the orchid show one of our annual habits.

<http://jalbum.net/en/browse/user/album/1712958>



And on Mother's Day we went to Perry's Water Garden in Franklin NC. Here's a slide show of it: <http://jalbum.net/en/browse/user/album/1719050>

I continued to fool with music. Thank you, James Kamp for your marvelous guitar work with me, and for making this recording and for posting it.

- "Seven Spanish Angels", [https://youtu.be/JUiY\\_uJ5zro](https://youtu.be/JUiY_uJ5zro)
- "Jambalaya", <https://youtu.be/GAbCg6n1p6w>
- And the very best - "St. James Infirmary Blues" <https://youtu.be/2atUe4ntQfc>

Our vacation photo albums are at the links below:



Two days in the Beaujolais region:

<http://dantanner.jalbum.net/Beaujolais%20Region,%20France,%202016/>

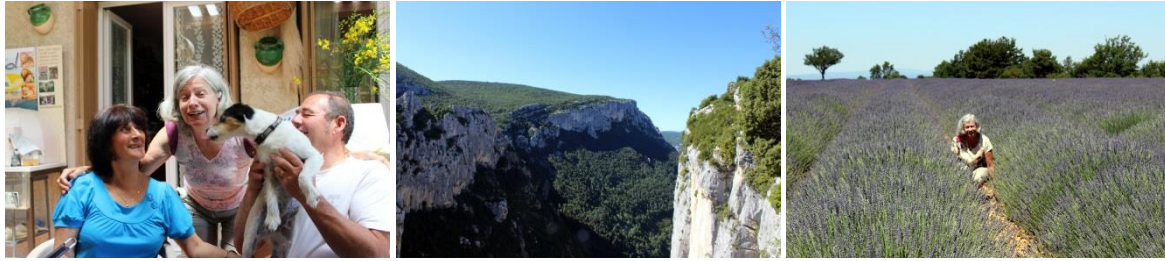
Two days in the Rhone wine region, guests of relations Serge and Sylvette:

<http://dantanner.jalbum.net/Rhone%20Wine%20Region,%20France/>





Two weeks in Provence: <http://dantanner.jalbum.net/Provence,%20France,%202016/> where we visited with friends Bernard and Paquerette.



And, our fortnight in Estonia: <http://dantanner.jalbum.net/Estonia/> where we were graciously hosted both in Tallinn at their apartment and at their farm in the south by friends Viido and Heli.



I gave Ruth a puppy for her August 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. She named it "Moxie."



Video clip taken about 6 weeks later, Moxie & Coco play: <https://youtu.be/pl4-II-UI6Q>



Early in September, Ruth and Mathilda took a sojourn on Martha's Vineyard. Here's Mathilda in front of the famed Pink Cottage in the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association.

Later in September we had the marvelous pleasure of a visit by our best friends Roger and Rita. One of the places we went together was the Biltmore Estate: <http://jalbum.net/en/browse/user/album/1752140>



Ruth is an avid quilter and Roger adores his fly fishing for trout. She made this gift quilt. We also got to (below, left to right) Linville Falls, the Lake Lure Flower Bridge and Looking Glass Falls. Slide show links are below. (To save space in formatting, I've placed more links to videos of me performing there too.)



Linville Falls: <http://jalbum.net/en/browse/user/album/1666838>  
Looking Glass Falls: <http://jalbum.net/en/browse/user/album/1690012>  
Lake Lure: <http://jalbum.net/en/browse/user/album/1407547>

I managed to get a semi-decent selfie video. On YouTube, "You Can Be My San Antonio Rose". Thanks, Travers Brothership!:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqrxibjWgx0&feature=youtu.be>

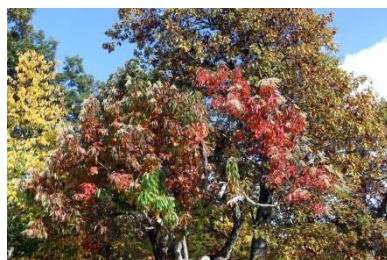
And, "House of the Rising Sun" (I'm barely visible!)

[https://youtu.be/UX\\_kDyYruCc](https://youtu.be/UX_kDyYruCc)

And "Cowpoke Song" a comic number: <https://youtu.be/QlsKxijvAK4>

In late October before the Pisgah Inn on the Blue Ridge Parkway closed for the season, Ruth and I went for lunch and to view and photograph the scenery. The weather was clear and the views spectacular. There are three photos on the next page, and here's a link to a slide show of it.

<http://jalbum.net/en/browse/user/album/1757223;jsessionid=1uoo6qlmqo5n01jlqdx88zipr5>



Here's a treat. Over the 2016 I gathered Mathilda's Facebook "selfies" and created this slide show: <http://dantanner.jalbum.net/Mathilda%20Selfie%20Compilation/>

A final chuckle:



We wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday season and a healthy and happy 2017!