

## Memories of Tanner: Messages of Condolence and Love

*David M. Gay*

Dear ones,

Though I am still distressed at losing Tanner, I recall with joy the many wonderful times we had together. Tanner's memorial service is scheduled for Friday the 15th of October 2021 at 11:00 at the Cathedral of St. John in Albuquerque, New Mexico (318 Silver Street SW, between 3rd and 4th Street). The service should also be available online, with details (eventually) in the Cathedral's web site (<https://stjohnsabq.org>), but if you E-mail me ([dmg@acm.org](mailto:dmg@acm.org)) and ask for the details, I will E-mail them to you once I know them. On request, I can also send Sally Dorst's 'Memories of Tanner', which begins when both were girls and runs for about two and a half pages.

**Condolence letters.** Here are excerpts from some of the many nice condolence letters I received. (Names of writers are in **bold**.)

**Susan Collins and David Sinchcomb** 7 Jan. 2021 We want to send you our deepest sympathy in the loss of your dear Tanner. She was an original, talented, and warm-hearted lady. I especially appreciated her travel diaries, shared with the choir after our tours. You two were a wonderful couple, as witnessed by everyone at St. John's.

**Paul & Diane Isaacson** 7 Jan. 2021 We have so many fond memories of Tanner — at church, on our oversea trips, and of her beautifully written travelogues.

**Helen Haywood Mains** 8 Jan. 2021 I am so sorry to hear that Tanner had passed away. Hope Espie Falco called to tell me that Grace had called last night. Tanner was two years older than I. I remember her well. She was a true sister. I can still recall watching and listening as she read the minutes at Chapter meetings. I also remember that she had an aunt who lived in Henderson, Kentucky. I had relatives in that part of Kentucky and we had something in common. She was the ONLY person I knew who lived in Florida. One winter a few years ago Johnny and I were enjoying a vacation in Florida and we drove to Anna Maria Island. I may be wrong but I believe that the beach was Holmes Beach, and I remember on that day the beach was full of people. I believe (and I may be wrong) that Tanner was from that part of Florida.

**Barbara Young** 8 Jan. 2021 My heart breaks that such a lovely, gentle lady is gone. I loved working with Tanner at ALA. I will miss her sweet smile!

**Jamie St. John** 8 Jan. 2021 I am deeply saddened to learn of the recent loss of your dear wife, Tanner. I know your heart is aching for her physical presence. The love you two had for one another was quite obvious. You two beamed and everyone in your presence felt your love. You both had a wonderful life together. The bond of love is eternal — she will continue to live on within your heart — and the hearts of all who were blessed to know her. I had the honor and privilege to meet and work with her at Assistance League and we worked at Bargain Box. We had such great times laughing and being together. Tanner's smile was so full of love and light. I remember when you had a bunch of us over for a lunch and afternoon. She will be remembered with great fondness!

2 June 2021

**Brian Kernighan** 8 Jan. 2021 Bill Wells forwarded your mail about Tanner. Meg and I are terribly sorry. Tanner was simply a wonderful person, full of fun and good humor, thoughtful, and generous to all. We remember all those delightful dinners at your house, where she experimented with such a variety of recipes (all of which succeeded admirably, I might add). We hope you can take some comfort from the fact that she brightened the lives of everyone who was fortunate enough to know her.

**Margaret Forbes** 8 Jan. 2021 How sad I am to wave good-bye to Tanner, as she travels to that mysterious place we have all prayed about and imagined all our lives and, somehow, never really imagined we'd go to. Now to remember a bright, beautiful women, who shared her life and love with you and whom many of us cared for deeply and admired immensely.

**Barbara and Phil Carvey** 8 Jan. 2021 How very sorry we are to hear of Tanner's passing. She was one of the first people I met when moving to Boston. A year later she was our wedding photographer. The pictures were wonderful because she understood the play of the light at Trinity Copley. She always had a smile on her face, a kind word and an outstretched hand. All of us will miss the joy she was.

**Alice Wilson** 8 Jan. 2021 I will treasure the last Christmas card received from you and Tanner. She will be so missed by her Kappa Delta sisters.

**Betty Max Logan** 9 Jan. 2021 My heart is so heavy for you for the loss of your beloved Tanner. Her beautiful and gentle spirit is a treasure I will always remember. Her smile and warm "hello" was one of the first that welcomed me to our Cathedral family.

**Janet A. Klausner** 9 Jan. 2021 Shortly after you and Tanner married, I met both of you in Nantucket. Maybe you were on your honeymoon then. I recall saying to you that you were a very lucky guy. I believe you replied, "Yes, I know."

Like all of Tanner's friends, I feel lucky to have known her. I had written a message to send to your sister, who said you might have a chance to read messages aloud to Tanner in hospice. You never got that chance, but here's what I had planned to let Tanner know.

Dear Tanner,

I've just learned that its time to say good-bye. You have been a wonderfully supportive, generous friend over the years, and I'm grateful. You've shown me that it's possible for a human being to be genuinely kind and nonjudgmental and open-minded. Possible but so rare that I'm privileged to have seen it. I will always remember our work together, our letters, our conversations—and your willingness to laugh at my jokes. I will miss you.

With much love, Janet

**Barbera McKinney** 9 Jan. 2021 So Sorry to hear about Tanner. I remember our boat ride and us all getting stuck on the sandbar. Take care.

**Me-Linh Nguyen** 9 Jan. 2021 I was so sorry to hear of Tanner's passing. I always looked forward to seeing her at the conferences.

My mom passed away in palliative/hospice care as well. It's not easy losing a loved one, but I take comfort in knowing my mom and Tanner are looking down at us with smiles.

**Grace Ford** *9 Jan. 2021* As a friend of hers for about 60 years, I am happy that you found each other and had such a happy union for 40 years.

Here are a few of my memories of Tanner, which are dear to me and remembered fondly.

I was still in Lexington KY in grad school after Tanner moved to Boston. Ron and I had planned to marry in June, but moved the date to February. On short notice Tanner flew to Kentucky to be my maid of honor! So sweet.

When my children were young Tanner sent them, on a regular basis, wonderful books. They both remember that. Devon mentioned we'd go to the post office, receive a letter from Tanner and read it in the car on the way home. Tanner studied French in collage and suddenly Houghton Mifflin asked her to write a bilingual childrens' book in Spanish/English. She took an adult ed course in Spanish, bought herself some workbooks to do and began watching the telenovelas on TV. I was a Spanish major and we'd follow the same serials; for years we'd discuss the plots, the actors, etc. Nice thing about them is that they end! Lasting 3, 6 or 9 months each.

I feel so fortunate to have known Tanner and to have had her as a dear friend.

**Carol Tucker Graham** *9 Jan. 2021* Tanner was in touch with her Christmas letter and I was dismayed to hear of your cataclysmic health issues over 2020. But your sister kindly posted a tribute to Tanner about the saddest news of her death and I am heartbroken for her loss and for you.

I know you've established a firm foundation of friends there and are not wanting for help, but wish I could lend a hand. So many fond memories of you two — particularly making box lunch chicken salad with Tanner every year — and you punting her down the river Cam when we were on the Calvary Choir trip many years ago!

**Elizabeth Longhurst and Kim Chapman** *11 Jan. 2021* We are so sad for you — losing your beloved Tanner! You and she were a perfect pair: travel-lovers, singers, friends of many, and two good people who brought light into the world. We know how much you will miss her humor, good sense, conversation, and cheerful outlook on life. We will miss that too!

**Kate and Bob Friesner** *11 Jan. 2021* We so enjoyed receiving your Christmas letters. I always so enjoyed Tanner's Facebook "walks" etc. so it was with deep shock that we read Elizabeth's wonderful remembrance of Tanner, announcing her death on Facebook.

We remember those parties and dinners we had together, and all the wonderful years in the choir at St. John's.

Your Tanner was a lady so easily loved and liked. Her smile, her eager love of life and learning, her intelligence. A lady to fondly remember.

**Patricia Howkinson** *12 Jan. 2021* My heart goes out to you at the passing of your beloved Tanner. She was such a wonderful soul whom everyone loved. I will always picture her in the kitchen or dining room, cooking great meals and enjoying the company of all her friends. Sara and I had a wonderful visit with you both, when you pulled out all the stops! You were always traveling to such fun places. I loved seeing them all in your Christmas letters.

And way back in PB, we had such fun and memorable times together. In all my memories of those glorious days, Tanner wears a smile.

**Michael Overton** *12 Jan. 2021* We were so shocked and saddened to hear about Tanner's passing. The two of you were such an inspiring couple, over the many years that I've known you both — so wonderful memories such as dinner at your home in New Jersey, riding your tandem bikes with Eleuthera, lunch at The Turkish Kitchen followed by a walk on the High Line, dinner in Puerto Rico with Eleuthera, & most recently, just a year ago, dinner together in Oman. Michelle also has very fond memories of Tanner in Mexico. Tanner was such a kind, caring person, always full of good humor and fun. And of course she was caring of you in your sickness a year ago. It's so hard to believe that she's gone.

**Madeline Ling** *12 Jan. 2021* While at Houghton Mifflin I had the good fortune to work with Tanner on early grades stories. Boy was she good at writing them! And during that time she shared Maida Heatter's Palm Beach Chocolate Cake recipe with me. It's a dessert that's always garnered rave reviews from family & friends.

Last, and certainly not least, I have always thought of Tanner as the only person I've ever known who never said a bad word about anyone. How special a person is that?!

**Margaret Wright** *14 Jan. 2021* Tanner's death is a terrible loss — she was loved by so many people around the world for her warmth, intelligence, friendliness, kindness, liveliness, sense of humor, ... The list goes on. I drove by your New Providence house today and stopped outside for a while as a tribute to Tanner, to smile, and to weep, thinking of all the wonderful dinners that you two hosted there, with your lucky guests savoring Tanner's delicious food and enjoying your amazing hospitality. All of us will miss Tanner — one of the most genuinely lovely people that we will ever know.

**Barbara Longhurst** *15 Jan. 2021* Tanner was such a positive person with a soul that seemed to include everyone she met and a spirit that was ready to experience whatever adventure came along.

**Diane Crawford** *18 Jan. 2021* For many years I have enjoyed working with Tanner at Assistance League. Most recently we worked in "the back room" of the thrift shop, sorting and hanging an endless stream of donated clothing. I was so impressed by her determination to carry on, even when she was having a difficult time. She was a strong person with a positive spirit. — Yes she was also fun and had a great sense of humor!

Parkinson's is such a frustrating disease and Tanner handled it with grace and positivity. I know only too well how difficult it was for both of you. I traveled the same journey with my husband for many years before his passing in 2019. You find strength you never knew you possessed.

**Jorge & Sue Nosedal** *20 Jan. 2021* Tanner has been part of our lives for decades. She was always the cheerful, considerate and thoughtful person in our optimization family. We have so many wonderful memories of her — of you two.

**Juliet & Craig Eastland** *22 Jan. 2021* We were so sad to hear about Tanner. I (Juliet) only met her a few times, through Grace, but boy, did she make an impression on me! I will never forget her huge smile, her way with words, and especially her intrepid traveler's spirit. I'm lucky to have met her.

**Cynthia Phillips** *23 Jan. 2021* I have such a strong mental image of you two at those Philharmonic events.

**Sterlin Clockedile** *23 Jan. 2021* Even though we haven't seen much of each other in recent years Tanner has always been very special to me. I will miss her and I think of her often when I drive on Anna Maria Island.

**Keith Wendt and Tersenia Schuett** *23 Jan. 2021* We have fond memories of your stay at our house in St. Paul at William's high-school graduation. We remember all the thoughtful salsas and spices you gave us! It was our good luck to host you and get to know more of Elizabeth's family.

The last time we saw both of you was at Maddie's and Ethan's 2-day wedding celebration and we both remarked on what an aligned and perfect couple you two are!

**Jessie Lucero** *24 Jan. 2021* It is with sadness that I write this note to you, and let you know how I met Tanner and how fond I have been of her. It was in 2004 when I joined Assistance League of Albuquerque and she joined just a few months before me. I soon found out she spoke Spanish and of course I was thrilled that I found someone that spoke the language. She told me that she learned to speak Spanish by watching telenovelas; I was excited to find out that someone else watched the same thing I liked to watch on TV. Needless to say she was watching the same Novela that I was watching, so every week we would discuss what was happening during the week on our favorite show. At one point I had a chance to go visit my children in Florence Italy; since they didn't have the American channels there I would be missing my Novela, to my surprise and she offered to let me know what was happening every week, I was so thrilled that she offered to do that for me. Well, to my surprise she took notes of every episode and wrote them down for me and neatly typed them and handed them to me in a special envelope. I was so thrilled that she did that for me, but that didn't surprise me because she was a very giving person.

Working with her at Bargain Box was fun, she had that very sweet personality and a smile that left you feeling good just being around her. I know she will be missed by many of us that loved her and enjoyed her presence. All who had the joy of knowing her were blessed.

**Eric Parker** *25 Jan. 2021* Some of my fondest memories of traveling in Europe are of you and Tanner. I enjoyed my time with both of you, and also enjoyed working with you on Cathedral events. She holds a special place in my heart, and you are in my prayers. Let us know if there is anything we can do for you. I look forward to seeing you again.

**Todd Parker** *25 Jan. 2021* I was deeply saddened to hear of Tanner's passing. She was one of the very few people I've ever met who was thoroughly decent to the core.

**Judith Svoboda** *26 Jan. 2021* I was so sorry to hear of Tanner's passing. I had just received your Christmas letter the previous week, so it was a shock. Tanner was my first roommate in Boston way back in the early 60's so we go a long way back.

**Bob and Pat Simon** *26 Jan. 2021* I well remember the day Tanner was born. I had turned age 6 the day before. Her dad sent us a telegram announcing her birth, & I saved that telegram in my scrapbook for years. My Dad was the oldest son in the Carter family & Tanner's mother the youngest daughter. There were 7 children. Tanner was a darling child. She grew into a lovely woman. I loved her. Also loved and admired her mother.

**Jean Reardon** 27 Jan. 2021 For years after our jaunt in Ecuador, Galapagos, I have enjoyed your travels & fotos. I am now 95, with a speed of slow.

As I recall we met in a small garden near the hotel in Quito, ready for flowers, birds, butterflies, and a glorious voyage in the Galapagos.

Your varied trips have far surpassed mine, and your days together have been precious. Thanks for sharing your remarkable feats and your friendship with me!

*Excerpts from some E-mail messages.*

**Sally Dorst** *Written to be read to Tanner, about 6 Jan. 2021* Dear Tanner: You and I have known each other for seventy three years—I was 8 and you were 7 when our paths first crossed... We've been friends through so many stages of our lives and enjoyed many good times together. I already miss the nightly phone conversations we've had since early March 2020. Alas, it is time to send my love to you and wishes for your last days to be as comfortable as possible. Sally

**Stephanie Kauffman** *The day Tanner died, 7 Jan. 2021.* There really aren't any easy words to say at such a time, are there? Your sister Beth suggested that we not call you for a day or two, and we will respect that, but just wanted to be in touch to say how sorry we are for your loss of Tanner. She was a unique person—so talented and so kind—and I feel privileged to have gotten to know her a little better this last spring and summer while you, and she, were in and out of hospitals and rehabs. Dave and I will miss her so much!

**Franz Josef Polster** 8 Jan. 2021 Whenever I was guest at your house, be it in New Providence or at Sierra Place, it always was an enjoyable stay, not the least due to Tanner.

**Joyce Painter Rice** 9 Jan. 2021 Emery and I send you our deepest sympathy. We too mourn for Tanner and at the same time, we give thanks for her life. How I have missed you both and especially Tanner since you left Boston: even in years when regretfully I wasn't often in contact, I thought of you and missed you. In my mind, it's so easy to hear Tanner's voice — always enthusiastic — and her wonderful laugh. I would have thanked her for all that she was — kind, optimistic, generous, devoted and dedicated, inquisitive and eager, enthusiastic, loving. She made a remarkable contribution to my life, and I always have been and will be grateful.

How wonderful it is to remember those years of attending the Phillips Brooks Club at Trinity Church. Since Tanner was at Trinity before either of us, I assume she knew the Rev. Ted Ferris, rector, 1942–1972. As I'm sure you too recall, from hearing our friends talk about him, Dr. Ferris was deeply loved. An organ-builder friend of mine, whose wife passed away recently, sent me a poem by Dr. Ferris. Perhaps Dr. Ferris read this during one of his outstanding homilies at Trinity:

Teach me, O Lord, not to hold on to life too tightly. Teach me to hold it lightly; not carelessly, but lightly, easily. Teach me to take it as a gift, to enjoy and cherish while I have it, and to let it go gracefully and thankfully when the time comes. The gift is great, but the Giver is greater still. Thou, O God, art the Giver and in thee is the Life that never dies. Amen. *Theodore Parker Ferris*

**Caroline Powell** 9 Jan. 2021 I am so very sorry to hear that Tanner has passed away. We have known each other for many years now and numerical analysis meetings were always enjoyed with the company of you both. Tanner was such fun and with a lovely sense of humour.

I very much appreciated your company and one little memory comes to mind. I think it was an IFIP meeting here in Cambridge, in 1989? I had listed lots of places delegates might like to visit, Shakespeare in the colleges, good pubs, vegetarian restaurants, classical recitals, jazz venues - that one would not get from the Tourist Office. After the conference was over, Michael and I met you going to everywhere on that list!

Alice has asked me to say how sorry she is to hear of Tanner's death. She sends her best wishes to you and treasures memories of you both in Beijing and in Mexico where we enjoyed your company.

**Madeleine Simonds** 10 Jan. 2021 I wanted to reach out to let you know how truly sorry I am to hear about Tanner's passing. She was such a wonderful lady — always so kind, intelligent, helpful, and funny too! I remember taking walks with her and my Mom when we were in Alma and always having such great conversations. I will miss her.

**Jorge Moré** 17 Jan. 2021 Tanner was such a lovely lady. It was fun to get together with the two of you, usually at one of the Mexico conferences. They now seem to have been 10 years ago, but it was 2018.

I also remember being invited to dinner at your house at Bell Labs at the start of the NEOS story.

**Janet Reed** 22 Jan. 2021 I knew Tanner for 60 years having met her at Houghton Mifflin in 1961! We had the same boss at the time. I left after two years, but Tanner & I stayed in touch all this time. She and I saw each other a couple of times in Chicago.

**Susan Little** 26 Jan. 2021 I met Tanner when I went to work at Houghton Mifflin, also as an editor in the school division, and I have fond memories of those years.

Tanner and I were the first employees in the School Division, I think, who were allowed to work from home when you moved to New Jersey, and we moved to Virginia, in the middle of a big HM project to produce a Spanish/English reading program.

Neither of us spoke Spanish, but fortunately we were writing material for young children, and were in frequent touch with a Spanish speaking editor in California, who would even take calls from her shower to answer our questions. We made one long trip to California and stayed in a Japanese hotel where I was the envy of our entourage from Boston, because for some reason I was the only one with the Japanese bath tub. Fortunately, I wasn't in it when the fire alarm went off one night at the hotel. At the time, Tanner and I were exchanging progress with our day's work.

I remember when you went to the Galapagos and we had a party for you at our house in Wellesley so HM friends could hear all about the Blue Footed Boobies and all.

I remember exchanging so many birthday and Christmas letters with Tanner, thinking that she and I were rare birds for enjoying that "old" craft.

**Sue Blake** 27 Jan. 2021, *which would have been Tanner's 81st birthday* ...in honor of Tanner's birthday today, I'll share her words from a postcard she sent me. Tanner writes: "Dear Sue, thanks so much for calling last Sunday. That day I was godmother in a christening that morning, photographer

at Anton and Kate's wedding in afternoon, and jumped on the plane at the last possible moment! Holland is glorious! See you soon."

**Ali Sullo** *30 Jan. 2021* I began work as an Editorial Assistant at Houghton in 1973 and Tanner became an early mentor to me as we both worked on the earliest grades of HM Reading—writing those stories with very few words. (I retired from HM from the position of Senior Vice President, Publisher in 2007.)

Your wedding was a wonderful day of celebration for the entire Reading Dept., many of whom were with you to share in your day of union.

**Jan Egdall** *5 Feb. 2021* Earl and I were so appreciative of you and Tanner taking photos at our wedding at the Kings Chapel Parish Hall in 1995.

I also have memories from several phone conversations with Tanner during the very difficult times of each one of your health challenges. She was positive and talked about your wonderful marriage, and was grateful for all of the traveling you had done. She always asked about Earl and me, and was interested in how we were doing.

**Lorien Foote** *7 Feb. 2021* When Dedra [*Lorien's sister*] got married, you and Tanner did photography for the wedding reception. You came to Norman early and offered to help in any way you could. We were pretty stressed out — Dedra got sick before the wedding and felt terrible. Tanner showed us her servant heart. She worked so hard to help us out — nothing was too big or too little. I remember her at the kitchen sink filling pitchers with water (I have no idea why my mother asked her to do that!). She was so kind and so sweet and made everything better with her help and her gentle spirit.

**Charlotte Appleton** *17 Feb. 2021* Tanner and I first met at UK, and while we weren't in the same sorority, we were in some classes and organizations together and formed a casual friendship. When I moved to Boston, not aware that Tanner was there, one day I saw her on the Greenline and worked my way up the crowded car to reconnect. This was 1962 and I believe we both had apartments in Brighton. After that we got together often, frequently food was included, skiing together, Boston Pops and whatever one does in earlier years.

One of Tanner's roommates had a VW Bug and I was driving a Ford Fairlane and we piled a lot of people into that car. The car had been named "Spottie" for its touchup to tiny rust spots. When I decided to get fancy and buy a new car, Tanner bought Spottie for \$250. She drove it for many years until the salt got to it and she called to tell me the bottom dropped out on the road while she was driving it. We were both sad but had a good laugh.

At some point during this time I got married but unfortunately didn't make the good choice that Tanner did when she met you, but we still stayed in touch.

After I left my corporate job and started a specialty printing business, Paper Work, Tanner assembled a cookbook of recipes from people at Trinity Church, mostly from the choral group I think. It was an enormous job but Tanner gave it her all and was relentless in gathering so many varied recipes. Paper Work printed the Trinity Church Cookbook. It was a lot of work for Tanner but she did a fantastic job assembling and typing all the recipes so it could be printed. There were no mistakes! Tanner was a perfection but always with good humor. To this day I use recipes from her cookbook.



She loved Nantucket, where I eventually moved, and one of her first stops when she arrived on the island was the Nantucket Bake Shop for Portuguese bread. I recall one time when both of you were on Nantucket riding bikes. Something else that Tanner loved doing.

All the good adjectives apply to Tanner. She was a wonderful friend and a talented, thoughtful caring person with a great sense of humor.

**David Gay** *19 Feb. 2021* Concerning the Trinity Church Cookbook, Tanner would ask people to contribute to it and would give them a postage stamp with her address written on the back. I was among the many people who contributed recipes.

**Kathy Scheimer** *24 March 2021* I have fond memories of our last time together when you sang at the National Cathedral (perhaps ten years ago?) and we enjoyed a delicious dinner in DC, reminiscing about previous good times in Boston.

I also sang at Trinity and still refer to my Trinity cookbook when I'm clamoring for a tasty New England dinner!

**Robert Fourer** *29 March 2021* Tanner had a bookcase full of cookbooks. When we had AMPL company gatherings in Albuquerque, she offered the group an endless variety of dishes at breakfast and dinner. I guessed that they were all from books in her collection, which she confirmed. In fact, she explained, she was always receiving new cookbooks as gifts, and she would have outgrown that bookcase, except that she only saved books that could provide at least one useful recipe in a year.

**Sandra Benedet** *29 March 2021* I first met Tanner when my husband, Bob Fourer, had an AMPL business meeting, and I came along for a chance to see Albuquerque. I remember a special gathering at which Bob and I, and several people from AMPL, all stayed at the Gay home. In fact, there was a whole mob of us. I asked myself, "How would Tanner handle this?" Well, she was a very generous, and charming host, and — this impressed me greatly — she was also very efficient. She managed to feed all of us a lovely Mexican-style meal with minimal fuss, making all of us feel very much at home, and always with her exceptional smile. Tanner and I escaped the meetings several times, and she took me to the center of town to look at New Mexican jewelry: she was quite artistic and pointed out the loveliest pieces, telling me stories of the meaning of the work. Tanner knew her stuff, and was willing to share her knowledge with you in a non-pretentiousness and down-to-earth manner.

I had the good fortune to spend some time alone with Tanner in Ireland. We had accompanied our husbands to a Euro conference in Dublin, and even though Tanner was more ill than in the past, she and I walked throughout the city, going into the museums, shops, and cafes near Trinity College. We talked and laughed along the way, and took in everything we saw. Her love of people, the arts, and adventure were ever present. I also remember that we walked to a city park and sat underneath a beautiful large tree, taking our time to admire the landscape, and to comment on how people were enjoying their time in nature. I had recently lost some sight in my left eye, and shared my concerns and fears with Tanner. Even though she was struggling with her own medical issues, she comforted me, giving me sound and caring advice on having the strength that I needed to move forward.

*Condolence letters received after Some Memories of Tanner was sent.*

**Grace Tolson** 29 Jan. 2021 I read your memories of Tanner with great sadness — even though I only knew her through letters — I always enjoyed the pictures and the stories of your travels. You were quite a team and I am sure this whole event has thrown you way off balance (to say the very least) — The one thing we had in common was our friendship with Judy Moore. I like to think they met somewhere and are catching up. Life is so fleeting — one day you are here, the next day — gone. We try to appreciate what we have because we could be in the same boat at any moment (my husband is 82). Tanner was lovely. A beautiful lady. You were lucky to have each other.

**John Ackenhusen** 29 Jan. 2021 I was so saddened to learn of the passing of Tanner. She and you are such essential parts to the wonderful life that Kay and I had in New Jersey. My first encounter with Tanner, in Howard's choir, was ... "a female Tenor? Is that even ALLOWED?" I was so very pleased that Ruthie and I could visit you in Albuquerque, so she could meet you both that had been such an important part of my New Jersey life.

You and Tanner were just so perfect together — the outdoors, intellectualism, music, and quiet kindness exuded from you both. We will miss her!

**Barbara Longhurst** 2 Feb. 2021 [Tanner] was such a fine human being, always kind, enthusiastic about new adventures and, for me, delightful to have about. I, too, miss her. Strange, isn't it, that knowing a person is alive, even if you don't see them often, works. But when they've died, they leave an empty space filled with sadness. Filled, too, with so many memories which ease the loss. And... are *always* with us.

**Faye Byrd** 2 Feb. 2021 You both engaged in such interesting work and were involved in many meaningful activities. You thoroughly immersed yourself in all the communities you belong. You two had a strong, warm and loving marriage. You shared so many common interests.

We both think so highly of you two. Tanner was an exceptional person. Every encounter I had her was fun and joyous. I have many fond memories of time spent sightseeing with Tanner and Judy and many others in many foreign cities. One of the more memorable times I have was on the trip to Rio. Tanner and I went to the Botanic Gardens. After we finished touring we planned to catch a bus that was a straight shot to the hotel and we thought we'd be safe. No sooner did we get on the bus to return than a group of women surrounded us, nudging us towards the front of the bus and through gestures and words they warned us of potential danger. We felt protected until we reached our destination. It was a fun adventure.

**Grace Ford** 3 Feb. 2021 Many people loved Tanner and I am one of them. She and I had a long and happy past — dating from collage.

Later we used to exchange daily emails about many things including the telenovelas. Bill used to say, "Why don't you just call her!" But we preferred writing to one another.

Thinking about you and hope you're managing. So little one can say, but I did lose Bill in May so I can empathize.

**Sara Stickland Post** 5 Feb. 2021 I have so many wonderful memories of trips with Tanner. We used to get the 8PM Sunday flight (after P.B.), bring 2 carry on bags and take off for 1–2 weeks. On the plane on the way over we would compare our lists of things we "had to see" or might be interesting.

We did all the had to see places (& were often pleasantly surprised by something we'd never expected). If we both had the same "might be interesting" we'd cover that too. Tanner and I got to enjoy London and other parts of England, Paris, Chartes, Versailles, much of the Netherlands, Belgium. She was more willing to try new food things than me and somewhere I have a photo of her downing a curbside stand Herring. When you guys got together I lost a wonderful traveling companion & you gained one.

**Libby Judd Riggins** *5 Feb. 2021* It really hurt and made me so sad to hear about Tanner. Not only were we friends at U of KY, but our parents (Burkesville, KY) were friends all of their lives. I can remember them visiting with my parents when they would come see Aunt Effie.

I always looked forward to her Christmas cards and will miss this. I was the executive at a United Way agency and I remember how excited I was when one of the school-agers brought in to read a book by Tanner.

**Betty Cliff** *8 Feb. 2021* Tanner was a lovely lovely lady. I was very fond of her and we were KD's together even though she was a bit younger than me. I had the privilege of "tapping" her for Mortar Board which I will never forget.

We so enjoyed your visits to England. It has been lovely to keep in touch through your excellent Christmas letters.

**Patricia O'Buchon** *11 Feb. 2021* It was my privilege and joy to get to know Tanner when I joined Houghton Mifflin in 1983. I was a nervous former 1st grade teacher with no editorial experience and Tanner gave me great support in-house and later from her brilliant expertise as a freelancer.

My own response to grief at Tanner's passing is to have a Mass\* offered for her. I hope that this will bring you comfort too.

\*For the repose of the soul of Tanner Gay in the mansions of Heaven, and for comfort for her loved ones: The holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered on Sunday, March 21, 2021 at St. Mary's Church, 10:30, Norton, MA.

**Elva B. Crawford** *11 Feb. 2021* With great sadness and sorrow I read your detailed account of Tanner's last illness and death. Just a few weeks earlier we had received Tanner's and your annual Christmas letter and photographic journey to the places you had toured the past year. Before your mid-December letter arrived, it had been quite a few months since Tanner had sent an account of the unfortunate medical issues that the two of you had been confronting in 2020. The last time I talked with Tanner was a little while after this explanatory letter arrived here in Virginia. Tanner and I had a long conversation on that occasion. I fear I kept Tanner too long on the phone and that it delayed her getting ready for someone she was expecting to come to your home. Receiving the upbeat letter at Christmas time regarding both of your medical situations gave me hope that 2020 had been "a bad vintage" and that surely 2021 would be a kinder, gentler time for both of you.

Tanner will be greatly missed, by family, friends, church choristers, by all whose lives she touched. Perhaps my most vivid recollection of Tanner was that summer day in 1980, the day she married, when she down the aisle at Trinity, looking so happy and radiant.

While I did not know Tanner all the time that she and members of the Phillips Brooks group at Trinity collected recipes for and published the Trinity Church Cookbook, a project for which Tanner served as

lead editor—I greatly admire the book and all the thought that went into its creation. Tanner’s expertise in the field of editing played a role in the book’s success.

In many respects, I did not know Tanner that well during the years we lived in the Boston area. Of course, we did sing together for a number of years with the evening choir at Trinity. But she was an alto, and I sang second soprano. The seating plans for the various vocal parts placed us distant from one another, impeding the possibility of chatting and getting to know one another during short breaks, etc. I would say that our friendship blossomed after we all moved from Boston, the two of you moving first to New Jersey and then to New Mexico, and Michael and me to Northern Virginia. It was then that I came to know that we shared a number of common interests: hiking, traveling to unique regions of the world, bicycling, et cetera.

I have always been impressed by Tanner’s gentle kindness, her delightful smile and her humor. I’ll miss our occasional correspondence and even rarer phone calls. I’ll also miss comparing our experiences with PD.

I am truly sorry Dave, that Tanner’s last days were so painful. I had so hoped that Tanner’s Parkinson’s would not affect her so quickly and in such a variety of ways. It is now more than 20 years since I was diagnosed with PD. Certainly PD has affected my life: I cannot handwrite or do much embroidery. For a variety of reasons—some associated with PD and others not—in recent years I have had to give up most of my relation with the church choir, of which I had been a member for over thirty years. It is difficult to use the computer; and increasingly I have had to depend on Michael for help with various tasks related to everyday living. He is always there for me. Surely, you were similarly helpful and provided Tanner with that special thoughtfulness and deep love and understanding that is so critical to a person having to live with Parkinson’s. And yes, I have had periods when I have had multiple falls per day. But other medical problems, most importantly a poorly executed initial right hip replacement done about 5 years ago that also resulted in numerous hip dislocations and led to two more hip replacements, all of which have greatly decreased my mobility, especially interfering with my walking. From communications in recent years it appeared to me that Tanner was actually managing fairly well with PD. With the newer medications and physical activity programs for treating PD, the disease seems to be coming somewhat less an intrusion in one’s life.

**Mark Lega** 6 May 2021 I am late getting this to you. I was very sorry to learn that Tanner had passed away. Your summary of her life and with you together was truly a remarkable love story. I know you miss her terribly, but how special that you had a lifetime together. The book you gave us “Go Dog Go” was a big part of our children’s life!

**Facebook.** Here are some of the nice things folks wrote to Tanner’s Facebook page, starting with a post I wrote on her account. (Posts, with an *italicized date*, are followed by comments.) I am also grateful for many other condolence letters, E-mail messages, and phone calls.

**Tanner O. Gay** 20 Jan. 2021 This is Dave, Tanner’s husband. I am very sorry to say that Tanner died on 7 January 2021. We had many good times together. An obituary appears at <https://www.affordablecremationabq.com/obituary/Tanner-Gay>.

**Steve Schwanda** I am so sorry to hear that. You both were always so wonderful to us and the kids and we always loved your Michigan visits. Prayers to you and your family.

**Peter Moores** I was so sorry to hear about Tanner's passing. I remember visiting you and Tanner in NJ when I was growing up. Tanner was a great friend to my parents Lynne and Wayne.

**Sharon Morrison Byrne** I was so very sorry to hear about Tanner's passing, Dave. I am so grateful to have known her and enjoyed all those years of music making together. Much love and light to you and your friends and family as you grieve.

**Jacqueline W. Landwehr** That is a lovely tribute, David. Tanner was a bright star whenever she arrived back here in NJ. We will miss her, her delightful letters and her wonderful smile. We miss you, too, David. Take care.

**Judith Johnsen** I volunteered along side of Tanner at the Assistance League. She was interesting, kind and generous. She will be sorely missed.

**Kay Rhoads** I loved to talk with her about opera and music as we worked together at Assistance League.

**Carol Cooper-Fahrenkrug** Dave, thank you for sharing your beautiful tribute. We are so incredibly sorry for your tremendous loss. Tanner was bright a light in a dark world and we feel blessed that we knew her even a little.

**Barbara Cable Maney** So sorry to hear of Tanners passing. We grew up together on Anna Maria and spent many good times together.

**Bets Crean** So glad you and Tanner found each other and had so many good times together. We met long ago when you lived in NJ. You are in my prayers.

**Jackie Stack** Thank you for sending this. I was a friend from the choirs we sang together in, and enjoyed knowing her.

**Anne Overbeck** Dear David, Thanks so much for letting us know of the passing of dear Tanner. I met Tanner at Trinity Church so many years ago and have been in contact with her these many years. She was a shining light in this world. My heart and prayers are with you David for I know Tanner is in the embrace of a loving God.

**Libby Walendziewicz** I am very sorry to hear about Tanner. While we didn't see each other much since you and she left the Boston area, we have kept in touch for close to 50 years. We had many good times during our "Boston years" and they are fond memories. Blessings to you.

**Suzanne J. Currie** Dear Dave and family: Bob Currie and I send our condolences on the loss of your beloved Tanner. She and you were pillars of Calvary Church and your dedication to the Calvary Choir was a welcome part of worship...may light perpetual shine on Tanner....

**Renee Keeling** Hello, Dave. I am so sorry for your loss. I worked with Tanner at Assistance League. What a wonderful, sweet, woman Tanner was. It was an honor to know her. God Bless you. BTW, my husband was from Lexington, KY and graduated from UK, as well. That was how Tanner and I first started to talk when she noticed me wearing my UK Basketball sweatshirt.

**Mary-Ellin Brooks** My deepest condolences to you, Dave. Tanner was lovely and gracious every time our paths crossed. Wishing you much love and comfort during this difficult time.

**Stephen Lewis** 8 Jan. 2021 Rest in peace, Tanner. [*A couple of pictures of Tanner and Dave with cameras in NYC, with Diane Bailey in the background.*]

**Mary McDaniel** KD's will miss you.

**Janelle Anyanonu** With Diane in the background! Glad they can spend time together.

**Douglas Bailey** [*commenting on Janelle Anyanonu's comment*] Janelle Anyanonu I am sure they will be in the choirs of choirs. Bless you who ever took this picture — Thank you. Both Tanner and Dianne fought tough odds.

**Maxine Thévenot** 7 Jan. 2021 Rest in peace, Tanner. In paradisum deducant te Angeli; in tuo adventu suscipiant te martyres, et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem. Chorus angelorum te suscipiat, et cum Lazaro quondam paupere aeternam habeas requiem. “May the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs receive you at your arrival and lead you to the holy city Jerusalem. May choirs of angels receive you and with Lazarus, once (a) poor (man), may you have eternal rest.”

**Ashli Saenz** We bonded over dark beers. Prayers for David and their family

**Martha Beebe** I loved her last posting of places my get up has been. Such a great woman, amazing photographer and lovely person.

**Diane Butler** A great loss to our Cathedral family. While I did not know her well, in all of my encounters with her I felt a closeness. That was part of her charisma. Prayers for Dave and all who loved and will grieve this great loss.

**Alyssa Bella Landahl** Her smile, her kindness, her ebullient personality, her love of music and travel, her devotion to her husband Dave — these are just a few of the things I will miss.

**Eric Parker** Tanner was one of the most charming and loveliest people I've known. This is a loss for us all. Rest in peace and rise in glory dear friend.

**Renee Motteler** Tanner was funny, smart, and loving. One of the best. May perpetual light shine on you, my friend.

**Jay Hill** It is uncanny how often I ran into David and Tanner, and every single time the smile on Tanner's face made me feel like there was no one in the world she'd rather see. What a gift! A very special soul.

**Jessica Hannah Wachs** [*commenting on Jay Hill's post*] Exactly. It's so rare to have the pleasure to know someone who just radiated pure, authentic love and kindness. She was the type of person you don't meet twice. Every moment with her was a gift.

**Stephanie Ann Barth** I will always remember how kind she and David were to me and Andrew — they invited us over for a delicious lunch one afternoon. Their house was full of books and knowledge and learning and kindness — they even showed us pictures of their travels in South Dakota. We will remember Tanner fondly, and hope the Lord is holding her family tenderly in this time.

**Jacqueline W. Landwehr** Jim and I were lucky to know Tanner and Dave for many years in NJ. Sang together in the alto section of the Calvary Church choir for years. A life well lived!

**Elizabeth Longhurst** *7 Jan. 2021* Tonight our family is mourning the loss of my brother David's wife, Tanner Ottley Gay, who passed away today. Tanner was smart, curious, optimistic, adventurous, and easy going. She was one of the rare birds for whom patience is a virtue. She was a wonderful singer, writer and editor, and the generous photojournalist for all family gatherings. Her kindness and sense of humor shone through everything she said and did. She would be the first to say she was grateful for the many blessings of her full life, and particularly for the many friendships she so easily cultivated wherever she went—and wow, did she and Dave get around. We are going to miss her terribly. Rest in peace, dearest Tanner. May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest. (Obituary to be posted soon.)

**Bets Crean** So glad I knew her — we were KD's together.

**Brenda Marquis** So sorry to hear this news. Tanner was a sorority sister at University of Kentucky. Prayers for the family.

**Diane Davis Fleming** We shall all miss this wonderful woman who brightened our days with her kindness, wisdom and talents.

**Jeanne Snow** Tanner was a wonderful woman. She was compassionate, talented, funny and always willing to go the extra mile. Peace be to her.

**Barb Barron** Oh my! I am so sad to here this news. Tanner really was an angel. I wish I could have more time to know her. I know she will be truly missed. My heart goes out to the family. I am so sorry for your loss.

**Jordan Elizabeth** A lovely tribute, Aunt Beth. She truly was beautiful inside and out. Vibrant, compassionate, curious, thoughtful and oh what a gorgeous smile. The list could go on and on...We will all miss her so very much.

**Renee Keeling** I volunteered with Tanner at Assistance League. She was a UK graduate just like my husband. She loved it when I wore my UK sweatshirt.

**Janet S. Reed** I am so so sad to see this. I met Tanner in 1961 at Houghton Mifflin in Boston and we had been in touch all these years. So so sad.

**Brianne Conner** I'm so incredibly sad. I've been visiting Tanner and Dave every few weeks throughout this Covid time (in a safe way of course) and though we've known one another for years through choir — it was special to get to know each other better in these past months. You've captured her joyful spirit in this description above. I will miss Tanner so much. Love to Dave and all of your family.

**Leslie Hay MacKnight** Dave, I am so sorry to read this terrible news. Tanner was a wonderful lady. I will never forget either of you from Calvary choir.

**Janet Miller Haines** We have lost a genuinely nice woman. I read her (their) Christmas letter just the other day — full of doings and yes, trials and her indomitable spirit.

**Jackie Stack** She was a delight to sing with in choruses!

**Kate Lager-Friesner** We recently received their Christmas card. We knew Tanner and Dave in Albuquerque — we left tree seven years ago — but kept on touch. Bless you all — especially our love to Dave. Tanner was indeed a very special lady.

**Marie E. Marra** I am so very sorry to learn of dear Tanner's passing. I was happy to receive your classic holiday letter this year (I have the entire Tanner & Dave letter archive with delightful travelogues, photography, choir notes. Will copy it for you.) And I was heartened to read of Tanner's optimism and determination to face all that the universe had tossed to you both this past year. I met Tanner back in Boston Beantown—we were editors at Uncle Houghtie's (Houghton Mifflin publishers) in the 1970s—even before she met you, the love of her life. I treasure that we kept contact thru both of our gypsy wanderings around the country. (Fond memories of visits in San Diego, New Mexico and the annuals to Upstate NY.) Tanner was one of the most optimistic, kind, empathetic people I've ever known. And you, David, were her perfect match (besides always being one of the smartest people in the room!). My thoughts are with you and I will keep touch and keep Tanner in my heart.

**Clarissa Erving** David, I just cannot believe it. I am a friend of Tanner's from Houghton Mifflin days and will always remember her as the nicest, most up-lifting person in our department of over-worked editors. She was always a pleasure to work with. I am so sorry for your loss.