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# Happy New Year 2004

## Peace on Mars

since we can't seem to achieve it on Earth

### Highlights of 2003:

- We went to several demonstrations in San Francisco protesting the preemptive US attack and subsequent war on Iraq.
- We went to Boston a couple times for Diane to attend pathology conferences and Alan to work with colleagues at Museum of Science Boston.
  - No big memorable trips otherwise—we elected not to go to Antarctica for the total solar eclipse this year.



Mars image (HST) from <http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/gallery/global/>

- Our new next door neighbor (Temple Beth El) devastated the property biologically-speaking, removing over 90% of the trees onsite. We often call that land "Isengard" (in reference to the Lord of the Rings character, the wizard Saruman, who was bent to



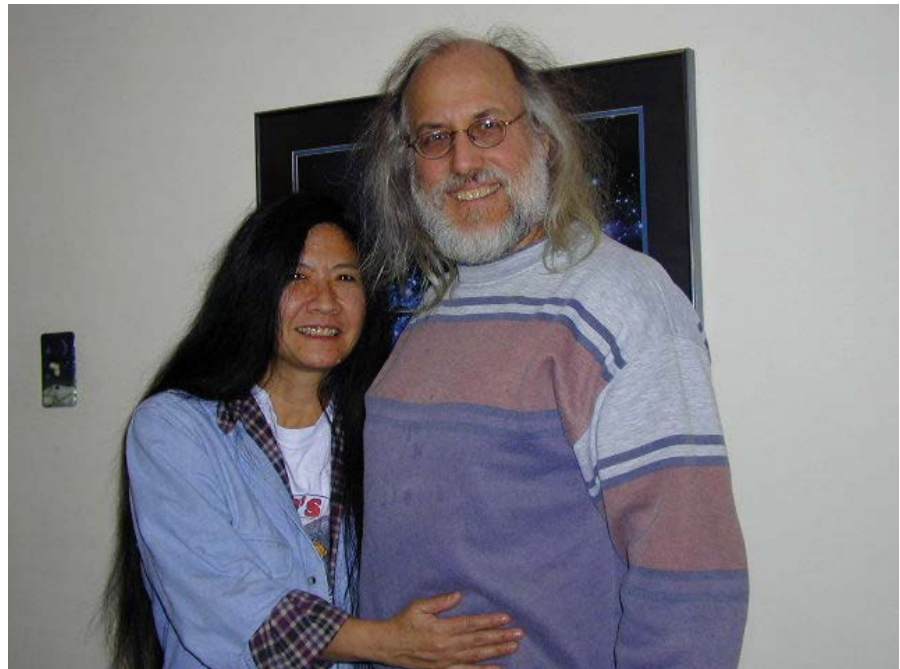
Isengard illustration from <http://www.thezreview.co.uk/images/ttnp2.jpg>  
<http://www.thezreview.co.uk/news/news116.shtm>

the will of the evil dark lord Sauron, and in the process of creating an army and engine of war against the people of Middle Earth, caused the environmental rape of his domain:

Isengard). When reading Lord of the Rings back in the 60's, part of the appeal of the book to college students may have been parallels to environmental issues and war. In fairness, we have to say that they have done a tolerable job so far in rehabilitating the portion of Codornices Creek that flows above ground on their property. Also the remaining trees on the property are in the Codornices Creek corridor-habitat zone, which has been mostly preserved as a positive outcome of the bitter struggle that we had with the synagogue from



Site of new Beth El synagogue, with trees already removed.



1998-2001.

- In April, Diane stepped down from being chief of the Pathology Dept at Kaiser San Francisco. Since then, she has had far fewer headaches (literally and figuratively), and has far more reasonable work hours—often gets off 6ish rather than 8-10ish or later. She's not at all happy with the new chief's performance and that is the source of some discontent, but it's better than the discontent experienced with actually being chief.
- Alan continues to work on various worthwhile curriculum projects: Global Systems Science (GSS) high school interdisciplinary science course based on societal issues, Hands-On Universe (HOU) high school and middle school science courses where students use real telescope

images and image processing software, Great Explorations in Math and Science (GEMS) elementary and middle teacher guides on how to do inquiry-based hands-on classroom activities, and planetarium work. At a recent planetarium conference in Salt Lake City, he got roped into being President of the Pacific Planetarium Association (PPA) as well as chair of the worldwide web committee of the International Planetarium Society (IPS; <http://www.ips-planetarium.org/>)

### **Forecast for 2004:**

Partly clear skies, with chances of local depression due to continued war on terrorism, war on crime, war on drugs, preemptive attacks on sovereign nations, and smug looks from George W. Continued hope and warmth from good friends and

sporadic selfless acts in  
support of principles of  
peace and love.