



## Grove/Tara 2012

A Decade Older...But Light Years More Fabulous

By: Penny Peters

It is two thousand and twelve, it's the end of the world, (or so the old Mayans have said)

It's the year when all life as we know it should end...when all living things will turn dead

It's the year, we are told, when time should disappear, when the calendar simply will stop  
There'll be no New Year's Eve in 2013, and in Time's Square, no more ball to drop

But those Mayans, it seems, have screwed things up big, for as we are closing the year  
Wherever we look things are moving ahead...and we Taras and Grovers -- still here!  
This fear that folks have of the year twenty twelve seems short-sighted and oh so bizarre  
For the Grove twenty twelve was a most epic year...and I think the best one so far

We rang in the year in our bathing suits, as we basked 'neath the bright DR sun  
There were almost one hundred and fifty of us, sharing wild Punta Cana style fun  
And a short time ago we all met in New York, the center of art and finance  
Where we pondered the next economic surprise...does the stock market still have a chance?

From the beach to the city, from the pool to the Met, we Grovers and Taras keep going  
There are too many places we need to explore, and too many new people worth knowing  
No Mayan prediction, nor gloomy forecast, can keep us from charging ahead  
We've got Rio to plan, celebrations to share, and causes that need to be led

Yes, we Grovers and Taras are changing the world, we are shattering old ways of thinking  
(And as multi-task women our breakthrough ideas are the best when we're partying and drinking)  
In the DR our brainpower was fueled by fine rum (who said it was only for sipping?)

In New York it was wine and champagne that assured we'd keep all those new ideas ripping

And as always, 'twas Edie who hijacked our minds, in ways that we never dared dream  
Her brain moves so fast she makes warp speed seem slow, and infinity not seem extreme  
Edie looks at the trends and where no one else sees, has clear vision of what is to come

Her lightning mind leaves all of us in the dust....making even the Mensas feel dumb

In New York Edie warned us to dream and imagine, or be stuck and destroyed by the past  
Tomorrow, she said, has already gone by and the future is closing in fast  
In the DR her thoughts came from Feynman and physics, but her speech was a puzzle to many  
For while Edie's ideas had us all thinking hard, she sure sounded and looked just like... Penny

In the DR the panels just blew us away, thanks to Linda and Michelle's brilliant planning  
We explored Brain Mind/Mo and Geo Momentum while lying in beach chairs and tanning  
Mari Carmen went deep, sharing all of the trials of fighting for truth in DC  
And the "sister act" Peters (Susan and Mary Ann) showed us all what true sisters could be

In New York we had Toddi and Lulu and Vance, to immerse us in Big Apple style  
We wore chic city clothes, talked of high-powered biz, catching up with old friends all the while  
We debated the future, from NASDAQ to Fed, can the dollar survive global change?  
Will dark pools do us in, big data win out, farm-to-fork be the norm, or still strange?

We were all thinking deep, until Helen stepped up to talk about sex and the brain  
Testosterone and dopamine became our concern...would we ever know true lust again?  
Women's brains out do men's, they have way more connections, that seemed to be Helen's conclusion  
(That and the fact that a happy married life is nothing but a positive illusion)

In the evening we had backstage tours of the Met, and dined in New York's finest places  
And we shopped 'til we dropped, boutiques to Macy's shoes, empty wallets and grins on our faces  
Jennifer hosted us all with NY's gourmet best, in her home looking o'er Hudson's boats  
And we literate types helped ring in a new book...our Teresa and Susan's best quotes

Punta Cana, by contrast, was very low key, dressing up meant a bathing suit top  
And the "culture" we soaked up was all at the spa, the massages seemed never to stop  
Costume night was abandoned for just a few wigs...until Erin and her Miami Heat  
In tight Monroe dresses crooned "Happy New Boobs"...as an "Edie-we-miss-you so" treat

The DR was the best....but then so was New York...in fact every retreat just gets better  
Susan keeps on amazing with all that she does, she's our energizer bunny "go getter"  
Thanks to her we connect, we go deep we go fast and we all have great friendships to treasure  
We were born unrelated, but now sisters for sure, and that is a gift beyond measure

And sisterhood is power, to fight any fight, and to help the world fend off disaster  
The Mayans may tell us we are near the end, but today Grove and Tara's are master  
We've survived the election, and a flooded East Coast, and financial woes that seem most dire  
And together we'll make sure the world is OK, and that each year the bar is set higher

We've sure got the heart, and all the best brains, we've got talents that seem without ends  
There's such power in "group"...but our true secret lies in the magic of such special friends  
We may age just a bit, but our wisdom is growing, we are women who're seizing the day  
We're a force in the word, so Brazilians look out. GET SET RIO...WE'RE HEADING YOUR WAY!