



Marina Daun



Sydney Rae

My, what a year of change this has been for us!

After 39 years of living in Bridger Canyon, we moved to a condo in Bozeman in November for the winter. The move has been positive in many ways, and going through things from that many years was stressful for all involved. (We took 7,000 lbs. of garbage to the dump!) We plan to move back to our Bridger home the end of May when most of the snow and icy roads are gone. Our schnauzers, Mocha Jo and Baby Boo and cat Snuggles have adapted well.

Ray, Mary, and I went to the Mayo Clinic in January of 2010 where Ray was observed and examined by many doctors in a three day period. The process was rewarding in that we learned a lot about the progression of Parkinson's and what can be done to manage the symptoms. Mayo's in-house communication between doctors is a model for our health care system! Now how do we manage the hypa laws and confidentiality on the web?!!

Ray is managing his Parkinson's with a local neurologist. To keep the shakes at a minimum, he is on a strong medicine that has created hallucinations for him. So far, the hallucinations have been positive. Ray rests much of the day, and he has begun working on his computer music project, a goal he has had since he retired in 2006. Ray is still active in the Ham Radio Search and Rescue group and with his monthly book club.

Sally is still coaching and doing therapy through Whitepine Counseling Services. Her practice has increased in size with the recession; money issues bring out many issues! Half of her clients she sees in their home due to their handicaps. (She enjoys not driving the Bridger Canyon Road in the winter and after dark.) Sally has lead several book studies at church this year: HAPPY FOR NO REASON, HEALING CODE, and FALLING UPWARD. Sally rode with a friend to see Richard Rohr, the author of FALLING UPWARD, in Albuquerque this summer. Sally, Sue, and Virginia traveled to Oregon to surprise Virginia's sister, Marie, for her 70th early birthday! Sally and Sue got a day in at the ocean while mom visited with Aunt Marie and Uncle Jim.

Our pride and joy as well as an incredible gift of life has been our daughter, son-in-law, and two granddaughters living in Bozeman. Marina will be 8 on January 19. Sydney was 6 on November 4. Both are in school full time. They are both thoroughly involved with ballet, skating, skiing, Girl Scouts, Sunday School, children's choir, and school. Marina was an Italian cookie and Sydney was a Chinese doll in the Nutcracker in a Nutshell this December. Marina plans to start basketball and be coached for competitive ice skating in January. (She is a natural at skating!) Sydney has adapted well to kindergarten, got her own "fairy" bedroom for Christmas, and plans to start gymnastics in January. She has become quite a social butterfly!

On December 5, Sally's mom, Virginia Larson, fell and broke her hip. Surgery went well in Missoula, and sister Sue is looking out for Mom's well being at the Rehab. Center. Mom plans to be out and back in Thompson Falls within two weeks. (She is enjoying being cared for by the staff and nurses.) Mom has been doing physical therapy religiously, and the nurses say she must have been raised on a farm due to her determination and strength. Mom was 87 in August.

We hope this finds you well and full of joy for the season and the year. Life in an incredible gift, especially when you see the divine spirit at work.

Ray and Sally Babcock

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P.S. It was thirteen years ago in December that our son, Stephen Ray, died. It seems like yesterday!