



12/13/01

This year has had more than its share of highs and lows.

Nora was Bat Mitzvah'd this November. We thank all of you for your support, however you provided it, especially Grandma, Sue and Al. She gave an awesome reading, having honed her stage presence at Shakespeare Camp this summer. Nora played the Nursemaid in *Romeo and Juliet*. Now she is in the midst of applying to high school. Not only are there a slew of applications to fill out, but a standardized test called the SSAT. Nora took that test last Saturday and is now, as they say, "resting comfortably".

Bob's father died of lung cancer in January. He has taken the opportunity to find out which family and step-family relationships actually matter. We spent a week on Lake Winnisquam, New Hampshire, with Bob's sister and her family, swimming, watching the stars and the DVD player. Bob and Nora visited his aunt and uncle in Florida with Nora this summer. He hadn't been in touch with them for years as his dad had grown away from them. Immediately upon returning from Florida, Bob got an email inviting him to speak at a conference in Tokyo, all expenses paid. Higher power, or coincidence? Bob has been studying aviation. He hopes to have his Private Pilots' license early in 2002. He soloed this October in a Cessna nearly as old as he is.

Mary is in her 22nd year of practice. She has moved to a new office right on Union Square with another employment rights law firm that also represents government employees. She is handling cases which involve whistleblowing, glass ceiling, veteran's rights, retaliation, failure to accommodate, and severance agreements. Many of her cases have continued to unfold through the never ending legal process, and some have settled. She spent Canada Day on Vancouver Island after the NELA conference in Seattle. She's been inspiring us to do lots of yoga and take more dance classes. She went on a meditation and writing retreat this spring.

We are thinking about getting solar power for the house. Not burning hydrocarbons is the highest form of patriotism. We continue to bike to work and take family rides on the weekend. We wish you all a happy and prosperous year ahead. Come up and see us sometime.

Nora Mary Bob