



*Bob & Joan*

## Christmas, 2011

*Softly, quietly, peace touches our hearts at Christmas  
and whispers a message of hope throughout the world.*



**Jim, Shirley, Braden & Shaunelle**

*wish for you the gift of peace to soothe your soul and smooth your way. . .  
the gift of joy to brighten up your life each day. . .  
and the gift of love to fill your heart today and always.*

*As 2011 comes to an end, we can't help but reflect on the tremendous challenges our families, our country and the world have been through this year. But as Christmas approaches, I am drawn to the amazing blessings and opportunities that have been afforded us. It is time to reflect upon those and to appreciate our good health, our family and our friends.*

*We truly enjoy keeping up with several family traditions, which now include Braden and fiancé, Ashleigh, and Shaunelle and boyfriend, Derek. These include Zoo Lights at the Denver Zoo, Blossoms of Light at the Denver Botanic Gardens, Rockies Baseball, Avalanche Hockey, CU Football games and Friday movie nights. Jim and I have been season ticket holders to the Buffs games for 30 plus years and we just keep hoping that "next" year will be "the" year. No matter how many games they win, college football games are SO much fun! We were all rooting for the Buffs at Folsom Field, in our Christmas picture.*

*We again enjoyed spending time with great friends at 20 fun Viper Club events this year. These included day and weekend trips to several Colorado mountain resort towns, car collections, national parks, go-carting tracks, barbecues, and a wild animal sanctuary. The highlight was a 12 day trip to Glacier National Park, Montana; Waterton Lakes, Banff, Lake Louise and Jasper National Park, Canada; Cour d'Alene, Idaho; and Jackson Hole, Wyoming - an amazing trip with amazing friends from 6 different states. Other fun weekends were spent in Seattle, Washington for nephew Bobby's wedding, Jim's family here for Celeste's wedding, and Fruita, Beaver Creek & Breckenridge, Colorado for a Nicholls family reunion and fun business trips with my company. We've hosted several barbecues at our house on weekends that we weren't away.*

*Jim and I love taking the dogs for long walks on our 35 acres which backs up to a 1200 acre ranch. We just returned from a walk today, inspiring me to sit down and write our Christmas letter. It is always so beautiful and peaceful and creates food for the soul.*

**BRADEN**, who had been working towards an Engineering Degree at Colorado School of Mines, finally came to the realization that Engineering just isn't very fun. So he has changed his major to Business with an emphasis in Marketing at CU Denver. He is also working at the Conifer Staples full time as the "Easy Tech Expert" Manager. He loves building websites and has built several. Call him if you need one. He will be President of the High Country Republican Club in 2012. The most important news for him is that he asked Ashleigh Gulesian to marry him in May and they are planning a July wedding in 2012. Ashleigh has a Political Science Degree. Having gone to high school together, Braden and Ashleigh had not really known each other until a couple of years ago, but they both love the Conifer area, and we are very happy about that.



**SHAUNELLE** graduated with an Interior Design Degree from Arapahoe Community College in May. She wasn't really sure that was her field of choice by the end, but we are very proud of her for sticking with it. She hasn't found work in that field, as of yet. She is currently working at Wells Fargo Bank and is always looking for other possibilities. She loves art, drawing and playing with all of her animals in her free time. She lives in Centennial with Callie, the Golden Retriever; Bella, the Chorky; and Shubah and Devon, the cats. Shaunelle and Derek come visit or go to sporting events, dinner, or to the movies with us often. We love spending time with them. They will celebrate 3 years of being in a relationship in February. Derek is currently an insurance agent for Physician's Mutual.

**JIM** - Everything is still about the same for Jim this year. He has now been Senior Loan Officer & Reverse Mortgage Specialist with Pinnacle Mortgage Group for thirteen years. I work with him on Reverse Mortgage loans and it feels great to help so many seniors that are able to keep their homes, pay for medications, travel and really enjoy life, especially in these economic times. He has been a member of the Jeffco Sertoma Club for 28 years and this year is President. He is also still a member of the Jefferson County Open Space Foundation and the High Country Republican Club. He is District Captain for the Conifer area Republicans, President of the Colorado/Utah/Wyoming Viper Club and Southwest Zone Director for Viper Club of America. And, if he isn't going to work or meetings, he is probably out on our 35 acres cutting and hauling trees. I sometimes find time to work in the forest with Jim, hauling some of those trees that he has cut down. We can really tell a difference in the health and beauty of the forest - we hike and ride the ATVs out there a lot. Jim's parents are back in Tennessee and are able to stay at home, with help.

**SHIRLEY** - Everything has stayed very constant for me this year also. I've been working in downtown Denver at Ensign United States Drilling Inc. as Field Recruitment Administrator for 1½ years and I'm really having fun doing it. I've now been on the Jefferson County Planning Commission for 4 ½ years and as Chairman for the last 1 ½ years. This commission makes recommendations on land use decisions for Jefferson County. I've been President of Conifer Area Council for almost 10 years. We've held 40 Community and Town Hall Meetings in that time, are working on character development, trails, historic preservation and more. As Events Coordinator for the Viper Club, I've planned or overseen the planning of about 75 outings and events in 8 years - not so bad since we get to enjoy all of those fun times. I walk and hike a lot and have gone to 150 - 200 exercise classes per year for the past 10 years - sometimes hard to fit in but it keeps me energized to do everything else. Braden and Shaunelle have set me up on Facebook and many of you have asked to be friends. Sorry if I haven't responded back. I have a very hard time just keeping up with e-mails and everything else, let alone finding time for Facebook.

That's a quick glance at 2011 for us. We can't wait to hear from you and to get your cards and letters!

*May your holidays sparkle with joy and celebration.*

*And remember . . . some of the best gifts are the ones we already have.*

*Love,*

*Jim, Shirley Braden & Shaunelle*