

Sally Speaks: My Wishes for the New Year

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I would like to send my very best wishes to all of you for a happy and prosperous new year. It is amazing to me when I think that we are living in the year of 2009! Soon I will be 96 years old. I don't think I ever thought that I would reach the year of 2009 – but here I am nine years past that momentous turn of the century! I count my blessings each day for the long years I have enjoyed, that I continue to enjoy relatively good health, and have caring and supporting people around me. I have always tried to live simply and take one day at a time, being thankful for the goodness of each day, and it has served me well. I wish this peace of mind for all of you.

I know that there is a lot of concern over the economy. I do hope each of you is doing as well as possible and that things will improve soon. There is always something good that comes out of each difficult experience we endure. During these difficult periods, we usually are helped to value those basic things that are the most important to us. This is an opportunity to reach out to encourage and support those we know are having difficulties, and I hope you will all find ways to do this.

Lately, we have heard a lot of chatter about the period of “The Great Depression.” I, of course, lived through that time, but I was not very conscious of it. I was a girl of 16 when the Great Depression started and probably didn't pay too much attention to world events at the time. My father, thankfully, never lost his job. Years later, working at Fox Hollow School while in my early twenties, I seem to remember other people who had been really affected by the events of that time. The ultimate effect of today's economic difficulties remains to be seen, but let's hope things turn around soon.

I was so happy to hear that we started this new year with approximately 700 members worldwide. In the past several years, Centered Riding has received extra publicity in various horse magazines, and this has helped bring a new focus upon Centered Riding. It is my hope to see Centered Riding become even more important in the equine world as time progresses. We now have more members in Europe than we have in North America. I think one of reasons for the extraordinary growth in Europe is due to the smaller size of the area. Horses play a more important role in these countries.

I hope that many of you will make plans now to attend the 2009 International Symposium – “Centered Riding's Partner – The Horse.” It sounds like this will be a wonderful Symposium for all of you horse-lovers! Lendon Gray will be the keynote speaker. If you have not yet attended a Symposium, I think you will really enjoy doing so. You can now read a summary and see photos of the 2008 Symposium on the website (visit www.centeredriding.org). One of my wishes for the new year is something that you can help make true - that the Symposium auditorium will be overflowing with supporters of Centered Riding! Make financial plans now and you can help make my wish come true. I wish you all the best for this year of 2009.

