

Sally Speaks: My Holiday Wishes for You

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Bells are ringing – can you hear them? There is a smell in the air of pine trees and wood burning – can you smell it? Coldness permeates the air as warmth fills the hearts of shoppers hustling about. December is here! All over the world, people celebrate traditions and families, the gift of love and giving to one another.

Not all of us are from the same country or nationality or religion, yet all over the world, this is a time for remembrance and caring and sharing as we give to one another and think upon the blessings of our life. This year, there are unique challenges for many, yet the things that are most important – friends, families, character and strength, will shine through even more.

I have many special, distinct memories of years gone by when my sister Agnes and I were very young. Oh how we looked forward to this time of year! Christmas was a very special holiday to us, and the treasured memories remain with me and fill my heart to this very day. With my father's help, I wholeheartedly believed in the existence of Santa and his yearly trip to fill our stockings. In the 2009 yearbook, you will read about the extra step my father took to authenticate Santa's existence for Agnes and I and why it was such a bitter disappointment for me when at the age of 7, I discovered that Santa "lived" at a location much closer than the North Pole!

Soon, the holidays and the year of 2009 will be upon us. I send you my very best wishes for a happy holiday season and a safe and happy New Year. May we all do our part to help and encourage one another. None of us knows what tomorrow will bring. Stay centered, live simply and enjoy the good in each day. Happy Holidays to all of you.