

... from Carol

Happy almost-Spring! I hope that 2023 is starting off well for you.

If I had only two words to describe my day-to-day life, they would be **Alex** and **website**.

Alex continues to be my smile! She turned four in December 2022, and I still have her two days each week. The full days and night driving are getting more challenging, so I hope to purchase a condo close to Julia/Tony/Alex's Tucson home. I plan to live in the condo M-F and return to Pebble on weekends. I know the condo location I want, but not one unit has come on the market since mid-2022. Once I get a place there, I'll be in a position to help out in 'smaller doses'—like picking up Alex from daycare/school, having fun with her for a few hours, and then walking her home.

When I'm not with Alex, I'm usually working on my website. In January 2022, I learned that the Bard Prison Initiative is using my algebra book. Since their students don't have internet access, I created a NIRV (No-Internet-Required-Version) of my algebra course for them. They also needed a supplement for all the 'extra' lessons that didn't appear in my original book. But the really **big deal** for me is that, after 20+ years of a fixed-width website, I'm finally switching to a responsive design. I've completed Algebra I and Geometry, am now working on Algebra II, and still need to do Precalculus and Calculus. It will likely take me another year to finish. You can find me from any of these:

treeofmath.org
onemathematicalcat.org
Google 'math cat burns'

Ray's dad Doug Cardell (Ray has two dads!) recently got his doctorate in economics. Ray and I read his entire dissertation together—it was fun time for us, and sparked lots of thoughtful discussions.

The weeks are rounded out with wonderful dancing with Ray, and fantastic 'Burns Family Meals' (with games and singing) on Sunday evenings. My life has the right balance for me. I feel blessed to be surrounded by good people and nature's beauty. Everyone reading this letter—please know my joy that you're a 'piece' of the puzzle of my life.

... and from Ray

With the multi-year legal battle over, Ray finally stopped playing lawyer and things began to get back to normal. With his time freed up, Ray has been able to catch up on literally hundreds of 'to do' items, big and small. Spaces have been cleaned, deferred repairs have been completed all over the place (leaks, doors, fans, lights, gears, locks, ...), a shed was built and items organized into it, much deferred paperwork has been completed, and great progress has been made on many fronts! The shop has now been cleaned to the point that Ray can drive the truck or van into it to work on it, and many vehicle repairs have been done. Ray also spent three full days demolishing a mobile home and hauling it to the dump—good exercise!

Ray still serves as Sunday School teacher, sings in the choir, and studies scriptures daily.

Ray and Carol worked on a piano duet of Haydn's "Drumroll" Symphony, which was an enjoyable time together. Ray arranged and performed a song for a church party that was a big hit:

treeofmath.org/RayBurns/BethlehemTownTTBB.htm

Ray continues to participate in the brass band and regular family jam sessions. He added a tuba to his instrument collection, and now just needs a viola, oboe and bassoon.

Ray helps run a square dance association, runs a ballroom dance club, is part of the University of Arizona ballroom dance team, and has also been studying clogging, contra, round dancing, Zumba, and other dance styles.

Ray relaxes by reading about anything and everything. Recently he's been reading a lot of history, math, chemistry and physics, especially quantum mechanics.

Ray keeps working hard and has lots of fun. Most importantly, he appears to be succeeding in his quest to do a lot of good in the world.

(We included two photos with the letters)



Carol, Julia & Alex
January 2023

Alex didn't want to swallow her drink, hence the chubby cheeks!



My musical Ray continues to promote Fashion Freedom for Men
January 2023