

Gordon Holiday Card a.k.a. 2012 Holiday Adventures of Aldene Gordon

This holiday card is a little different than our previous ones that boringly described all the semi-interesting trips the Gordon family took over the last year. This holiday card is different in that it focuses on Aldene's adventurous travels through the American health industry.

While riding with her teammate and friend, Anne Kudsi, on October 18, 2012 Aldene had a bicycle accident on Bailey Road in San Jose. Aldene has ridden tens of thousands of miles without incident until she awoke in the Regional Hospital of San Jose with a concussion, contusions, a slight pelvic fracture and no memory of the crash. The CT scan and X-ray of her head indicated no concerns.



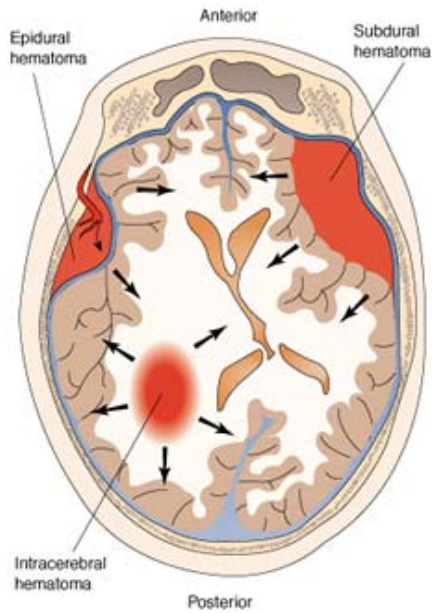
Evil bump that may have caused the crash!



Aldene with scrapes and smiles

Aldene was making physical therapy progress for a few weeks and then her recovery stalled and began to reverse including intermittent falls. On Thanksgiving she was walking with a Parkinson-like gait, and by December 2 she was unable to walk at all or even sign her name! She stayed at her brother Jim's and his wife Nancy's house while Barry had a business trip to Florida. Aldene continued her sudden collapses.

The main problem was that her initial medical team did not give this sufficient or timely attention. However, by her own persistence Aldene finally arranged a CT scan on December 5. The CT scan revealed a large subdural hematoma all around the top of her brain and she underwent a six hour emergency operation that night.



Subdural hematoma!



Aldene - Post- surgery

She received excellent care at O'Connor Hospital under the care of an extraordinary surgeon, Dr. Stanley Shatsky, the pride of Brooklyn's Stuyvesant High School, RPI and NYU Med School.



Post-operation Aldene and Dr. Shatsky. She is eating and, therefore, smiling!

She has improved every day, that is, her handwriting has returned to normal, she is walking with a walker with a normal gait, had some of her stitches removed, and she moved to Mission Oaks Rehabilitation Hospital in Los Gatos for the final step towards her total recovery.



Dr. Shatsky removing some stitches this time with his eyes open



Aldene laughing at one of Dr. Shatsky continuous jokes

Throughout this ordeal she has maintained a totally pleasant and upbeat attitude. The only unpleasantness is a disagreement whether this is a Hanukkah Miracle, a Christmas Miracle or just a simple Brooklyn-Made Medical Miracle, but in any case we feel fortunate and are thankful. Aldene literally saved her own life by pursuing this to a happy ending.



Lots of beautiful flowers!



The smiling healing patient!

Aldene is thankful for the support of all her friends, bicycle teammates, neighbors and family, especially her daughter, Haley, who flew in from Italy to be by her mother's side and feed and entertain the lonely Barry.

The Gordons, Brozmans and Stoners want to thank all of you for your concern, support and encouragement and wish you all a happy and safe holiday season.

Happy Holidays!

Aldene, Barry and Haley