

## WinkWorld January 2009

### Prairie Pedagogy

This winter I notice so many more hawks and golden eagles [http://identify.whatbird.com/obj/26/ /Golden\\_Eagle.aspx](http://identify.whatbird.com/obj/26/ /Golden_Eagle.aspx) than we have had in previous years. We also have wonderful grouse [http://identify.whatbird.com/obj/234/ /Dusky\\_Grouse.aspx](http://identify.whatbird.com/obj/234/ /Dusky_Grouse.aspx) near the house, and we even had a Great Horned Owl [http://identify.whatbird.com/obj/7/ /Great\\_Horned\\_Owl.aspx](http://identify.whatbird.com/obj/7/ /Great_Horned_Owl.aspx) near the house.

However, for the first time this winter, we have Bald Eagles [http://identify.whatbird.com/obj/25/ /Bald\\_Eagle.aspx](http://identify.whatbird.com/obj/25/ /Bald_Eagle.aspx)

From our living room, I took the following pictures of the 2 bald eagles in a tree by the corral. <http://www.joanwink.com/gifs4/BaldEagle1208.jpg>  
<http://www.joanwink.com/gifs4/BaldEagle1208-2.jpg>

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### Family Photos

#### 3 Lil' New Mexicans



#### The Beautiful Boys of Boise



### Notes from the Real World

For someone who does not send holiday cards, I certainly enjoy all of the cards/photos which I receive. Thank you so much.

As I reflect back on 2008, I can see that my health has been restored. Another thing I have noticed is that my self-confidence is returning. I suspect that I'm not the only person who found cancer to be a huge blow to self-confidence. Who knew?

As we move into 2009 and the dire economic situation, I find I have more hope than I've had in 3 years. This should sustain me as I face two book contracts both due next December 2009. I plan to write my way through the recession.

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**Notes from the Real World:** 4 Winks to Pierre SD, January 13 2009



As many of you know, Dean was elected to the South Dakota House of Representatives. Against all odds (Central Valley fog, South Dakota blizzards, California and New Mexico classes, California and Colorado cancelled flights, & an unexpected trip for Bo to Rapid City, as opposed to Pierre, car rentals, etc.), Dawn, Bo, and I were all able to be with Dean on this special day, as he was sworn into office. No matter what I tell you about this, please remember that I am holding back. This may have been one of the happiest times of my life—simply to be together with our two adult children on this momentous day for Dean.

When I look back on this, I will recall vividly:

*First,*

Dawn, Bo, and I cheering wildly from the balcony of the gorgeous capitol building:

<http://www.state.sd.us/STATE/CAPITOL/CAPITOL/TOUR/>

The three of us proudly stood and did the 3-person Wink Wave from the front of the balcony, when Wink first walked onto the legislative floor to take his seat.

*Second,*

Dawn and Bo regaling us with stories of their childhood, which they remember very differently from how we remember it. We laughed until we cried for two glorious nights in a motel room.

Dean and I on the legislative floor before the swearing in ceremony:



Dean, swearing in:



Our view of the floor from the balcony:



Dean and Bo on the House floor:





Dean and Dawn on the House floor:



In what follows, I am sharing photos of other highlights of the trip.  
Some pictures of the capital:  
It is a spectacular building. I hope you took the tour, which I posted above.





Marble stairs and good people.



Dawn and the statue of Wisdom.



Very cold and snowy.



Outside of the Capital



A very happy day.



Let the dialogue and voting begin.

PUTNAM  
RAUSCH  
ROMKEMA  
ROUNDS  
RUSSELL  
SCHLEKEWAY  
SCHREMPP  
SLY  
SOLBERG

THOMPSON  
TIDEMANN  
TURBIVILLE  
VAN GERPEN  
VANDERLINDE  
VANNEMAN  
VERCHIO  
WINK  
WISMER  
MR. SPEAKER