



Happy Holidays 2010 from Leslie Turek

2010 has been a marvelous year for me! I moved to a new home and had a wonderful trip to Australia. What excitement! I'm almost hoping that 2011 will be a bit more dull and boring.

Moving was a lot of work, and isn't completely over yet, but I'm very happy with my new place and glad that I made the change. I first saw the condo in April, and made an offer right away. We closed in late June, but I wasn't ready to move until late July. Fairly soon after that, I left for 3 1/2 weeks in Australia. So I really started to settle in when I got back in September.

My old house in Watertown went up for sale in September, got an offer in November, and we closed on December 10. In this market, I am very happy that it went so quickly, and to a buyer who is excited about the house and the garden. (Some of the prospects just wanted to cut everything down!)

My new home is a condo set in conservation land in Lincoln. Lincoln is a great town - just outside Route 128, so very handy in location, but also very rural with lots of open space - both forest and farmland. The development is called Farrar Pond Village, and there is a private lake, complete with a canoe I inherited from the previous owner.

As you can see from the photo, my unit is a townhouse with a screened porch and a balcony off the bedroom, both looking out into conservation land. There is a small flower garden, and elsewhere a plot for vegetable gardening. Even though I moved from a house to a condo, I actually have more living space in the new place. It has been great fun settling in, meeting my new neighbors, and exploring all the great walking trails in Lincoln.



Australia

The photos on page 1 are from my trip to Australia in August/September, to attend the annual World Science Fiction Convention in Melbourne. Alexis Layton and I made a good long trip around the convention, going to Sydney, Uluru (Ayers Rock), and tropical Cairns as well as to Melbourne.

Australia in early spring was amazing. We had a chance to see all sorts of scenery, from ocean to rainforest to dessert to forests of eucalyptus and tree ferns. I really enjoyed seeing the very different plants and animals and the colorful (and very noisy) birds. The people were warm and welcoming, with “No worries” being the universal expression. The 24-hour plane trip was a drag and I did get catch a cold for a time, so missed a bit of the convention and Melbourne, but so it goes when traveling. Overall, it was an unforgettable experience.

Some new-home photos below: master bedroom, view of conservation land from the bedroom balcony, Machinka on the porch, porch and flower bed, and Farrar Pond.

Miscellaneous

My health continues to be good - I actually lost some weight from all the activity involved in packing and moving this summer. Machinka had a lonely time while I was away in Australia, and then when I moved her to Lincoln she had to become an indoor cat because of all the dangerous wildlife in the vicinity. But she has adjusted well and seems to be happy in her new home.

I continue to work part time for Springwell as their Healthy Aging Coordinator. We conducted 10 workshops during the past year, and just recently added a new Diabetes Self-Management course to our repertoire. It's rewarding work, with a great group of volunteers.

You can still reach me at leslie.turek@gmail.com. My new mailing address is 113 Chestnut Circle, Lincoln MA 01773, and my new phone is 781-259-8432. I hope to hear from you in the coming year.

Happy holidays and best wishes for a healthy and delightful 2011!

