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Happy Holidays, 2004

With help from a friend, I'm sending this picture of my front patio display of pots and plants before the first frost. (I feel like I have to hurry to learn new things before my mind sinks into nether land.) The passing year still seems beyond my capabilities, but I went with Rowan (my 14 year old grandson, "booring", says he) to Australia and New Zealand. The actual trip was tiring but the Int'l. Double Reed Conference was challenging and satisfying. I left my oboe at home because I forget so easily like leaving things on streetcars).

On the way, Ro and I stopped in Los Angeles and visited with Abby who Assists the President at Loyola and is currently recovering from a hip surgery. Rowan visited with a SERVAS host family in town of Cockatoo and also saw some. He's a fast runner, that young man. He certainly learned his way around on streetcars and buses in the cities where we traveled. The countrysides were beautiful! If I had another life to live I'd like it to be in New Zealand, If there is a country left by then (reference to our wars). We seem to never learn, do we?.

. I miss the Friends who met in my house for meetings. Especially, I wish they were near, now, in these political, worldwide. war extravaganzas

I enjoyed a visit with Minam May and friends who live in Victoria, and Sydney,

Philomena and I went to the Choisin Pottery and I watched Robin Hopper pull a pot. One can always learn from interactions with experts.

I had lunch with Judy who has moved out near the Choisin Pottery. She writes with a group and they have published a little book.

I think of Dawson's when the chickadees, cardinals, blue jay, sparrows and junco come to my birdfeeder. It's snowing today so I must go out and put more birdfeed. I learned to make suet cakes

Once a week I visit a local pre-school program with grannies and preschoolers for play with clay. The grannies are mostly Chinese but there are moms from Islam and other parts of Europe and so it's a learning English program.

Family News: Norman and Veronica have moved a little north to Shelburne, a lovely home. Cyndi has changed jobs to another Women's Shelter and enjoys her house with Mal near the Danforth, Christmas dinner is at her house, Renee is continuing her studies at York-Seneca for more job possibilities, Greg has had a cataract removed from eye and has been taking it easy. He came and did odd jobs while I worked with Luke with pottery presents. Boxing Day dinner is at Robyn and Kevin's house in Hamilton, Simon is coming with girl friend Kelly from Edmonton Day after Box Day Sheila and family are coming for left over brunch.

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