



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 actually looking forward to 2011 being 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 did it. 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 Sept, got an offer in November, and is scheduled to close on December 10. In this market, I am very happy that it went so quickly.

My new home is a condo set in conservation land in Lincoln. Lincoln is a great town - just outside the Route 128 ring road, 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 pond and 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.

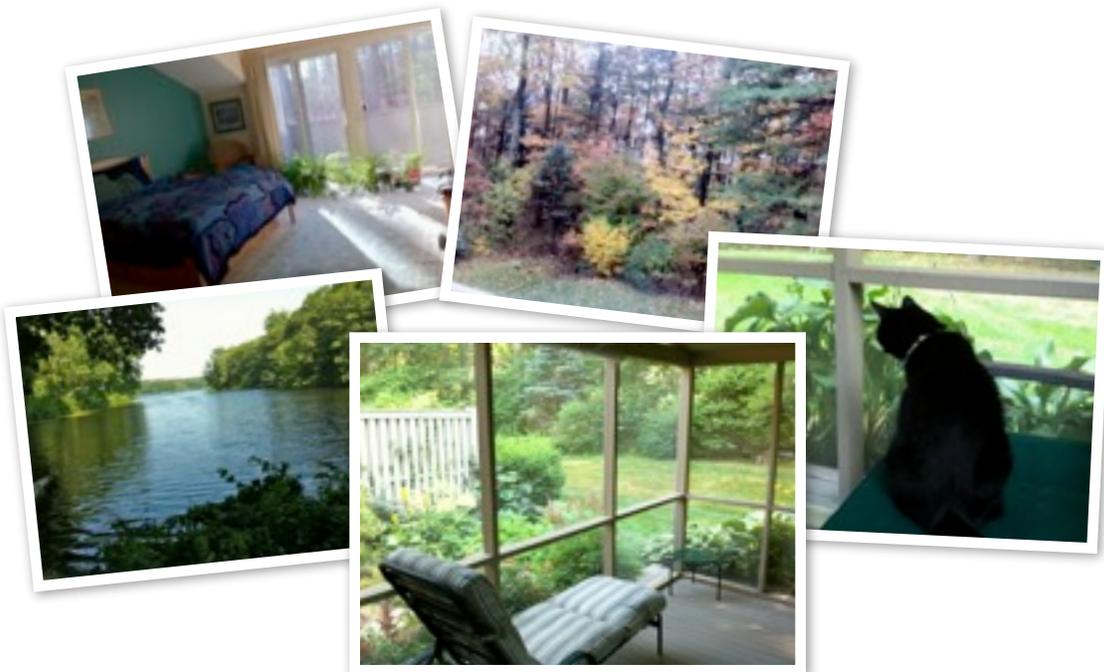


Australia

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 Cairns as well as 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. It was an unforgettable experience.

Some new home photos below: bedroom, view from bedroom balcony, Machinka on porch, porch and flower bed, Farrar Pond.



Miscellaneous

My health continues to be good - I actually lost some weight from all the activity involved in packing and moving. Machinka had a rough time while I was away in Australia, and 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 fiscal year, and just recently added a new Diabetes Self-Management course to our repertoire. It's rewarding work.

I continue to be reachable at leslie.turek@gmail.com. My new mailing address is 113 Chestnut Circle, Lincoln MA 01773, and my new phone is 781-259-8432.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy 2011!