



CHRISTMAS 2017

Dear Friends and Family,

Christmas 2017 is almost here so I had better get busy and get a letter done.

I am keeping reasonably well although some days my mobility is not great. Tylenol is a blessing as it gives me some relief.

As indicated in my last letter, I did move again. Boxes still remain unpacked after almost a year. I am slowly trying to get rid of items that I am no longer needing. It takes time. See below for my current address and phone number. I also have a new email address but the old one will still reach me – the gmail address seems to be more dependable.

A major change in my life is that I completed my second terms as Clerk of the Presbytery. Presbytery Standing Orders limit a clerk to two terms so there was no decision to be made. I miss the contacts.

In early June I found myself in Taiwan. It was a wonderful trip. It was at the invitation of the Bunun Presbytery. Susan Clarke, minister in Elora and I were invited to the 40th anniversary of the Bunun Presbytery. I was able to see a few of the people that I knew when I worked in Taiwan. I regret there were several I did not see but so thankful that I was able to talk briefly on the phone with both Dr. and Mrs. Kao.

The big event in my life was the celebration of my 80th birthday on July 9th. About 120 people came to an event to celebrate with me. I am adding a picture on the email copy of this letter. My Aunt Nicki, Uncle Donald and Maria, and cousins (adopted sisters) honoured me in planning this event – Carole Ann Hattle, Susan Roszel, Linda Foley, Brenda Collins, and Sheri Mainprize. Members of their families plus many others helped. It was good to see old and new friends, members of the Welsh and Nichol families, my Taiwan family, other family members and old and new friends – I had better stop now or I will leave someone out. I was overwhelmed by the number in attendance. My long-time friend Donna was also with us – we have been friends since we were four years old – neighbours on Kingsmill Avenue in Guelph – we started Kindergarten together. My cousin Debbie Nichol Ogden came from NB and my friend Pauline Brown was here from India.

Family Passings,

- Jean Cunningham De Haan, my first cousin died on May 27th. I officiated at her service.
- I officiated at my good friend Joan Rumney Farbotko's sister Glenda's funeral and also my cousin Susan Nichol Roszel's mother-in-law Grace Roszel's funeral a few weeks ago.
- I mentioned Udo Schonberg's passing last year. This year his wife, my cousin Ernestine Nichol passed away suddenly in November. She moved to Miramichi, NB and died after her first night there
They will all be missed.

I have been co-chair of the Refugee Committee at St. Andrew's Kitchener. The Syrian family of seven (five children) arrived in late November 2016. They just celebrated their first year in Canada. They are doing very well.

Samir, the 4 year old son of my Lebanese/Syrian family Gladys and Mahfouz was baptized in September and I was his sponsor (Godmother). Gladys's parents (Jeanette & Samir) were here visiting from Lebanon and were able to celebrate this important event in their family. Samir is now in junior kindergarten. He speaks both Arabic and English very well.

There is one family birth that I know of to celebrate this year,

- Lisa Roszel and her husband Li Chang celebrated the arrival of their third child this fall – Cohan William.

Last year I mentioned Kimberly and Dave Spira's son Cayden Thomas. Cayden was born early so from his birth in early November 2016 to January 2017 he was in hospital. He fought the greatest fight and we celebrated his first birthday last month. He is doing well for which we are very grateful.

I continue to serve on the Presbyterian Church's Assembly Council. It meets twice a year. I am also on two sub-committees.

My free spirited cockatiel Joey is doing well as is my feline family. Sam needs some dental work so he will go to the vets to have it done on January 10th. Sam and Princess are now 16 and Snoopy is 7.

Merry Christmas to you and your family. May you know the peace of the season. I look forward to hearing all your news.

With love to all,

Wilma

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January 11, 2018

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous gift check and greetings at Christmas time. It will enable me to visit my son Mark, born in Mackay Hospital (Taipei) in 1962. He has lived in Chile and London in recent years and has recently relocated to southern California, (near but not harmed by the recent forest fires in that area.)

I recently reconnected with my former Taiwanese instructor, Chhon Seong-long and his wife, Ruby, who are living in the NYC area.

My daughter, Rebecca, who was born at Mackay shortly after our arrival in Taipei, ^{in 1959} is now a midwife and is teaching interns at the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, OR. Her daughter recently graduated from Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA with a degree in geology.

THE MET



Detail from Kosode with a Paragon of Filial Piety

Japanese, Edo period (1615-1868), 19th century
Resist-dyed, painted, and embroidered silk crepe, 67 x 52 in.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Gift of Phillip H. Rubin, 2006 2006.572.1

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New York

I saw a film made in
Taipei recently but unfortunately
by it was all in Mandarin
and Taipei was full
of cars & skyscrapers,
not the pedicabs and
Japanese-style houses
we lived in when my
children were born.

If ever you
visit Riverside Church
in NYC, do look me
up - I am an active
member & volunteer and
live close enough to see the church
tower from my sofa!
With fond memories,
Marie Wilson
Mi - Ma - Li Apo-lina