

December 2014

Dear Family and Friends,

It's time again to touch base with one and all and to send out greetings of "comfort and joy" for the New Year. I'll work in a little belated Thanksgiving, too, as I have so many of you to be grateful to. You've given your love and support when I most needed it, and have made smooth my journey (quite literally as well as psychologically) from one life to another.

Many of you know that after Ranjit, my husband of 64 years, passed away last August, I closed down the Chandigarh house and moved back to California, where I started from in 1950. Ever since October 13, when our flight from Delhi landed at San Francisco, younger daughter Jo, her husband Vince, granddaughter Stella (15) and grandson Nicholas (12) have welcomed me as one of the family at 5645 Idlewood St., Dublin, CA-94568. I'd forgotten how beautiful the S.F. Bay area is. And It's wonderful to be around teenagers again: I always loved 'em. All this has eased the transition from life in India with its variety, color, spontaneity, sense of antiquity, "taking- things- easy" mood, and occasional craziness to American orderliness, understatement, dependability, young people multi-tasking their way through each day, and an " in-a-hurry" culture driven by Speed. I sorely miss the relationships and friends left behind. So many shared times of joys and sorrows that make up life keep me bound in spirit. At the same time, being back with "blood kin" , as my long ago South Carolina ancestors would have put it, is an indescribable pleasure. It seems I'm doomed to missing folks wherever I am! And Ranjit has taken half of me away with him.

You may be curious about my day-to-day living here, so different from what I was used to in India. Jo works full time as an accountant from her office at home , Vince is away at his office, and the children are at school all day. Since I'm fairly handicapped, being unable to leave the house on my own, I've hired some caregivers on a flexible day-to-basis to accompany me on errands and various appointments in town. I find going forth into the world on a regular basis important! My favorite caregiver is a tall, strong, cheerful woman from Nigeria, a single mother of 3 teenagers who has lived in the U.S. 15 years. She's excellent in her work. We have long talks about all sorts of things; she's wise, affectionate, and great company.

As for "social life", I find email a boon. It's a way I keep in touch with so many of you in India and reminds me that the "dream-like " days we shared in New Delhi and later Chandigarh were real. It's also a way of reuniting with old friends and relatives here in the United States. One early childhood playmate who lives in Oregon is my sole living connection to that time. Barbara and I have grand chats remembering her Scottish mom baking us "chess cakes" while we two exchanged movie star paper dolls during the long summer vacation afternoons. Now we're both 89.

Life is wonderful.

Wishing you peace and contentment in the coming year, and

Love,

Jacquie