

CHRISTMAS 2002

Dear Family and Friends,

We are more than delighted once again to send you our greetings for the season, both of us being in good health and excellent spirits. These are precious "commodities" as the decades of wear and tear are beginning to tell.

A year ago, we were celebrating a second grandchild, delightful Zoie, who has grown and changed a great deal since birth, and who has turned out to be a wonderful companion and buddy to Matthew. Our infrequent visits with them and their parents are invariably highlights of our year, especially when they turn into a family reunion, so we can catch up with everyone.

It was a special treat for us to have Henk's brother, Leo, and his wife, Elly, join us in Florida for the first time, where we had many day trips, enjoying the opportunity to show these Netherlanders a few insights into life in the Florida "tropics". During their sojourn, sad news reached us about Henk's brother, Lourens, suddenly losing his precious wife, Hazien.

As usual, Linda's parents, Ruth and Krug, also spent a nice long stretch with us, escaping the brunt of their brief winter back home. At that time, members of the family were conspiring to put together a grand family reunion in Evansville to celebrate Ruth 90th (!) birthday in April, complete with a Country Club

dinner and, as special gifts, a memorabilia quilt and album created with contributions from everyone in the family.

After all that partying, we drove home to Toronto, for a summer of catching up on time with the children and our neglected friends. Our home also required a lot of attention after years of being ignored, and Henk managed to accomplish beyond his expectations in that respect. However, the long heat waves of this very hot summer kept our golf well below our initial hopes. Linda did better in golf and also relished her active social agenda, both at home and "on the town".

During the Fall, we were very happy to have brother Lourens over to our Toronto home for a couple of weeks, taking in the wine country, our parks, a few days in the Muskoka, and some wonderful visits with the children.

Later this month, Henk's youngest brother, Ab, will have to undergo a complex and tricky heart operation and we hope he will have as quick a recovery as Henk did now fully three years ago.

So, here we are back in the not-so-warm, but oh-so-sunny South. We expect to have some close Sagittarian friends over to help us celebrate four birthdays, including Henk's 70th and we should be here until the middle of April, exploiting the climate for our daily walks and exercise programs !

We send you our best wishes for good times with family and friends over the Festive Season and for the best of health and lots to be happy about in the New Year !

Love from Florida !!

