

# *Feliz Navidad y Feliz Año Nuevo*



## **Another**

**year on the edge** of the great plains. Most contemplate the vast expanse of our country's interior from the east looking west the direction taken by the departed and the explorers, gold-seekers and visionaries of the past. We prefer looking east toward the rising sun a new day, a new beginning. Perhaps Obamamos will be our leader, perhaps not. But we can always find our own way.

We are all ready for the coming winter. The Juncos are coming down from the mountains to add their fluttering flurries to the walks of Willy and Peter, a congenial congress of Mallards with an occasional American Wigeon or Canvasback congregate on the pond by the feed barn, Ravens gather along the river ready to scavenge from the remains of the students lunches. The Painted Lady Butterflies have stopped here on their way Mexico and I see plenty of evidence of the passing through of Peregrine Falcons (the remains of pigeons). Kathryn and Peter have supplied themselves with piles of thick tomes and good dry oak for the fire.

The past year has been relatively uneventful. Kathryn took on a temporary job along with a acquaintance doing theater with a West Las Vegas elementary school here. She photographed the class process and the final performances, then produced books with words photos and art, by some the children.

Our friend Hans visited in June giving us an opportunity to procrastinate on the renovations and do a little exploring of the *rios, montañas y villas de Nuevo Mexico*.

After the summer monsoons we were repairing scraping sanding priming the portal and the enclosure for the stairway to the attic for two weeks when Kathryn fell, while walking Willi after dark at my mother's house, breaking her left arm, her first broken bone ever. What a way to get out of painting! Brother John showed up just in time to help lay on the color on the stair enclosure, a yellow with amaretto trim. I painted the ceiling of the portal robin's egg blue with peacock blue trim and the same amaretto eaves and columns. Next year we will finish the stucco and the gables with a couple intermediate colors tween the yellow and the amaretto giving us our own adobe Painted Lady.

Kathryn's break was not a bad break, but it was a break and severely limited her actions. She could drive, although I had to add a steering power assist on some tight turns as our car has no power steering. She is still regaining her full strength in the hand & arm.mbot1440!

The four of us celebrated mom's birthday with Oktoberfest at the Plaza Hotel. Then sister Sally arrived, closely followed by cousin Grace who had officiated at our wedding. Grace's birthday is also in October, the 15th, so we had another celebration for all us October born. Sally and Grace departed in November leaving Kathryn and Peter in their little mud house on the west side and mother Wait and brother John on the east side all dozing off in **peace and contentment**.

**We wish you the same for the coming new year**

*with all our Love and best wishes*

*Kathryn*  
*& Peter*