



New Year's note - January 2021

That reflective song we sing or hear sung every year when the first of January strikes, evokes in us a universal understanding of newness, renewal, hopefulness. Auld Lang Syne. The dawn of 2021, however, likely felt to you as it did to me - equidistant from the nightmares of 2020 and the uncertainties of a new year that felt old before it arrived. Upon further investigation of the lyrics to this globally-visited tune, its meaning speaks to an acknowledgment of the experiences shared by old friends, a celebration, really, of what old friends know: that neither time nor space nor circumstance will keep them from honoring the bond they share.

I want to briefly encourage you - no matter the present challenges you are facing - that the old friends in your life, the acquaintances of significance, the compatriots of your life's journey, will be your source of strength in this and all times. Putting aside - in as much as is possible - the ongoing challenges we face both individually and collectively, enter 2021 certain that so long as you have breath, those who have been certified partners in the myriad experiences of your life will be your rock more now than ever. So even when you'd rather crawl under the covers, turn off the lights, turn to food or whatever your vice is for comfort, and forget about every virtual experience of the day, send your friend a text message, give them a quick call, write and post them a short, hand-written note to remind them and affirm for you that *"For the sake of old times, their acquaintance shall never be forgotten."*

And if you ever want or need to reach us here at 4DL, just send us a text message, give us a call, post us a letter - and we'll do the same, old friend.

Sincerely,

Angela Harvey-Bowen