

Dear Friends and Family,

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

I guess it has been 4 years since we have mailed a Christmas letter. We have moved twice since then. Both times were in the middle of December, so perhaps you can understand why we failed for the last two.

In the Summer of 2018, I painted a mural on our neighbors' retaining wall, at their request. The mural consists of 49, two foot diameter medallions portraying a total of 69 birds that are found in the Perkasio area. I painted them in various styles. You can see photos and read about it on my art website: shoutforjoy.net.

We moved out of there on Dec. 15, 2018, because the whole house blossomed with black mold, and the landlord did not respond for over a month. We had to move out of the house with the wonderful view on the ridge, on Dec. 14, 2019, because our landlord and landlady were separating and she wanted to move in. Thankfully, we found an apartment for much less money, in the middle of town, with a wonderful landlord, with a larger kitchen and living room, that also accepted cats.

2019 was rough. I had several trips to the ER, some by ambulance. I put myself on the ketogenic diet and lost 60 pounds and put my diabetes into remission and ended my need for insulin or BP meds. My cardiologist told me, at my Jan. 2020 checkup, that if all his patients did what I did, he would be out of business. However, the insulin usage had done its damage, and I had had to have surgery on my right carotid artery due to the scarring.

Bethann is now working part time at Goodwill as a sorter, and very part time (3 or 6 hours a week) finishing alpaca socks in a cottage industry. She sews the socks more for love than for the money. She has been sewing masks like crazy. We have made over 4,000 masks. We started making them for the local hospital, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, nursing homes, and doctor's offices. Then people wanted to purchase them. We didn't charge much. We have had to repair our serger twice. We have gone through almost all of our cotton, quilting fabric. We have had to buy elastic at a premium, since it has been in short supply. I think we broke even, since people have been kind.

In late February, Tony McNeal, our long time friend who helped with The King's Jubilee, came for a weekend. He lost his place to stay in Phila. Then the lockdown happened. Bethann helped him get a full

CHRISTMAS 2020

time job at Goodwill. He has paid his old fines and gotten his driver's permit. Soon, he will get his license. He now has medical insurance, and has been able to take care of some issues that had been neglected for too long. Our last two places were not laid out in such a way that we could have accommodated him; nor would have our landlords allowed him to stay.

All but one of our grandkids are teenagers, and the youngest one will soon turn 13. Aidan is 16, and he is taller than me. He bicycles all over the place and is in vo-tech for small engine and motorcycle repair. Jacob loves building things; from models to computers. He loves all kinds of games. Elijah and Aidan love their video games. Elijah has fallen in love with cooking and has become quite the gourmet. Isabella is learning to sew. She likes to study fashion design and imagine new designs. She is learning to sketch them. Brigitta is quite the blossoming artist. She has been diligently studying portraiture with wonderful detail!

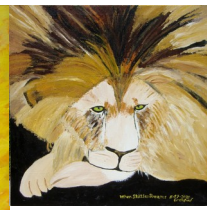
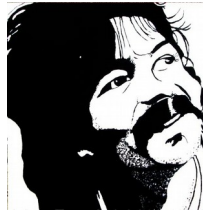


< A few of the 69 birds I painted at 5th & Spruce, Perkasio.

∨ A few of the over 4,000 masks that Bethann sewed.



I have stalled on my painting, with the pandemic and the depressing tRump circus. My last good pieces were a COVID death, a BLM martyr, and a lion.



John Prine
d.4/7/2020
COVID19
Summer
Taylor
d.7/4/2020
@ a BLM
protest

Peace & love,

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