

JKß – JOY KROEGER BECKNER – JKß

classical realism, from hounds to humans & and more!

NEWS & JOURNEYS OF JOY! :: VOL. FOURTEEN, NUMBER TWO :: MARCH 2018

greetings! Come join us in San Miguel de Allende, GTO, Mexico...

JAN. 13, 2018, SATURDAY, 5:45PM, AROUND 60 DEGREES F, ELEVATION: 6350 FT: We meet two couples at food truck in Colonia Guadalupe. We've crossed the border at Laredo with them for many years. We all wear hats. The menu is extensive and the food is delicious. By the time we get home at 8:27PM, it is 44 degrees. It feels good to be inside. Thank you, Sharon, our friend turned landlady, for caring for Bo during our evening out.

Thank goodness our casita this year is a rather steady 63-65 degrees, up 10 degrees from the coldest indoor temperature when we rented for eight years upstairs.

JAN. 14, 2018: We awaken to 28 degrees outside, colder than I remember it ever being here since we started coming here in 2001.

2:27PM: A Facebook Message from friend and fellow sculptor Hap Hagood, states that he wants me to have one of his carvings. Sadly he feels he is close to dying and I am honored that he thinks enough of me to give me one of his pieces, but it's a very sad day. Hap is the second sculptor friend I will have lost too soon. Jaye Gregory, a friend and former sculpture teacher passed in January 2015 at the sweet age of just 63. In addition, Annette Olson, my favorite mold maker/wax pourer of 10+ years, passed in 2010 at age 48.



*"The Red Dove" by Hap Hagood ©2009
4" x 8" x 3" MAHOGANY*

JAN. 19, 2018, FRIDAY: Thanks to the late Robert DeGast for his appropriate description of January and February temperatures in San Miguel:

Dawn is Winter.

Noon is Spring.

Mid Afternoon is Summer.

Sunset signals the beginning of Fall.

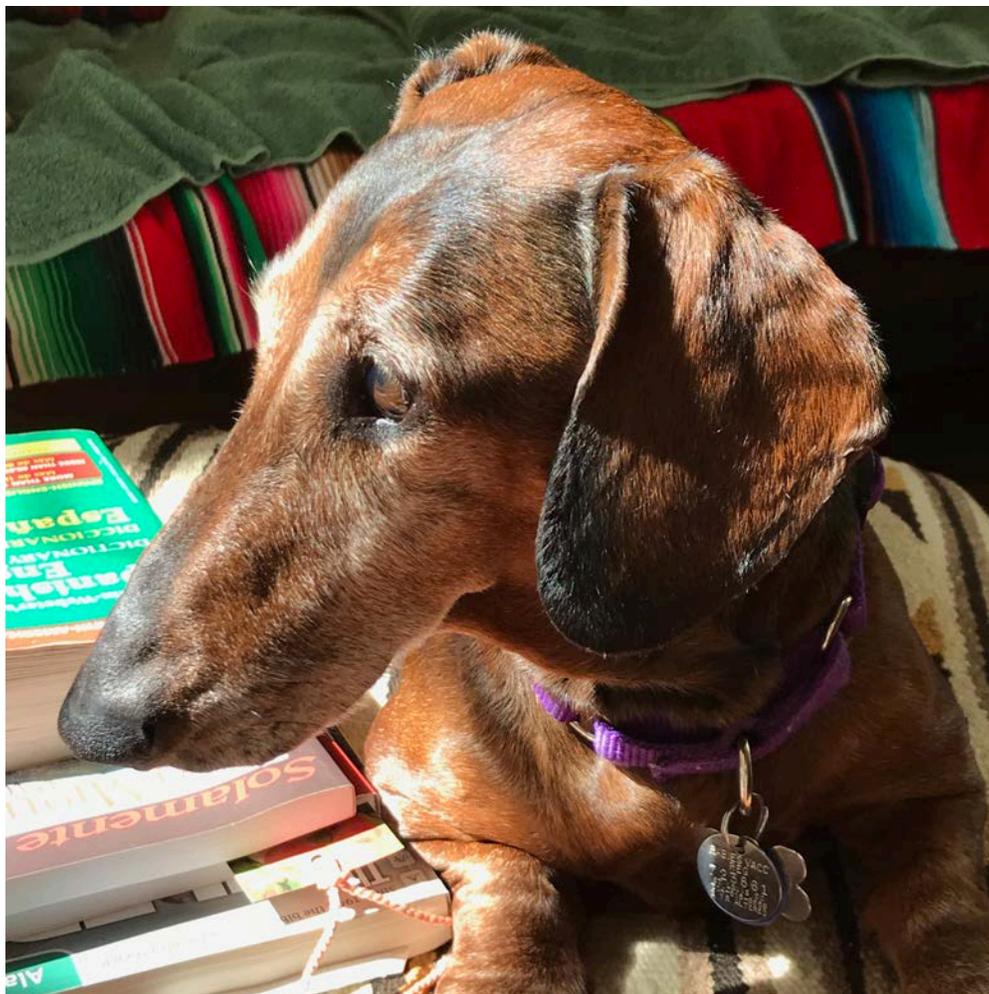
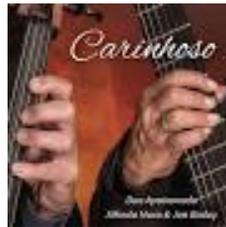


JAN. 19, 2018: Donkeys haul sacks of soil as I walk a mile across town to Sue Lawrence's Pilates reformer class. Everyone shares the narrow cobblestone streets.

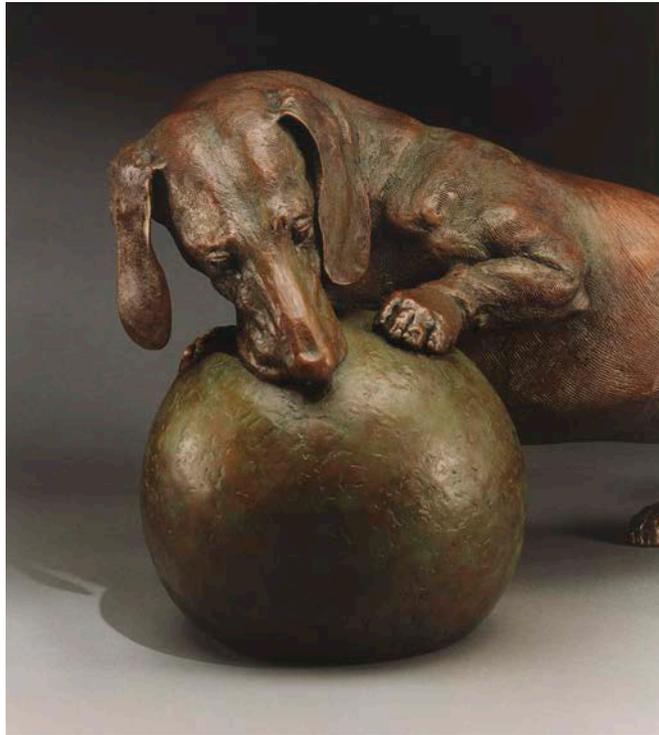


Flowers along the way to Pilates

JAN. 20, 2018: Girlfriends and I enjoy a classical guitar and cello concert at St. Paul's Church. World-class guitarist Alfredo Muro and cellist Jim Bailey are wonderful!!!



Soon to be twelve-year-old Bo relaxes in sunlight on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018.



"Life's a Ball!" SS

JAN. 22, 2018: I am excited that "Life's a Ball!" SS, has been juried into the 2018-2020 Art on the Avenues outdoor exhibition in Wenatchee, WA. Thank you Adele Wolford for the good news!



"Sweet Dreams" 1:6 Scale

FEB. 1, 2018: A check arrives for "Sweet Dreams" 1:6 Scale, AP 5/8, which was adopted from the 84th Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature presented by The Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society, Rockville, MD. Thank you, Cecelia! Only two more are available!

A medical lesson for those of us over 60

In 2001, our first year to visit San Miguel, we met Britt Zaist, who celebrates owning Galleria Izamal for 25 years. Britt is known for her flamboyant yet economical ink drawings of animals. Today Britt comes into Salon Lawrence where Brian and I have our hair cut. She tells me she has GLAUCOMA and she states, [in blue] "Visine and Murine can contribute to those who have a predisposition to glaucoma. I'm not sure if it actually causes it; the best thing is to never use either. Anti-inflammatory drugs are probably one of the large causes of bleeding ulcers. They can be as simple as aspirin, Advil... I don't know the English names for the ones currently being sold in the USA - but they are billed as anti-inflammatory drugs. I had been taking them since I was 16 and not until I was in my 50's did I hear warnings about them. But, because they worked so well at turning off the pain machine, I kept using them - and - they caught up with me. I was lucky, but almost wasn't. Doctors don't always tell you all the problems with what you are using. Now all I can take for chronic back pain and arthritis is Tylenol ... and I am sure taken long enough that will do something to you as well! Sure wish someone had sent this to me."

Britt had never gone to an eye doctor because she had no problems with her eyes. Recently, when her eyes started watering, she went to an eye doctor. The doctor has her on a med that increases her blood pressure, which is not good since she had open-heart surgery a year and a half ago. Her advice: IF you are over 60, or younger, GO TO AN EYE DOCTOR once a year for a check up and don't use Visene or Murine.

I hope you agree it is better to share this and save one person from Britt's eye problems, than to not share.



FEB. 4, 2018: Our former landlord of eight years passed away last year. A couple purchased and completely remodeled the apartment. Tonight they celebrate the completion with a party! Our long time friend Sharon, above right, now rents us a cozy little apartment in the same building.

Geraldo Montes, right, and the marimba player at the top of the stairs valiantly try to teach me to roll my "R"s. I did not learn to roll them in high school German classes and still find it impossible to roll an "r" and connect other letters to the front and back of the "r". Oh well.....





FEB. 5, 2018, 5:42PM: On little one lane Chiquitos, Brian and I discover a doorway surrounded by real flowers!
I am in awe!





Photo of the door and photo immediately above, by Brian Beckner

FEB. 8, 2018: For years I have admired the small figurative sculptures and sterling jewelry made by Karen Wight. Today I visit her lovely home and studio. My new friend makes creative, fun, figurative pieces. See them on Facebook.



Gringos and natives dance along with the dancer in pink knee socks on stage in the Jardin, the main square in San Miguel.



"Dream Chaser" Smooth, 1:6 Scale, 6½" Long, Bronze, Ed. 20 & 3 Artist's Proofs

A deposit arrives for a "Dream Chaser" Smooth! The gentleman insists it looks just like his Henry! Yay!



FEB. 9, 2018: What a surprise to find this tribute to the Beatles on the door of a small clothing shop, and, the next day...



FEB. 10, 2018: We enjoy an evening with friends at El Pegaso our favorite little Mexican Restaurant, where many different little metal shadow boxes decorate the walls and are available for sale.



Cesar' is one of our favorite waiters, tall and MUE GUAPO!!



Brian



Alberto



Ana

The El Pegaso rooftop overlooks the lights on the Parroquia, the large cathedral in front of the Jardin.



FEB. 13, 2018: "Big Heart" AP2/2 will soon have a new home!
Thank you, new friend!

Carnaval

(Carnival) is a festival that marks the beginning of Lent, 49 days before Easter. Lent ends on Mardi Gras (lit. Fat Tuesday), the day before Ash Wednesday. It may begin as early as Feb. 3 or as late as March 9. Although several weeklong colorful festivals take place in Mexico, principally in Mazatlan and Veracruz, Carnival is not celebrated in San Miguel except the weekend and the Monday and Tuesday preceding Ash Wednesday. It is the custom for children to crack *cascarones* (eggshells filled with confetti) over the heads of people, friends and strangers alike, especially in the Jardin. Written by Robert de Gast in his book, "The World of San Miguel de Allende – An Uncommon Guide."



This young man is pleased to crack eggshells on his friend. Just look at his expression!



Left to right views from Brian's favorite bench across from the Parroquia



Shy Balloon Man in front of the Parroquia



Get your Valentine balloons here!

Happy Valentine's Day!



Thank you Brian for your beautiful Valentine bouquet. Murals frame the foliage in our tiny dining/work area. Our friend Sharon loaned us her keepsake crystal vase that she acquired from a Polish friend in the 80's.



FEB. 14, 2018, 5:41PM: At the corner by El Pagaso we find this fabulously decorated hot pink Valentine's Volkswagon. Can you count the teddy bears on this vehicle? The passenger offers lollipops to everyone passing.

6:48PM: We walk from the Jardin to Restaurant Bacco in the Hotel Sauto for a favorite dinner: Ensalada Caprese, Marguerita Pizza and Pasta Carbonara. Excelente' – and – we have enough for tomorrow night! We eat rather quickly on the patio and cab home. It is cool, around 60 degrees with a breeze.



Stone sink in the ladies room at Hotel Sauto

A Big Nut to Crack!

Gary Pitcher, my foundry man, emails an invoice for the raw bronze acorn. The acorn mold was divided into eight pieces and Gary delivered the raw bronze parts to my metal chaser, Nancy Palm, today. Total weight: approximately 168 pounds.

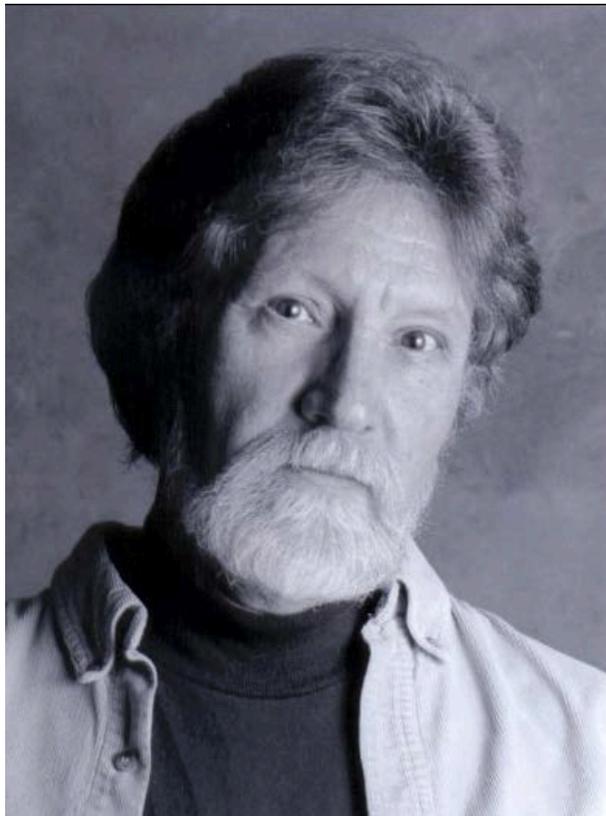
FEB. 15, 2018: Nancy forwards photos of the roughly welded acorn. As luck would have it, Dave DeDecker needed to help Nancy with other welding this week, and Dave did the heavy pounding and welding on "The Mighty Oak". Thank you, Dave!





Shown in raw bronze "A Mighty Oak" is roughly 47 inches long,

In Memoriam



FEB. 15, 2018, 7:48PM: Sadly, I learn from Facebook that my friend Hap Hagood passed away Feb. 11, 2018.



Hap's last Facebook post, Feb. 9, 2018:

Rustic Cabin Life Photo

"Good night everyone.
PEACE on Earth."

Hap Hagood, Born: Talbot B. Hagood Jr.

July 15, 1946 - February 11, 2018

Rest in Peace, my friend.



Looking back down Pila Seca on my uphill walk home from Pilates



*Patatina, a pet duck, is cared for at Nicasio.
She will go home in about three months when she has all her “grown up” feathers.*



Manny Flores, owner/chef of Nicasio at 28 Hidalgo, San Miguel

Nicasio has been open for five months. The food is creatively presented and delicious! Try it!

... On the Secondary Market ...



Dreaming of Tomatoes, SS, 5/20

LIFE-SIZE STANDARD SMOOTH (SS) 16 1/2" L x 6" H x 11" D
BRONZE ED. 20 & 2 ARTIST'S PROOFS ©1995. APPROX. 23 POUNDS.

"Dreaming of Tomatoes" SS, Standard Smooth, is my first sculpture of a canine. Modeled from our elderly Miss Anna von Pumpernickle Gesundheit, little did I think this work would be the beginning of my sculpting more dachshunds.

A collector friend is downsizing and asked me to offer her "Dreaming" to another lover of dachshunds. Available is number 5/20. A Certificate of Authenticity will be included.

See more images at <http://www.joybeckner.com/Canine-Animals/dreaming-of-tomatoes-ss-lifesize.htm>

Please contact me directly about acquiring "Dreaming of Tomatoes" SS. info@joybeckner.com

Thank you!



This father strokes his baby like Brian strokes Bo. ;-))



FEB. 18, 2018: This little lady rests in the Jardin after begging. My compliment of her shawl opens a need for her to talk, and talk, and talk, all in Espanol. I understand very little, but she certainly needs someone to listen to her. Her smile is well worth the coins we share with her.



A rooftop on Correo – a perfect place to grow oranges, cactus and bougainvillea!

FEB. 21, 2018: "The Eyes Have It!" my sterling pendant will travel with my Pilates teacher, Sue Lawrence, to San Diego, CA. She writes, "I am going for advanced Pilates training with a student of Joe Pilates, named Jay Grimes at Vintage Pilates. It is called The Work, and is highly respected world wide for a high standard of classical Pilates training. I think we get a cert from Jay once we pass his judgment. :)" Sue, thank you for sharing this.



*"The Eyes Have It!"
Great Horned owl*

11/16"H x 3/4"W x 1/2"D

WITH BAIL: 1"H x 3/4"W x 1/2"D

STERLING SILVER ED. 99 & 9 ARTIST'S PROOFS ©2012

--- The Original 1550s Silver Trail ---

FEB. 22, 2018, 10:20AM: We climb into Brian's FJ Cruiser with Bo Duke, his crate, and our Canadian mountain biker friend, Aldo Demonte, for a day of adventure in the campo. The beautiful curvy two lane paved road weaves through the Guanajuato Mountains. We stop for lunch in Santa Rosa de Lima around 11:30.



12: 57PM: With Bo buckled in my lap, we turn right and head down the narrow road that once was the main silver trail from Santa Rosa to Delores Hidalgo in the 1550s.



*The recently maintained road.
Aldo states it rained last week or this would be VERY dusty.*

According to Aldo, much of the world's silver traveled on mules from mines over this road back in the 1550s. The paved cobblestone road soon becomes dirt, then gravel (combined dirt & gravel shown), then rock, and then much like a multi level creek bed! All afternoon, we see just one small truck coming toward us, and one very old abandoned vehicle with a broken windshield. The highest point so far is 7600+- feet.

We are in the middle of nowhere in the Sierra de Guanajuato Mountains!



2:12: The home at the end of the maintained road



Sunlit peach blossoms along the way

We turn around and find the most desirable looking “Y”, turn left, and take that old, old road.

I am grateful for new tires, seat belts and headrests to protect us from lurching even at a mere two or five miles per hour. The temperature is a comfortable 70 degrees.





2:42: The sandstone wall to the right is followed by volcanic ash "soil".



2:47: An Oak lives beside sandstone beside the old silver trail. Live Oaks abound in this forest.



3:02: Throughout our journey we pass many beautiful red-stemmed plants. The leaves remind me of azaleas. A web search tells me it could be *Arctostaphylos pringlei*, *Pringle Manzanita*, but it's a guess!



3:37: Oops! Bumps! Notice the horizon line!
"Which way to go?" "A lot is by feel." Brian answers himself. ;-))



*3:59: The forest with live oaks gives way to grasslands, eucalyptus trees, nopal cactus, and many more BIRDS!
We see two new-to-us birds!*



Western Kingbird – Photo by Glenn Bartley



Western Scrub Jay – Photo courtesy of BirdFriends.com



*4:04: The Old Silver Trail is relatively smooth as we head toward Delores Hidalgo. It takes roughly 3½ hours to drive what we believe to be the 17 miles of the trail.
4:20: We make it to a main, two-lane highway. It's so smooooooth!*



*4:34: Downtown Delores Hidalgo, Avenue Sur
The elevation has ranged from 7330 feet to over 7600 feet.*

FEB. 22, 2018, 5:30: Four and a half hours after beginning our drive on the Old Silver Trail, Brian drops Bo and me at our casita, drives Aldo home, parks his vehicle across town and walks home. He is exhausted from concentrating 3-4 feet in front of his vehicle. I fix a salad to go with leftovers, and we all go to bed early.

FEB. 24, 2018: Two mornings in a row, I hear the beautiful call of a cactus wren. I have never seen one, but thanks to my iBird Pro App, I know its call.



Thank you, Audubon Society, for the photo of a cactus wren.



Jan. 18, 2018: Brian and Bo

Brian and Bo enjoy the dining area of our 2018 casita, "Los Arcos." The mural behind the table and chairs creates a lovely illusion of depth. We plan to return to this cozy place again next year.

Several new bronzes will debut at DCA in Columbus, OH, May 2-5. I hope to see you there!

Thank you for joining us on our journey!

. Please keep in touch.

Joy