

JKß - JOY KROEGER BECKNER - JKß

classical realism, from hounds to humans & and more!

NEWS & JOURNEYS OF JOY! :: VOL. ELEVEN, NUMBER TWO :: SEPTEMBER 2015

Hello!

*I hope this finds you in good health. Aging is **NOT** for Sissies!*

The summer of my seventieth year finds me challenged with atrial fibrillation, cardiomyopathy and humbled by having to wear a flipper! Scroll down to read more under "Aging is NOT for Sissies."

what's new besides my challenged health?



"Miss Me" MS

CLAY FOR BRONZE, APPROX. 18" X 10.5" X 7"H, ED. 20 & 2 ARTIST'S PROOFS
JOY KROEGER BECKNER ©2015

"Miss Me" MS, will be able to wriggle into one person's heart and home by Christmas 2015. Please contact me now to reserve your girl. The next "Miss Me" will be available in late spring or early summer.



"Merry Sunshine"

Approx. 43"L x 19"H, Bronze, Ed. 5 & 1 Artist's Proof ©2015 Special Order.

The first life-sized "Merry Sunshine" will grace the personal golden retriever cemetery of a gentleman who lives in Cape Girardeau, MO. His "Merry Sunshine" will be ready around Thanksgiving.

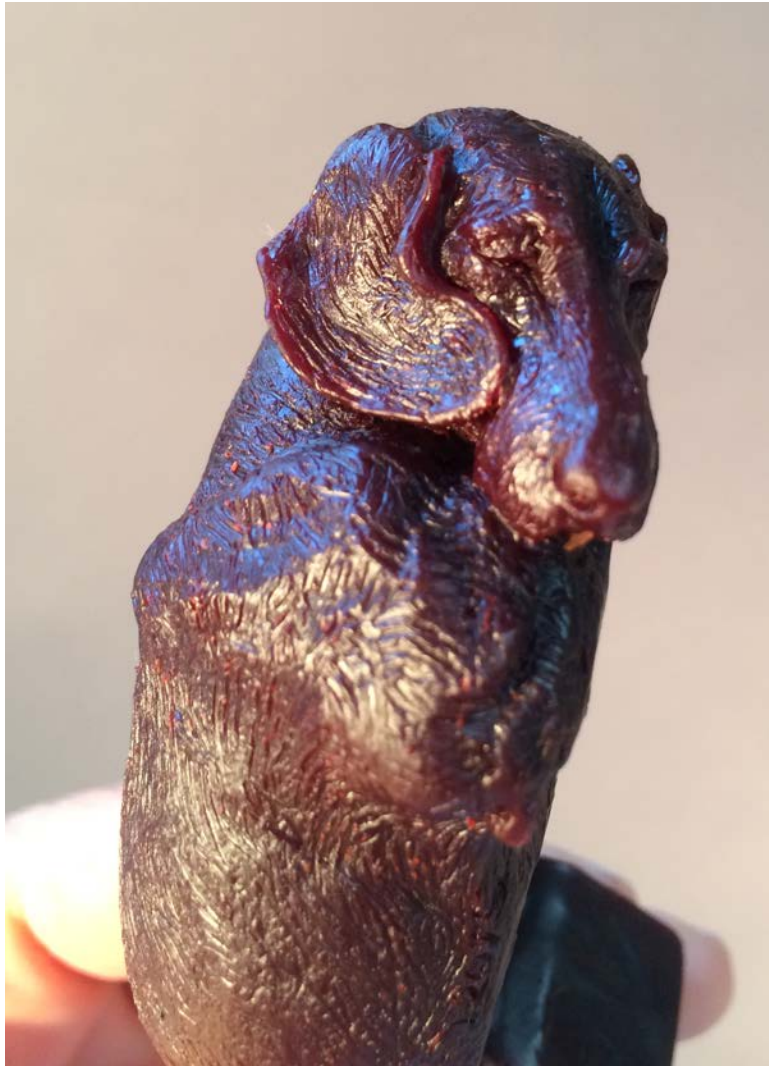


"On the Ball!"

1:6 Scale, 5"L x 2"H x 1 1/4"D, Bronze, Ed. 25 & 2 Artist's Proofs ©1997

New on the Secondary Market is my first Ball Boy, "On the Ball". This, Number Six, is from the collection of my 94-year-old mother-in-law, Jeanne. In July her condition warranted bringing in home health care. With a stranger in the house, I decided it is better for her to have larger things. Please understand.

"Isn't that just like a dachshund!" This is the comment I get most about the "Ball" boys! The first study for "Life's a Ball" is titled "On the Ball." This is the first standing dog I modeled in wax. It is of Edgar as a 9 to 12 month old puppy, and was cast entirely by hand in Colorado, USA. It is signed and numbered "6". (I made it before I knew to include the edition size, such as 6/25). The Leather patina is darker than what you see. It is entirely original. The photo above, on film, is vintage 1997, by Mel Schockner.



"Siesta" Wire

1:6 Scale, 3 3/8"L x 1 3/4"W x 1"H, Wax for bronze, Ed. 30 & 3 Artist's Proofs

I hope to have this in bronze by Christmas 2015.

Memories of May...



Bearded Iris "Alice Goodman"



Hydrangea "Petrolaris" about to bloom



Hydrangea "Petrolaris"

An arborist tells me as long as this slow growing vine does not shade the canopy, the tree will be fine.



Peony "Festiva Maxima" Ummmmm ... very fragrant!



Tradescantia "Purple Profusion", Spiderwort

MAY 15, 2015: Bo Duke is given a good report by our vet. For a month he has taken ½ Enapril daily in a preventive measure to keep his heart stable. Every other test came out perfectly as well! Brian celebrates by taking us to Ted Drewes, the famous St. Louis landmark known for amazing frozen custard. He gets us each a tall Hawaiian concrete. As we eat these tall confections with long spoons, Bo sneezes, upsetting my spoon; custard splashes pretty much all over my front seat area. When my eight-inch tall cup is empty, Bo pokes his nose in to get the last drop. Too funny!

MAY 23, 2015: It's our 31st Anniversary! Brian surprises me with gorgeous red roses interspersed with baby's breath! May our good ride continue for many more years.

JUNE 11, 2015: Men are on roofs! Nail guns pop, pop, pop, pop, pop! Three neighbors are replacing their roofs after a huge hailstorm about a month ago.

JUNE 2, 2015: My new, excellent periodontist gives my implant area a clean bill of health after he installed the implant a week ago. August 17 he will check me again before my regular dentist makes the crown. I see light at the end of what will be a year and a half long tunnel!



The Drive ...

JUNE 14, 2015, 10:07AM: I back out of our driveway and head west toward Colorado. Within ten minutes blinding rain pounds me along I-64 west, before I enter Gumbo Flats aka "Chesterfield Valley". Once, bugs splattered the windshield like little bullets, and in a moment, rain takes them away! Thus starts a day, comprised of various degrees of rain, clouds and elusive sunshine. I love seeing Queen Anne's lace and other wild flowers blooming along the road. Two cars, in separate incidences, hydroplane into the median. Once, in Kansas, I listen to 80s music while trying to keep my vehicle on the road during blinding rain; just as the rain slows, I change to 40s music. Windmills lazily rotate to Glenn Miller's band. It is surreal. I love my Sirius XM radio!

By 6:19PM I pull into the Baymont Inn, in Hays, KS. I ask Valish, the owner, about a good local Mexican restaurant and he directs me to Cancun where the Fajitas Hawaiiana are delicious and plentiful enough for tomorrow evening, too. At 10:29, my eyes feel like gravel; I need to sleep. Good night...

JUNE 15, 2015: At 8:39AM, I head west toward Loveland, CO. It's a beautiful day and about 69 degrees. The blue sky is streaked with high thin cirrus clouds that eventually become puffy Georgia O'Keefe clouds, and then dense gray clouds that shed no rain. Yippee! Interestingly I noticed a few oddities along the way: first, I have never thought of Kansas as being oil country, but along I-70 for about 50 miles on either side of Hays, KS, there are little oil wells slowly pumping. Other oddities, often in the median and between the road and the railroad tracks, are blue flowers. Are these blue bonnets? In Hays and in rest stops, I hear and see rudder tailed grackles or black birds. Brian and I always see and hear them deep in Texas and in Mexico. Have they migrated north because of climate change? Maybe they followed armadillos, which we now occasionally spot in St. Louis, of all places. Hmmm.

At about 2:30PM local time, I reach Loveland, CO. I stay where I can also work at Karen Richardson's (Sculpture Depot's) extra place. It is great! My new neighbors are chickens and three cows. One kisses my hand. Its tongue is very rough.



At 8:16PM local time pouring rain slightly debugs my windshield as I prepare for bed. Today I visited my metal chaser, Nancy Palm, who tells me about The Crunchy Grocer. The Crunchy Grocer is about 10 minutes from where I am staying and is Loveland's mini-Whole Foods. Everything is organic – Yay!!! I get groceries, unpack and get somewhat organized for the long stay ahead.

The Enlargement...



Gary DuChateau with his foam enlargement of Merry Sunshine.

JUNE 16, 2016, TUESDAY, 10:30AM: The enlarged blue foam *Merry Sunshine* is in my possession! Thank you, Gary DuChateau for a good job and for your freely given advice. I need advice, as this is my first time to have someone enlarge my work. I detail the foam.



12:45pm: The foam enlargement is detailed and ready for paint.



2:39pm: Merry Sunshine, freshly coated with our 30-year-old indoor latex house paint!

Interestingly, my old can of paint oozes paint on the side, near the bottom. I plug it with paper towels and complete painting. No need to buy new paint! By morning it will be dry enough to add clay. With paint underneath, the clay can be reclaimed after molding. ;-)) The surface reminds me of rough concrete.

JUNE 17, 2015, 9:10AM: The enlargement transformation begins! Denver station, Jazz 89 KUVO, is playing on my computer. I feel somewhat rested from the 950+- mile long drive. Okay, on to clay!

JUNE 18, 2015: The enlargement is fully covered in clay. Yay! Now for the hard part... making it pretty!

JUNE 21, 2015, SUNDAY: This is day six of working on the clay of *Merry Sunshine*. Most of the head looks good, and today I work on the back, right arm and right chest. What a challenge!

My ankles are swollen. When this happened in 2002 I ended up with cardiomyopathy and atrial fib. I will try having no coffee tomorrow morning.

JUNE 22, 2015: I figure out how to find my music in iTunes. This is another day of making *Merry Sunshine* into sculpture rather than wads of clay covering foam. My sculptor friend Jan Rosetta told me it would take a week and a half or two weeks to complete. I believe her! One week down.

Back at home Brian cleans out things in preparation for new hardwood floors upstairs. Our basement is the storage area. Who's working harder?

JUNE 24 2015: Two friends, sculptor Karryl Salit and painter Carol Swinney, and I lunch at Mimi's Café.



Trail Ridge Road, near Grand Lake, CO. June 25, 2015

JUNE 25, 2015: Time for a break! My friend and former husband George Zaboji drives me to Grand Lake, CO. On the way we drive through the Kawaneeche Valley and see the headwaters of the Colorado River. We lunch at the Grand Lake Lodge in this unspoiled town that looks to be from the early 1900s, except for a small Conoco station. Beautiful! Along the way elk, moose and deer feed, sometimes close to the highway.

George encourages me to call my doctor about my swollen ankles. I do and she prescribes Acetazolamide for altitude sickness.

JUNE 28, 2015: Oh my, there is *more* to do. I had no idea it would take so long, and be so draining, to make this big clay look like a Golden Retriever. It's HARD when there is no Golden to look at and feel.

JUNE 29, 2015: The rear feet of *Merry Sunshine* appear finished. Tomorrow, I'll detail the front feet. My new mold maker/wax pourer Dave Trock, brings what looks like a good wax of *Siesta, MS*. I will chase (fix) it Wednesday and he will mold this one since the original mold is literally being held together with pins and needles. He shows me where part of the original 2007 mold has come off. It's time for new!

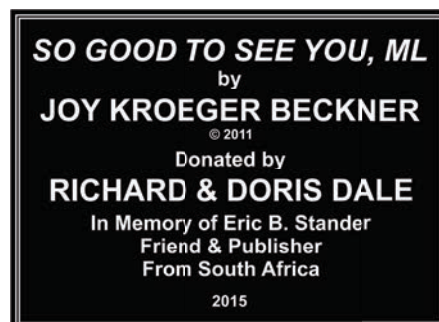
The Crunchy Grocer has organic white sweet corn! Three minutes in the microwave, in the husk, and the corn is perfectly and sweetly, delicious, even without butter. Thank goodness for delicious, healthful favors.



Merry Sunshine – Quarter life-sized bronze & the finished clay of the Life-sized enlargement.

JULY 1, 2015: The *Merry Sunshine* clay is finished! I start chasing the highly reinforced *Siesta, MS* wax, in preparation for Dave to remold it.

JULY 2, 2015, 8:45AM: So Good to See You, ML, #6/10, is on its way to Fountain Hills, AZ. Yay! Can't wait to see how they mount it!





Dave Trock amputates the rear legs of Merry Sunshine in preparation for molding them.

11AM: Dave Trock comes and, with a coping saw, amputates legs. Whew! Little did I ever think I would watch that! He mounts them vertically on boards and I touch them up before molding. At **2:25PM** Dave and my long time metal chaser Nancy Palm load the body of *Merry Sunshine* into Dave's truck along with *Merry Sunshine's* legs and the body of *Miss Me*, and her right rear leg, and tail. He also takes my bronze *So Good to See You*, ML #4/10, for remolding, and the original wax of the 1:6 scale *Deli's Open*, Wire for a first mold. Whew! I need a break!

4:09PM: I return from picking up the boxed *Siesta MS*, #10/20, which is destined for England. I am ready to finish chasing the wax of *Siesta*, MS. #11/20, which Dave will mold so I can, in time, complete the edition. Fun and games, eh? It's **6:00PM** and still no easy end in sight on this *Siesta*, MS wax chase. My iTunes library of seven days of music and my Bose radio keep me company via a new Bluetooth.

JULY 3, 2015, 12:12AM: I finally am finished chasing the wax of *Siesta*, MS, as well as I know how. The big chunk of rubber that ripped off under her folded ear took out her foot and part of her inner ear, and neck. What a mess! I am oh so glad to have had a bronze to look at to try to remember what I created in clay back in 2007. This is an upside down negative. Time for bed...

July 4th, 2015. Grand Junction, CO

Sharing Brian's 94-year-old mother Jeanne's home with her and Brian's younger brother Charlie is an adventure. I wash dishes by hand at least three times today. While I organize her kitchen to the way I remember she had it at Thanksgiving, I find hoards of plastic lids that fit no bottoms, plastic cereal bags, bags of bags, and other odd things pop up in unexpected places. As I think about it, this day may have been

a good story line for "I love Lucy." Meanwhile, Charlie cuts branches for trash pick up on Monday, mows the lawn and bags recyclables. Can you believe recycle waste is only picked up monthly and there is no yard waste pickup in Grand Junction, CO???

Sweet Jeanne twisted her ankle when she rolled off the couch in the living room a week ago. Both feet are swollen. She finds it hard to keep either foot elevated much less with a cold pack on it. She does not know I am her daughter-in-law. She wonders when her first son Brian, my husband, will come. He visited her last month.



"It's not bad." Charlie states after tasting my roasted organic chicken with balsamic organic peaches and a good organic salad. "Is that a compliment?" I ask. "Yes." He got seconds and Jeanne wanted more, too. At noon and dinner Charlie always gives her an Ensure so she gets all her necessary nutrients.

Roasted chicken with balsamic peaches... from Real Simple

This recipe is from Real Simple magazine. Make it while peaches are in season. Delicious!

- 1 3 1/2 to 4 pound chicken
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons Kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 4 peaches, quartered
- 4 small shallots, halved
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 6 sprigs fresh thyme.

1. Heat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Pat the chicken dry with paper towels. Rub the chicken with 1 tablespoon of the oil and season with 1/2 teaspoon of the salt and 1/4 teaspoon of pepper. Place in a roasting pan or baking dish.
3. In a small bowl, combine the peaches, shallots, vinegar, thyme and the remaining salt and pepper.
4. Scatter the peach mixture around the chicken. Roast until the chicken is cooked through and a thigh registers 180 degrees F on a meat thermometer, about 1 hour, 10 minutes. Let rest for minutes before carving. Serve with the peaches and pan sauce. Make it yours with your favorite side dishes... Enjoy!

It has been quite a day! It feels good to lie down!

JULY 5, 2015: I thoroughly clean the garden window above Jeanne's sink, and, the microwave.

409 is good stuff!



Jeanne's love, Mitzi, sits in Jeanne's freshly cleaned kitchen window. I love her eyes.

JULY 6, 2015: Jeanne is so funny, not meaning to be, but she is. I come home from the carwash and mention that the car wash rehydrated the bugs on the front end of my off-white Suburban. She says, "They are stickers." Then I notice that she'd slit open my big flat ice pack that I use in my cooler. She found it in the freezer and wanted to know what was in it, and if she could get it to thaw! "Noooooo, it is not supposed to thaw..." Goodness, she reminds me of Daddy when he had Alzheimer's back in the late 80s. She is not that far gone, but close... It's sad. Sometimes she is just priceless...

JULY 7, 2015: I drive Jeanne to her doctor to check out her sprained ankle and come back for lunch. By the end of lunch, it starts raining and snails come out to play on her concrete walks. I LOVE the snails and have to be careful not to step on them.



10:41PM: It's lightning, thundering and pouring rain here in Grand Junction, which is essentially desert.

Dave Trock emails images of my Merry Sunshine mold prior to adding the plaster mother mold.



Front feet are to the left. Rear feet are on the right.



I designed the head mold to be pretty, should someone wish to special order just the head!



JULY 8, 2015: *The mold is shown apart, complete with the plaster mother mold.*



The Merry Sunshine (life-size) mold is ready for wax!

Dave Trock Photographs.

Jeanne has new SAS shoes on order. She is now size 8½ doublewide, up from a 7½. I took her to lunch at a sweet little place with very fresh food, Café Sol, right across the street from Brown's Shoe Fit. Her new shoes will come within two-three weeks! Her old 7½ shoes are ready for Charlie to take to Goodwill.

JULY 9, 2015, 10:47AM: I had a good night's sleep. Yay! I really did not want to leave Jeanne to drive back to Loveland as Charlie will leave for work at 12:30 and will return at about 8:17pm. Jeanne will have no one to be with her all afternoon. He is working to get someone to stay with her when he works.

The beautiful light and drive take my mind off Jeanne for a little while.



I-70 looking east from Grand Junction toward Loveland.

I arrive in Loveland at about 4:45. After shopping at The Crunchy Grocer, I swing by Walgreens. At 8:05pm, I take two dentist-prescribed Amoxicillin to nip an infection in my right eyetooth. I cannot *finish* waxes, get home and have that tooth pulled soon enough!

JULY 12, 2015: I am sad. I learn from my dear friend Jaye's husband that she is back in the hospital, this time with pneumonia. This is on top of battling lung and bone cancer.

I am so ready to be home, 104 degrees heat index and all. Today I finish chasing the wax of the new life-sized *Merry Sunshine*. Then, Dave brings me two more waxes to chase: *Siesta, MS*, and the new piece, *Miss Me, MS*.

JULY 13, 2015, 9:02AM: Yay! A client emails that he and his wife want *Miss Me, MS*. Now, two are sold!

Yay! Two: Gary Pitcher of Dragon Castings picks up the four big *Merry Sunshine* wax body panels, securely seated in the mold parts, along with the four feet. That's less for me to drive to him. Yay!

Yay! Three: The first wax out of the new *Siesta, MS* mold is chased, as is the first wax out of *Miss Me*. I remove clay from the front of *Merry Sunshine*. Soon my two (drywall mud) buckets of clay will be ready to take home.

Yay! Four: My friend is home from the hospital!

JULY 14, 2015: Why are my ankles swollen, again? When I got to Loveland they swelled. My good doc suggested that it might be altitude sickness and prescribed Acetazolamide to take for a week. Swelling subsided and only a bit of swelling occurred while I was in Grand Junction for 6 days. GJ is the same altitude as Loveland. Now, back in Loveland, they are quite swollen again. I am off coffee, tried tea yesterday, and eat no junk food. Today I drink pomegranate juice and Kombucha, and my ankles are still swollen. Good news; my tooth infection is better. I can't wait to get home to Brian and Bo, and to see the dentist on July 22, and my good preventive medicine doctor ASAP. On to waxes...

The new *Miss Me*, MS wax takes about 6½ hours to chase! Yikes! This is about 3 hours longer than I expected. It is very complicated. I keep telling myself, "Two are sold. Two are sold."

JULY 18, 2015: I am almost jubilant except I am tired from working so much. :-(. I drive waxes to my farmer turned foundry owner, Gary Pitcher at Dragon Castings, in Eaton, CO: HIS bronze metal is GOOD!!!

4 *Siesta*, MS

2 *So Good to See You*, ML

4 *Miss Me*, MS

Plus, I took the head and rear front body panel of *Merry Sunshine*. My Suburban is FULL of wax! It's a good thing Gary picked up four body panels and four *Merry Sunshine* feet last Monday!



Collette Pitcher, Gary's wife, shared her special picture, Dragon Castings, Eaton, CO.

After an hour's drive back to Loveland, I mostly pack the vehicle. Dave Trock and his wife Kim deliver his bill, are paid, and help with Hercules, my really heavy sculpture stand. Once Hercules is home, he is staying in my studio. No more road trips for that heavy dude!

By 8:40PM MDT, I am ready for bed; oh, am I!!! The four *Miss Me* waxes took an average of six and a half hours each for me to wax chase. It's a very complicated piece. It's 9:12 now. I wish you a good night...

JULY 19, 2015: After a beautiful drive, I arrive in Hays, Kansas at about 6pm. Yesterday, I learned about an absolutely awful proposed change to the US Copyright Law. I wrote them a letter last night. Tonight, I learn more and write an addendum to my original letter. If this thing comes to pass, why be an artist? What a waste of time if we artists have no rights to our work? I'll keep you posted... 9pm. I call Brian...

Later this week I learn from two respected sources that this was just a bunch of hooley. Thank goodness, but what a scare!

JULY 24, 2015: Finally, I am relatively rested since arriving home from Colorado Monday evening, July 20. At noon today, I finish entering the Straz show. I size photos after calling the Call for Entry (Café) site to explain my difficulty with sizing the way they requested in the prospectus. Gee, if they had simply explained in the prospectus that I could keep images at 300 dpi and just reduce the longest side to 1920 pixels, think of the time I would have saved!!! Now, on to shower and contact my customers...

WOW! While I was gone, Brian busied himself polishing my copper pots. I once fancied myself quite a cook. I still use some copper regularly, but admit the cast iron skillets are favorites.



JULY 27, 2015, 9:19AM: It is 81 degrees F with 79% humidity now! This is what it looks like on our windows

By 4:31PM, it is SOUPY. It is 91.1 degrees and after having one storm today, thunder rumbles again. Tomorrow is predicted to be 97 degrees with triple digit heat index. Whew!

Aging is NOT for Sissies!

JULY 29, 2015, 1030AM: My right eyetooth is out. A bone pack is IN! I spend the day prone with ice packs on my face. Thank you, Brian, for driving me to and from my wonderful periodontist, Dr. George Kyd, who will install an implant in October. Hopefully the crown can go on before the end of the year.

JULY 30, 2015, 2:30PM: Yuck! I have Atrial Fibrillation for the second time in my life. The first a-fib was in 2002, and before that, Rheumatic Fever in fifth grade. I should have seen this coming, since my heart has been acting weirdly and my ankles have been swollen on and off for 5-6 weeks. Daddy had an "irregular" heartbeat, which is what it must have been called in the 70s and 80s. My good preventive medicine doctor, Dr. Varsha Rathod, prescribes a 25mg beta-blocker, Metoprolol, and a 325mg aspirin daily.

JULY 31, 2015: This morning, after an 8:15am dental appointment to have my flipper adjusted, I call the husband of my dear, cancer fighting friend to see if she is home and if I may visit. He reminds me that his mother always said, "Aging isn't for Sissies!" Indeed it isn't!

AUG. 2, 2015: I feel so fortunate. Two women in my yoga class talk about being without power on and off for four days! What a nightmare they have been through. It is VERY HOT here!

AUG. 5, 2015: Dr. Kyd assures me my tooth extraction area is healing perfectly! We make an appointment for October 19, to see if the bone has grafted. If all is well, the second implant will go in October 21.

This afternoon, I have a chest x-ray and an Echo Doppler in an effort to find out why my heart is in a-fib and what to do about it. Can't wait to have steady breath...

AUG. 6, 2015: Dr. Rathod told me she saw a spot in my right lung on my x-ray. She will order another x-ray to verify that it is just fluid (We hope).

AUG. 9, 2015: The second chest x-ray reveals my lung has fluid. I am retaining water in my lung and ankles!

AUG. 12, 2015: Dr. Rathod prescribes heart-energizing supplements and a diuretic and recommends a cardiologist, Dr. Robert Kopitsky.

AUG. 13, 2015: A note comes from my dog guru, Charlotte Pelltz: Please check out this book!

Canine Nutrigenomics - The New Science of Feeding Your Dog for Optimum Health, by W. Jean Dodds, DVM and Diana R. Laverdure

Charlotte thinks it should be MANDATORY reading for all vets and - frankly? - all dog owners!

AUG. 13, 2015: I call Dr. Kopitsky's office for an appointment and am told I can see him September 22. Nooooooooooooo!

I call Dr. Rathod, and within an hour, Dr. Kopitsky's office calls me to see if I can come at 1:15 tomorrow, Friday! YES! Of course!!!! I feel for folks in my situation who have no doctor connections. For them, I guess the emergency room is the only option... It's a sad situation for them.

AUG. 14, 2015: Brian and I meet Dr. Kopitsky, who prescribes three drugs: Metoprolol, 50 mg. daily; Spironolctone, 25 mg. daily; and Lisinopril, 5 mg. daily. I feel lucky to be able to see him so quickly.

AUG. 15, 2015: Oops! Something is odd with Dr. K's orders. He and his gals overlooked blood thinner!

"Life's a Ball!" is accepted into "Performance in Sculpture" exhibition at the David A. Straz, Jr. Center for Performing Arts, 1010 MacInnes Pl., Tampa, FL



"Life's a Ball!" SS
Mel Schockner Photograph

AUG. 16, 2015, SUNDAY: Oh, do I feel better! Five pounds of water weight is gone since yesterday! I chose to stay on Dr. Rathod's simple prescription of an aspirin (325 mg.) and upped the Metoprolol to Dr. K's dose of 50 mg. daily. My ankles are only slightly swollen by 6:22 pm. This is a huge improvement!

AUG. 17, 2015: Dr. George Kyd states my left upper rear tooth implant is perfectly healed. I can get a crown made and, when that is in place, chew on one side of my mouth! This is good!

AUG. 18, 2015: I finally have all my cardiac meds and am taking them! My cardioversion is scheduled for September 2. I am headed toward being better.

AUG. 19, 2015: Brian found wonderful entertainment on TV the past three nights:

1. *The Insider* (1999) with Christopher Plummer, Al Pacino and Russell Crowe.
2. *The African Queen* (1951) with Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn.
3. *Cirque de Soliel!* A whole evening's worth!

AUG. 20, 2015: I join three friends for lunch and to see the Lantern Festival and Henry Shaw's house at the Missouri Botanical Garden. I need this relaxing day. I wonder what Brian has in mind for tonight's entertainment?

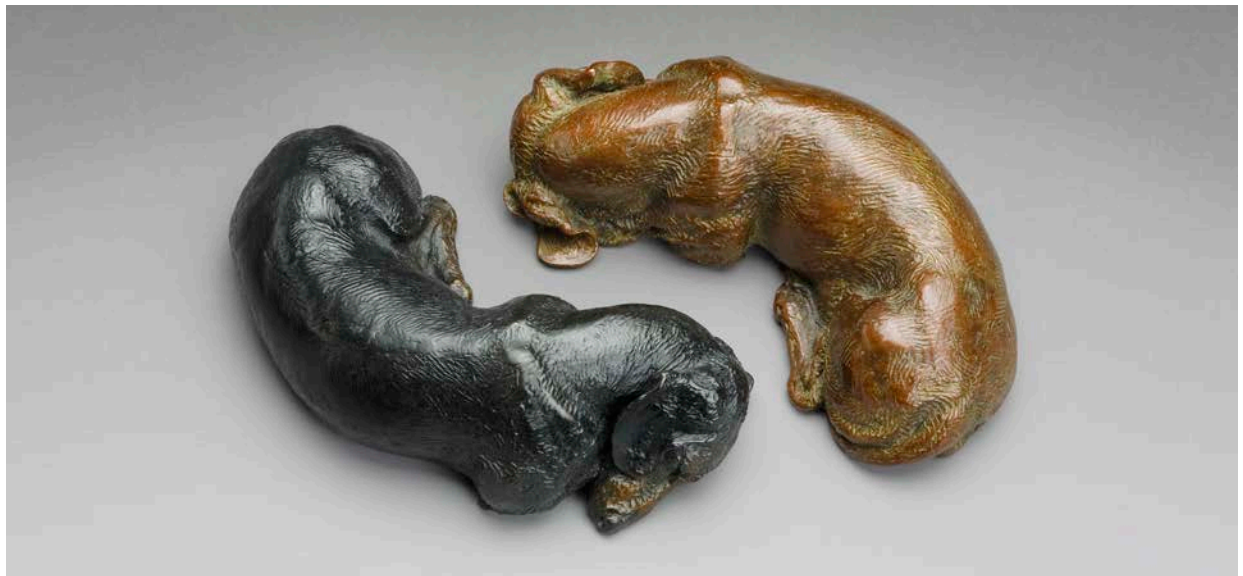
AUG. 24, 2015: I am down to my high school weight of 127. I have never taken a diet pill, but since having cardiac problems, I have gained at least five pounds and lost at least ten pounds. Are diuretics in diet pills?

Late this afternoon, I feel well enough to prune the yews in our cul de sac!

SEPT. 2, 2015: My cardioversion is successful; my heart is beating in proper rhythm again!

SEPT. 4, 2015: I visit my friend with cancer, after which I visit the office of my primary care doctor, Dr. Varsha Rathod, to pick up supplements. After telling her husband Willie about my friend, he gives me a book for her. Willie says it is the best book he knows for cancer patients, their friends and family to read. The title is **The Journey through Cancer, Healing and Transforming the Whole Person**, by Jeremy Geffen, MD.

SEPT. 5, 2015: A check arrives from Artistic Designs Gallery, Brownsburg, IN, for *Siesta*, Smooth, 1:6 Scale, #49/99, where it sold in their 9th Annual Miniature Fine Art Show! It is available in both patinas.



"Siesta" Smooth, 1:6 Scale, shown in two patinas. Don Casper Photograph

Between last night and tonight Brian and I see three more good movies:

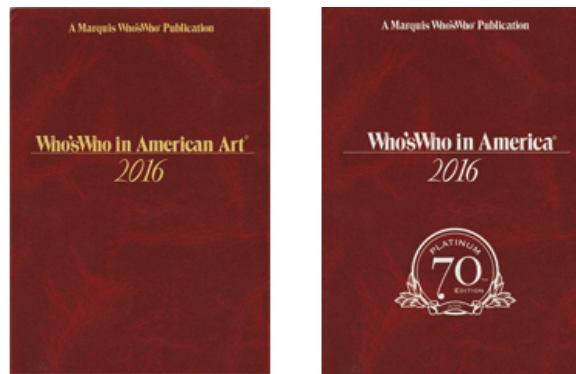
1. *The Paper* (1994) directed by Ron Howard, with Glenn Close, Michael Keaton and Robert Duval.
2. *Let it Ride* (1989) starring Richard Dreyfuss and Teri Garr.
3. *Wild* (2014) a true story about hiking the Pacific Coast Trail, starring Reese Witherspoon.

SEPT. 6, 2015: Oh my! Today when brushing my teeth, I discover pain and a red gum! How did this happen? My heart and body are supposed to be on the mend. Warm saltwater washes, Dr. Tichenor's super concentrated peppermint mouthwash as well as Brian's favorite, Campho-Phenique, are in order to nip this in the bud. NO MORE INFECTIONS, please.



"So Good to See You" ML, Mel Schockner Photograph

SEPT. 9, 2015: An Oklahoma couple assures me they will send a deposit for "So Good to See You" ML, 7/10. When that arrives, just three more will be available in this small edition.



Who's Who listed me in *Who's Who in American Art*, and also in *Who's Who in America*. What an honor and surprise!

See, touch and be touched by my work at these upcoming Events ...

SEPT. 21, 2015 – JUNE 2017: David A. Straz, Jr. Center for Performing Arts, Tampa, FL.

SEPT. 10, 2015 – AUG. 2016: Artists for Conservation, 8th Annual Juried Virtual Exhibition. Online.

OCT. 26 – NOV. 6, 2016: Audubon Artists, 73rd Annual Exhibition at The Salmagundi Club, 47 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY.

MAY 2-7, 2016: DCA, Dachshund Club of America, The Best Western Premier Hotel & Conference Center, 800 East Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17112.

JAN. 17 – FEB. 7, 2016: Miniature Art Society of Florida, Forty-first Annual International Miniature Art Show. Dunedin Fine Art Center, Dunedin, FL.

SEPT. 11, 2015: Remembering this day fourteen years ago is not easy; I hardly know what to say, but, I am so happy that my friend with cancer emailed to thank me for her birthday card! This is a big deal as lately she rarely communicates unless I contact her first. Her voice is not well. I had her name written in gorgeous calligraphy on the front of a handmade card by Barbara Winnerman, St. Louis calligraphist extraordinaire. Her clients are nationwide! I'm excited that my friend is now on oxygen and thinks she will feel well enough for me to visit this coming week. I am looking forward to seeing her.

My gum is healed! My, this is a long letter! Thank you for sticking with me to read it all. The bottom line is: Floss, Floss, FLOSS! My hope is that no one has to experience what I have for the past two and a half months. My retired dentist always told me I had such good teeth. However, he didn't impress upon me the necessity of taking excellent care of my gums! Gums and digestion are linked to oh so many health issues. Feed yourself the most wholesome foods you can, and FLOSS religiously! It beats being sick.

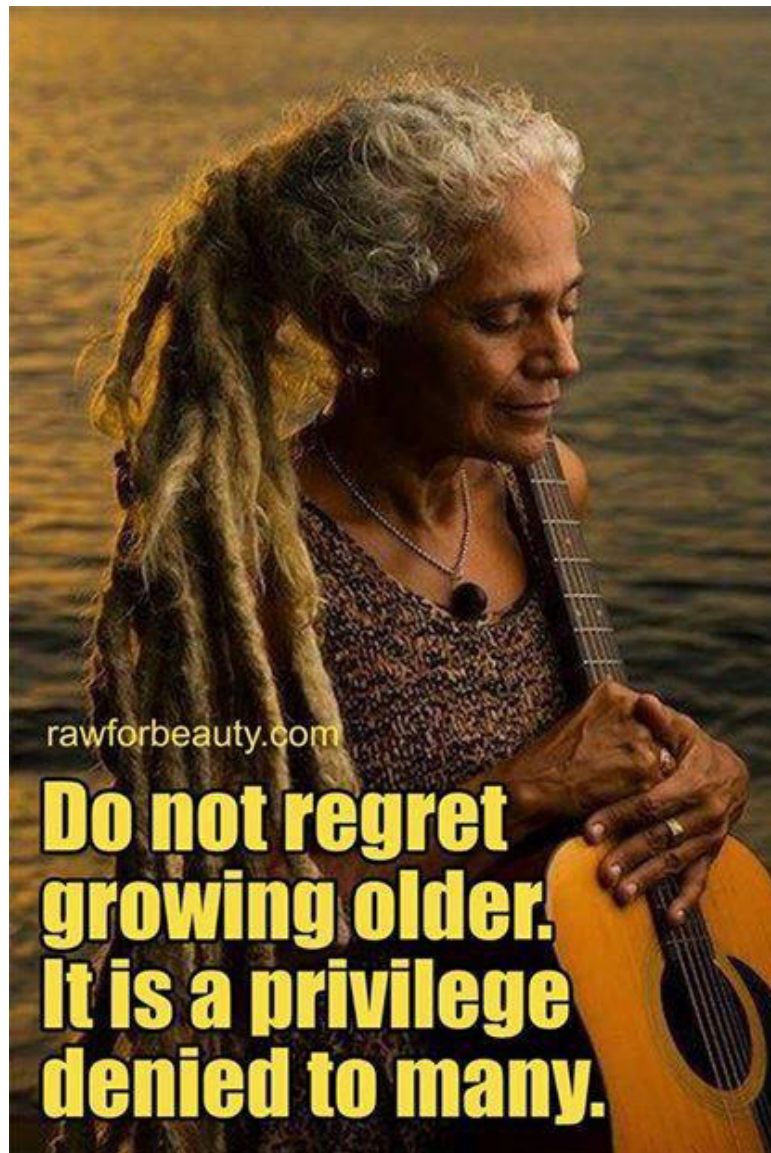
SEPT. 12, 2015: "Light" AKA "Good Health" is at the end of this tunnel. I go to a mat Pilates class. On October 5th, I will see Dr. K for an assessment and an echocardiogram, to determine if all is really well. In the meantime, I will have one crown installed so I can chew on one side of my mouth. LIFE is GOOD!





Bo and me, August 29, 2015

One of my first collectors recently posted this on Facebook. It is so true...



**Do not regret
growing older.
It is a privilege
denied to many.**

May you and yours enjoy good health; it is the best blessing!

Thank you for your friendship and...

Happy Fall!

Joy

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