

JKß – JOY KROEGER BECKNER – JKß

classical realism, from hounds to humans & more!

News & Journeys of Joy! :: Vol. Eighteen, Number One :: Feb. 2023

Happy New Year! Happy valentine's Day!



Dec. 27, 2022: Diane Jones, President of the Carrie Medhi Foundation, looks forward to receiving my donation of “*Deli’s Open*” *Smooth*, 6/99. I remember Carrie from the Dachshund Club of America National Specialty show in Wisconsin. Carrie is missed.



Dec. 29, 2022: I deliver "*Life's a Ball!*" SS 5/20 to Don Gerling of St. Louis County Parks. The St. Louis County Council approved my donation of "*Life's a Ball!*" SS, 5/20, to be placed in the Queeny Dog Park this spring. Yay!

"Life's a Ball!" SS is no longer available.

They are missed...



la-ol-patt-morrison photo. PBS

Dec. 30, 2022: Judy Woodruff retires as anchor of the PBS NewsHour.

Barbara Walters, the First among Women Journalists, dies at age 93. This photo is from 2006.

Rest in Peace, Barbara.



Sara Krulwich/The New York Times



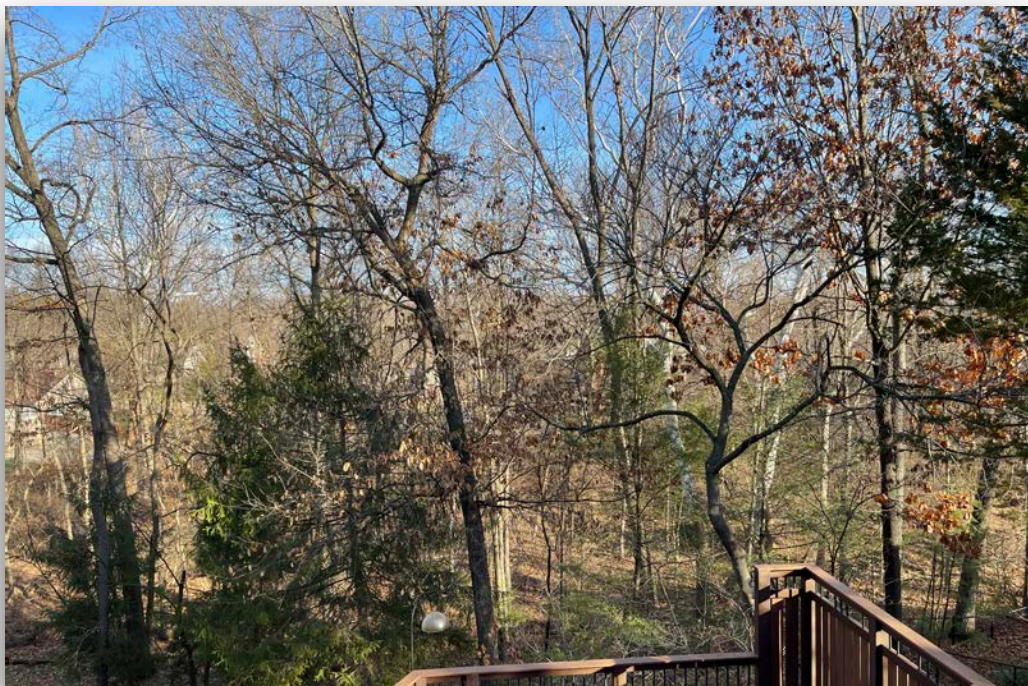
Happy Birthday, Daddy!

Dec. 31, 2023: Happy Birthday in Heaven! If daddy was alive today he would be 120 years old. Mom wrote on the back of this photo that it was taken in 1947 when he was 43 years old. I was 3. He always liked to tell me he said "Happy New Year, Pop!"



"Merry Sunshine" – a New View!

This quarter life-size Golden Retriever casts a lovely shadow when sitting on top of our speaker. I've not seen it at this angle before. This is also available in half life-size and life-size.



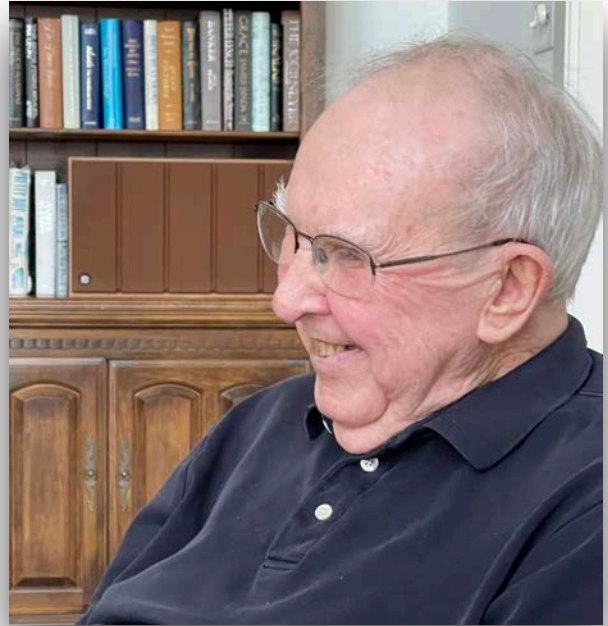
January 1, 2023: A beautiful day looking out my office window. Tonight we dine with our friends, Ellen & Frank. They are family.



Sticker shock for my heart

January 4, 2023: Since early December I have had A-fib for the third time in my life. I see Dr. Andrew Krainik for a Cardioversion (shock) to my heart. It is indeed quite a shock! Brian drives us home. Above is my chest after the shocking stickers have been removed.

January 8, 2023: Today, after sleeping nearly 12 hours, I finally feel almost like myself. Tomorrow will be still better... My heart is in rhythm. ;-)) YES!!! The red is tingly because nerves seem to be on the surface.



January 13, 2023: I am excited that our 97-year-old friend Charlie Lowery returns my call! We understand from Pep, a mutual friend, that just before Christmas Charlie had a small stroke and then he had two more small strokes. With Pep's help, Charlie and his differently abled 65-year-old son John moved to Primrose Retirement Community in Stillwater, OK. It is GREAT to hear Charlie's voice!

WOW! I finally have some energy. Recovering from the Cardioversion has been more difficult than I expected. Or, as a long time collector who is a doctor said, my sleepiness may have been caused by the anesthesia. Who knows?

January has been filled with doctor appointments and tests. More to come, but so far, so good. My heart is beating in rhythm!

MORE GOOD NEWS!!!

*My doctor states,
"You have the bones of a YOUNG ADULT!"*

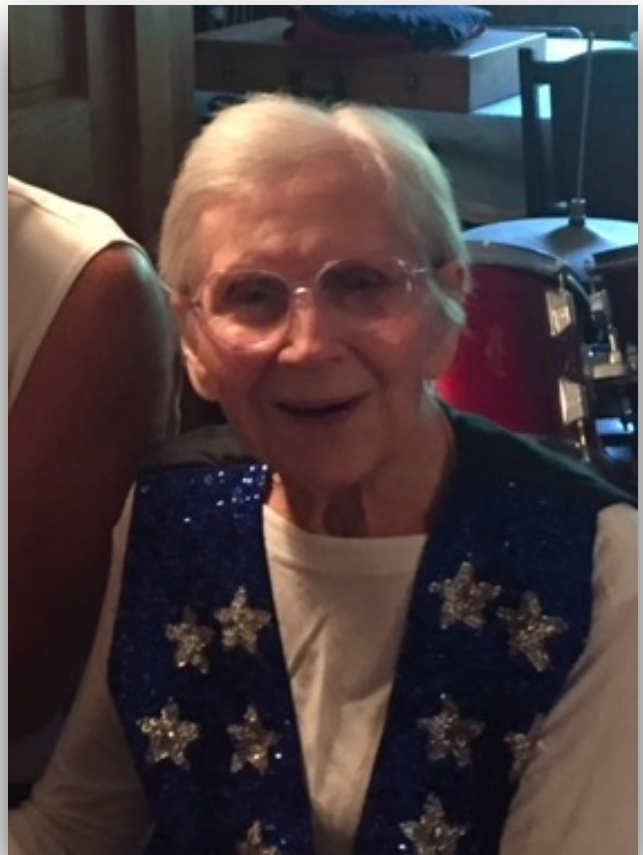
I attribute this to my going to OsteoStrong since September 2019. OsteoStrong is a wonderful place to work out each week for a mere 30 minutes. Do search OsteoStrong to find a location near you. Also, start Osteo when you are young; I was once 5'6.5" inches tall in high school. I am now 5'5" tall. Osteo has kept me from shrinking further.

My First Art Teacher

January 14, 2023: My very first art teacher, Ruth Ast Anderson is still with us! Her middle daughter Gretchen sends a picture that she took just after she got home from the hospital for breaking her femur. Ruth looks so happy to be home, but her eyes are closed.

Ruth lived down the street from us and taught drawing in her home. She is 97 years old!

This photo is from July 4, 2018. I am anxiously waiting for a sharable picture of Ruth.





"Merry Sunshine"

Half life-size

January 17, 2023: *"Merry Sunshine"* Half Life-size, will be on the Allied Artists of America site through September 1, 2023! To see the entire Allied Artists 109th Annual Exhibition please search Allied Artists of America 109th Annual Exhibition.

"Merry Sunshine" is also available in Life-size and Quarter life-size.

IN LOVING

memory of



DARLIS LAMB

1938-2023

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21ST, AT 3:00 PM

January 17, 2023: I had no idea Darlis was 85 years old. I wish I had spoken with her more often. She was a talented sculptor and a sweetheart. We often talked when I drove to Colorado by myself. Her husband Jim said she was ill for about a month before she passed.

Rest in Peace, Darlis.

January 18, 2023: This rainy day Brian indulges in a massage to help relieve his shoulder/neck pain from pulling a muscle.



My doctor's former nurse, Carrie, is an excellent masseuse!

Soon I will indulge in a massage by Carrie.





"Inspiration" Long

3 3/8"W x 2 3/4"H x 3/8"D

Pewter

Select Coat - and - Select Blue or Red Ribbon!

A Timely Payment ... ;-))



"A Good Life" MW

January 21, 2023: Thank you, Barbara, for your surprise payment of \$1000 toward your "A Good Life" MW.

It is especially helpful since I just received an invoice for \$932.80 from my excellent small mold maker/wax pourer, Ben Cordsen. His invoice includes 44 small waxes, plus 4 Pewter "Inspiration" medals, and 22.5 oz. silver alloy pewter for the medals.

I have a lot of wax chasing to do and a little \$ left for me! ;-))

Thank you, Barbara!

January 26, 2023: Brian and I each enjoy an hour and a half massage. I didn't realize I needed it so much. I share our masseuse's contact info with local friends. Please let me know if I missed you.



“Squirrel Season” Smooth

January 27, 2023: Yay! My FaceBook memory of “*Squirrel Season*” *Smooth* inspires Lisa to send a deposit! I need this, as I need to chase two dachshund waxes from which Ben will make new molds. He will then pour more waxes for me so I can chase them and cast several more “*Squirrel Season*” *Smooth*. I also need to cast Wires and maybe Longs, too!

Thank you, Lisa!



"Squirrel Season" Wire

8.25"W x 8"H x 1 7/8"D 10.1# Bronze Ed: 20 & 2 APs (c)2004

"Squirrel Season" Wire is currently available in the Wild Boar patina shown. Red may be ordered.



"Squirrel Season" Long

8.25"W x 8 3/4"H x 1 7/8"D 12# Bronze Ed: 20 & 2 APs ©2007

"Squirrel Season" Long must be cast and will be likely be available in 6-8 months or so. A deposit will reserve one for you.

Select patina.



Model Train Scale

Scale refers to the size of the model train compared to the real thing. A locomotive scale of 1:22.5 is 1:22.5 times smaller than a life-size locomotive.

Gauge refers to the distance between the rails. Models of a certain scale run on standard-gauge track unless otherwise mentioned; for example, gauge 1 track is standard gauge for G scale trains.

The "right scale" fits your personal preference, space, and budget. For example, if you have a small space, you may want to choose a smaller scale and have a few loops of track instead of a straight line. You may want to create a temporary layout and take measurements to determine what fits best.

Some of the different scales used in model railroading include:

Z scale (1:220)

Z scale trains make a good choice for anyone with limited space. These trains are not only tiny but highly detailed.

N scale (1:160)

N scale is a popular scale and the second smallest after Z scale. N scale trains are perfect for hobbyists who want to run long trains or keep the focus on the scenery. The price of N equipment is slightly higher than HO scale. Micro-trains, or MTL, is a well-known brand that makes N scale trains.

HO scale (1:87)

HO scale trains, one of the most popular scales with modelers, come in countless types of trains and have a large selection of scenery available as well. HO trains are generally highly detailed and a good value. An HO layout requires a moderate amount of space.

S scale (1:64)

S scale trains, the scale of American Flyer trains, also have a strong following among narrow-gauge model railroaders. This larger scale makes the train dominate any set. S scale does not have the massive following of HO or N scale.

O scale (1:48)

O scale trains are very popular toy trains. Lionel continues to make trains for this scale. O scale trains are easily handled by children. MTH makes tinplate lines of model trains in O and standard gauges.

G scale (1:22.5)

G scale trains are for indoor use, but are especially suited for garden trains. LGB made the scale popular in the United States and makes detailed, sturdy trains that stand up to the elements. Other manufacturers in this scale include Bachmann and Aristo-Craft.

A Train Show

January 28, 2023: This beautiful day is 57 degrees! Brian and I each have an affinity for model trains because our dad's had trains so we visit our first train show. Wow! I had no idea there were so many different scales! It's fascinating to see Z Scale that must be just an inch high - and - they run!!! Brian's dad had HO Scale and my dad had O Scale.



Z Scale is shown above. Compare it to the lettering for size.

*A letter from
St. Louis County Executive, Sam Page*

Imagine my surprise when we get home and I find a letter from Sam Page, the St. Louis County Executive, thanking me for my donation of "Life's a Ball!" SS, bronze sculpture for Queeny Park's Tails & Trails Dog Park. A photo of the installed piece will follow.

Thank you, Sam Page!!!



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
SAINT LOUIS COUNTY
41 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63105

SAM PAGE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

(314) 615-7016

January 26, 2023

Ms. Joy Kroeger
15268 Kingsman Circle
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Dear Ms. Kroeger,

I am writing on behalf of St. Louis County to express our gratitude for your generous donation you recently made to our St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department.

Your donation of the "Life's a Ball" bronze sculpture to Queeny Park is greatly appreciated by this County and will be a phenomenal addition to one of our best St. Louis County parks. One of only 13 that have been cast, this unique piece will be displayed in Queeny Park's Tails & Trails Dog Park for the enjoyment of our visitors, both human and canine alike!

I again thank you for this generous donation, which will be enjoyed by many for decades to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Page".

Sam Page

January 29, 2023: Time to prepare Fourth Quarter Sales tax.

Easier said than done.



January 31, 2023: I drop by Wellbridge, the marvelous exercise place I went to for 20 years. In 2019, it closed due to the greed of the owner of this property that he leased to Wellbridge. It's a sad, sad day. I felt very good going there since it opened in 1999, and have found similar classes elsewhere, but they are not the same. The Wellbridge community was good.

My yoga teacher Sonya sent this photo. Thank you, Sonya.

February 4, 2023: I rediscover a June 8, 2022 article by Sheila Frayne Rhoades in West News Magazine. You will no doubt have to read this on your computer. Thank you, Sheila! Read it here: <https://www.westnewsmagazine.com/eedition/> Enjoy!

Three local Chesterfield artists share why 'home is where the art is!'

By SHEILA FRAYNE RHOADES

Joy Beckner

Joy Beckner and her husband, Brian, live in an art-filled home filled with colorful paintings, sculptures, and some rather whimsical collections. Joy is an award-winning sculptor, renowned for her sculptures of hounds, especially dachshunds.

Realistic-looking canines repose throughout their home – on chairs, mantels and shelves alongside some other unexpected treasures.

A rather huge painting of the Grand Canyon fills one living room wall. Displayed beneath it is Brian's red 2002 Ducati motorcycle, one of four in his collection. Bronze sculptures sit on stereo speakers – a Remington copy and a Rodin-like nude sculpted by Joy back in her art student days.

A colorful collection of Native American rugs and blankets accent the modern art.

Whimsical touches, including a nostalgic rocking horse carved by Brian's father, model trains and a large strutting rooster feel right at home in the family room. So do two of Joy's life-size bronze dachshunds, resting on a couch.

The key to creating an environment in which art and life blend beautifully is the integration of light – both natural and man-made.

"We display motorcycles, paintings and sculptures where they get the best possible natural light," explained Joy. "Each piece is also enhanced with recessed ceiling lights to give the art an extra pop!"

In addition to larger sculptures, Joy also creates canine miniatures, animal design jewelry and human portraits. She works at home in her lower-level studio. It's an artist's dream – abundant in both space and natural light.

"When I became a sculptor in the early '90s, we added my studio and great room to the rear of our home. I use my studio to create sculptures of everything from life-sized or handheld canines to a four-foot-long white oak acorn. They are sculpted in clay or wax and then cast in bronze in Colorado."

In the yard, Joy has used her gardening and sculpting talents to create a woodland retreat that encircles the house. She loves plants and flowers of all kinds. Over the years, she has modeled numerous shrubs, ornamental grasses and flowering plants into beautiful borders along winding paths.

"I removed the original landscaping and installed many perennials. Using a garden hose, I managed to create curved bed lines for hostas under the native trees. Fortunately, our property backs onto a wooded

common ground with a small storm stream," Joy said.

Unfortunately, that common ground attracts deer who also love her hostas.

"Since the local deer have reclaimed their territory, I am slowly changing out my original plantings with pollinator-friendly native plants," Joy said.

Perhaps the best intersection of art and life in Joy's yard is her 35-foot-long dachshund topiary.

"It represents our beloved dachshund Edgar," Joy explained.

Linda Green-Metzler

"My home is my personal art gallery!" exclaims award-winning watercolor artist Linda Green-Metzler, whose Chesterfield home also serves as her work and display place.

Paintings from different phases of Linda's career hang on every available wall space.

"Since watercolors tend to be small and intimate, clusters are a good way to display them," she shared. "I prefer to mix small pieces with the larger oils from earlier stages of my artistic journey. If it feels right, just about any arrangement works."

"No corner is too small or too humble to place artwork. For me, displaying artwork offers inspiration and study ... as well as the pure enjoyment of reliving a moment."

Likewise, the subject matter does not need to be grand to be a wonderful work of art.

"I especially like to hang works in gathering places like the kitchen," Linda said. "My subjects here include favorite everyday objects, food and art that celebrates cooking. I paint beloved objects, people, places, events and landscapes."

She noted that the portable nature of watercolor lets her work anywhere she finds inspiration.

Because daylight floods the main floor of her home, Linda said any and every room can be used for creating art and displaying it. And, thanks to the power of the internet, she can easily bring inspiration into her home via a computer screen. But that's only part of the magic.

Linda's watercolors are the blending of her imagination and observation.

"My first love of subject matter is the natural world," she noted.

Good weather draws her outside into her yard's garden and sequestered pool area, which is a source of year-round natural inspiration. During the pandemic, when travel was limited to our own backyards, Linda began creating fun paintings of children's playsets.



This wall in Linda Green-Metzler's home showcases how to mix and match favorite pieces to create a "gallery wall." (Source: Provided)

One special piece features the front-yard tree swing of her next-door neighbors. The swing, she said, is "the social gathering center for the kids on our cul-de-sac."

Linda made prints of her pandemic backyard paintings and gave them to the families who owned the playsets.

"They preserved a fond memory for them of that time (when everyone was stuck at home and playing in their yards)," she said. "Art that connects is the most satisfying, for both the artist and the viewer. That's why the neighborhood pieces are so meaningful."

Linda's paintings of local sites will be on view at the Chesterfield Community Center, now located at Chesterfield Mall later in June.

Don Wiegand

Don Wiegand's sculptures are visible all around St. Louis – from Gussie Busch's portrait at Busch Stadium to works on display at the Missouri Botanical Garden – and all around the world. His sculptures appear in 500 private collections throughout the U.S. and Europe, including in the White House, Boston's J.F. Kennedy Library and the Vatican. But his home and studio are in Chesterfield Valley.

As a teenager, Don dreamt of creating an art studio out of his family's old slaughterhouse. In 1965, he began restoring the main structure. In 1967, he began adding to his work area and gallery space, pouring concrete for floors and erecting wooden ceiling beams. He considers his studio/home to be his largest piece of artwork.

"The building is an abstract sculpture in itself, interesting from every angle," Don said.

In 2013, he copyrighted the structure by burning his signature with a branding iron onto the building itself. Today the multi-functional building contains 4,500 square feet, which includes a lower gallery, a large work/sculpting room and an atrium con-

taining exotic plants. Completed masterpieces line the walls, blending with other works in progress.

Climbing the stairs to the upper floor is like taking a step back in time. The medieval-themed great room was designed to inspire creativity. Strategically placed antique furniture and collectibles fill the high-ceilinged room. Each item is exhibited with a purpose, inviting visitors to investigate every corner.

"It's a place to gather for conversation, inspiration and live music. I like to say it's for the three F's - friends, family and fundraising!"

With its 3 acres of parkland, the studio is surrounded by nature and home to over 50 varieties of trees making it an idyllic place to wander. Don began artistically planting those trees in the 1960s.

"Even when the Great Flood of '93 caused the loss of 150 trees, the remaining trees managed to evolve and survive!" he exclaimed.

The studio itself is designed as an abstract-shaped art piece. Concrete walkways and a large patio surround it. Visible only from the air, they appear as a portrait with encircling arms – embracing the studio. Also visible from the air is Don's Aviation Garden.

"The garden's outline is shaped like airplane wings – formed into a landing pattern, and can be seen by aircraft heading into Spirit of St. Louis Airport. It symbolically links the property with Spirit," he said. "I planted Aviation in honor of my parents Claire and Frank, and Anne Morrow Lindbergh."

Don's studio at One Wiegand Drive is more than just a labor of art and love. It is a local landmark that was placed on Chesterfield's Historic Register in 2008 and declared as a Registered Landmark by St. Louis County in 2020. It is open to the public by appointment. For more information, visit wiegandfoundation.org.



Labor Day weekend 1970, my first husband George and I were returning from a visit to see his uncle in Budapest when I managed to smuggle a cutting of this gorgeous red plant on the airplane.

I kept the original plant alive for likely 8-10 years. Then, when working near Redbud, IL, a farmer's sign advertised black eyed peas. Since Brian loves black eyed peas, I stopped and low and behold, the farmer had a plant like the one I got in Hungary. The lady sweetly gave me another start. It lasted in several different pots until recently, when it got yellow sticky stuff on the stems and leaves. I thoroughly washed new cuttings, washed the pot and trellis, rooted the cuttings and planted them last week. Even the droopy ones have suddenly sprung back to life! May this live another 30 years for someone!

On line, I found that this is an [Iresine diffusa f. herbstii](#).

“Iresine Diffuser Herbstii” also is known as Bloodleaf or Chicken Gizzard, due to the shape of the leaves.

A Day to Remember...

February 4, 2023

A devastating 7.8 earthquake destroys much of Turkey and Syria. Over 22000 die. Thousands more are injured and missing.

Our US defense department shoots down a Chinese spy plane over the Carolinas.

62

JUN



February 7, 2023: Denny Bannister, a Normandy High School classmate, sends this picture of my date, Dave Noble and me, ready for our double date to our 1962 Senior Prom! Sadly, Denny's wife, classmate Madelyn Stelzer Bannister, passed away very recently at age 79. Thanks, Denny, for sharing this image from our past. Be well.

February 9, 2023, 8:30am: This may be more than you wish to know, but today I have a double biopsy of my left breast. The two hour procedure takes four hours, but, although I am on blood thinners for a-fib, I bleed less than the doctor expects. Good! Please keep your fingers crossed for good results by Tuesday or Wednesday next week. I may take Tylenol for pain.



A check arrives for “*Sunnyside Up*” Long, 10/50 that was sold at the 89th Annual International Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature at the Miniature Painters, Sculptors & Gravers Society of Washington, D.C. in their Fall 2022 exhibition. I send a Thank You to the buyer.

Thank you, MPSGS, for this sale!

February 10, 2023, 10:08am: Our 97-year-old friend, Charles Lowery recognizes my voice immediately when I call to see how he is. Yay! He and his son John are recovering from Covid at the retirement facility they moved into in December 2022. He sounds amazing! We should all be so lucky to be so very lucid at age 97!

The breast adventure begins...

3:11pm: My long time wonder Dr. Varsha Rathod calls to tell me news of yesterday's double biopsies of my left breast. Indeed, very early stages of breast cancer cells were found. She highly recommends a surgeon at Siteman Cancer Center, downtown, to care for this.

4pm: My wonderful atrial fibrillation Dr. Andrew Krainik states my heart is in good shape and we need to concentrate on the big C. I will see Dr. Krainik in three months. By the time I get home, I realize it will be Monday before I can call for an appointment with Dr. Rathod's highly recommended surgeon for my breast.

Oh, another unidentified object was shot down above Alaska. Sigh.

February 11, 2023, 1:41pm: Dr. Krainik writes that my heart will tolerate radiation, if that is what the heart surgeon recommends. Good! So now I feel comfortable forwarding all this information. **I am very lucky to be in such good hands.**

Thank you for your friendship.

Please stay healthy, wish me good luck and ...

Happy valentine's Day!

Hugs to you...

Joy

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