

JKß-JOY KROEGER BECKNER-JKß

classical Realism, from hounds to humans & more!

News & Journeys of Joy! Vol. 21, No. 4, Mid-Summer July 2026

I hope you enjoyed a
Happy Independence Day!
May the United States of America
remain a democracy
for another 250 years!!!

THANK YOU Randy, Wally, Sandy, Shawn, Pam,
Mary Ellen, Jennífer, Travís, Gema, Louísa, and
Laura for buying from my Retirement SALE, at
DCA!

I dearly appreciate you. ;-))

Speaking of History...



June 6, 2026: We took our neighbors Pam & Carl to the 56th Annual Fort de Chartres Rendezvous, 4 miles west of Prairie de Rocher, in southern Illinois. Persons were dressed in period costumes. It was a fun day!

The house in which I grew up...



My parents built this, their first house with two bedrooms and one bathroom in either 1926 or 1929. Mom was so proud that this house had 13" thick walls. It was brick and her brother, my Uncle Bill, carefully hand finished all of the beautiful doors and woodwork inside.

In the basement, we had a wooden stand up radio with a record player on top for daddy's 78s. We also had a ping pong table built by Uncle Bill. I still have that table.

Daddy worked at Wagner Electric for as long as I can remember. He was a “Journeyman Millwright.” Google says that is an “elite, highly skilled industrial mechanic who installs, aligns, dismantles, and repairs heavy machinery.”

I just remember he could fix ANYTHING! He welded in our garage, shown behind the carport.

In our basement, Daddy created a small business, “Sunbright Manufacturing” making outdoor lanterns that he wholesaled to Jaffe Lighting in Clayton. He taught me to cut the glass panes for the sides of the lanterns. He even taught me to solder aluminum, though I doubt I remember how now. ;-)) I typed his invoices on a tall Remington typewriter.

Mom had her laundry room in our basement and a “Fruit Locker” where she stored the canned goods that she made.

Fortunately, when I recently drove by our original house, I loved that the current owner had planted flowers by the front porch. She invited me in. The house hasn’t changed all that much. Good!

A small loan...

In the 1920s my parents borrowed \$6000 to help build this house. Clara & Les Heinz lived on the corner of Madison and Hanley Road, less than a block from our house on Monroe. They loaned my parents the \$6000.

Clara was very instrumental in my life.

In the late 60s - early 70s, when I worked at downtown Famous-Barr in display and/or fashion, I walked on Hanley Road past my Washington grade school and past the Heinz' house to get to the bus stop on Page Avenue to go downtown. Clara bumped into me one day and, towering woman that she was, looked down and asked, "Have you ever met George?" I hadn't. He was renting a room from Clara & Les.

George Zaboji, a pilot for Ozark Airlines, became my first husband. One day, when it was supposed to be 112-115 degrees in St. Louis, we flew to Chicago to cool off. My parents still only had their basement and an attic fan.

One thing leads to another...

At the time, I was driving a used 1960 Nash Rambler. I thought it was time for a different vehicle, maybe a Ford Mustang. Thanks to George, I bought a 1967 BMW 1600 and ultimately joined the BMW club here in St. Louis. Back then we flashed our headlights at each other because it was so exciting to see another BMW! I think that BMW cost around \$3000.

Long story, but I hosted a BMW club Christmas party in the Brandywine condo club house when I lived there. There I met Brian. In time, he said, "You get along with this little dog and we'll get married." Yay! We have been

married 42 years!!! Yes, Anna became Lizzie, became Sophie, became BoDuke, and now Coltz... all standard smooth dachshunds. ;-)))))) I love them all!



Jim Myrick, a dear pilot friend from George's days at Ozark, passed away in March. Here he is when I visited him at home in November 2025.

April 30, 2026: We got a new Frigidaire from Bill's Appliance, to replace our old refrigerator that died.

May 3, 2026: Schroeder Funeral home had a visitation for Don Baumgartner, a kind neighbor who always had neighbors over for a Christmas party. He and his wife, Jan, and his very tall Christmas tree with red lights in their tall front window are definitely missed, too. Don loved to cook.

May 25, 2026, Memorial Day: It's time for a new mattress! We head to Macy's for their Memorial Day sale! Good move!



June 26:

A squirrel greets me on the arm of our bench on our front porch.

What a treat!

Boeker Family Reunion

June 28, 2026

My mom's maiden name was Boeker. She and my dad grew up just outside of tiny - then 150+- people in Hoffman, IL.

My cousin, Janice Boeker Nierman, usually hosted our reunion in Hoyleton, Illinois where she lived, but she passed away this spring at age 90.





My living cousins

Donnie, Orville, Hazel, Floyd, Edna, Nancy & Me.

I miss Earl, Wayne, Janice, and Opal, but it was great to see my living cousins.

Janice's eldest daughter, Deborah Crowder, and my cousin Janice's sister, Nancy Boeker Netemeyer, arranged for the reunion to be at the Aviston Vintage Hall in Aviston, IL.

The Aviston Hall was filled, and LOUD! I guess nearly 60 Boeker off spring attended! WOW! If Grandma and Grandpa Boeker could see the family today!!!

WHAT WOULD THEY THINK?

Many Boeker descendants live too far to drive to a family reunion. Above are close members. I hope to get all of their names and check the family tree for more information.

Grandma Boeker's goodies move on...

My cousin Floyd's family has accepted four items that were our Grandma Boeker's and need to stay in the family.



This clock was in their kitchen above their rocking chair.

My mom had the flowers painted on it.



Grandma Boeker's Spice Cabinet



Grandma Boeker's kerosine lamp



Grandma Boeker's Coffee Grínder



*My mom, Dína Louíse Boeker Kroeger, made
thís ínto a lamp for her desk. She stored stamps
ín the drawer.*



July

July 12, 2026, 8:18am: Brian is ready to ride with 3 of his motorcycle buddies. They will explore parts of Missouri.

Good weather today for riding.



Recently I've felt like getting into my garden. I bought several native Echinacea to attract bees and hummingbirds to our front garden by our pond. I must wait until fall to plant the bulbs I dig up while planting the Echinacea, aka, purple coneflowers. Surprise, surprise bulbs in Spring 2027!

Eight coneflowers are planted next to our front yard pond. Bees come quickly! Yay!

Thank goodness for air conditioning and for cooler weather! It was around 100 degrees over the week of July 4th! It rained, no POURED, so we had to find fireworks on TV. It must have

been nearly impossible to see fireworks in person. I hope the folks in the west get rain soon. Wildfires are no good.



July 11, 2026: Happy 86th birthday, cousin Donnie Boeker!
Opal's daughter Dyana is behind Donnie.

"Clarkson's Farm"

"Clarkson's Farm" is a great look into the life of farmers in England. I wish I could watch it with Donnie whose daddy, mom's brother, my Uncle Henry Boeker, was definitely a farmer. Donnie has retired from farming too. He is still talkative and ready to share hugs at our reunion.



Living with your Dog

July 13, 2026: Yay! I get an email from Charlotte Peltz, the good woman whom I met in 2001 when she wrote articles in the San Miguel de Allende English news magazine, "Atencion." Charlotte taught me about caring for dogs. It is absolutely wonderful to know she is alive and well now at age 91! This photo was taken probably 20+ years ago. Stay well, Charlotte!!!!

July 14, 2026, 2:24pm: Time to head to Osteostrong, the US Post Office and to Whole Foods.

*Thank you for looking at and,
hopefully, reading my news!*

*I dearly appreciate that you
are in my life.*

Sincerely,

Joy

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