

# JKß – JOY KROEGER BECKNER – JKß

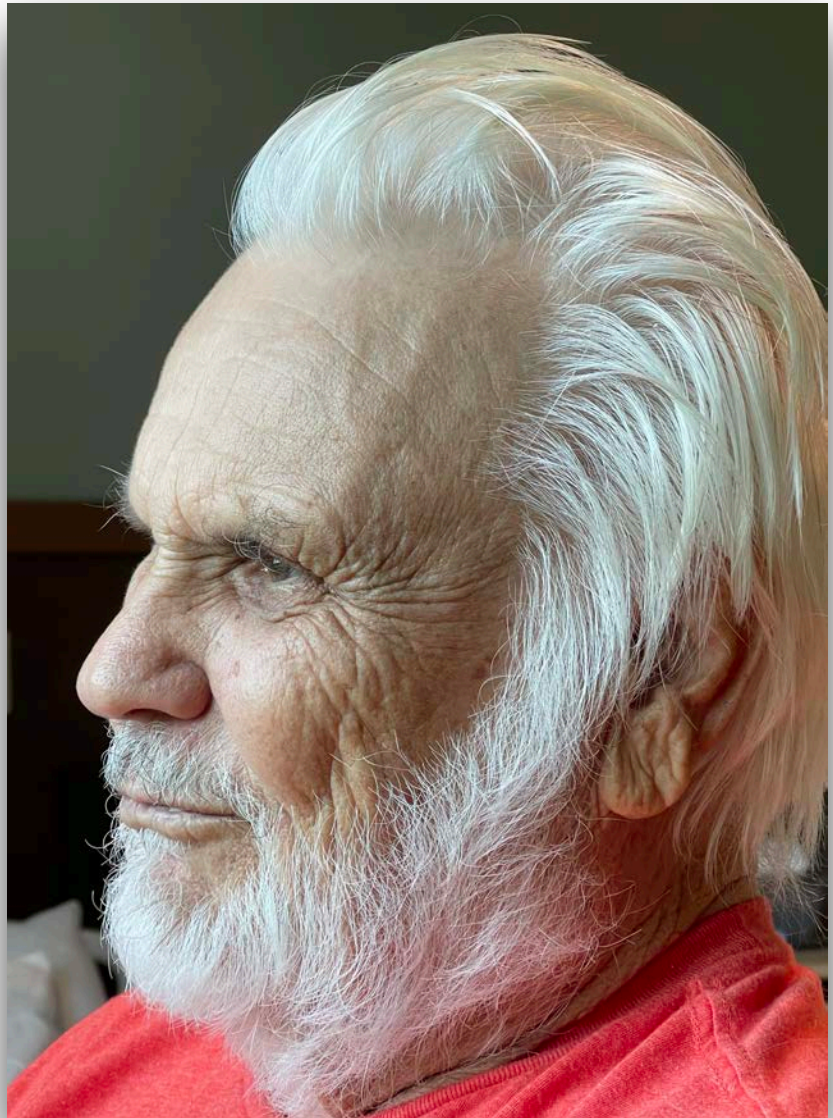
*classical realism, from hounds to humans & more!*

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News & Journeys of Joy! :: Vol. Eighteen, Number Six :: Nov. 2023

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*"So Good to See You,  
Too"  
cousin Herm...*



August 19, 2023:

I visit my 87 year old cousin, Herman Kroeger at Mercy South Rehab Hospital. Herm had polio as a child and never married. He recently fell down his steps when his leg brace broke and he broke his femur. It's good to catch up. Hopefully he now knows the importance of leaving a phone message when he wants to talk.



*Herm's view from his window.*

These geese were so hot their wet tongues were hanging out.

...

*We are so lucky to live near common ground woods.*

*Imagine this...*

**August 19, 2023:** Around noon, I look out our glass storm door and see a mama turkey and two babies - not tiny, but young. They are walking on our path about 5 feet from our front door toward my pollinator friendly flower bed. When they get there, a Monarch butterfly flits out of the orange Butterfly Milkweed! I LOVE it!!!

In time I hope to take out more invasive Chinese liriopse that I planted 35 years ago and plant Missouri natives! In time, I will... Live and learn. Plant Natives!





Brian surprises me with 2 wild turkey feathers that he placed by my pair of "Siesta" bronzes on our kitchen windowsill. Thank you!

August 21, 2023: My oncologist, Dr. Begegni, will recommend a bone doctor so I can get a bone density test. Apparently the Anastrozole she has me on can lower bone density. She says to continue taking Vitamin B3 and to keep going to OsteoStrong.

August 22, 2023: Although the outdoor temp is around 100 Fahrenheit, I have more energy than I've had since my ablation nearly a week ago. Now, to send the A-Fib bye bye...



August 31, 2023: The temperature today is so nice we have our windows open. Yay!

WOW! Washington University Physicians finally called regarding an appointment for the bone density test recommended by Dr. Bagegni. The earliest I can get in is early August 2024!

Sept. 1, 2023; WOW! This is a day down memory lane! I drive an hour and a half to my parents' home town of Hoffman, Illinois, to visit my girl cousins. It is fun to drive Illinois 161 through the small towns on the way to Hoffman, where the population is now up to 500! It seems it was 250-300 when I was little. Cousins Janice, Edna, Nancy, Hazel and I meet at Hoffman House for lunch.



Left to right: Janice, talking me, Nancy, Josie who is Edna's grand daughter, Edna, Hazel and Janice's daughter, Deborah.

It is nice to meet, visit and NOT have to attend a funeral! ;-)))









After lunch I drive to our grandparents' old farm. I'm happy that Grandpa's barn is still there, as is the outhouse, and, the two red outdoor hand pumps for water. The owner still uses the barn for his twin girl ponies during inclement weather. Thank you, Jerry Lueking, for keeping the place as close to Grandma and Grandpa Boeker's farm as possible. The photo above is from someone's book that they brought to a Boeker reunion. I'll try to find out whose. ;-)

*Twenty-Two Years ago - 9/11*

September 10, 2023: CBS's Sixty Minutes explores an awful day in our history, the collapse of the World Trade Center.

The first 767 severed three stairwells of the North Tower. The Only way out was to jump. The second 767 hit the 78th floor of the South Tower. It took ten seconds for the tower to come down.

Next, we gladly watch Josephine Baker on PBS. Fascinating!

## Josephine Baker



Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org › wiki › Josephine\\_Baker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josephine_Baker)

Freda **Josephine Baker** (née McDonald; June 3, 1906 – April 12, 1975), naturalised as **Joséphine Baker**, was an American-born French dancer, singer and actress.

Years active: 1921–1975	Nationality: American (renounced); French ...
Occupation(s): <b>Vedette</b> , singer, dancer, actress, ...	Instrument(s): Vocals

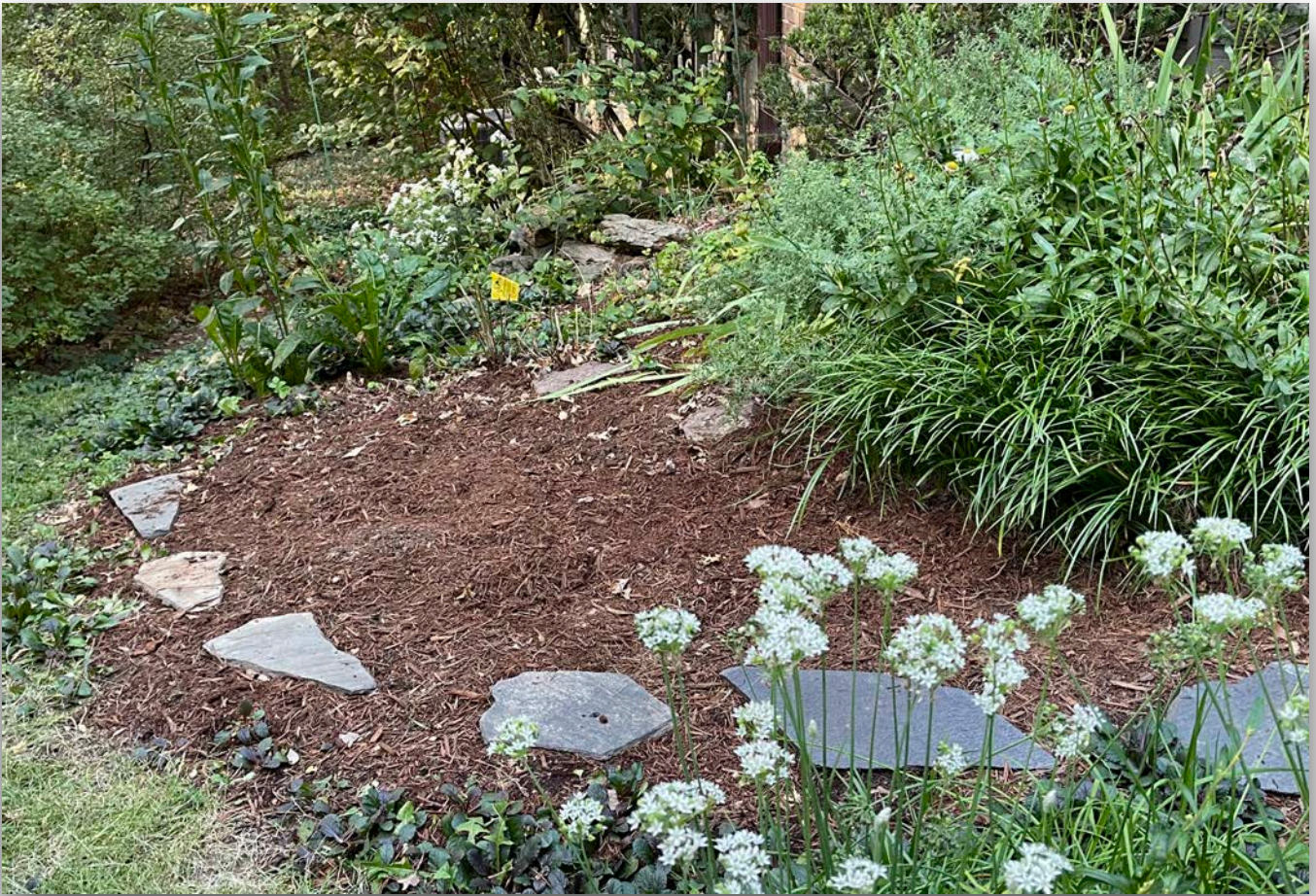
*A sad day for the USA*

September 11, 2023

Over the past couple of weeks we have endured the huge fires in Maui, the huge earth quake in Morocco and now, huge floods in Libya. Mother Earth is showing us she is boss.

**September 15-19, 2023:** Our weather is finally perfect! Around thirty years ago, I planted liriopé because I liked the texture and it needed no mowing. I did not know it was an invasive Chinese native. I wish I had taken before photos for you. The past four afternoons I have dug out liriopé in an area about 8 feet x 4 feet.





Under the mulch I planted Swamp milkweed seeds to hopefully help Monarchs next spring.

September 20, 2023: We watch an interesting documentary, “Becoming Frida Kahlo” on PBS. This is a two part program about how she became a painter and how she became enamored with mural painter Diego Rivera who was 20 years older than she.

September 21, 2023: Today my wonderful Mercy occupational therapist states my right arm is less swollen than it was a week ago. Yay! She wants me to wear the arm compression sleeve for another two weeks to help prevent lymphedema. Yes ma’m!!!



My arrhythmia appointment is with Dr. Krainik's nurse practitioner was not as good. My heart is still in A-fib. She said Dr. Krainik suggests another cardioversion. No, thank you. I want to wait until after my October 13 mammogram to see if cancer is GONE. The good news is that the Eliquis rep visited the office today and gave her samples; I now have 2 weeks of free Eliquis worth around \$57 after insurance. Yay!



*"So Good to See You, Too!" SS*

16"L x 15"H x 12:D, Bronze, Ed. 9 & 1 Artist's Proof (c)2021

**September 23, 2023:** The Mary Kay and Paul Jeynes Memorial Award for an Animal Bronze Sculpture, plus \$500, arrives from Allied Artists of America for "*So Good to See You, Too*" SS.



*“So Good to See You, Too”* has been invited to show at the Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH through Oct. 8, 2023.

The AAA 110th Annual Exhibition online show extends through September 1, 2024. Enjoy!



*“Cozy” Wire*

3 3/4”W x 3 1/4”D x 1 1/4”H, Bronze, Ed. 9 & 1 AP. (c)2019

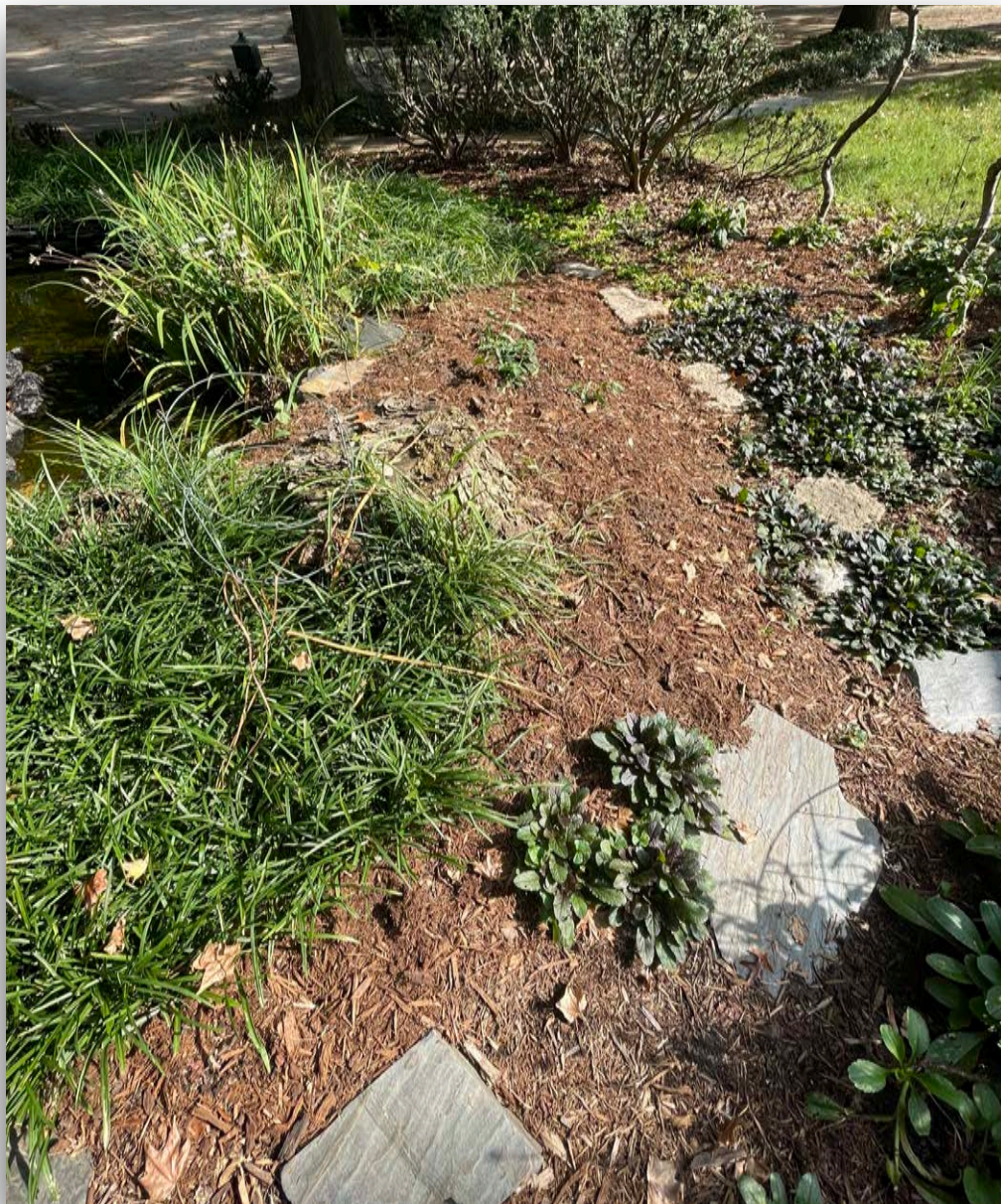
And... a delightful deposit arrives for *“Cozy” Wire!* I will have a tan one repatinaed to a more wild boar color for you.

*Thank you, Mrs. M!*



Sept. 25, 2023: My cousin Herman is home after a month in rehab. His washer and dryer are now on the first floor. No more falls! I hope.

September 27, 2023: I learn from a post on Facebook that John Contoupe died. I did not know John other than he was involved in showing dogs. He was kind enough to share his Greek Salad recipe with me after we met at DCA in Wisconsin. RIP, John.

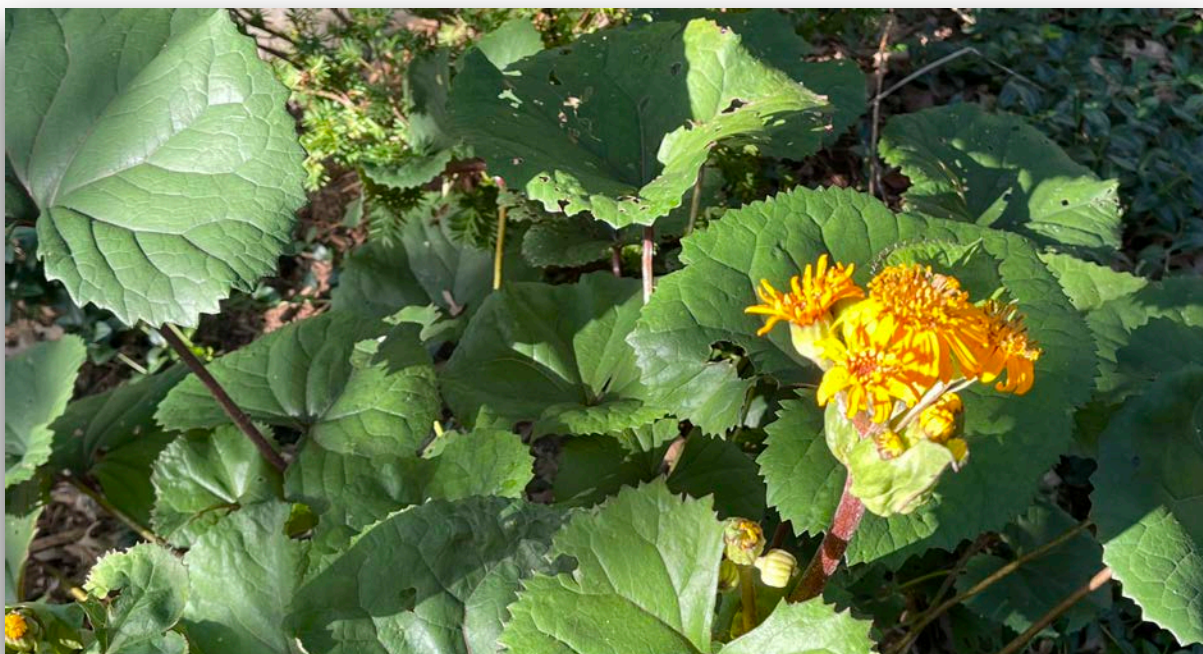




September 28, 2023: Looking down out of our second story bedroom window, see another area of liriopse that I cleaned out last week. In the bed to the right I planted seeds of butterfly milkweed seeds. I also planted four Echinacea.



Butterfly milkweed in my July garden.



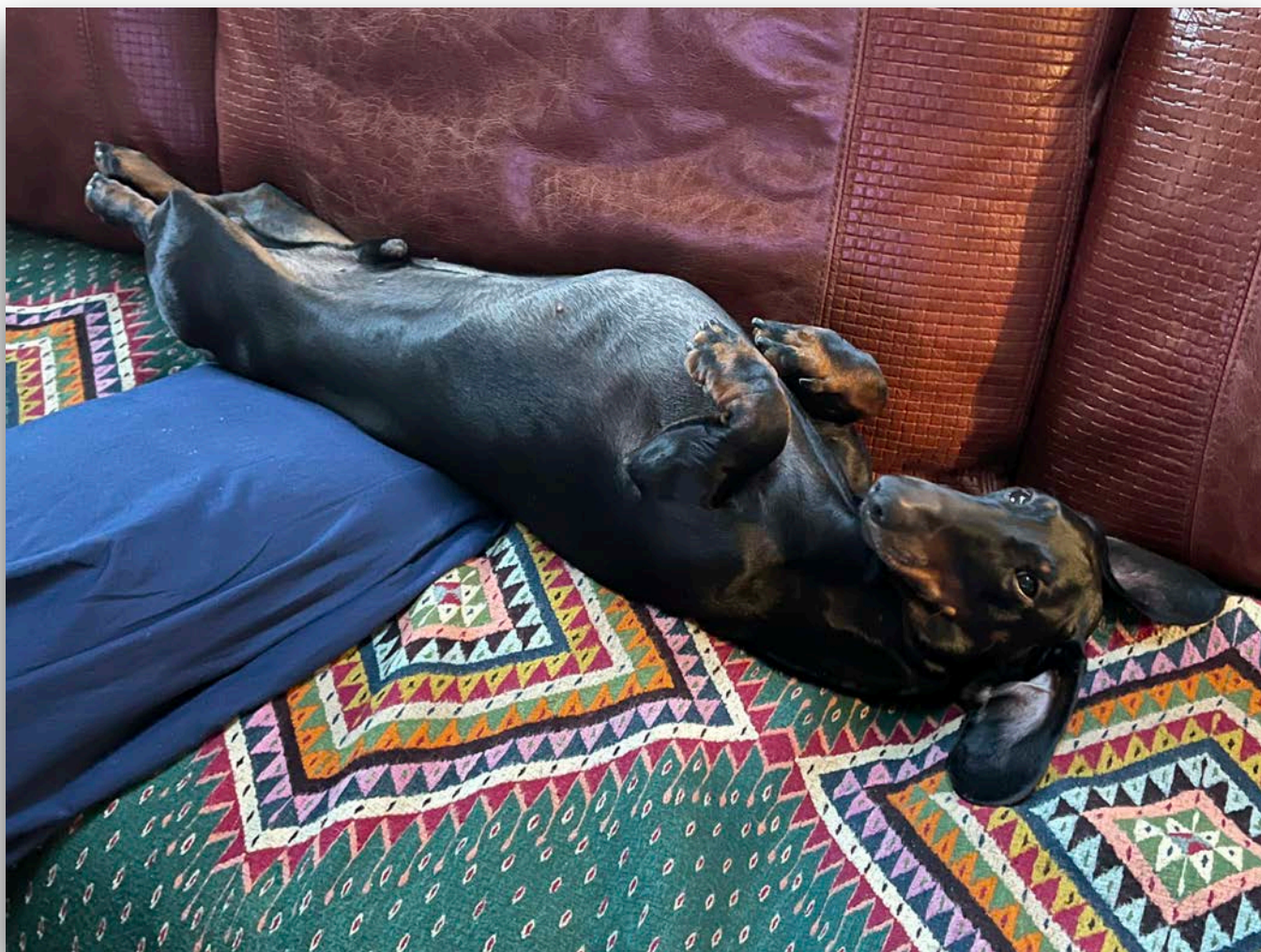


Above is a plant whose name I do not know. It surprised me with these fuzzy seed balls this fall.





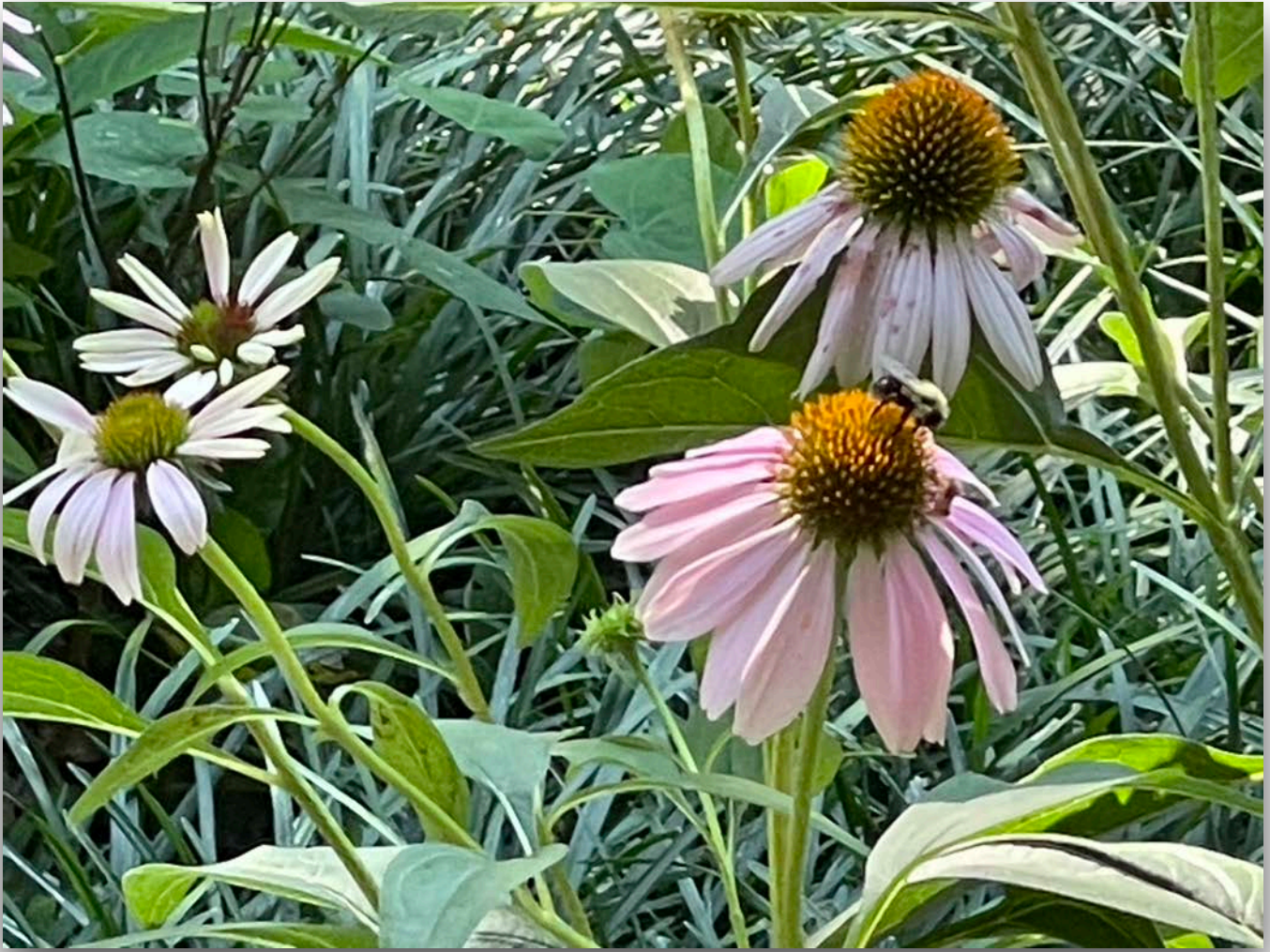
I see Shannon for therapy to prevent lymphedema. She reports that my right arm measures a bit larger than when saw her a week ago. I will definitely wear my compression sleeve on my right arm daily until I see her again next week. Lymphedema can be prevented, but not cured.



### *"Stretch"*

I am still thinking about this for a 1:6 Scale piece, but I need to get my body back in order first. I'm also toying with "Miss Me" in 1:6 scale...





*A Bee!*

September 29, 2023: Happiness is finding a bee enjoying what I hope is my “native” Echinacea. The bee knows. ;-))

*Diane Feinstein, Rest in Peace.*





*The Buck is back, resting under our deck!*

This guy destroyed the nose of my 30 foot long topiary of Edgar...

*Ouch!*

Oct. 1, 2023: I completely forget that yesterday I watered around our tie wall steps.

This morning, I went to move the sprinkler and, once again, slipped and fell on wet tie wall steps. The good news is that I think I landed





squarely on my hips, and that they are finally aligned properly, but my wrist took the brunt. It is swollen and painful Oct. 2.

The Mercy Urgent Care doctor told me it is bruised and there are no broken bones! GOOD!

Oct. 2, 2023:

Audubon Artists emails that my “Big Heart” half life-size Gordon Setter is accepted in their 81st Annual Exhibition! The Online show is from Nov. 12, 2023 - Nov. 12, 2024.

The In-Person Exhibit will be from Nov. 4 - Nov. 25, 2023 at the Art League of Long Island.







Oct. 7, 2023: Audubon Artists emails stating the In-Person Exhibit is postponed due to flood damage at the Art League of Long Island. The In-Person show was finally canceled due to too much damage.





*Brian's  
Big Trip!*

Oct. 7, 2023:

Brian and our friend and eye doctor, Byron, on the right, leave for a

weeklong motorcycle trip to Texas. Another dear friend decided not to go because he and his girlfriend each got Covid.

What a week it is, walking Coltz as often as possible and sleeping on the couch with him. My heart is not happy when I carry Coltz upstairs to our bedroom.





*Happiness is a surprise photo shoot!*

Oct. 12, 2023, 9:30am: Yesterday afternoon, Gail Lasater, my agent of many years, texts me to see if I am available today at 9:30am. Parc Provence, a very nice retirement facility, wants me for their November ads in Ladue News and Town & Style. Can I be makeup, hair and wardrobe ready at 9:30am? Yes!!!



LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S  
SPECIAL SECTION



PARC   
PROVENCE  
*Leading the Way in Memory Care*

*Parc Provence*

November 2023, Town & Style

## *Happiness is NO Swelling!*

Oct. 13, 2023: Since my double partial mastectomies this Spring, I have been going to a wonderful Occupational Therapist, Shannon Stecher. Our weekly visits are to help prevent swelling of lymphedema. Today she tells me only a very small area beside my right breast is swollen. GOOD NEWS!!! We are scheduled to meet weekly around 4-5 more times. Shannon has been a true blessing, thanks to my other true blessing of my doctor of 23+ years, Dr. Varsha Rathod. Without Varsha, I would have had no idea about preventing lymphedema. Thank you!

## *Happiness is NO Cancer!!!*

I meet with my cancer surgeon Dr. Julie Margenthaler who tells me my mammograms are normal and show NO CANCER! I am to see her in a year. YAY!!!

## *Happiness is having Brian home!*

## *Life is good again!*

Oct. 22, 2023, 6:20am, 46 degrees: We three, Brian, Coltz and I, are off to Loveland, Colorado for me to check metals prior to patina. A lone star shines brightly. Brian brings a good morning latte for him and a green tea latte for me.



11:15am: After watching Ken Burns “The American Buffalo” I imagine thousands of buffaloes roaming this Kansas territory. See “The American Buffalo” on PBS.

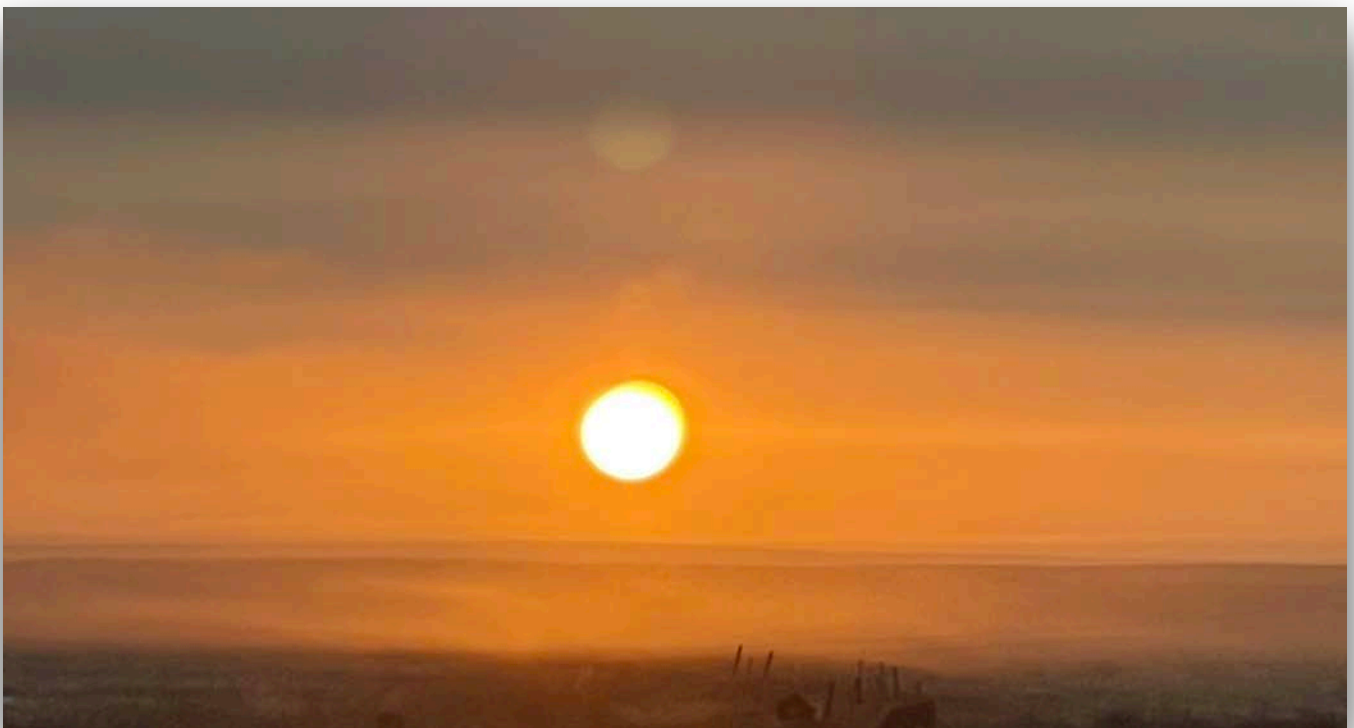


Oct. 25, 2023: After completing necessary foundry, shipping, and wax chasing work, I have a free afternoon. I ask Jafe Parsons about photographing “Her Life’s a Ball!” MW and he fits it in this afternoon. Thank you!!!

Oct. 26, 2023, 5:41am MST, We head toward home. It’s been a grueling week of checking metals, taking them for patina, and then, for foam-in-place boxes. Between it all, we take several of my chased waxes to Ben in Ft. Collins for remolding. Then, there was wax chasing and my decision to try a new-to-me foundry for raw casting in hopes of having speedier completion this time.



*All about clouds*



7:00am: Ground Clouds, AKA FOG, abounds all the way to Denver. Around DIA we can read no signs and drive south of I-70. After 15+ minutes of being lost, we finally find I-70 east. Yay!





7:41am: I love this train outside of Limon, CO.



10:37am: Ground clouds rise outside of Colby, Kansas.



2:37pm: Near Manhattan, Kansas, intermittent fog rises to reveal glorious clouds and beautiful fall colors. The sunlight is exquisite.



5:53pm: Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge in Missouri.





6:23pm: Clouds are still the main event in Kingdom City, MO.

*Yay! We are almost home!*

*Scammer beware! My bank and I are on to you!*

During this trip, and for a month thereafter, a man emails about my work. Long story short, he turns out to be a scammer. My good US Bank Fraud Department calls me November 22, 2023 to alert me to simply not respond to any more emails. The man's check indeed bounced the next day. What a waste of time! The good news is I lost no money and no bronzes.

*My health...*

My health has been a long road this year, starting in December 2022 with a Cardioversion, again this Spring with another Cardio version, double partial mastectomies, and now this.

Regarding sculpture orders, thank you for your patience, Barbara, Bill, Tyler, Joe, Rena, Anna & Lisa. My metal chaser has just been able to complete works for Barbara, Bill, Tyler & Joe.

Although the ablation is behind me, I still have A-fib. Another Cardioversion resulted in only one day without a-fib.

My Mammograms show no cancer, but I wish my follow up mammograms were scheduled in 6 months, not a year.

I will meet with my atrial fibrillation doctor on Jan. 4, to schedule a installing a Pace maker..

The American Medallist Sculpture Association, (AMSA) has created a poster and my “Inspiration” Long, is included! Just look



## Works of the American Medallist Sculpture Association

December 2023

Oddino Bruno - Tribute to my Grandfather	Camille Rendal	Invasive Lionfish Tanya Karpik	James B. Wakefield Ross Pollard	The Medal – Window to the World Michael Meszaros	Oliver Sacks Jim Licaretz	Oliver Sacks Jim Licaretz
Helping Hands Lindley Briggs	Remember Janet Indick	Buchenwald Janet Indick	FIDEM 2023 U.S. official medal Eva Wahn	FIDEM 2023 U.S. official medal Eva Wahn	Elijah McClain Jeanne Stevens-Sollman	Elijah McClain Jeanne Stevens-Sollman
Reliance Jeffrey Briggs	Inspiration Joy Beckner	Extinction is forever Lorraine Wright	Extinction is forever Lorraine Wright	Medal Collectors of America Award Eugene Daub	Save Our Planet - 2023 Keiko Kubota-Miura	Save Our Planet - 2023 Keiko Kubota-Miura
					Brookgreen Gardens Heidi Wastweet	Brookgreen Gardens Heidi Wastweet

Interested in becoming a member of AMSA? Please go to: [amsamedals.org](http://amsamedals.org)

at all of these great medals!







*"Inspiration"*  
*Wire, Long & Smooth*

3 3/8"W x 2 3/4"H x 3/8"D, Fine Pewter, Edition Open (c)2012

Bronzes include a custom stand as shown below.





*NOW* is the time to order for the *H*olidays!

Please visit my site, <https://joybeckner.com>, to select your favorite works and email me at [info@joybeckner.com](mailto:info@joybeckner.com) for pricing.

I will try to answer promptly.

*Please Be Well...*

I sincerely hope you are well and look forward to hearing from you.

*Thank you for being in my life!*

*Please stay healthy.*

*Oh! Please think about ordering holiday gifts, and,  
sculpture to be picked up at DCA 2024!*

*<https://joybeckner.com>*

*Happy Holidays!*

*Sincerely,*

*Joy*

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